

Our Thanks to:

House of Blues and The Paramount Theatre Association

Paramount Theatre: **David Percy, Ken Downing**

RTD Senior Ride: **Patricia Jaquez, Mike Smith**

Organ Preparation: **Bob Castle, Don Wick**

Box Office: **Doris Beverly, Priscilla Arthur**

Production Assistance: **Leon Shaw**

House Manager: **Lois Cady**

Lobby Staff: **Vera Jones, Carl Hoff,**

Priscilla Arthur, Twyla Landau, Sue Loomis,

Jack & Joanne Collins, Estelle Langston,

Owana Wick, Pat Carlson, Mike Schuh

Ticket Sales: **Doris & George Beverly**

House Photographer: **Corky Carlson**

Publicity: **Twyla & Dexter Landau**

Stage Manager: **David Bortle**

Announcer: **Mike Bryant**

Lighting: **Gabriel Jensen**



*The Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society*

Presents

**The Mighty Wurlitzer
and All That Jazz**

featuring

Neil Jensen

at the Mighty Wurlitzer

and

The Queen City Jazz Band

under the direction of Bill Clark

The Paramount Theatre
Denver Colorado

Sunday, October 26th, 2003

In the Lobby... During Intermission

Queen City Jazz Band CD Sales

also

Membership Information

Rocky Mountain Chapter American Theatre Organ Society

Year-end Membership Special

\$15 (per household) for rest of 2003 and all of 2004

Call: 303-466-3330 or 303-771-4728

About the Artists

The Queen City Jazz Band began performing at the Mon-Vue Village, a small roadhouse in a suburb of Denver back in 1958. What was once just a week-end gig has grown into forty-five years of performances before delighted audiences around the world. As a result, the band has become a Colorado musical institution – honored twice by the State Legislature and most recently by Governor Owens for its cultural contributions.

The band performs regularly at public events, jazz festivals, churches and through its Foundation introduces traditional jazz to elementary through high school students via in-school performances and demonstrations. Their annual concert will be March 27th, 2pm, at the Teikyo Loretto Heights Theatre. Call: 303-795-8960.

Members of today's band include leader **Bill Clark** (tuba),

Pat Blodget (trombone), **Jim Tracy** (banjo), **Hank Troy** (piano),

Charlie Smith (trumpet), **Roger Campbell** (clarinet),

Marl Shannahan (drums) and **Wendy Harston** (vocals).

Neil Jensen, a native of Australia, currently living in Sydney, first studied classical piano then turned his creative talents to the theatre organ with his first professional appearance in 1973. Neil has toured New Zealand, Canada and the United States. He is currently in the US making recordings for a new CD.

Neil is the musical director at the Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace in Sydney which has been restored to its original art deco opulence and has installed, under Neil's direction, a 1924 Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ from the Wilson Theatre in Fresno, California.

A gifted, all-round musician, Neil has an innovative approach to keyboard styling. Other interests include twentieth century arts and physical fitness. In addition to his musical activities which include film preludes and composing, arranging and performing live accompaniment for silent films, Neil also directs and operates a corporate lifestyle and personal fitness training organization.

Rocky Mountain Chapter American Theatre Organ Society (RMCATOS)

Calendar of Events

Public Concerts

August 8th – **Patti Simon & Dick Kroeckel - 2 pm**

Denver Paramount Theatre

Enjoy an afternoon of Mighty Wurlitzer and
Ragtime Grand Piano

*This concert is in conjunction with the national convention of the
Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association.
Because of a Rockies home game on the same date, there will
be **no** RTD Senior Ride buses. Please plan accordingly.*

Tickets: 303-466-3330 or 303-771-4728

Adults: \$10 Students: \$5

Checks, VISA & MasterCard

Chapter Activities & Socials

(Members and guests only)

November 16th – **“Pizza & Pipeless“ - 2 pm**

Holiday Hills Village Ballroom

Guest artist Brett Valliant from Wichita

December 5th - **Annual Christmas Potluck**

January 12th – **“Everyone's A Musician“ - 2 pm**

Holiday Hills Village Ballroom

Come discover your hidden musical talents

During today's concert, please...

No Flash Photos, No Cell Phones, No Recordings

What's Happening at (to) the Paramount?

The Colorado Ballet has recently signed a long-term contract making the Paramount theatre the Ballet's new Denver residence.

Since the Paramount stage was originally designed for just movies, major renovation is required to support ballet performances.

A removable thrust stage will be constructed into the first rows of the theatre. The original cement floor is being chiseled and an orchestra pit that will extend to the former row "M" is being excavated. A temporary new proscenium arch will be constructed across the new stage in front of the existing organ pipe chambers.

The rake (slope) of the balcony seating has been changed to provide better sightlines to the extended stage. Doors have been cut in the back wall of the stage and back stage stairways are being constructed to new dressing rooms being built above Bayou Bob's restaurant. A steel "bridge" has been installed on the roof and will support a grid of up to 32 tons of lighting and scenery equipment for the newly expanded stage.

When the construction is completed, also noticeable will be a new bar on the balcony level and improvements to the rest rooms and other theatre facilities.

