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Steinway Grand Piano

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Dick Kroeckel

Appearing courtesy of

Harvey's Wagon Wheel Hotel & Casino

Central City, Colorado

303-271-2606



*The Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society*

Presents

**An Afternoon
of American Music**

Featuring

**Patti
Simon**

at the

Mighty Wurlitzer

**Dick
Kroeckel**

at the

Steinway Grand

The Paramount Theatre
Denver Colorado

Sunday, May 19, 2002

About the Artists

Patti Simon, originally from Seattle, Washington, called Colorado home for 20 years and recently moved home and business to Wichita, Kansas. She was staff organist for the Denver Organ Grinder Restaurant as well as Pizza and Pipes Restaurants in Seattle and Bellevue, WA and Organ Stop Restaurants in Phoenix and Mesa, AZ.



A former staff organist for the Denver Paramount Theatre, Patti is now a staff organist for Wichita Theatre Organ, Inc., playing the former New York Paramount Wurlitzer installed at the Century II Exhibition Hall in Wichita.

Patti performs theatre organ concerts, both solo and with ragtime pianist Dick Kroeckel, and has been featured at both National and Regional ATOS conventions.

Recent concert locations include the Senate Theatre, Detroit, MI; Yuma Theatre, Yuma, AZ; Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA; Century II Exhibition Hall, Wichita, KS; Grand Ledge Opera House, Grand Ledge, MI; Auditorium Theatre and Eisenhardt Auditorium, Rochester, NY; and Elsinore Theatre, Salem, OR.

Patti teaches theatre organ, both in private lessons and seminars and has released two solo recordings and one duo recording with ragtime pianist Dick Kroeckel.

Patti's early training began with classical accordion and piano when she was four years old. She attended college on a scholarship studying Business Administration, following which she returned to music as her main course of study.

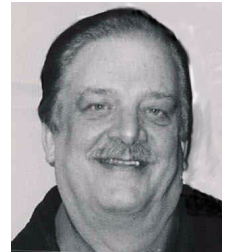
She assists her husband, Edward Zollman, in their organ services business, Zollman Pipe Organ Services, restoring, installing and maintaining pipe organs. When not working, she enjoys her china and doll collection and interior design.

About the Artists

Dick Kroeckel, an Indianapolis, IN native, has been a popular Colorado entertainer since he was 16 years old, when he began playing in mountain town saloons. While in the Army he played for Chapel Services and Special Services Productions, officer's clubs and the Fourth Army Entertainment Tours.

Returning to Colorado, Dick once again began entertaining in Georgetown at the Silver Queen and Red Ram. The Red Slipper Room in Denver's Cherry Creek Inn was a favorite spot for Denverites where they enjoyed Dick's talents for ten years.

In 1976 Dick was featured in a special for CBS by Charles Kuralt entitled "On the Road in '76". He also appeared in documentary movies on Tombstone, AZ and one for ITT. Dick has appeared regularly in Colorado at the Strater Hotel's Diamond Belle Saloon, Durango; the Glory Hole Saloon, Central City; the Phenix House, Cripple Creek; and in Deadwood, SD.



He has toured the country, including Olde Towne Alexandria, VA and has done two seasonal tours with the Kaleidoscope Players from New Mexico's State Theatre. He is well known to Colorado audiences for his accompaniment of melodrama and silent films. He is currently performing at Harvey's Wagon Wheel Hotel and Casino, Central City, CO.

Dick has released nine recordings, seven of which are solo, as well as one with organist Patti Simon and one with vocalist Al Fike.

When not traveling to perform, Dick operates a business restoring player pianos and orchestrions. A dedicated train buff, Dick will travel most anywhere to ride a train and when not working, cooking is a favorite activity.

RTD Senior Ride

Coming RMCATOS Attractions
*for reservations for groups of ten or more
call RTD: 303-299-6503*

*The following two RMCATOS events have been approved
for the RTD Senior Ride program.*

*These events are open to the public and participation
is not limited to Senior Ride members.*

See the RMCATOS calendar of events inside the back cover.

