



Pipes Along the Rockies

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society, Inc.
February, 2005

Dues are Due!

For those members who have not paid their \$15 for this year's club membership, DO IT NOW!

No dues, no newsletter: no newsletter, no news of theatre organ events; no theatre organ events, no enjoyment/excitement in your life.

Check out the calendar of 2005 events in this issue. Where else can you find that volume and quality of entertainment on a regular basis..... and that isn't even considering the friendships and the fun plus the refreshments that are also a part of the deal.

Don't let your membership expire!
Send that check NOW, it's all we require!

\$15 per household. Write checks to **RMCATOS**.
Send to: **Joann Collins**
7160 W. Stetson Place - #26
Lilleton, CO 80123

Pizza & Pipeless

February 13th, 2005, 2 pm

Holiday Hills Ballroom

Members \$5; non-members \$10

(This is an RTD Senior Ride event)

The cries of "More, More, More" have been answered with this return engagement of the wonderful program provided for us last June by members Bev Bucci, Jim Calm and Lee Traster.

RTD Senior Ride has been invited to join us. A large crowd is expected for this fun-filled afternoon of great entertainment & socializing.

Do plan to attend!



A wonderful event for bringing guests. Look what you get for only \$10 per person:

Music: Theatre organ and grand piano.

Munching: All-you-can-eat pizza & beverage

Mystery: Subtle surprises during the show

Christmas Gathering a Wonderful Success

Our expanded club membership made it necessary to break the tradition of gathering at member Helen Bingham's home for our annual Christmas get-together. This year we used the ballroom at Holiday Hills and "George" and "Victor" were able to join in on the festivities!



The meat and drinks were provided by the club and the member's pot luck produced a wide variety of additional choices.

During the meal, members took turns providing Holiday music on the theatre organ and the grand piano. Santa even took time from his busy schedule to stop by and review his list of naughty & nice.





The traditional “white elephant” Bingo game was held with several “treasures” changing owners on a frequent basis! A Christmas sing-a-long ended a most delightful afternoon.

Our thanks to co-chairmen Doris Beverly and Joann Collins for organizing the successful event.

Everyone Was A Musician (the ranges were spectacular!)

Eighty members and guests were treated to an unbelievable array of local talent at our January 23rd, third annual, “Everyone’s A Musician” club social.

Performing members ranged from long-time’ers to



our newest (1.5 hrs) member to everyone in atten-

dance; performer’s ages ranged from 8 years to (Performers Lucile, 100.5 & Eric, 8)

100.5 years, and the instruments used included trumpet, theatre organ, grand piano, tuned plastic tubes, steel drums, raisin cans, accordion, goat hooves, tuba, zipper, the human voice and a theramin (definitely a non-human voice)!

The music ranged from “London Bridge Is Falling Down” to a Rachmaninoff prelude.

Such excitement was generated that we have scheduled an “extra” event, a “Sunday Jam” to give additional opportunity for members to perform and to be heard in a casual environment. (See a separate article regarding Sunday Jams.)

Want to perform next year? It’s never toooooo early to start practicing!

By George, It’s George [by Bob]

**March 13rd, 2005, 2 pm
Holiday Hills Ballroom
Club Social**

Member Bob Castle treats us to the music, the moods and the memories of theatre organ great George Wright. Bob, a friend of George, shares with us through demonstration and illustration some insight into this legend’s life and works.

The theatre organ at Holiday Hills is a digital “clone” of the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in George Wright’s home and Bob will give us some details on how that was accomplished.

No charge Club Social. Members and guests. Light refreshments will be served.

Brett Valliant

Here for three events in April

(All events at the Holiday Hills Ballroom)

Reception for Brett

Saturday, April 9th, 2 pm

Theatre Organ & Ragtime Piano (I) **with Dick Kroeckel**

Sunday, April 10th, 2 pm

(This is an RTD Senior Ride Event)

Theatre Organ & Ragtime Piano (II) **with Dick Kroeckel**

Monday, April 11th, 2 pm

(This is an RTD Senior Ride Event)

The last time Brett was in town he performed for us at our “members only” pizza & pipeless. For that event Dick Kroeckel “stopped by” to “say hello” and got talked into playing a few songs with Brett.

