

About the Auditorium Organ.....

Three Keyboard Console
Allen Master Design Series – 312
Allen MDS-Expander II – Smart MIDI
(The 100 additional voices of the Expander II are not listed)



((Organ Specs, via “cut and paste” were here))

Dedication
Of the
East High School
Auditorium Organ

Sunday, November 18, 2001

Sponsored by

The Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society
and
Denver Public Schools

Program

Master of Ceremonies

Rick Crandall, KEZW Radio

The Star Spangled Banner

**Ed Benoit, piano & Bob Castle, organ
Lee Morris, vocal; David Bailey, snare drum**

Opening Remarks

Steve Gonzales

Manager of Arts, Physical Education and Foreign Language, DPS

Dr. Jerry Lee Anderson

Principal, Denver East High School

Traditional Theatre Organ

Bob Castle

Recognition of Donors

Dick Coulson, President

Rocky Mountain Chapter, American Theatre Organ Society

Contemporary Theatre Organ

Ed Benoit

Silent Film Accompaniment

Excerpt from "The Mark of Zorro"

Starring East High alumnus Douglas Fairbanks, Sr.

Bob Lillie

Audience Sing-A-Long for "I'm Looking Over a 4-Leaf Clover"

Bob Lillie

Classical Organ

Kenrick and Barbara Mervine

Special Music

Penny Colwell Jensen

Final Comments

Dick Coulson

Social Hour

Refreshments in the Lobby

The East High School/Wicks Project

When the Aladdin Theater on East Colfax Avenue in Denver was demolished in 1984, the Aladdin/Wicks Theatre Organ was first donated to a church in Boulder. After a change in plans, the Friends of the Mayan purchased the organ and donated the Wicks Theatre Organ to the Denver Public Schools for installation at East High School.

In 1987 the Friends of the Wicks Committee accepted responsibility for the installation and maintenance of the Wicks. The Denver Public schools would provide public access to the auditorium and the organ.

The main goal of the Aladdin/Wicks Project was and is Music Education for young people and adults. A new music curriculum for Denver Public Schools will be home-based at the Career Education Center. All "hands on" instruction will take place at East High. The innovative course of study will give students a creative approach to learning skills in both technical and performance aspects of the organ. The goals and curriculum designed for the East High Auditorium Organ remain in place.

After working diligently for the past 14 years, progress slowed, then came to a halt. In June, 2000 the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (RMCATOS) assumed responsibility for the resolution of the project. Three independent professional organ builders were asked to price completion of the project. Estimates ranged up to \$197,000. All recommended the pipe organ project be abandoned.

RMCATOS decided that a new state of the art theatre organ was needed to replace the Wicks. A three-manual Allen Master Designer Series 312 digital instrument was purchased.

Installation was completed by RMCATOS with tonal finishing and balancing by Church Organs, Inc. of Denver. The new instrument is unique because it is two separate instruments in one console: a complete theatre organ and with the touch of a tab, the organ becomes a total classical instrument.

Because of this unique feature, East High School has received the best possible instrument to meet the original educational goals of the Wicks Project. The Allen also supports the latest MIDI technology that has become so important to young musicians today.

RMCATOS is excited and enthusiastic about finalization of the East High School organ project. We are pleased that East High has a instrument that will meet their current and future educational and performance goals.

Contributors

Very Special Angels

Robert P. & Eleanor K. Colwell

Foundations & Corporate Sponsors

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KVOD Radio
P E O
Rocky Mountain Chapter ATOS

Silent Films at the
Paramount Theatre
Young Audiences

Benefactor (Over \$500)

Don and Betty Coover
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Alma Kurtz
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R.K. & Jean Van Stone
Michael Wear

In Kind Contributions

Priscilla Arthur
Dennis Browning
Don Belshaw
Arthur Bragg
Lois Cady
Earl & Aileen Carroll
David Fagerstrom
Jean George
Carl Hoff
Robert Johnson
James & Janet Kramer
Twyla & Dexter Landau
Dick Lewis
David Love
Steve McCormick
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Maurice Peterson
Karla Raines
Dorothy Retallack
David & Verna Sass
Ed Schneider
Ken Tillotson
Robert Straus
Duane Searle
R.K. & Jean Van Stone
Richard Webb
Dee Williams

Digital Installation In Kind

Priscilla Arthur
Edward Benoit
Lois Cady
Robert Castle
Dick Coulson
John Diffendal
Dexter & Twyla Landau
Michel Schuh
Leon Shaw

For the Denver Public Schools

Steve Gonzales
Dr. Jerry Lee Anderson
Rick Arthur
Larry Cameron
Melody Duggan
Dan Moore

Our Special Thanks to the following East High students...

Shoshana Aal – follow spot
Ian Ellis – lights and sound
Steve Hulac - projection

We hope we didn't miss anyone.....

Every attempt has been made to account for all those who have contributed to this project. If there have been any omissions, it is unintentional. We are grateful for the support and apologize for any oversight.

Contributor Recognition

Contributor names listed above can be found on a plaque directly outside the auditorium doors.

About the Artists...

Ed Benoit

A native of Massachusetts, Ed 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.

Bob Castle

An alumnus of East High, Bob Castle 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.

Bob Lillie

At age 4, Bob started playing piano, by ear. His grandmother taught piano, but thought he was too young for lessons, so Bob taught himself for a number of years. A minister's son, Bob grew up in Illinois, Indiana, Colorado and Arizona.

The owner of a full line music store in Florida, Bob has taught piano and organ for many years and has been involved with church music and choral work. He has played at Cypress Gardens, was staff organist at JBurns Pipes and Pizza in Winter Haven, staff organist for the "Pathway to Life" radio broadcast and organist at the Chief Theater in Colorado Springs.

In 1990 Bob and his wife Charlea (a band director and instrumental instructor) moved back to Colorado Springs where Bob plays concerts and accompanies silent films at the City Auditorium.

Kenrick Mervine

A graduate of Westminster Choir College of Princeton, NJ, Ken was active in musical events throughout the New York Metropolitan area.

Since 1977 Ken and his wife Barbara have been together in concert and liturgical settings. They have produced and directed commercial recordings which have been featured on "Pipedreams" (NPR) and Canadian Public Radio. Together they have premiered over 25 musical creations.

Ken has performed as guest soloist at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and with the Colorado Symphony Orchestra; he was honored to be an organist for Pope John Paul II's visit to Denver, and he has appeared with the Denver Brass.

Presently, Ken is a Recitalist/Consultant with Rocky Mountain Church Organs in Lakewood.

Penny Colwell Jensen

A vocal instructor at Duke University in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, Penny has performed with several symphony orchestras and it is our pleasure to welcome her to East High.

About the Rocky Mountain Chapter, ATOS...

The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) is dedicated to the preservation of a unique American art form: the theatre pipe organ and its music.

ATOS has over 65 chapters in the US and abroad. National and regional conventions provide wonderful concerts, excellent technical seminars and lots of good fellowship with other organ lovers.

The Rocky Mountain Chapter is the local affiliate of ATOS. The chapter hosts monthly theatre organ related events, sponsors theatre organ concerts by nationally known artists and keeps members informed of local and national theatre organ activities.

Want to Join RMCATOS?

Visit the membership table in the lobby - or Call **303-771-4728**

Annual Dues \$15

Student Dues \$10

Annual dues paid now cover membership for 2001 and 2002

New Donations for East High

Donations for future improvements of the East High Auditorium Organ may be made at the RMCATOS membership table in the lobby.