Pizza & Pipeless

This event has recently been added to the RTD July Calendar

Saturday, July 6th, 4 pm

Holiday Hills Ballroom

Pizza, Soft Drink & (electronic) Wurlitzer

plus: Singers, Dancers, Musicians

\$6 per person

Big Band, Big Pipes, Big Sound

This event will appear in the RTD November Calendar

Sunday, November 3rd, 2 pm

Denver Paramount

The Dean Bushnell Orchestra

and

Dual Consoles of the Mighty Wurlitzer

\$10 per person

Rocky Mountain Chapter

American Theatre Organ Society

(RMCATOS)

Calendar of Events

May thru August – **Sack Lunch Serenade**

Colorado Springs City Auditorium

Thursdays at noon

Optional Box Lunch \$4.50

June 26-29 - **CSU Theatre Organ Workshop**

Tom Hazelton, Rosa Rio & Bill Yoeman

Kevin Utter, Harry Furgeson, Robert Cavarra

For info call: 970-223-4139

July 6th – **Pizza & Pipeless** - 4 pm

Holiday Hills Village Ballroom

Pizza, Vintage (electronic) Wurlitzer

plus Singers, Dancers & Musicians

Reservations required (303-426-6733)

\$6 per person includes pizza & soft drink

August 17th – **Club Picnic** (*Members only*)

Sept 15th - **Club Social** (*Members Only*)

Marr & Colton plus George Wright Allen

Nov 3rd – **Big Band, Big Pipes, Big Sound** - 2 pm

Denver Paramount Theatre

Dean Bushnell Orchestra plus

Dual Wurlitzer Pipe Organ Consoles

Tickets: 303-466-3330

Adults: \$10 Students: \$2 VISA & MC

The Paramount Theatre
and its Unwanted Wurlitzer
by Steve McCormick

In the 1920's Denver's theatre patrons could choose from many fine movie houses. In an effort to draw more patrons, movie house chains were opening newer, more luxurious theatres on a continuing basis. The Publix chain, wanting to outdo the competition, decided a new uptown movie palace was in order. Construction on the Denver Paramount began in early 1929, only to be halted by the stock market crash.

After studying the situation, Publix officials decided to continue but on a smaller scale. One of the cutbacks was to cancel the Wurlitzer publix #1 Theatre Pipe Organ. Understandably, the Wurlitzer Company was not thrilled about this cost cutting measure and took the matter to court. When the dust settled, the Denver Paramount had its 4/20 unwanted Wurlitzer complete with twin consoles.

In order to have its main entrance on 16th Street, ground floor space in the adjacent Kittredge building was leased and the lobby with its grand staircase was installed. (This entrance was removed a few years ago when the rental cost became prohibitive.)

The grand opening for the theatre occurred on August 29, 1930. Opening night crowds lined up for blocks to see the lavish new theatre. Invitation holders were treated to an opening night program which included a feature talking picture "Going Coconuts" as well as short subjects and newsreels and featuring Jackie Kaderly and Jean Rowan at the Wurlitzer twin consoles.

Despite modernization efforts in the 1950's, movie crowds were not coming downtown anymore. Downtown movie theatres fell on hard times and most have been demolished and their organs sold or junked. The Paramount was no exception.

Lengthy court battles over operation of the theatre in the 1970's nearly finished the old dowager. The crowning blow came in 1978 when a burglar-set fire on the stage destroyed much of the front area of the theatre. Thanks to the efforts of the Denver firemen, the organ consoles were wrapped in fireproof blankets and were saved from the disaster.

Help came from the insurance company which provided funds for rehabilitating the damaged theatre. The Historic Paramount Foundation operated the theatre until bankruptcy caused it dissolution in early 1994.

Over the years, several organ enthusiasts kept the Wurlitzer operating long before RMCATOS came into being. Later, members of RMCATOS stepped in to help as the need arose. In 1991 the Wurlitzer suffered water damage to its main relay which rendered it unplayable. Thanks to the efforts of RMCATOS, Randy Ship (theatre owner) and Zollman Pipe Organ Services (Ed Zollman, owner) the Paramount Mighty Wurlitzer has been fully restored and upgraded to continue to be part of Denver's musical heritage.

