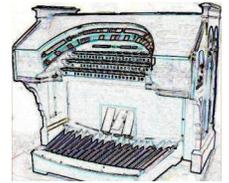


# TIBIA TIDBITS

The Newsletter of the NTC-ATOS  
(North Texas Chapter-American Theatre Organ Society)

Homepage: <http://www.ntc-atos.org>



October 2009  
Volume 34 No. 4

Organized for the purpose of preserving the Theatre Organ to perpetuate the understanding and enjoyment of the instrument and its music

## October Meeting

The October Meeting will be held in the Courtroom Theatre  
located in:

The McKinney Performing Arts Center  
111 N. Tennessee—McKinney, TX 75069  
at 2:30 PM on Sunday October 18, 2009

For the October chapter meeting the console will be moved to the stage to provide a couple of special guest artists and the open console organists with the chance to play the Wurlitzer in show conditions. With the recent changes that have been incorporated into the instrument, the new Opus II programming and the enhanced pipework, it will be an exciting playing opportunity for everyone.

Just imagine — The Wurlitzer center stage — The stage lighting — The wonderful sound of 16 ranks — The toys and traps — What more could you ask for?

Come see and enjoy! Bring a friend or two or more!

Refreshments will be provided by the chapter.

## ***THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

To characterize this summer as eventful might just be the understatement of the year. First off, we were able to get the necessary software to correct the problems we have been having with our Wurlitzer console and specifically with the pedal board. We received the source code and compiler necessary to make our own changes in the system. Ian Clark is now handling the programming duties.

Secondly, we finally got the toy counter installed. It is still not completely operational, but we are working on that. The result of our efforts was an instrument that was in very good condition for the "McKinney Blues" concert. Unfortunately the concert had to be cancelled due to a medical condition affecting one of the artists. It has been rescheduled for August 28, 2010.

Third, after previewing the "Hunchback of Notre Dame", which is scheduled to be shown October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, it was obvious that Chimes would be necessary for the show. They are currently being rebuilt and will be available for the show. They will be used for the December holiday programs as well.

In August we once again made the NTC's presentation to the McKinney Arts Commission to request an arts grant for the 2009-2010 McKinney Arts Season. We were well received by the MAC and received a significant grant to pursue our programs for the full season. One of the key things that caught their attention was our use of the Traveling Organ for the Music Education programs in the schools.

Don

## ***A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK***

I hope everyone has had a great summer. This month the little ghouls and goblins will be among us searching for some treats so don't get tricked up by their costumes.

We do have a treat for everyone as A Quintadena has been located, installed and tuned. A 25 note set of chimes has been located and is being restored as this goes to print. It will be installed in time for the October 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> performance of the Lon Chaney classic *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. We have obtained an excellent print of this film. Jim Pitts, from Waco Texas, will perform an original musical score for the film. A flyer for the show, giving more details of the event, is included with this newsletter. I hope you will give it to someone, encouraging them to see a great silent film and to hear magnificent music created on a real theatre pipe organ.

The McKinney Arts Commission presentation was well received by the board. They had quite a few questions for us. We explained that the new electronic application did not allow us to include such things as the cost of insurance or maintenance. They were not aware of the restrictions with the new format and would clear this up prior to the next application period.

All in all, the NTC has had a busy summer. It was quite sad that the fall concert had to be cancelled but the artist's health issues are now on the road to recovery. The concert has been rescheduled for August 28, 2010.

Happy Halloween and may you all have good family times at Thanksgiving. We all have quite a bit to be thankful for and the NTC Board members thank each member for their participation in the Chapter.

Al

# ***An Organ Weekend to Remember***

**By Ken Brown**

This past weekend (Oct 2-4) the University of Oklahoma School of Music, American Organ Institute (AOI), presented a program titled "*Old Wine and New Bottles*" which pays tribute to the past, present, and future of their pipe organ program. OU was able to acquire the large Moller organ (Opus 5819) that was once in Philadelphia's Convention Center. They have been able to restore 14 selected ranks from the Moller, which they call their "Mini-Mo," and which was the centerpiece of the weekend's activities. The console currently used is a 3-manual obtained from the Waldorf-Astoria. The Moller consoles (two of them) will be restored.

Barb and I left early Friday and arrived in time for the open house at the AOI organ shop and met up with Rich Clayton. The shop is an organ restorer's dream. It is complete with everything needed for pipe organ restoral, such as a releathering room, paint room, blower room, electrical wiring section, voicing room, woodworking areas, extensive parts storage, and much more. My rough estimate is the shop area is approximately 50'x 120'x 40'high. There were three of the 32' double Open Wood Diapason pipes from the Moller against the wall – they are big! The warehouse section is just as big and filled with cases upon cases of Moller pipes, windchests, regulators, etc.

Friday night Richard Conte (organist for Macy's Wanamaker) presented a classical organ program from Baroque through French Impressionism. John Schwandt also presented a tonal tour of the 3/14 Moller complete with all the traps & percussions. Later in the program, Clark Wilson accompanied the silent film, Barney Oldfield's "*Race For a Life*."

Saturday morning started with Jelani Eddington presenting "*Peter and the Wolf*". This was preceded with a showing of Laurel & Hardy's "*Liberty*" also accompanied by Jelani. The afternoon highlighted a program titled "Divine Reflections" with the University Chorale and Singers with three student organists, and, John Schwandt, Associate Professor of Organ and Director of the AOI. Needless to say, the performances were with music from Bach and Mozart to a good old-fashioned foot-stomping gospel piece "Worthy to be Praised" complete with organ, drums, piano, and singers.

Saturday evening was a presentation of the recently restored version of the silent film "*Metropolis*" with Clark Wilson at the console of the Moller 3/14. It was an interesting movie to say the least ...

Sunday started with a lecture titled "*Uncorking a Magnum: Moving the Mighty Moller*" with John Bishop, lecturer, and executive director of the Organ Clearing house.

The day ended with an "*All-Star Blockbuster Municipal Concert*." It started with, of course, the "*Star Spangled Banner*," then proceeded through Gershwin, Bach, Strauss, Handel, Jongen "*Tico Tico*", Leroy Anderson "*The Typewriter*," Rachmaninoff, a Jazz ensemble with Jelani at the organ, then "*O Danny Boy*" and ending with "*Stars and Stripes Forever*".

We personally met fellow attendees from New Mexico, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania, and made some other good contacts.

Much more could be said about the total program, but, all in all, it was a very well done affair with a ton of good music and clearly demonstrated the wide-ranging versatility of this instrument in the classical, theatre, and jazz fields.

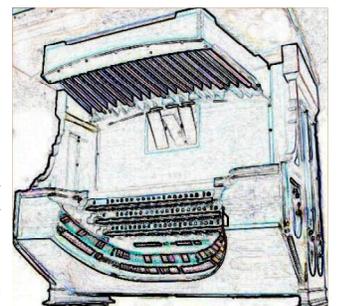
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## COMING EVENTS

- October 30/31 2009 Silents on the Square  
*Hunchback of Notre Dame*
- December 13, 2009 NTC Annual Party
- February 20, 2010 NTC Annual Election
- March 27, 2010 Silents on the Square  
*Blood and Sand*
- June 5, 2010 Spring Concert  
*John Ledwon*
- August 28, 2010 Fall Concert  
*Dave Wickerham/Dick Kroeckel*

## First Class Mail



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