



CIPHERS

DECEMBER 2013

Newsletter of the
Central Indiana
Chapter American
Theatre Organ Society

Ken Double at Warren PAC! Sunday, Dec. 8, 2:30pm

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PEOPLE

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Justin Nimmo
Corresponding Secretary

Shawn Chase
Treasurer

Justin Nimmo
Past President

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John Rust

Carlton Smith

Justin Stahl

Join us for our free December Social!

About the Event

Join us at Warren Performing Arts Center at 2:30pm on Sunday, December 8th, to hear Ken Double perform on the "Golden-Voiced" Barton Organ as he returns to the console for the first time in quite a while!

This is a free event, and please feel free to bring friends to hear Ken's toe-tapping stylings. Refreshments and open console will follow Ken's performance.

Warren Performing Arts Center is located at 9500 E. 16th St. in Indianapolis. For more information or questions, please contact Michael Fellenzer at 317-251-6962

Read about the artist, Ken Double, on page 5.

In Memorium...

Remembering CIC Members Robert A. Brown and Robert F. Mertz

Long-time member Robert A. Brown of Prairie Creek, IN, passed away on October 17th, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his friends and relatives. Bob had been a CIC-ATOS member for quite some time and had a deep interest in the theatre organs in his area near Terre Haute, many of which had been placed in churches near his home after the silent-film era. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers.

Another very supportive CIC member Robert F. Mertz, 89, of Lafayette, IN, passed away after a lengthy illness on November 24th. Bob was known in the Lafayette area for his generosity, especially to the Long Center Theatre Organ Society to which over the years he donated over \$50,000 to keep the music playing. In recognition of his many gifts, LCTOS named their organ concert series in his honor in June, 2012. Please keep him, his family and his many friends in your thoughts and prayers as well.



Bob Mertz, pictured above, passed away on November 24th at age 89. Photo courtesy of Ken Double.

MEMBER NOTES

PLEASE NOTE THESE NEW ADDRESSES:

Jerry and Leah Tomlinson
5555 Spindle Tree Road
Indianapolis, IN 46268
PH: 317-344-0495

James T. Lockwood, Jr.
5731 W. 30th St.
Speedway, IN 46224

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES!

CIC members join in wishing Honorary Member Ruth Ward heartiest congratulations on becoming 100 years young on Wednesday, November 20th. Over her many years as a member with her late husband Gene, Ruth held various offices in our chapter and for many years scheduled our Footlite organists for pre-show music at the Hedback Community Theatre. A birthday party for Ruth was held on Saturday, November 23, at the American Village Retirement facility where Ruth has resided for a number of years. We wish her all the best for the rest of her long life.



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President's Message

By Tim Needler

We enjoyed hearing the Hedback Community Theatre 2/11 Page-Wurlitzer at our November meeting and thank our performers who are "regulars" before each Footlite Musicals production in the theatre. I cannot recall how many years our chapter members have been doing this community outreach, but I expect it goes well back into the early 1980s, even before CIC acquired ownership of the instrument from the estate of the late Phil Hedback. The music for our meeting played by Tom Nichols, Matt Gerhard, Mike Rolfe and Justin Nimmo displayed the talent that our chapter offers to the Footlite audiences for 30 minutes before each Footlite performance, and I thank ALL of our chapter artists who faithfully discharge this obligation about 50-60 times each year. Nobody receives any remuneration, but Footlite does graciously offer each organist two complimentary tickets for whatever performance he plays.

By this time, each of you should have received via US Mail from John Seest your ballot for the 2014 election of officers and directors, as well as your dues invoice for 2014. If you did not receive this, please give me a call or email immediately (contact information under "Dues and Membership" in this newsletter), and we will mail or email another to you. The

deadline for counting your ballot is Sunday, Dec. 8, so please mail to John Seest by Dec. 4 or bring the completed ballot to the meeting. If you forget, we'll have additional blank ballots you can fill out and have counted before the meeting begins.

The next issue you will receive of THEATRE ORGAN Journal will have all the information about the upcoming ATOS Annual Convention that we will be presenting in July of 2014. This will be the sixth time since 1984 that CIC-ATOS has hosted the national organization, and we have a good reputation for putting on a smoothly-operated and fun event. It takes lots of work from many of our chapter members to pull this off, and next year's convention will be no different. Some of the areas where we will definitely need your assistance are: Registration (putting together the information packets for conventioners and then handing them out during the first couple of days); Record Shop (taking shifts to handle checking out transactions as people purchase CDs and other musical items, keeping the shop neat and tables filled with merchandise); Bus Captains to assist Bus Dispatcher John Seest (each bus should have a person on it whose main job it is to count people as they fill the bus and thus to know how many more it will hold; also on occasion pointing

out something interesting along the way or giving information about the coming event); Ushers at many of the events (pointing out restrooms, etc. and greeting our convention attendees as they enter the venue to ensure that each one has a badge and is thus registered for the convention). These are the major areas, and if you can help in any of these areas, feel free to contact the person in charge of that function as follows: Registration, Michael Fellenzer; Record Shop, Shawn Chase; Bus Captains, John Seest; Ushers (nobody appointed as yet). As always, contact me if you have specific questions about the convention, and I'll try to answer them.