The Paramount Theatre is one of a very few movie palaces left in the Western U.S. and the only one to contain its originally-installed theatre pipe organ. The Paramount and its Mighty Wurlitzer are a major part of Denver's history.

Recordings by....

Datti Simon

and

Dick Kroeckel

Will be available in the lobby

At intermission and after the concert.

The Paramount's Wurlitzer

by Bob Castle

In the early days of motion picture studios, each studio owned and operated their own theatres as outlets for their motion pictures. Thus, Paramount owned and operated "Paramount Publix." The Rudolph Wurlitzer Manufacturing Company of North Tonawanda, New York, would often specify that a certain instrument would carry the nomenclature for a specific motion picture outlet.

The Denver Paramount has a "Publix One" (4/20) instrument. It has four keyboards (called manuals) and twenty sets of pipes (called ranks).

In addition to pipes, a theatre organ also has tuned percussions – a chrysoglott (like an orchestral celeste) and an upright piano are housed in the Paramount's main (left) chamber. A marimba harp, two xylophones, chimes, glockenspiel and tuned sleigh bells are all in the solo (right) chamber. There are also drums, cymbals, triangle, klaxon horn, fire gong, castanets and a bird whistle.

There are two consoles. The one on the left is the main console with all of the organ's controls. The slave console is on the right – it will play only what the main (master) console has programmed. The characteristic sound of a theatre organ comes from pipes called "Tibia Clausa." The Paramount organ has two sets (or ranks) of Tibias, one in each chamber.

How Does it Work

By Bob Castle

The Paramount's Wurlitzer is powered by a 15 horsepower Spencer Turbine organ blower providing 2300 cubic feet of air per minute at a pressure of 17 inches (about one half pound).

Pipes speak when air is introduced into the pipe—percussions sound when pneumatics fill with air causing a mallet to strike the bar of the instrument. The organ also has a 30 amp. 12 volt direct current power supply.

Each function and pipe of the Wurlitzer operates by means of a 12 volt magnet which in reality is a small air valve. When the magnet is energized, it causes air to flow into the pipe or pneumatic – the pipes speak and the percussions sound.

The organ's horseshoe console is in reality a series of electrical switches. The stop controls, or tabs, around the horseshoe close electrical circuits allowing the organist to program the sound desired for each of the four manuals and pedals. The keys on the manuals also close electrical circuits activating or playing the notes desired.

The four pedals operated by the organist's right foot cause the organ to become louder and softer by opening and closing shutters in front of each chamber. Shutters are like venetian blinds – they stand vertical and open and close on a 90 degree axis – when the shutters are closed the organ is soft and when they are open the organ becomes louder.

The Paramount organ has eight tremulants. These devices cause the pipes to vary in sound intensity and pitch – the mechanical equivalent to the human vibrato. Tremulants create the warmth of the sound of a theatre organ.

Want to Join ?

*Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society*

Information in the lobby or
Call: 303-426-6733



Pipes in the main (left) chamber are: Tibia Clausa, Open Diapason, Tuba Horn, Solo String, Viol d'Orchestra, Viol



Celeste (tuned sharp), Concert Flute, Flute Celeste, Vox Humana and Clarinet. Pipes of the Solo (right) chamber are: Tibia Clausa, Quintadena, Solo String, English Post Horn, Brass Trumpet, Brass Saxo-

phone, Orchestral Oboe, Oboe Horn, Kinura and Tromba.

The newest addition to the Paramount Wurlitzer is a new relay system – a Uniflex Computer Control System 2000. The relay sorts the incoming signals from the console and sends the signals to the pipes and percussions. This relay will also record all organ console, pedal and stop tablet activity for later playback.

The Uniflex is also the memory for the console piston system. Buttons under each keyboard set the stops to preprogrammed positions allowing the organist to make instant changes in the registrations (or selection of stop tabs) which in turn change the organ sounds.

The original Wurlitzer relay still resides in a room above the solo chamber where it was damaged by water when the Paramount was being re-roofed. The room is bedroom-sized to accommodate the four section relay – each section is six feet tall by eight feet long and 18 inches wide with space between each section for servicing.



RMCATOS

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During Intermission

In the Lobby...

Complementary Ice Water

**Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society
Membership Information**

Artists' CD Sales