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Stage Manager: **David Bortle**
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*The Rocky Mountain Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society*

Presents

The Mighty Wurlitzer
"Footloose"

featuring

Dave Wickerham

at the Mighty Wurlitzer

with the

Wurlitzer Whirlers & 23 Skidoo!

plus

Boy Scout Troop 527 Color Guard

The Paramount Theatre
Denver Colorado

Sunday, April 18th, 2004

In the Lobby... During Intermission

Dave Wickerham CD Sales

also

Membership Information

Rocky Mountain Chapter American Theatre Organ Society

\$15 (per household per calendar year)

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

About the Artists

Dave Wickerham was born in Encino, California in 1962. He began playing the electronic organ at the age of four and had his first pipe organ experience at age 10. His musical education started at age 7.

In 1976 he became Associate Organist at the famous Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson, Arizona. He attended the University of Arizona on a full scholarship, pursuing classical organ studies.

In 1984 Dave moved to the Chicago area to become Staff Organist at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. He concertized frequently as well as ministering musically and serving at various churches.

In 1990 Dave and family moved north to Wisconsin where he became Staff Organist at the Piper Music Palace in Greenfield (a suburb of Milwaukee). A position he still holds today.

In the Spring of 2000, Dave, wife Rhonda and their three children took an 18 month "sabbatical" from Wisconsin and moved to Las Vegas for a limited special engagement where Dave was featured theatre organist at "Roxy's Pipe Organ Pizzeria" at the Fiesta Casino and Hotel.

Back home in Wisconsin, Dave is again at the Piper Music Palace and principal organist at Williams Bay Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva. He continues to maintain an active concert schedule.

Dave has recorded 2 CDs and has a third about to be released. In his minimal spare time, Dave enjoys family time, jogging, swimming, composing, theatre organ, digital sampling, midi and computers.

The Wurlitzer Whirlers are our ballroom dancing artists for this afternoon's concert. All three Denver couples have extensive backgrounds in multiple facets of dance.

Keith & Marci Hellman. They have danced together 8 years and enjoy all styles of swing, waltz, Argentine tango and vintage ragtime era dancing (and find time for some occasional Contra).

Brial Killen & Carolyn Cattani. Brian has choreographed many shows, most recently the Colorado State Fair. He has performed and taught in L.A. and New York and currently teaches dance at Colorado Dance Sport in Littleton. Carolyn has competed in national dance competitions across the US and placed second in the national ballroom championships in Miami.

Dan Newsome & Tiffany Wine. Dancing together for 7 years, they have placed in many contests as couples or as individuals. With a first place in the recent Rocky Mountain qualifier, they will be competing nationally later this year. Dan and Tiffany are the artistic directors of 23 Skidoo!

The 23 Skidoo! team will be seen performing Swing dances reminiscent of the 50's. The team includes: **Dan Newsome, Tiffany Wine, Laura Keat, Ceth Steifel, Todd Dewey, Ronni Creel, Andrea Byrnes and Mike Huling.**

23 Skidoo! started out as a high energy swing dance performance team dedicated to creating original 1930's inspired performances. Their competitive performance team is still at the heart of what they do, but 23 Skidoo! has expanded into many other things, including a non-profit organization with a youth dance program.

Want to see (and learn) more? 23 Skidoo! provides swing lessons Tuesday and Thursday nights at Denver's Mercury Café.

Boy Scout Troop 527 Color Guard makes their premier appearance at the Paramount Theatre for today's concert. The troop is sponsored by Queen of Peace Church in Aurora. Today's Color Guard is composed of **Joshua Appleton, Austin Bolinger, Alex Goodnow, Chris Bell and Stephen Bush.** Ranging in age from 12 to 17, under the direction of **Mike Appleton**, the group has also performed at Coors field at a Rockies game and at Ritchie Center for DU hockey.

Rocky Mountain Chapter

American Theatre Organ Society

Calendar of Events

Public Concerts

July 11th – **Stan Kann & Ralph Wolf – 2 pm**

Holiday Hills Ballroom

Pipeless Theatre Organ, Piano and Pleasant Patter

Stan Kann, St. Louis Fox organist and a Johnny Carson guest more times than anybody else, joins forces with Ralph Wolf, accompanist for stars like Mel Torme, Margaret Whiting and others, for music and memories.

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

Denver Paramount Theatre

An afternoon of American Music

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 for either event: 303-466-3330 or 303-771-4728

Adults: \$10 Students: \$5

Checks, VISA & MasterCard

Chapter Activities & Socials

(Members and guests only)

May 16th - **“Musical Story” w/Don Story – 2 pm**

Holiday Hills Village Ballroom

June 20th – **“Pizza & Pipeless” - 2 pm**

Holiday Hills Village Ballroom

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. Only one other theatre, Radio City Music Hall in New York City, still has a twin console Wurlitzer.

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.

Paramount Theatre Opening Night

The Publix Logo projected on the curtain prior to today's concert is from the August, 1930 newspaper ad heralding the opening of Denver's Paramount Theatre. The ad reads, in part....

“Nowhere in the world is there a theatre so modern... where the wonders of science, the genius of creation, the talents of the artisan have so perfectly united to make this truly, your THEATRE PERFECT!”

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.

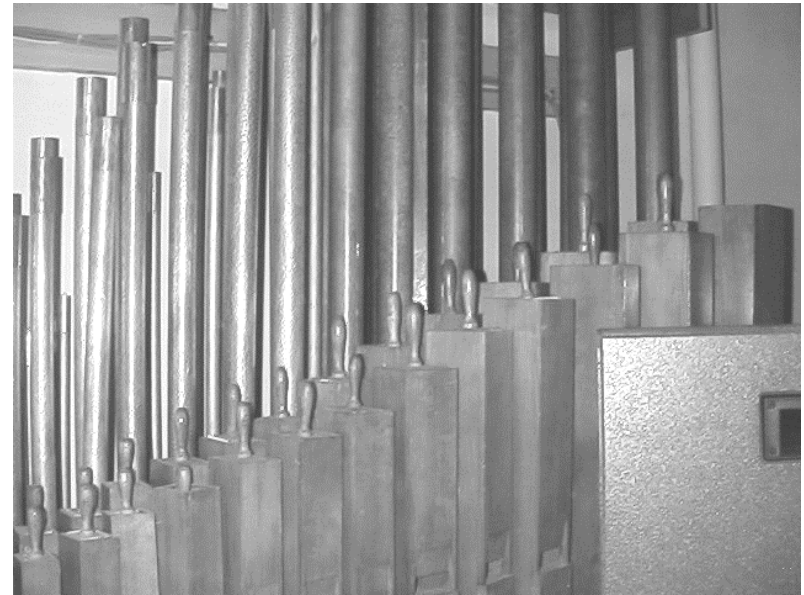
Each function and pipe of the Wurlitzer operates by means of a 12 volt magnet which, in reality is a small air valve. When the magnet is energized, it causes air to flow into the pipe or pneumatic – the pipes speak and the percussions sound.

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.

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 mechanical 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.