

Our Thanks to:

House of Blues and The Paramount Theatre Association

Production Assistance: **Ed Benoit, Leon Shaw**

Organ Preparation: **Bob Castle, Don Wick**

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*The Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society*

Presents

**Big Band
Big Pipes
Big Sound**

featuring

The Dean Bushnell Orchestra

and

The Mighty Wurplitzer Pipe Organ

With **Bob Castle & Ed Benoit** at the twin consoles

The Paramount Theatre

Denver Colorado

Sunday, November 3, 2002

In the Lobby... During Intermission

Complementary Ice Water

Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society

Membership Information

Dean Bushnell Orchestra CD Sales

The Dean Bushnell Orchestra originated on the campus of the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley and has been a long time favorite with dancers and audiences in the Rocky Mountain Region who enjoy dancing and listening to the “Big Band” sound.

The band plays the beloved music of the “Swing” era, including the sounds of such great bands as Harry James, Les Brown, Glenn Miller, Eddie Howard and Dick Jurgens.

Today is the Orchestra’s premier engagement both at the Paramount Theatre and with a Mighty Wurlitzer! Wayne Scott did all of the orchestra/organ arrangements for the performance.

The orchestra consists of:

Mike Lucas, *alto saxophone*
Chuck Schneider, *tenor saxophone*
Ron Phillips, *alto/tenor saxophone*
Dan Giullian, *tenor/baritone saxophone*
Dean Bushnell, *trumpet*
Doug Bushnell, *trumpet*
John Mills, *trumpet*
Glenn Shull, *trombone*
Derryl Goes, *drums*
Andrew Hudson, *bass*
Juli Steinhauer, *song stylist*
Wayne Scott, *piano*

Playing the better ballrooms, military bases, Elks’ Clubs, colleges and universities throughout Colorado & surrounding states, Dean located in Denver in 1960 pursuing a teaching career with the Denver Public Schools as an instrumental music teacher, a position he held for 32 years prior to his recent retirement.

Bob Castle, an alumnus of East High, was born and raised in Denver. Every member of his family played instruments or sang. He started playing music at the age of 6.

In 1947 Bob started playing the Wurlitzer at the Denver Paramount Theater. He was named theater staff organist in 1952, a position he still holds today.

Bob’s other career has been with the Denver District Attorney’s office as an investigator and a handwriting document examiner. He retired from that post in 1993 and is currently a pipe organ technician.

Persons whom Bob says have greatly influenced his music are local organist Dick Hull and international artist George Wright.

Ed Benoit, a native of Massachusetts, began piano studies at an early age and was playing in orchestras at age 15. He began organ study at age 17 and was soon playing at roller rinks, theatres and supper clubs in the New England area. He attended Berklee School of Music in Boston, majoring in music theory and arranging.

In 1958 Ed moved to Colorado and played in large dance bands for several years in Denver. He studied theatre organ with Jonas Nordwall and Paul Quarino and was one of the house organists at the Paramount Theatre and the Organ Grinder Restaurant.

Ed is still active as accompanist and church organist. He recently retired from the computer operations field.



Rocky Mountain Chapter

American Theatre Organ Society

(RMCATOS)

Calendar of Events

December 6th - **Annual Christmas Potluck**

(Members and guests only)

January 12th – **“Everyone’s A Musician“ - 2 pm**

(Members and guests only)

Holiday Hills Village Ballroom

Vintage (electronic) Wurlitzer, piano,

Live drums, vocalists, group participation

Come, discover your hidden musical talents

February (TBA) – **Duane Searle Residence - 2 pm**

(Members and guests only)

A guest artist plays the 3/16 Wurlitzer

March 30th – **Bob Ralson at the Paramount – 2 pm**

(Public invited)

Denver Paramount Theatre

Enjoy an afternoon of Mighty Wurlitzer and

Piano with the popular keyboard artist from

The Lawrence Welk Show.

Tickets: 303-466-3330

Adults: \$10 Students: \$5

VISA & MC

Paramount Theatre Opening Night

The Publix Logo projected on the curtain prior to today’s concert is from the August, 1930 newspaper ad heralding the opening of Denver’s Paramount Theatre. The ad reads, in part....

“Nowhere in the world is there a theatre so modern.. where the wonders of science, the genius of creation, the talents of the artisan have so perfectly united to make this truly, your THEATRE PERFECT!”

RMCATOS

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Want to Join ?

Rocky Mountain Chapter

American Theatre Organ Society

Information in the lobby or

Call: 303-426-6733

The Historic Paramount'

by Twyla Landau

The historic Paramount Theatre and its "Mighty Wurlitzer" continues as one of Denver's outstanding contributions to the world of music and theatre. Designed by Denver architect Temple Buell, the Paramount is Denver's sole remaining tribute to the grandeur and opulence that characterized movie palace architecture in the 1920's. The acoustics are near perfect. Like the Morman Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, the Paramount's auditorium carries natural sound to every corner of the large 2078 seat theatre.

Drop a pin center stage and it can be heard in the far corners of the balcony, a tribute to the natural resonance and acoustics of a magnificent movie palace. This natural resonance and acoustics make the Paramount's 4-manual, 20-rank "Mighty Wurlitzer" a unique listening experience, its music capable of sounding both ethereal and "Mighty."

The Paramount's Wurlitzer is one of a series of 17 organs built by the Randolph Wurlitzer Company of Tonowanda, New York during the late twenties and early thirties especially for the Publix Corporation chain of movie theatres (original owners of Denver's Paramount). The blend of voices which gave the organ its unique tonal quality was specially developed by famed organist Jesse Crawford for the management of Publix Theatres and the organs in this series bear the model designation, Publix One. The Denver Paramount is equipped with two consoles as is the famed "Mighty Wurlitzer" in Radio City Music Hall.

There are more than 1700 individual pipes ranging in size from giant 16 feet to some no larger than small pencils. These pipes are capable of imitating various orchestral instruments such as violins, flutes, trumpets, as well as many of the traditional sounds associated with church and concert organs. In addition to pipes, there are chimes, xylophone,

glockenspiel, piano, drums, cymbals & special effects such as steam whistle, pounding surf, galloping horses, siren, bell, etc.

This vast array of sounds is controlled by the organist at four keyboards, a pedal keyboard played by the organist's feet and by over 200 stop tablets available to the organist on the console above and to the sides of the keyboards. The entire console, painted gleaming white and gold, is equipped with its own hydraulic lift which allows it to rise dramatically from pit to stage level for its initial appearance.

The Paramount and its "Mighty Wurlitzer" is the only large theatre west of St. Louis with a 4-manual, 20-rank Wurlitzer pipe organ that is in perfect operating condition and remains in the theatre for which it was designed and in which it was initially installed.

With the advent of sound to the motion picture, the use of the organ in movie theatres decreased because of the great expense of maintaining the instruments and for organist salaries. Many of the instruments fell into disuse, abuse and neglect. Some were sold for scrap and many were simply left to deteriorate.

American Theatre Organ Society chapters were formed throughout the United States and dedicated members began a campaign of saving, salvaging and restoring many of these fine instruments. Most of those organs not already destroyed or scrapped have been removed from theatres and have been installed in homes, restaurants, auditoriums and other public venues. Only a few remain in their original surroundings, the large movie theatres where the sound of these magnificent instruments were and are at their best.

Rocky Mountain Chapter members volunteer countless hours in restoration, maintenance and preservation of the Paramount Wurlitzer.