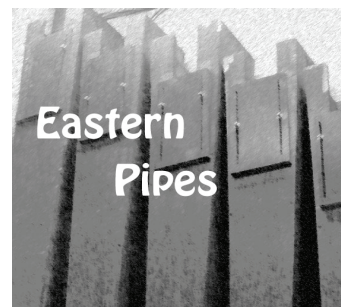


Clark Wilson, Buster Keaton Draw Sellout Crowd to Shanklin Music Hall



November 2009

Undeterred by a freak October sleet storm, a sellout crowd was “ROTFL👑” as the great chase scene of the Buster Keaton silent classic “Seven Chances” rolled its way across the screen of the Shanklin Music Hall on October 18th. The season opener was a perfect matchup of the madcap comic genius of Buster Keaton to the masterful accompaniment skills of Clark Wilson at the Shanklin Wurlitzer.



Buster Keaton tries to evade the 500 women who want to marry him

Don't Miss Double Double-Header Weekend

Ken Double, the president and CEO of the American Theatre Organ Society, will make concert appearances at the mighty Wurlitzers at Babson College and the Shanklin Music Hall on the weekend of November 21 and 22. The Saturday evening concert at Babson will begin at 7:30 PM; the Shanklin event will get underway at 2:30 PM. Ken promises an exciting evening of organ solos and vocals. He has been concertizing and making recordings for over 30 years as a theatre organist, vocalist, and sports announcer. Tickets for both performances are available as always via secure credit card at www.emcatos.org or by telephone at (508) 674-0276.



Ken Double



Donnie Rankin Featured at EMCATOS Young Organist Concert

Donnie Rankin, winner of the 2007 ATOS Young Organist competition, will be the soloist at EMCATOS Young Artist Concert on Sunday, January 10, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. on the EMCATOS 4-18 Mighty Wurlitzer at Knight Auditorium at Babson College in Wellesley. Donnie, whose exposure to the sounds of the theatre organ dates from the tender age of three when he rode the organ lift at the Clark Theater in Akron, promises an impressive and spellbinding performance. We urge you to buy your tickets early.



What Can You Do?



Well folks, here it is—pure and simple... *We need your help.*

Many people don't realize how much work goes into running an ATOS chapter; especially one as active as EMCATOS. Your Board of Directors works very hard to make sure that our chapter is the best in the world. (no exaggeration)

Here is a partial list of duties performed by your Board of Directors and other volunteers:

- Concert planning and production
 - Audio
 - Lighting
 - Setup of Venue
 - Archival Recording
 - Video Production
 - Recording sales
- Newsletter publication
- Mailings to advertise concerts
- Artist booking
- Organ maintenance and improvement
- Social (meeting) planning
- Liaison activities with ATOS
- Venue booking
- Publicity
- Housing for artists
- Membership
- Maintenance of Recording Lending Library
- Production of Pipe Organ Pops Presents for Theatre Organ Radio
- Convention Planning for our 2011 Annual Convention



This list could go on and on.

The truth is that we need your help for our 2011 ATOS Annual Convention. We are expecting between four and five hundred attendees to come to our convention. Accommodation of these convention-goers will take the work of many people.

The Convention Planning Committee is resolute in its determination to present the best ATOS Annual Convention in history. In order to do that many of you will have to “step up to the plate” and offer to help. You don't have to be on the Board of Directors to help. You'd be surprised at the many tasks that need to be done. I'm sure we can find a job that would appeal to you and match your talents..

Those who have helped us during our two past regional conventions have had a great time and made many new friends. It's an experience that unites us. Please consider helping with our upcoming convention. You'll have a great time.

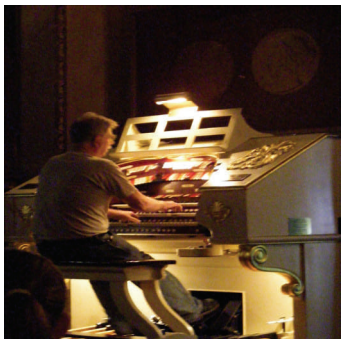
Just get in touch with me and I'll point you in the direction of the right convention committee member. EMCATOS needs YOU.

Sally and I wish you and yours the happiest of holidays. We're looking forward to seeing you at the holiday celebration at the Shanklin Music Hall on December 13th.

Bob Evans



EMCATOS Social Season Underway



John Phipps puts the "Z" console through its paces

EMCATOS first social of the 2009-2010 season took place on the afternoon of Sept 13th Zeiterion Theater in New Bedford. We heard a number of excellent selections from the attendees present as the social was an Open Console event..