We are delighted to have Ken Double, ATOS President and Chief Executive, on hand to play our December social at Warren PAC! Let's all try to turn out on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2:30 for this event, welcoming Ken back to Indianapolis and having a chance to wish each other a Merry Christmas or other holiday greetings. If you have extra-special holiday treats to share, the refreshment committee will be happy to have them on this festive occasion. See you there!

--Tim Needler

Ken Double & the 1926 Page Pipe Organ... The perfect Holiday Cheer!

A rare chance to hear the recently installed 3/12 Page organ at Dick & Linda Wicox's "Firehouse Pipes" Studio!

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UCIPD K-9 Fund

December 6, at 7:30 pm

Firehouse Pipes

226 N. Plum St.

Union City, IN 47390

Meeting Minutes

By Tom Nichols

Date: November 10, 2013 | 2:30 PM

Location: Hedback Community Theatre

President Tim Needler opened the November 2013 meeting by welcoming members and guests to the Hedback Community Theatre. He thanked Keith Matters and the Footlite Musicals staff for making it possible to hold our meeting here once again.

There were no new members present. Guests present included Judy Bigelow (guest of Nancy) and Sean Chen, this year's winner of the American Pianist's Association competition who recently placed third in the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition.

Tim asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August 11, 2013 meeting minutes as published in the October Ciphers. The minutes of the August meeting were approved as printed.

Our September concert featuring Pierre Fracalanza at the Warren PAC was the next topic of discussion. There were 170 people in attendance. Tim thanked member Nathan Wilcox for his work in coordinating with Pierre on the special video portion of that program, which included live video monitors showing Pierre's handling of the console as he played, which was clearly of great interest to audience members. Tim announced that Pierre will be featured at our 2014 ATOS Convention, where he will play his virtual theatre pipe organ in the Baker Street Station (the restored former Pennsylvania Railroad depot) in Fort Wayne.

Treasurer Shawn Chase presented the treasurer's report of transactions, revenues and expenses, and account balances. He had a record of transaction available for review.

OLD BUSINESS

- Thanks to John Rust for hosting our October 5 social/luncheon in his home outside Seymour, Indiana, as well as to Matt Gerhard for playing a fine program on the 6-rank Reuter organ in the Borchers Chapel prior to the pitch-in lunch. Chapter member enjoyed seeing the progress on the Compton theatre organ being restored and installed in John's lovely home, in addition to the other instruments he has in his collection.

- A promotional video for the 2014 ATOS Convention being hosted by our Central Indiana Chapter is available online

at YouTube (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Clks1IqeWoU>). The video was produced by CIC member Nathan Wilcox and narrated by President Needler.

- Nominating Committee chair Keith Mikesell presented the following slate of officers for election to office in 2014: for President, Tim Needler; for First Vice-President, Michael Fellenzer; for Second Vice-President, Mark Herman; for Treasurer, Shawn Chase; for Recording Secretary, Tom Nichols; for Corresponding Secretary, Justin Nimmo; for Director: John Jones, Kevin Ruschhaupt, and Nathan Wilcox. There were no motions from the floor for any additional nominations, so the presented slate was approved upon motion by Matt Gerhard, second by Justin Nimmo, and a successful vote by all present. Keith expressed gratitude to Nominating Committee members Barb Johnson, Tom Lett, and John Seest.

- The ballot, nominees' biographies, and the 2014 dues notice will be sent together in a single mailing to all CIC-ATOS members, to save expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

- President Needler appointed member John Seest as chair of the Tabulating Committee, who will process all ballots and make the results known at our December meeting.

- Due to the positive feedback received about the video equipment used at the September concert, we discussed the possibility of purchasing or renting suitable equipment to make such video close-ups of the organist a normal occurrence at our concerts. In this way audience members can get a much better idea of everything the organist is doing during the performance, which most people are unable to see from the vantage point of their seat. The setup we seek (projector, camera, screen, cabling) would cost approximately \$2,000 to purchase. We will also look into leasing rather than purchasing, and will also consult with the audio-visual departments at Warren Central H.S. and Emmerich Manual H.S. to see if they have video equipment they would be willing to make available to us during our concerts.

- All were encouraged to volunteer for and attend the 2014 ATOS Convention our chapter is hosting here, July 4-9, 2014. Indianapolis' Hyatt Regency Hotel is our convention hotel (\$99/night, plus tax), with the convention banquet occurring at the

Indiana Roof Ballroom. The registration form will be included in the upcoming January/February 2014 issue of the Theatre Organ journal. There will be a "non-transportation" rate only for Central Indiana Chapter members who would prefer to drive themselves to all of the concert venues.

- John Hudson reported that he and his son Steven were able to retrieve the 1926 Wurlitzer organ, opus 1535, from its most recent owner near Knoxville, TN. This organ was originally installed in the Tivoli Theatre in Richmond, IN. It is a Style "E X" having 2 manuals and 7 ranks. John is researching three potential Richmond locations for this organ to possibly be installed: the 1909 Richmond Civic Theatre (Murray Theatre), a civic hall in a local high school, and Earlham College.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Tim reminded us to please wear our name badges at meetings and at concerts, to help newer members get to know us all. Keeping yours in your vehicle ensures you'll always have it with you. If yours is misplaced or damaged, simply contact Tim Needler and he'll gladly print and mail you a new badge.

