



# Pipes Along the Rockies

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

October, 2009

Information Line: 303-466-3330

*Bring some popcorn.....*

## "Silents Please!"

**Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm**

**Holiday Hills Ballroom**

**Members, No Charge; All others \$5**

Plan to attend the showing of a number of short classic silent films on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm, at the Holiday Hills Ballroom Bijou Theatre.

Bob Castle and Jim Calm will share time at the console of the GW4Q accompanying the films in true theatre organ style.

(See "Why Theatre Organs?" on page 2.)

Seating will be at tables and our famous sugar-free lemonade and iced tea will be available all afternoon. Bring your own snacks to share with others at your table or with the whole group.

*There will not be a sermon...*

## "Got Gospel?"

**Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 pm**

**Holiday Hills Ballroom**

**Members, No Charge; All others, \$5**

Once again it is time for our annual romp in the wonderful world of Gospel music. Our definition of "Gospel" gets stretched just a bit, but for sure there won't be any show tunes or dance numbers.

We are fortunate to have a return engagement by Ed Wagner from Mariposa, California. Ed plays the organ, the piano and a few other instruments. He has performed internationally with gospel musicians and composes & plays fantastic musical arrangements.

If you heard Ed two years ago at our 2007 "Got Gospel?" you know we are in for another real treat. Ed will be joined by our own Bev Bucci and perhaps others. The afternoon will include a hymn sing.

Light refreshments will be served.

Hallelujah & Amen!

*Our "free" day at the Paramount ....*

## "Triumvirate on the Tibias"

About 90 members made the pilgrimage to the Denver Paramount on Sunday, August 9<sup>th</sup> for "Triumvirate on the Tibias" .... three males making music with theatre organ pipes.

"Walk in" music was provided by the Uniflex relay producing "live" pre-recorded Wurlitzer music by Dave Wickerham and Ken Double.



Members, (pictured above) DeLoy Goeglein, Bob Castle and Doug Thompson each played wonderful 30-minute sets of theatre organ arrangements.





The triumvirate was followed with open console time that included Bill Kwinn (playing songs from the



Student Prince) and Ingrid Gardner (with son Rick doing a Rubber Ducky reprise and in addition playing the seldom heard original theme song of the Lakeside Amusement Park).

*A happy afternoon ....*

## **“Cabaret Day”**

The Holiday Hills Ballroom became a Cabaret site on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. Member Lee Traster did all the planning and put together a wonderful afternoon of musical enjoyment.



The cabaret singer, Don Hermosillo, opened the show with “Come to the Cabaret”. He was followed by the cabaret dance band featuring Lee Traster, Bev Bucci, Don Rea, Roger Topliff, Jerry Bucci and Jim Calm. There was a surprising absence of couples dancing.

After the break, Lee Traster moved from the piano to the organ, Don Hermosillo sang a number of old fa-

vorites and Lee closed with an appreciated variety of theatre organ selections.

With the audience of 120 seated at tables, the “bring your own snacks” approach worked well (that plan will be repeated in October for “Silents Please!”)

Our thanks to Lee Traster and his crew for an enjoyable and entertaining afternoon.

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## **Advance Notice:** **Christmas Potluck – Dec 6th**

There will only be a few days between the arrival of the December newsletter and our annual Christmas Pot Luck, so a few words of advance notice.

The club will provide ham, turkey, drinks, plates, silverware and napkins. Members will provide salads, main dishes, relish trays, vegetables or dessert. The December newsletter will inform you regarding who to call to make reservations and letting us know what food you will be bringing.

Each person attending is asked to bring a wrapped “White Elephant” item that will be used during the gift exchange procedure. A Christmas sing-along will be part of the festivities.

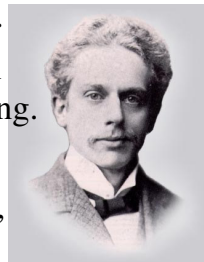
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## **Why Theatre Organs?**

When motion pictures first came out, they would be featured at a theatre as a part of a larger stage show that included singers, dancers, magicians, etc. The theatre would normally have a staff of musicians, up to entire orchestras, that provided music for the acts.

Since the early films were silent, it was a logical step to have the staff musicians provide music for the films. Looking for something new, some theatres installed church organs to provide music.

Robert Hope-Jones, born in England in 1859, was an innovator in organ building. In 1914 he merged his organ company with Wurlitzer introducing “The Wurlitzer-Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra.”



