



# *Pipes along the Rockies*

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

*June, 2014*

*Information Line: 303-466-3330*

*“Bingo” is game but not a game .....*

## **“Utterly Kevin”**

**Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm**

**Holiday Hills Ballroom**

**Members, no charge: Others, \$5**

We are delighted to welcome back to the Holiday Hills Ballroom **Kevin Utter** along with his service dog **“Bingo”**. Kevin is organist at the Fort Collins Christ Methodist Church.

Sightless since birth, Kevin is both a classical and a theatre organist, an accompanist for silent films and a master of the Theremin.

It will be a delightful afternoon with Kevin at the GW4Q console with also perhaps a friend or two, plus Bingo, joining in on the festivities.

Light refreshments will be served.

*It's been a while .....*

## **Lee Traster & Friends**

**Sunday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm**

**Holiday Hills Ballroom**

**Members, no charge: Others, \$5**

We all enjoyed his wonderful “music-to-pot-luck-by” at our Christmas social, but it has been quite a while since **Lee Traster** has performed at a non-holiday RMCATOS social.

Lee is gifted on the organ and the piano and he will be joined by several other musicians to provide an entertaining and enjoyable afternoon of good music. (During the break you might want to ask Lee about his difficult and dangerous military career in the tropics playing steel drums for the Navy!)

Light refreshments will be served.

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

*Our “free” day at the Paramount....*

## **“Wonderful Wurlitzer”**

**Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm**

**Denver Paramount Theatre**

**RMCATOS and AGO Members Only**

**No admission charge**

Each year the Paramount provides us with a “Free day at the Paramount”. For a number of reasons, too long to list, attendance to these events is limited to the RMCATOS and AGO memberships only.

This is our annual opportunity to hear organists that we have not heard in a while, or at all, and enjoy the sounds and ambiance of the Mighty Wurlitzer and the historic Paramount Theatre.

A tour of the theatre will be available after the show for those who might be interested.

There will be no Refreshments.

*They definitely were ...*

## **“Young & Talented”**

An enthusiastic crowd of 185 arrived at the Holiday Hills Ballroom on March 9<sup>th</sup> for a performance by the Cherry Creek Youth Symphony under the direction of **Douglas Macomber**.

The Symphony, composed of Jr. High, High and Home-Schooled students, played selections ranging from classical works to popular tunes. Two of the selections were directed by student conductors.



Individual musicians played piano, violin and trumpet solos. A string quartet performed. **Kenny Orr** played theatre organ solos and was joined on the organ bench by Douglas Macomber for a rousing close to the first half with a four-hand, four-feet, four eyes rendition of “*Stars and Stripes Forever*”.

The talent displayed by everyone who participated was outstanding. One could tell from the standing ovation that our members are looking forward to a return engagement.

Additional photos can be found on the club website: [www.RMCATOS.org](http://www.RMCATOS.org) Click on “What’s New”.

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### **Wurlitzer music fit for a king ...** **HBO “Game of Thrones” Sneak Preview of Season 4.**

HBO rented the Denver Paramount on March 27th for a by-invitation-only sneak preview of the 4<sup>th</sup> season of their popular and successful TV series “Game of Thrones.”

The “real” throne used in the series was shipped in and VIP attendees were given the opportunity to have their photo taken sitting on the throne.



Above: Rob Meyers, Christine Calm Meyers, Jim Calm

While the photos were being taken and prior to the costume contest, Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ music prevailed. Several times during the evening a **Jim Calm** arrangement of the HBO series theme song for twin-console-theatre-organ-and-bass-drum was performed, in costume, by Jim at the master console, Christine Calm Meyers at the slave console and Rob Meyers pounding on the bass drum.

It was a big hit! (Pun intended)!

The HBO folks were impressed and appreciative, but no TV contracts have been received to date.

Additional photos can be found on the club website: [www.RMCATOS.org](http://www.RMCATOS.org) Click on “What’s New”

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### **Our busiest year yet ...** **Doors Open Denver**

The tenth annual Doors Open Denver event where 60 to 80 Denver buildings are open to the public, was held this year on April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 10 am to 4 pm each day.

Kroenke Sports made the theatre available and RMCATOS provided non-stop, live, Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ music (with organists changing every 30 minutes), theatre tours and demos of how a pipe organ works.

The theatre was open only 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> due to a Paramount show that evening.



