



# *Pipes along the Rockies*

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

*April, 2012*

*Information Line: 303-466-3330*

*Over 70 buildings open...*

## **Doors Open Denver**

**Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 4 pm**

**Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 4 pm**

**Denver Paramount Theatre**

**Open to the Public .... No charge**

Now in its eighth year, Doors Open Denver will again provide the public an opportunity to wander through over 70 buildings throughout the city.

Several times in the past the Denver Paramount has not been able to participate because the theatre had booked shows. Sometimes the Paramount participated Sunday only, but because of late availability, the theatre was not included in the Doors Open Denver website or publicity materials.

# DOORS OPEN DENVER

This year, the Denver Paramount is on the web site (although currently listed as Sunday only) and is included in the maps and other publicity materials.

[www.DenverGov.org/DoorsOpenDenver](http://www.DenverGov.org/DoorsOpenDenver)

RMCATOS will be providing non-stop, live, Mighty Wurlitzer music on both days plus "How a Pipe Organ Works" demos, theatre tours, and the opportunity to look at copies of the Paramount's Wurlitzer blue prints for the original organ installation.

The other building, close by, that will be open is the Masonic Temple at 1614 Welton ... just around the corner behind the Paramount. It was built in 1890, but a fire in March of 1983 destroyed the interior which has been rebuilt as a modern office building.

Headquarters for Doors Open Denver is at the Ellie Caulkins Theatre. At the Paramount, we plan to have maps available showing all the sites, many accessible by the free Mall bus.

Bring friends. Use the Paramount as "home base". Come and stay as long or as short as you please.

*National Award Winner....*

## **"Doug Plays It Wright"**

**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm**

**Holiday Hills Ballroom**

**Members, no charge; All others \$5**

**(Students 18 & under, No charge)**

Doug Thompson at the George Wright Digital Wurlitzer console. Doug was the 2011 National ATOS amateur theatre organist first place winner.

Light refreshments will be served.

*The troops return to the Paramount...*

## **"Pipes & Stripes VI"**

After a year's absence, Pipes & Stripes returned to the Denver Paramount on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>.

RMCATOS theatre organists **Bob Castle** and **Jim Calm** were joined by the ensembles of the 101<sup>st</sup> Army Band for a free afternoon of rousing music.



This year the band's concert ensemble, brass quintet and Dixieland group all participated. The band and the organists played selections alone and together.

Between 1,500 and 1,600 folks attended the show.

Additional photos from the event can be found on the club web site at:

[www.rmcatos.org](http://www.rmcatos.org)



## All requests not met ..... “Request Rendezvous”

Our March 11<sup>th</sup> club social featured table seating and BYOS (bring your own snacks) so, listening closely, one could hear the crunch of the crackers synchronized to the beat of the music.

Members’ song requests were deposited in four “collection plates” for: Hymns & Gospel, Old Favorites, Show Tunes and Classical selections.



The musicians, **Bev Bucci, Jim Calm, Bob Castle, Bob Flinn** and **Lee Traster** sorted through the request slips and each selected groups of three that they then played on the piano, the theatre organ or together with another artist on piano and organ.

Later in the program each artist played a “stump the audience” selection, but vowed that if we ever do this again, they would make things more difficult because those assembled quickly and accurately identified every tune played.



The grand finale, which was as much of a surprise to the artists as it was to the audience, featured all five performers simultaneously at the organ and grand piano (ten hands, ten feet, five keyboards plus pedal) playing a “*God Bless America*” sing-a-long.

*Pipes Along the Rockies - April, 2012*

Our thanks to our talented members who gave us a fun afternoon of “off the top of the head” music. The unused request slips have been deposited in the RMCATOS vault for safe keeping until future use.

Additional photos can be found on the club website:  
[www.rmcatos.org](http://www.rmcatos.org)