The instrument included orchestra voices, sound effects, a horseshoe tab rail and the ability to use the same rank of pipes on multiple manuals (unification). Thus one person, a single unit, could replace an entire orchestra. Every theatre wanted one.

With the advent of “talkies” and the financial pressures of the great depression, theatre organs began to

quickly disappear. Stereo high-fidelity records in the 1950s were the basis for a theatre organ revival.

Interested in learning more? If you have internet access, there is a great article on the ATOS web site:

<http://www.atos.org/Pages/Story/origins.html>

### Special Book Offer

One of our members has donated to the club a copy of an excellent book for resale with the proceeds going to the club. It is *"The Golden Age of Automatic Musical Instruments"* by Arthur A. Reblitz.

This is a boxed, 9x12" book with 436 pages and over 330 illustrations. It sells, new, from book sellers, for \$100. The club is selling this copy for \$50.00. If you are interested in purchasing it, the book can be seen at the CD/DVD sales table during club events.

### Player Grand Piano for sale

1919 Steinway XR player grand piano (6'1" case) and bench. Excellent mechanical condition. This piano sounds great whether played by hand or by it's Pianocorder player system (original Duo-Art system is long gone). Original finish is darkened and dull.

Will be glad to assist with moving it to your home. I have the moving equipment and know-how, just need a helper or two .. Asking \$3,500.00 .. Jud Murphy, **303-774-8552**, Longmont.

### Welcome New Members

Stanley Ball, El Paso, TX  
Harry & Carol Campbell, Arvada, CO  
Stanley & Glenda Carver, Westminster, CO  
Franklin & Phyllis Hiebert, Thornton, CO  
Bill & Marleigh Jacques, Frederick, CO  
Everett & Joan Meredith, Arvada, CO  
Dixie Setti, Edinburg, TX  
Shannon Shaeffer, Lakewood, CO  
Virgil C. West, Erie, CO

### RMCATOS Officers for 2009

President: **Jim Calm** (303) 989-3671  
VP:

Interim Secretary: **Kathy Brayton** (303) 657-6136  
Treasurer: **Rich Brooks** (303) 322-8586  
Tickets: **Doris Beverly** (303) 466-3330

*If you have comments about club activities or would like to attend a board of directors meeting, contact one of the officers.*

## RMCATOS Events Calendar

**October 25<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Silents Please!"**

Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm  
Bob Castle and Jim Calm take turns accompanying silent films. Bring treats for your table or for everyone.  
Members, No charge; all others \$5

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Got Gospel ?"**

Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm  
Ed Wagner from California plus, our own Bev Bucci (& maybe others).  
Theatre Organ, Grand Piano, Instruments & a Hymn Sing.  
Members, No charge; all others \$5

**December 6<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Christmas Pot Luck"**

Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm  
Members Only

**January 17<sup>th</sup>** - (Sun) – **"Pipes & Stripes IV"**

Denver Paramount Theatre, 2 pm  
Everyone is welcome, no charge  
(*This is an RTD Senior Ride event.*)

**February 7<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Never on Sunday"**

Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2 pm  
Joint social with the Denver American Guild of Organists (AGO) chapter.  
AGO is providing the program.  
Everyone is welcome, no charge.

**March 7<sup>th</sup>** - (Sun) – **"Wurlitzer & Wiz Kids"**

Denver Paramount Theatre, 2 pm  
Martin Ellis at the Wurlitzer joins the Colorado Children's Chorale on stage.  
Adults, \$12; Students, \$6  
(*This is an RTD Senior Ride event.*)

**April 17 & 18** - (Sat & Sun) – **"Doors Open Denver"**

*Pending Paramount availability*  
Denver Paramount Theatre, 10 am – 4 pm  
Non-stop, live, Wurlitzer Theatre Organ music & theatre tours  
Everyone is welcome, no charge

### Other Organ Events

**Nov 5<sup>th</sup>** – (Thur) – **Sophie Choplin**

*From St. Sulpice church, Paris*  
Trinity Church, Denver, 7 pm  
Call 303-839-1493 for tickets  
Adults \$10 advance; \$12 at the door





RMCATOS

5619 Niwot Road

Longmont, CO 80503

**See the newsletters in Color!**  
**Visit our website:**  
**[WWW.RMCATOS.ORG](http://WWW.RMCATOS.ORG)**

**"Cabaret Day" - Photos by Bill Kwinn**