- Michael Fellenzer announced that our next chapter meeting and social will be on Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 2:30 PM at the Warren PAC. ATOS President and Chief Executive Ken Double, also a longtime member of our chapter, will be the artist. Next year's concerts will include Clark Wilson on March 9, 2014 and Jelani Eddington on June 8, 2014.

- Sheila Hudson invited us to attend a free concert by classical guitarist Kirk Redman at Reid Presbyterian Church, 1004 N. 8th St., Richmond, IN, on Sunday, November 17 at 4:00 PM.

With no further business, the business meeting was adjourned. First Vice-President Michael Fellenzer introduced the artists for the afternoon: Tom Nichols, Mike Rolfe, Matt Gerhard, and Justin Nimmo, all of whom are regular performers at the Hedback Theatre prior to Footlite Musicals productions. Following the program, refreshments were served in the lobby, while members and guests enjoyed "open console" time on the Page-Wurlitzer hybrid organ.

About Ken Double

It is not often that one gets paid to have fun for a living. It is rarer still when having fun and getting paid for it professionally happens twice in life. Such has been the good professional fortune of Ken Double, the President and CE of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Until recently, music was always the “second career,” almost an afterthought due to his 32 years in broadcasting. The Chicago-native grew up with five brothers in a sports loving family, but Ken was more enamored of the play-by-play announcers than he was the athletes, and as early as age six, was mouthing the words sitting in front of the television, “practice” broadcasting the games he watched.

He parlayed that interest into a Degree in Radio-TV from Butler University in Indianapolis, and began his broadcast career that included NBA and Big Ten basketball, NHL, IHL and AHL hockey (including three championship teams), the worldwide radio broadcast of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race, and hundreds of other events. The award-winning broadcaster finished his career with 17 seasons of hockey play-by-play, including a brief stint with his beloved hometown team, the Chicago Blackhawks.

Ken’s parents made sure all six of the boys were introduced to some kind of music, and for Ken, it was organ lessons starting at age eight. About the time he was getting bored with that, and a high school radio station was providing broadcast opportunities, a school field trip took him to the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, IL and a chance to play the Wurlitzer theatre organ, and it was for him as it is for so many, that “WOW!” moment.

Several weeks later, the same teacher who guided students on the field trip took a group to hear Gaylord Carter at Chicago’s famed Oriental Theatre and Ken was truly hooked. He steered lessons in the theatre organ direction, including one year of studies with legendary organist Al Melgard, where Ken took his lessons on Wednesday afternoons at the Melgard studio, and then met his teacher later that night for the Blackhawks hockey game at the old Chicago Stadium. Talk about careers coming full circle.

While Ken pursued his broadcast career, he continued playing the organ. As a college senior, he provided music for sporting events at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis; worked summers as the organist at the famed Tommy Bartlett Water Show in Wisconsin Dells; later, had a stint subbing at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis; and while working his very first TV job in Lafayette, IN, helped install the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Long Center, raising money, doing publicity, performing concerts and booking and promoting other shows at the former vaudeville house. He premiered that organ in 1982 and has been playing annual concerts there ever since.

Ken Double has been the Master of Ceremonies for no fewer than 18 ATOS annual and regional conventions. He has performed concerts at nine annual and regional convention

events. He has toured Australia and New Zealand four times. And in addition to his hundreds of concerts since his debut in Ft. Wayne, IN in 1978, he has 17 recordings to his credit, including - TRIBUTE, which features Ken at the 3/66 Dickinson Kimball with trumpet soloist Skip Stine - a much-heralded, widely acclaimed recording; and TEACH ME TONIGHT, recorded on the EMCATOS Babson College four-manual Wurlitzer.

He accepted the top post at ATOS in the summer of 2007, and a year later, the Board of Directors asked Ken to accept the newly created position of President and CEO. He has been working diligently to raise funds, raise awareness, create new and exciting programs, and help steer the 56-year-old organization in a new direction to ensure its growth and existence for another 50 years and more.

Broadcaster, musician, entertainer, MC, administrator, PR man, and even “crooner” occasionally, Ken Double has enjoyed “having fun and getting paid for it, not once, but twice!” As the song says, “Nice work if you can get it.”



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2013 EVENT CALENDAR

December 6, 2013 | 7:30pm

CONCERT: Ken Double

Firehouse Pipes, Union City, IN
(Details on page 3)

December 8, 2013 | 2:30pm

CIC SOCIAL: Ken Double

Warren Performing Arts Center, Indianapolis

January 12, 2013 | 2:30pm

CIC SOCIAL: Artist TBD

Tim Needler Residence, Indianapolis

March 9, 2013 | 2:30pm

CIC CONCERT: Clark Wilson

Warren Performing Arts Center, Indianapolis

June 8, 2013 | 2:30pm

CIC CONCERT: Jelani Eddington

Warren Performing Arts Center, Indianapolis



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