**Jim Calm, Bob Castle, Bob Flinn, DeLoy Goelein, Doug Thompson & Kevin Utter** provided the non-stop music. Tours were led by **Lee Shaw** and **Owanah Wick**. Wes Ranstrom did the pipe demos in the lobby. Wes also brought his “Howard Seat”, a classic chair designed for theatre organists.



The chair, sitting on the stage, got a good work out. The welcome table was staffed by **Judy Baird, Doris Beverly, Rich Brooks, and Rick Knoll.**

Saturday, in 4 hours, we broke all of our previous records with 579 visitors. Sunday, in 6 hours, because of the rain & snow, there was a reduced attendance of 319 for a week-end total of 898 visits.

Of all the 60-some buildings participating this year the Denver Paramount had the 4<sup>th</sup> largest number of visitors. The top three: 1) Governor's Residence, 2) Castle Marne B & B, 3) Zane Mansion.

### ***It indeed was ...***

#### **"A Fun Afternoon in May"**

Arvada Presbyterian church was the location for the May 18<sup>th</sup> "A Fun Afternoon in May" with organ and piano stylings of Gospel songs by **Bev Bucci** and Randy Morris.



Bev and Randy played both instruments, switching keyboards at the half and Randy also sang a solo for the 110 gathered for the event. The program was well received and a random shout of "Hallelujah", although seriously considered, was never heard.

Additional photos can be found on the club website: [www.RMCATOS.org](http://www.RMCATOS.org) Click on "What's New".

### ***Ribbit, Ribbit, Ribbit ...***

#### **The FROOG is now with us**

A new offshoot of RMCATOS has been formed. The Front Range Organ Owners Group (FROOG) is for those who like to travel to and listen to different organ installations, usually in homes, where there is not sufficient space for the number of attendees that normally attend RMCATOS events.

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The group is open to anyone, but the charter members are all folks who own or have owned organs, thus the title. There are no membership requirements and no dues. For additional information, contact **Jim Calm.** (303) 989-3671.



May 17<sup>th</sup> was the first FROOG gathering. It was at the home of Duane Searle and featured Doug Thompson at the console of Duane's 3/15 Wurlitzer. There were 35 in attendance and an active open console time followed the program.

### ***A new Paramount CD ...***

#### **German Organist Just Recorded**

Last year, Hans Heilscher, a German classical organist from Wiesbaden, brought a tour group to the Paramount for a theatre tour and a short silent film clip accompanied by **Bob Castle.**

Hans, who has recorded 32 organ CDs and does annual international concert tours, fell in love with the Denver Paramount and its Wurlitzer organ and returned this May, along with his sound engineer, Bruno, to record Hans' first theatre organ CD.



The new CD, titled "Say it with Music" will contain a variety of musical styles and is planned to be released, internationally, this winter.



## Welcome New Members

Darlene Waldron, Federal Heights

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## In Memoriam

In May **Doris Hunter** died. Our sympathies to her husband **Jim Hunter** and their friends and family.

The passing of two of our members in 2013 has been called to our attention. **Orin Trinrud** died on July 8<sup>th</sup>, and his wife, **Joyce**, passed away on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Our sympathies to their friends and family.

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## RMCATOS Officers for 2014

President: **Ryan Kroll** (970) 679-0196

VP:

Secretary:

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.*

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## Other Organ Events

Colorado Springs – Sack Lunch Serenade

Thursdays May thru August – at noon

June 26<sup>th</sup> – At the Organ Gym

All other Thursdays, at the City Auditorium

For details, call: (719) 473-2010

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## RMCATOS Events Calendar

**June 29<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Utterly Kevin"**

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

**Kevin Utter & Bingo**

Members, no charge; All others \$5

**July 20<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Lee Traster & Friends"**

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

**Lee Traster**

Members, no charge; All others \$5

**Aug 17<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Free Day @ Paramount"**

Denver Paramount Theatre – 2 pm

Mighty Wurlitzer music

RMCATOS & AGO members only

**September 21<sup>st</sup>** – (Sun) – **"Doug Thompson"**

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

**Doug Thompson**

Members, no charge; All others \$5

**October 12<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **TBD** (to be determined)

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

Members, no charge; All others \$5

**November 16<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **TBD**

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

Members, no charge; All others \$5

**December 7<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **Christmas Social**

Holiday Hills Ballroom – 2 pm

Members only

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Photo by Richard Brooks