The resulting music was fantastic and we are most fortunate to have both Brett and Dick back, as a duo, to work their magic one more time.



Brett is twenty-something and from Wichita, Kansas. To give our members an opportunity to per-

sonally get to know Brett better, we are having a members-only reception for Brett on Saturday afternoon, April 9th, at 2 pm at Holiday Hills.

“George” will be there and we might just talk Brett into sharing some of his musical talents with us. Admission to the reception will be a paid ticket to one of Brett’s other events.



On Sunday, April 10th, at 2 pm at Holiday Hills, Brett and Dick will team up for a wonderful afternoon of theatre organ and grand piano. Dick is a ragtime regular at the Fortune Valley casino in Central City.

On Monday, April 11th, at 2 pm at Holiday Hills, Brett and Dick once again perform a concert similar in format to Sunday’s event, but knowing the artists, the content will vary from that heard in Sunday’s performance.

This will be our first week-day theatre organ event. It is hoped that some organizations that do not travel on Sundays will be able to join us.

If you can fit it into your schedule, be sure to attend all three events and invite your friends to the Sunday and Monday performances.

Tickets for Sunday or Monday are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students.

Wurlitzer Concert at CSU

May 20th, 2005, 7:30 pm

Lory Center, CSU, Fort Collins

“An Evening With Kevin Utter and the Mighty Wurlitzer” will be presented on Friday evening, May 20th, 7:30 p.m., at the Lory Student Center Theater on the campus of Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

The program is being sponsored by the Tri-State Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (based in northeastern Colorado, and including parts of Wyoming and Nebraska). Tickets are \$10.00. Additional details in our next newsletter.

The Paramount

.... and its Perils

The most frequent comment on the membership renewal document was “more concerts at the Paramount”. There is nothing we would enjoy more, but let us tell you “the rest of the story.”

The Paramount has undergone a number of physical and management changes during the past year or so. Those changes in addition to other factors make it extremely difficult for us to schedule events at the Paramount.

New requirements by the theatre for our rentals have increased our costs for each concert by over \$1,500. In order to get the attendance we need to support our increased costs, we need to align our events with the RTD Senior Ride program.

The RTD Senior Ride program cannot provide buses on days of professional sporting events, so our event dates cannot conflict with Rockies or Broncos home games and cannot be scheduled until the team calendars are released. (Our concert last August in conjunction with the AMICA convention was set up three years in advance.... the date turned out to be a Rockies home game, so there was no RTD Senior Ride attendance).

House of Blues, the Paramount Theatre managing company, has “first choice” on all dates. What we experienced last Fall and again this Spring is that they “hold” multiple dates open in hopes of attracting lucrative rock band concerts.

In the past, some of those dates have conflicted with our available RTD dates and we have had to cancel our event even though the theatre was never used on those dates.

In the “good old days” we had access to the theatre for non-revenue club events at no charge. Under the current regulations, a non-revenue club social at the theatre would cost us about \$1,800.

If at some time the sun, the moon, the stars, the RTD and the rock band schedules are in perfect alignment, we will have another Paramount event.

Our technical crews continue to maintain the Paramount’s Wurlitzer so when we do get an opportunity to use the theatre, the Mighty Wurlitzer will be “ready and willing”.

Sunday Jam

A “Special Extra Event”

Sunday, March 6th, 2005, 2 pm
Holiday Hills Ballroom

“Everyone’s a Musician” uncovered so much talent among our members and everyone had such a good time performing, we’ve decided to start “unofficial”, extra, “Sunday Jam” sessions.

The Sunday Jam is not a club social.... There will be no planned program. There will be no refreshments. There will be no expectation level. Whoever comes, comes. Whoever doesn’t come, misses out!