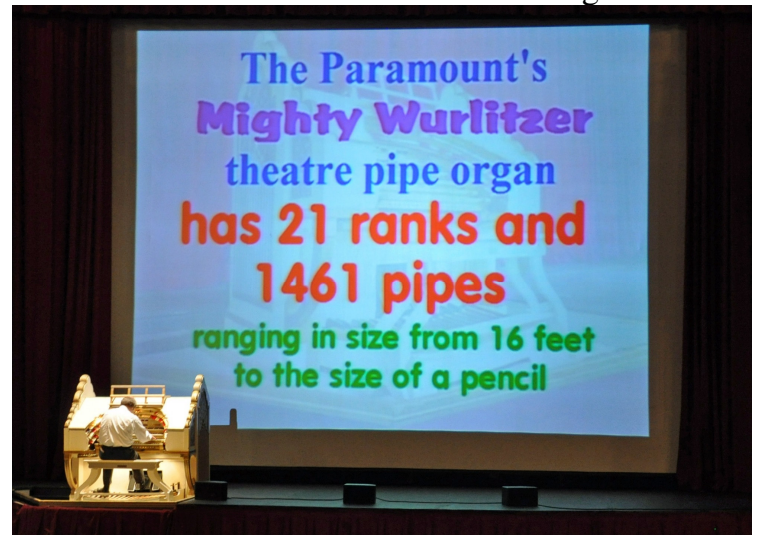
## RMCATOS Participates.... Doors Open Denver Fundraiser

The evening of March 15<sup>th</sup>, the City of Denver staff that is organizing this year’s Doors Open Denver event held a \$100 per person fundraiser at the Denver Paramount.

RMCATOS was asked to provide an hour of Mighty Wurlitzer walk-in music and assist the guest speakers with presentation equipment and support.



During the opening hour of wine and snacks, **Jim Calm** played the Mighty Wurlitzer while the RMCATOS slide show of the history of the Paramount, the Wurlitzer and RMCATOS events was displayed throughout the theatre on TV monitors and in the auditorium on the theatre’s “big screen”.



At the close of the event, the audience was treated to 10 minutes of video clips from the silent film

“The Black Pirate” starring Denver’s own Douglas Fairbanks. **Jim Calm** provided the live theatre organ accompaniment and **Rich Brooks** and **Lee Shaw** handled the technical details.

Additional photos can be found on the club website:  
[www.rmcatos.org](http://www.rmcatos.org)

### ***Need a lift? YES!....***

#### **Paramount Orchestra Lift Jam**

The Paramount orchestra lift jam is NOT a group of musicians getting together to play extemporaneous music and have a good time.

Those who attended Pipes & Stripes VI at the Paramount in February may have noticed that towards the end of the show, the center orchestra lift disappeared to be cleared of chairs and equipment... but never returned to stage level.

The lift is powered by four huge jack screws mechanically connected to a large electric motor. One of the jack screws “froze” and caused the motor to blow several fuses.

An elevator engineer has examined the situation and for a brief time got the lift working. However, another jam, on the same jack screw, occurred again and negated any progress. Stay tuned

### ***Watch for the changes....***

#### **RMCATOS needs to restructure**

Over the past year or more RMCATOS has been searching for members who will take various leadership positions of responsibility in the club.

The search has been unsuccessful. As a result, changes in club function and activities will have to be made. Watch this space for additional information as these changes unfold.

#### **Welcome New Members**

**Benjamin Ehrlich**, Denver  
**Nevie Halderman**, Westminster  
**Mark & Deb Lundin**, Monument

#### **RMCATOS Officers for 2012**

President:

VP:

Secretary: **Janice Blakney** (303) 895-8934

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**

**Apr 14<sup>th</sup>** – (Sat) – **“Doors Open Denver”**

Denver Paramount Theatre

10 am -4 pm

Theatre tours and non-stop, live,

Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ music

Everyone welcome; no charge

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**May 6<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **“Doug Plays It Wright”**

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

Doug Thompson

Members, no charge; All others, \$5.

Students 18 and under admitted free

Light refreshments will be served.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **“Listening to the Lowrey”**

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

Dan Reed from Schmidt Music brings

and plays the Lowrey organ.

Members, no charge; All others, \$5.

Students 18 and under admitted free.

Light refreshments will be served.

**July 8<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **“July JAMboree”**

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

Members of The Niwot Community

Semi-marching Free Grange Band

reunite with the digital Wurlitzer and

the grand piano for an afternoon of

music, education and surprises.

Members, no charge; All others, \$5.

Students 18 and under admitted free.

Light refreshments will be served.

#### **Pikes Peak Chapter Events**

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> thru** – (Thur) – **Sack Lunch Serenade**

**Sept 6<sup>th</sup>** (Pikes Peak Chapter event – 719-473-2010 )

City Auditorium, Colorado Springs

Every Thursday @ noon through Sept. 6

One-hour “free” Wurlitzer concert.

Donations accepted.





RMCATOS  
5619 Niwot Road  
Longmont, CO 80503

Photos by Bill Kwinn

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

