



Windline



SOONER STATE CHAPTER
American Theatre Organ Society

Tulsa, Oklahoma
www.theatreorgans.com/SoonerStateATOS

Tulsa Tech - Broken Arrow Campus
4000 West Florence Street, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

April 19, 2024 - 7:00 pm

“Spring Fling”

We're ready to 'bring on' Spring!!! In this program you'll hear lots of 'spring-themed' music, and possibly a lot of your favorites played on our 3/15 Robert Morton theatre pipe organ and grand piano.

So come on out to Tulsa Tech and celebrate the arrival of Spring with us....you'll have fun and enjoy being with friends !!!!

Free Admission

(donations accepted)

“Second Saturday Silents” at the Circle Cinema - 10 S Lewis, Tulsa

April 9, 2024 - Saturday morning at 11:00 am

“3 Ages” starring Buster Keaton from 1923. This was the first feature film that Buster produced, and not only is it funny but shows off lots of Buster's stunts which he did himself.

The film will be accompanied by Bill Rowland on the Circle's original 1928 theatre pipe organ, along with a funny cartoon from the same year, plus “walk-in” music by Staff Organist Michael Huffman.

Tickets: \$5 adults; \$2 age 15 and under

The Sooner State Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit corporation under IRS code 501 (c)(3) for the purpose of promoting America's Theatre Organ heritage. Annual membership dues and all donations are used to provide programs and maintain our 1928 Robert Morton theatre pipe organ.

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Making the Pipes "Speak"



As noted in my February 2024 Windline article, Laurens Hammond's creation of the Hammond electric organ was based on his desire to create an affordable electric organ for churches that could not afford classical pipe organs. Despite this initial marketing direction, Hammond organs rapidly became extremely popular for various musical venues over and above churches.

In 1937, a radio service engineer named Donald who worked at a Los Angeles department store that sold and serviced Hammond organs bought a Hammond organ only to become very disappointed that it did not sound like a theatre pipe organ because of its lack of sound tremulation. This resulted in his experimentation with various speaker and amplifier configurations for a Hammond organ to better emulate the sound of a theatre organ. He eventually found that baffles rotating along the axis of a speaker cone within a speaker cabinet gave the best "tremolo" effect. Thus, was borne the famous speaker assembly that bears Donald's last name: "Leslie".

He immediately approached Laurens with his proto-type speaker, but Hammond was not impressed with Leslie's attempt to improve the design of his organ and declined to market it. Although Laurens went to the effort of making the organ speaker interface "Leslie-proof", Leslie quickly worked around this and began to manufacture and sell his speakers in 1941. He eventually owned nearly 50 patents on the speaker.

Through national radio exposure, the Leslie speakers found wide spread acclaim in the music industry with interface designs that not only worked with Hammond but other electric/electronic organs such as Wurlitzer, Conn, Thomas, and Baldwin.

In 1965, Leslie sold his business to CBS who in turn sold it to Hammond in 1980. Hammond and Leslie brands were acquired by Suzuki Musical Instrument Corporation.

I hope that you found this brief article interesting.

"Enjoy the Experience of a Theatre Pipe Organ"



Rudy

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On Monday, April 15th, from 7:00 to 8:30, organist Rosemary Bailey will perform on the Oklahoma History Center's 4/14 Kilgen theatre pipe organ in Oklahoma City at 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive.

Bailey started playing music at age five when she learned to play classical piano. She added jazz and traditional popular styles into her repertoires. She has performed with artists including Victor Borge, Pete Nero, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra.

For tickets, call 405 552-0765 or purchase online @www.okhistory.org/tickets

Our Gospel Music Night program was wonderful! A lot of folks came out to hear our guests Joseph Bias and Gwen Alley, music ministers from Tulsa's First Methodist Church and Professor Joyce Bridgman, Director of Keyboard Studies at ORU.



It was wonderful to hear Joseph tell about losing his voice and it returning miraculously after 9 months before he sang "My Tribute" written by Andre Crouch. He led everyone in singing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" before he and Gwen Alley sang duets all accompanied on the organ and piano by Carolyn Craft and Joyce Bridgman. Later Gwen sang "O How I Love Jesus" and "Blessed Assurance" and Joyce and Carolyn played a piano/organ duet.

The program was emceed by Michael Huffman since our President, Rudy Geissler, had a family emergency and couldn't attend. Other chapter members who contributed to the program were Phil Judkins, Leslie Bernhardt and Joyce Hatchett.

Before the program began we had a drawing for a 'free one year membership' and it was won by our new member, James Korb. He had already paid his membership dues for 2024 but does not have to pay next year! The evening was very well attended and several first time guests enjoyed viewing the pipe chambers after the program. Phil Sallee played in 'open console'



Leslie Bernhardt Mike Huffman Joyce Bridgman Joyce Hatchett Phil Judkins Carolyn Craft Gwen Alley Joseph Bias

Thanks to photographer, Christi Davis, and the members of the Tech Crew who keep the organ serviced.