The Sunday Jam is for those who like to perform and for those who like to just watch and listen. It is for those who would like to try performing with others. It is for those who are “timid” about performing in “public”. It is for those who enjoy listening to live music.

The Sunday Jam is an opportunity in a friendly, casual, non-critical environment to try something new or to play for others for the first time and not be worried about the audience.

The Sunday Jam has no performance criteria for instrument or type of music. Based on the number of participants, performance time may be limited so everyone gets a chance.

All are welcome! Sunday Jams will be scheduled three or four times a year.

New Club Officers

Jim Burt from Colorado Springs is our new Chapter President. Jim has been a long time member and until just recently lived in Durango. Our new refreshment coordinators are Carol Robinson and Kathy Brayton. Jack & Joann Collins are the club Treasurer, Priscilla Aruthur continues as club Secretary and Doris Beverly remains our Ticket Sales Coordinator.

The President's Corner

Happy New Year to everyone! I feel like the new kid on the block here, and I am really excited to take over the reins as your President. I'd like to thank Owanah Wick for all the hard work and long hours she put in guiding the club over the last year. I can assure you, it will be a tough act to follow.

I like to look for the fun in anything that I do, and looking forward to this coming year really looks like a lot of fun to me. I have a wonderful board to work with and looking at all the exciting events that are planned I know we all will have a fun year.

I encourage each of you to plan to attend as many events as you can, I know you'll get your money's worth there. I also invite you to look for ways to help out. We have lots of opportunities for you to volunteer and, as the old adage goes, many hands make light work.

So let's all plan to have a really fun year and enjoy some really wonderful theatre organ music. Let's also work to expose a friend or someone new to the club as well as encourage younger potential members to join our fun.

Your Prez,
Jim Burt

Welcome New Members:

Lillian Oliver, Federal Heights
Jacques Phelps, Denver
Clark Schrack, Federal Heights
Helen Stropas, Arvada

RMCATOS Events Calendar

Feb 13rd – (Sun) ***Pizza & Pipeless***
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
Members \$5; non-members \$10
This is an RTD Senior Ride event

Mar 6th – (Sun) ***Sunday Jam***
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
An “unofficial” event.
Everyone is welcome

Mar 13th – (Sun) ***By George, It's George, (by Bob)***
Bob Castle provides music & musings
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
Members & guests, no charge

Apr 9th – (Sat) ***Reception for Brett Valliant***
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
No charge for members with tickets
to April 10th or April 11th events.

Apr 10th – (Sun) ***Theatre Organ & Ragtime Piano(I)***
Brett Valliant & Dick Kroeckel
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
Adults \$10; Students \$5
This is an RTD Senior Ride event

Apr 11th – (Mon) ***Theatre Organ & Ragtime (II)***
Brett Valliant & Dick Kroeckel
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
Adults \$10; Students \$5
This is an RTD Senior Ride event

April 16th – Century II, Wichita, KS
Simon Gledhill, London, UK

April 17th – Little River Studio, Wichita, KS
Katherine Drummond, London, UK

April 29, 30, May 1 – JATOE fest, Chicago

May – Sack Lunch Serenades begin
Colorado Springs City Auditorium

May 15th – (Sun) ***Oh Boy, It's O'Boyle***
Tom O'Boyle plays “George”
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
Members & guests, no charge

May 20th – (Fri) ***An Evening with Kevin Utter and the Mighty Wurlitzer***
Lory Student Center, 7:30 pm
CSU, Ft. Collins. Tickets: \$10

Jun 12th – (Sun) ***Kevin Utter & Doc Fergy***
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
Members, free; non-members \$5

July 17th – (Sun) ***Pizza & Pipeless***
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm
Members \$5; non-members \$10
This is an RTD Senior Ride event

Aug - 75th anniversary of the Denver Paramount

Sept 18th – (Sun) ***Cool, Calm and Collectible***
Jim Calm does his thing
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm

Oct – To be announced

November – To be announced

December – Annual Christmas Potluck