

Calendar of Coming Events

American Theatre Organ Society

Information Line: 303-466-3330

October 28th – (Sat) – Silent Film: “Phantom of the Opera”

Randy Morris, Theatre Organist

Experience this 1925 silent horror classic as it was meant to be shown with live theatre organ accompaniment.

(This is NOT the Lloyd Webber film nor the Lloyd Webber music.)

Lakewood Cultural Center – 2 pm – Reserved Seats

Adults \$15 ... Students 21 and under \$5

Tickets available today at the box office or @ 303-987-7845

August 6th – (Sun) – “Denver Paramount” 2 pm Members only

Enjoy seeing and hearing the Denver Paramount's original 1930 4-manual, 21-rank, Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ played by local theatre organ artists.

The next events are RMCATOS monthly socials at the:
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2000 W. 92nd Avenue, Federal Heights
The Holiday Hills Ballroom is home to a 4-manual/33-rank digital Wurlitzer

More information and map at: www.RMCATOS.org

For the below social events, except December,
everyone is welcome. No charge.

September 17th – (Sun) – “Generations Trio” 2 pm

DeLoy Goglein, organist and pianist with

Mariann Finch, Guitar and Dino Cuneo, Drums

November 12th – (Sun) – “Got Gospel?” 2 pm

Bev Bucci and Friends. Organ, Grand Piano and ????

December 3rd – (Sun) – “Annual Christmas Potluck” 2 pm

RMCATOS Members only

Would you like to become a RMCATOS member?

Annual dues, January to December, are \$15 per household

Today only, in the lobby, join for 2017 for only \$10!

Your household may then attend the August 6 Paramount event

All members love music: 95% of them are NOT organists!

Membership details are on the website: www.RMCATOS.org

The Rocky Mountain Chapter American Theatre Organ Society

Presents

John Ledwon **Disney** **Organist**

*From Disney's El Capitan Theatre
Hollywood, California*

***Performing at the console
of the Allen STR-4 Digital Theatre Organ***

Lakewood Cultural Center

470 South Allison Parkway
Lakewood, Colorado

Sunday, July 16, 2017, 2 pm



www.RMCATOS.org



About the Artist

John Ledwon is a well-known American theatre organ artist who has concertized not only in the US but also in Europe and Australia. He was a regular on the Mike Douglas TV show for a while. For years he also taught high school mathematics and theatre arts and for a short time, when his schedule permitted, a college level theatre organ course. Since 1999 John has been on the staff as a house organist for the Disney El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, California.

At around age 11 John started playing the organ. At first, he played on a couple of Hammonds. Then he and his father fell in love with theatre pipe organs and they installed a 3-manual, 12-rank Wurlitzer in the family home in California.

John majored in organ at SCUN and UCLA with minors in mathematics and theatre arts. Graduating from college at the age of 20 he did a 4-month tour with the USO entertaining troops in Alaska, Asia and Iwo Jima. Following that experience it was back to UCLA for a masters degree.

When John started teaching he started building his own home and installed the original family instrument and enlarged it from 12 to 26 ranks with a new Balaban console. That house was one of 200 that burned down in one of California's infamous brush fires.

The house was rebuilt and the organ further expanded to its ultimate 4 manuals and 52 ranks with a new French styled console. The instrument was regularly used by several Hollywood motion picture companies to augment the sound tracks for many motion pictures. You can see photos of the installation at:

www.organhouse.com

In 2007 John moved from California to Henderson, Nevada. He donated his theatre pipe organ to the Nethercutt Collection and started creating a 3-manual, 15-rank Wurlitzer installation.

John has a passion to play "newer" music than most theatre organ artists. This afternoon you will experience music from films, Broadway and even some Rock 'n Roll.

Following the concert, please feel free to come up onto the stage, chat with John and take a closer look at the STR-4 instrument.

Several of John's theatre organ CD recordings are available for purchase in the lobby.

About Theatre & Classical Organs

Theatre pipe organs (such as Wurlitzer) and **classical** pipe organs (such as church organs) each may have multiple manuals (keyboards), pedals for playing with feet, pipe chambers with shutters that open and close to control pipe sound volume, stop tabs or drawknobs to select which pipes are to be played, and some number of pipe ranks ... a rank is a set of 61 to 105 pipes ... one pipe for each note with all pipes making the same type of sound such as trumpet, diapason, flute, etc.

The theatre organ was designed in the 1920's to accompany silent films and replace the orchestras that originally provided that music. To meet the financial needs of theatre owners, theatre organs share ranks between manuals, have pipes that are more orchestral in sound, and include many percussions (snare drum, bass drum, glockenspiel, marimba, tambourine, castanets, etc.) plus sound effects (horns, whistles, bells, etc.) all needed for movie accompaniment. Theatre organs have their stop tabs, that control which ranks are playing, in a horseshoe design making the tabs easier for the organist to access and quickly change their status.

Theatre organs usually have 4 to 36 ranks plus a "toy counter" of percussions. Classical organs generally have from 20 to several hundred ranks and no toy counters.

Theatre organ pipes are traditionally housed in two pipe chambers: one on either side of the theatre's stage or movie screen. Classical pipe organs may have more than two pipe chambers scattered around the church or performance hall.

The Strony Digital Theatre & Classical Organ

Designed by organist Walt Strony, the digital STR-4 organ, instead of pipes, uses ranks of pipe samples which are digital recordings of actual pipe sounds. Digital volume controls are used instead of shutters. The Strony instrument has 32 theatre ranks and 49 classical ranks. A switch determines if the colored stop tabs around the console control the theatre or the classical ranks.

There is an additional "black box", in a console drawer, that contains 256 pipe and other sounds which may be selected by the organist. The resulting pipe and other sounds of the Lakewood Center's installation play through 20 speaker cabinets housing a total of 36 speakers located in three chambers. The digital organ console is identical to a pipe organ console. There are only six Strony STR-4 organs in the world.