EMCATOS' October 4th social, at the Shanklin Music Hall in Groton, featured the organ and piano wizardry of Linda and Jim Duncan, joined by the Southboro Senior Singers, in a program highlighting the works of Cole Porter and Irving

Berlin.

Club favorite Len Beyersdorfer returns to the Babson console as the soloist at our November 8th social at Babson. Len will play a program of original music as well as tunes drawn from his repertoire.

The Holiday Bash will be taking place on December 13. Watch your mail for details.

Per our ongoing custom, our January 3rd social at Babson will feature a film/computer program to be announced.

We have a theme in our February 7th and April 11th socials at Babson. Ray Totaro of Boston Organ and Piano will be the featured soloist in February; Richard Giglio in April. Ray and Richard shared the bench at Fenway Park following the departure of the legendary John Kiley.

Our March 7th social, also at Babson, marks the second installment of our Member Participation Event. We're tuning up the gongs now in eager anticipation of this event.

Bill Porter will return to the Shanklin Music Hall on May 4. Bill, baroque organ professor turned theater organist extraordinaire, wowed the crowd at his prior appearance at Shanklin.



Jim Duncan at the console while Linda conducts the Southboro Senior Chorus for the video cameras

EMCATOS HOLIDAY PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2009
2:30 P.M.

SHANKLIN MUSIC HALL
BRETT VALLIANT, ARTIST
HART'S TURKEY FARM, CATERER
WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR AN INVITATION.



When at Babson, Browse the EMCATOS Recordings Table

EMCATOS is proud to present a selection of quality used recordings and sheet music at all of our concerts. Browse through our vintage and current collection of donated classical and theatre pipe organ recordings, sheet music, instructional materials and books. We have a nice selection of 78's, LP's cassette tapes and CD's by many famous and contemporary artists.

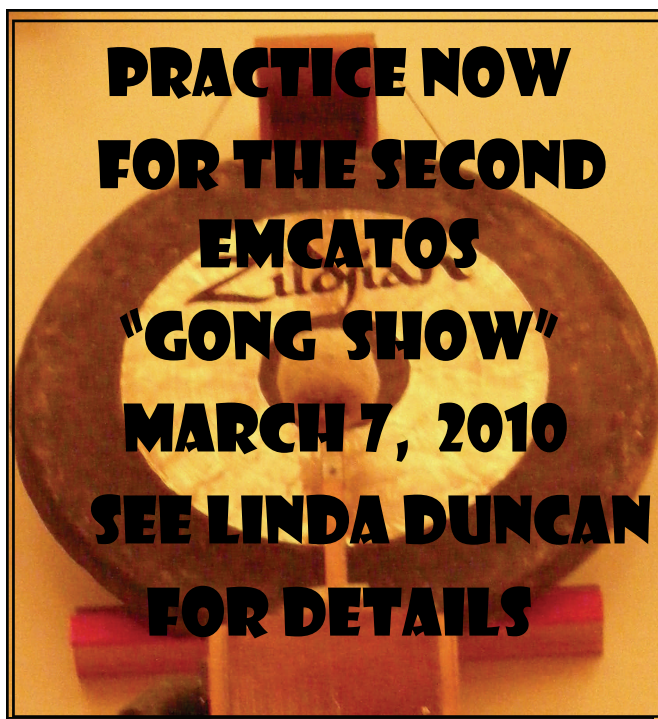
Our staff is on hand to assist you at the tables located to the side of the auditorium; purchases can be made before and after the concert as well as during the intermission.

We always stock new CD's and DVD's produced by our featured concert artist. Usually there will be an opportunity during the intermission or after the concert to meet and speak with the artist, who will gladly autograph your purchases.

Additional donations of all types of theatre pipe organ material to our recording table are always welcome; they are tax-deductible with the proceeds going to the EMCATOS Organ Fund. Bring your donations to a concert or call Lawrie at 508 359-2077 to arrange for a pickup.

EMCATOS Lending Library CD Collection Now Available for Download

Dick Hill, curator of the EMCATOS lending library, announces the availability of a number of historic EMCATOS concert recordings for download. These recordings have been transferred from tape to CD format. The recordings, represent a broad variety of artists and styles. Some of them date back to the earliest days of EMCATOS. A copy of a recording may be obtained for lending purposes by emailing Dick at dickhill@comcast.net; Dick will either deliver the copy to you at the next EMCATOS social or make it available for you to download. Please feel free to take advantage of this perk of EMCATOS membership.



We promise not to unleash the gong. Just practice a couple of your favorite selections for sharing with your friends at EMCATOS. Prepare for an afternoon of relaxed fun and listening and get to feel more comfortable at the Babson console. Let Linda know your selections early.