The Ballet will be resident at the Paramount during the months of November, December and February. At other times, the thrust stage and false proscenium arch will be removed, the orchestra pit will be covered, 300-some seats will be reinstalled and the theatre restored to its "normal", familiar configuration.

Your patience during this transition is greatly appreciated. We are thankful that the Paramount management has allowed us to use the facility at the height of the construction activity.

The Paramount's Mighty Wurlitzer is not affected by the renovations and it has recently received a brand new control computer and software, donated by the Rocky Mountain Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Aussie Dictionary

Billabong (waterhole); **Billy** (stew); **Coolibah** (Australian tree); **Jumbuck** (sheep); **Squatter** (rancher); **Swagman** (Tramp); **Trooper** (sherrif); **Tuckerbag** (knapsack); **Waltzing Matilda** (slang for carrying a blanket roll).

Words for Waltzing Matilda sing-a-long

Once a jol-ly swag-man camped by a bill-a-bong,
Un-der the shade of a cool-i-bah tree,
And he sang as he sat and wait-ed while his bil-ly boiled,
"You'll come a-waltz-ing Ma-til-da with me."

*Refrain: "Waltz-ing Ma-til-da, waltz-ing Ma-til-da,
You'll come a-waltz-ing Ma-til-da with me."
And he sang as he sat and wait-ed while his bil-ly boiled,
"You'll come a-waltz-ing Ma-til-da with me."*

Down came a jum-buck to drink at the bill-a-bong.
Up jumped the swag-man and grabbed him with glee,
And he sang as he shoved that jum-buck in his tuck-er-bag,
"You'll come a-waltz-ing Ma-til-da with me."

Refrain: "Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Madilda, etc....."

Down came the squat-ter, mounted on his thor-ough-bred,
Up came the troop-ers, one! two! three!
"Whose that jol-ly jum-buck you've got in your tuck-er-bag?
You'll come a-waltz-ing Ma-til-da with me."

Refrain: "Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Madilda, etc....."

Up jumped the swag-man sprang into the bill-a-bong,
"You'll nev-er catch me alive!" said he.
And his ghost may be heard as you pass by that bill-a-bong,
"You'll come a-waltz-ing Ma-til-da with me."

Refrain: "Waltzing Matilda, waltzing Madilda, etc....."

The Historic Paramount

by Twyla Landau

The historic Paramount Theatre and its “Mighty Wurlitzer” continues as one of Denver’s outstanding contributions to the world of music and theatre. Designed by Denver architect Temple Buell, the Paramount is Denver’s sole remaining tribute to the grandeur and opulence that characterized movie palace architecture in the 1920’s. The acoustics are near perfect. Like the Morman Tabernacle in Salt Lake City, the Paramount’s auditorium carries natural sound to every corner of the large 2078 seat theatre.

Drop a pin center stage and it can be heard in the far corners of the balcony, a tribute to the natural resonance and acoustics of a magnificent movie palace. This natural resonance and acoustics make the Paramount’s 4-manual, 20-rank “Mighty Wurlitzer” a unique listening experience, its music capable of sounding both ethereal and “Mighty.”

The Paramount’s Wurlitzer is one of a series of 17 organs built by the Randolph Wurlitzer Company of Tonowanda, New York during the late twenties and early thirties especially for the Publix Corporation chain of movie theatres (original owners of Denver’s Paramount). The blend of voices which gave the organ its unique tonal quality was specially developed by famed organist Jesse Crawford for the management of Publix Theatres and the organs in this series bear the model designation, Publix One. The Denver Paramount is equipped with two consoles as is the famed “Mighty Wurlitzer” in Radio City Music Hall.

There are more than 1700 individual pipes ranging in size from giant 16 feet to some no larger than small pencils. These pipes are capable of imitating various orchestral instruments such as violins, flutes, trumpets, as well as many of the traditional sounds associated with church and concert organs. In addition to pipes, there are chimes, xylophone,

glockenspiel, piano, drums, cymbals & special effects such as steam whistle, pounding surf, galloping horses, siren, bell, etc.

This vast array of sounds is controlled by the organist at four keyboards, a pedal keyboard played by the organist’s feet and by over 200 stop tablets available to the organist on the console above and to the sides of the keyboards. The entire console, painted gleaming white and gold, is equipped with its own hydraulic lift which allows it to rise dramatically from pit to stage level for its initial appearance.

The Paramount and its “Mighty Wurlitzer” is the only large theatre west of St. Louis with a 4-manual, 20-rank Wurlitzer pipe organ that is in perfect operating condition and remains in the theatre for which it was designed and in which it was initially installed.

With the advent of sound to the motion picture, the use of the organ in movie theatres decreased because of the great expense of maintaining the instruments and for organist salaries. Many of the instruments fell into disuse, abuse and neglect. Some were sold for scrap and many were simply left to deteriorate.

American Theatre Organ Society chapters were formed throughout the United States and dedicated members began a campaign of saving, salvaging and restoring many of these fine instruments. Most of those organs not already destroyed or scrapped have been removed from theatres and have been installed in homes, restaurants, auditoriums and other public venues. Only a few remain in their original surroundings, the large movie theatres where the sound of these magnificent instruments were and are at their best.

Rocky Mountain Chapter members volunteer countless hours in restoration, maintenance and preservation of the Paramount Wurlitzer.