Needed: “Name That Tune” Mavens

EMCATOS has just agreed to produce 26 hour-long programs over the next year to be aired via ATOS Theatre Organ Radio. The EMCATOS Hour will consist of excerpts from the huge treasure trove of live EMCATOS concert recordings which date back nearly fifty-five years. Selections for the first four shows have already been made.

All the recordings are technically excellent for the era in which they were recorded. What is lacking is any annotation as to the title of the tunes involved. We have had a small cadre of people working on doing tune ID but we honestly admit that our talents at this task are limited and we could use a few more volunteers with a better tune memory than our current group. We need this information because as the music plays a “crawl” appears on the bottom of the screen with the artist and the name of the tune.



If you think you can contribute to this effort and want to give it a whirl, get in touch with Dick Hill at dickhill@comcast.net. All you need is a good song memory and a good high-speed internet connection. Listen to ATOS Theatre Organ Radio by pointing your browser at www.ATOS.org/radio.

We're hot on the trail of



We're looking for concert and social CD's which were loaned from the EMCATOS Lending Library. Some of them have gone missing.

Have any clues? Send them to Dick Hill.

Organ For Sale

We have been informed that the Hammond Concorde organ once owned by the late Dan Bellomy, has come back onto the market. The instrument is a top-of-the-line Hammond featuring 2 61-note manuals, rhythm and a 25 note pedalboard.

Interested ? Call Gene Bowers at (617) 905-0166

or email him with your questions at email bowers_gene@yahoo.com



Eastern Pipes

As a part of our continuing series of reminiscences and self-portrait sketches of EMCATOS board members, this month we are proud to present the capsule bios of board members Dick Handverger and Garrett Shanklin.

Editor's note: Interestingly enough, at the time I put my piece together, I had no idea of what Garrett was planning to submit. The similarities are striking...

Dick Handverger

Until I was around 25, I was blissfully unaware of the existence of the pipe organ. My instrument was the clarinet. I played first clarinet for the Rensselaer hockey team and after much practice got to the point at which my squawks and squeaks were pretty convincingly drowned out by the rest of the band. It only took a couple of parades in which the band, in its dress whites, followed an equestrian unit to make me realize that performing in a marching band was perhaps not so much of a Good Thing. I started to noodle at the piano, figuring that no one would ever ask me to carry a piano through a steaming pile of horse droppings. I taught myself (a terrible mistake) to the point at which I could do a credible job (at least to my naïve ears) on the easier Chopin waltzes. Then, with all of my bad habits very well-rehearsed, I engaged the services of a piano teacher. This sweet little old maiden lady with a mustache and terminal halitosis had the annoying habit of making loud clicking sounds with her rosary beads as I played, thus breaking my concentration on the very few pianissimo passages that I could hammer out. I'm sure she was praying for some musical talent to come to me supernaturally. It sure didn't come naturally.

My other hobby during those years of formative geekdom was that of building electronics kits. I happily soldered and check-marked my way through the HeathKit color TV and a shelf full of stereo equipment. Looking for a bigger challenge, I discovered the biggest challenge of all—the Schober Theatre Organ. I built one over the course of a winter, turned it on, checked that it indeed worked, and realized in a panic that I had no idea of how to play it. I found a local teacher who dealt on the Hammond grey market by day and entertained as an organ lounge lizard by night. He taught me to play in chord style with pedal



and left hand locked together in oom-pah oom-pah mode from fakebooks, and I quickly built up a repertoire of tunes (and a collection of fakebooks) all played in that style.

About the same time, I discovered EMCATOS and went to a few early meetings and concerts. This was at the time of the installation of the three manual Babson console. Open console found me totally dumbfounded and outclassed. Other things (like life) intervened and I dropped out of EMCATOS for some 25 years. I reappeared on the EMCATOS scene sometime in the late '90s. Since that time I have gotten increasingly active in the club performing those roles for which the need for interest and enthusiasm outweigh the need for talent.

Garrett Shanklin

I became interested in Theatre Pipe Organs by a long and devious route. When I was very small, my mother decided that I would learn to play the piano. She hired a lady in the neighborhood, who gave piano lessons, and every week I would take a lesson. I started to complain about the awful

sounding music that I had to study, but my mother didn't pay much attention, until the week the lady assigned four funeral marches. Then, even Mom agreed that it was time to change piano teachers!

My mother was still determined that I should learn to play the piano, and this time she got it right. There was a musician who played the piano on one of the radio stations in Boston. His name was Larry Bray, and he played under the stage name of "Flying Fingers". He was excellent, but he tried to teach me to play without looking at my hands, which was way above my athletic ability, and although he was teaching me to play by chords, Larry Bray never taught me chord theory. These piano lessons ended in failure also. But I used to love to listen to Larry Bray play the piano at the end of each lesson.

When I reached college age, I saw a Ukulele on Television. My Grandmother had a 10 inch TV in the 1950's, that was as big as a 27" set is today. There were a couple of musicians, who called themselves

(Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

Hum & Strum, who sang and played on Boston TV in the morning, and one of them played the Ukulele! The minute I saw him play, I said, “That’s it!!!” I bought a book, several actually, and an excellent Martin Ukulele. And in the process of learning to play the Ukulele, I also learned chord theory.

While the Ukulele was fun for song-fests when Sarah and I were in college, it was much less fun when I grew older and discovered that I really couldn’t sing. Then, one day I stumbled upon a recording of a large Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ located in Salt Lake City, and I played it so much that I wore it out. Shortly thereafter, Sarah and I saw an advertisement for a Theatre Organ concert at the Stoneham Town Hall. We attended, and I was hooked, but it took several years before I was able to buy my first Wurlitzer, which I promptly started to recondition and install in our home in Groton. The pipes were to be installed in a chamber underneath the living room floor, and the console was located in the living room. The sound would come up through a tone chute through the living room floor.

When I took the Skilsaw to the oak floor in the living room, with Sarah standing right there, I knew that we were both committed! Mom on the other hand was appalled! She said, “Who is going to play this organ?” I said, “I’m going to play it.” She said, “That will be the day! You couldn’t even learn to play the piano.” And I replied, “I know, Mom, but I **REALLY WANT** to learn to play the Wurlitzer!” And the rest is history. And little did I know then, that I was starting an adventure that would last for 42 years and still counting.

It is interesting to realize that if I had learned to play the piano, I might have never bought a Wurlitzer, and my life would have been a lot simpler, **but a lot less fun.**



Support and encourage live theater pipe organ events at all of the venues at which EMCATOS members play

Babson College --Shanklin Music Hall— Zeiterion Theater—Stoneham Town Hall--PPAC-Stadium Theater—Hanover Theater (coming soon)



We Gratefully Acknowledge your Gifts.....

Your generous contributions to our first annual fund drive have done much to help EM-CATOS in its goal of preserving these magnificent instruments and their music for future generations. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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Anonymous



Solo Chamber Work Nears Completion at Hanover Theater



Traps and toys in position on the second floor of the Solo Chamber

The Hanover organ crew has shown real progress in getting the Solo chamber playing. With a deadline rapidly approaching for using the organ in the theater's December musical production of "A Christmas Carol", the pieces are rapidly falling into place.

The toys and traps have been put into their final position on the second story of the solo chamber.

The Solo chamber door has been reinstalled by the theater so that it now fits the opening.



The crew prepares to position one of three huge windchests onto the scissors lift

With the rental of an powerful hydraulic scissors lift, three huge pipe chests and the enormous pipes of the low Bombarde rank were hoisted into position.

The organ blower and the lift can now be directly controlled from the console.

Remaining work involves the final plumbing of the windlines, wiring the bottom boards, and a thorough checkout for ciphers and dead notes.



One of the Bombardes gets placed onto the lift for hoisting into the chamber



The Bombarde rank in its final position against the back wall of the chamber. In the foreground is the OSHA ladder to the catwalk ; this provides the only inside access to the chamber



EASTERN PIPES

Is a sporadic publication of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Theater organ Society.

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Pipes Editor

Dick Handverger

Submit copy for the *Pipes* to
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Details for National Convention Start to Emerge

The EMCATOS Board of Directors is continuing on its preliminary planning for the first EMCATOS-hosted ATOS national convention to be held in 2011. While final details are yet to be settled upon, at this point the following facts about the convention have settled down enough so that we can comfortably release them.

The dates for the convention (and its postlude) will be June 30 through July 5th, 2011.

The convention will be based in Providence, Rhode Island.

We are at the advanced negotiations phase with two excellent hotels and are negotiating a room rate under \$100.

The theme for the convention has yet to be picked. Suggestions ??

We are expanding our venues; the brand-new Hanover Theatre organ installation (the largest Wurlitzer in New England) is to be the show-piece instrument of the convention. We'll also include the Stadium Theater in Woonsocket, with its small but entirely original Wurlitzer.

It's not too late — we need your suggestions for artists, and activities. We welcome your involvement. Call or email any board member today.



EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER
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