

Sept / Oct
2016

The Newsletter Voice
of the Chicago Area
Theatre Organ
Enthusiasts



Highlights:

- * Sunday October 16
- * University of St. Mary of the Lake Mundelein
- * Doors: 2:00 pm
- * Start: 2:30 pm
- * Artist: **Tim Charlton** and **David Rhodes**

October Social

Our next social will be on

**Sunday
October
16th at The
University
of St. Mary
of the Lake,
Mundelein.**

Our artists for the day will **David Rhodes and Tim Charlton**. Each artist will perform a short program on

the 4/21 Wurlitzer. We will also celebrate the 95th "Birthday" of the Wurlitzer console. Come on up to Mundelein, bring a friend and some treats to share. Don't forget your music so you can also have a chance to play the mighty Wurlitzer!



Inside this issue:

Mundelein Directions	2
Comments	2
Arcada Update	3—5
Thank you	5
Available	5
What's Up	6

Directions to St. Mary of the Lake

From the SOUTH:

To reach the seminary from Interstate 94, take the Hwy 176 exit and turn right at the foot of the ramp to head west (the ramp loops around). Go approximately 4 miles. You will see signs for the University on your right.

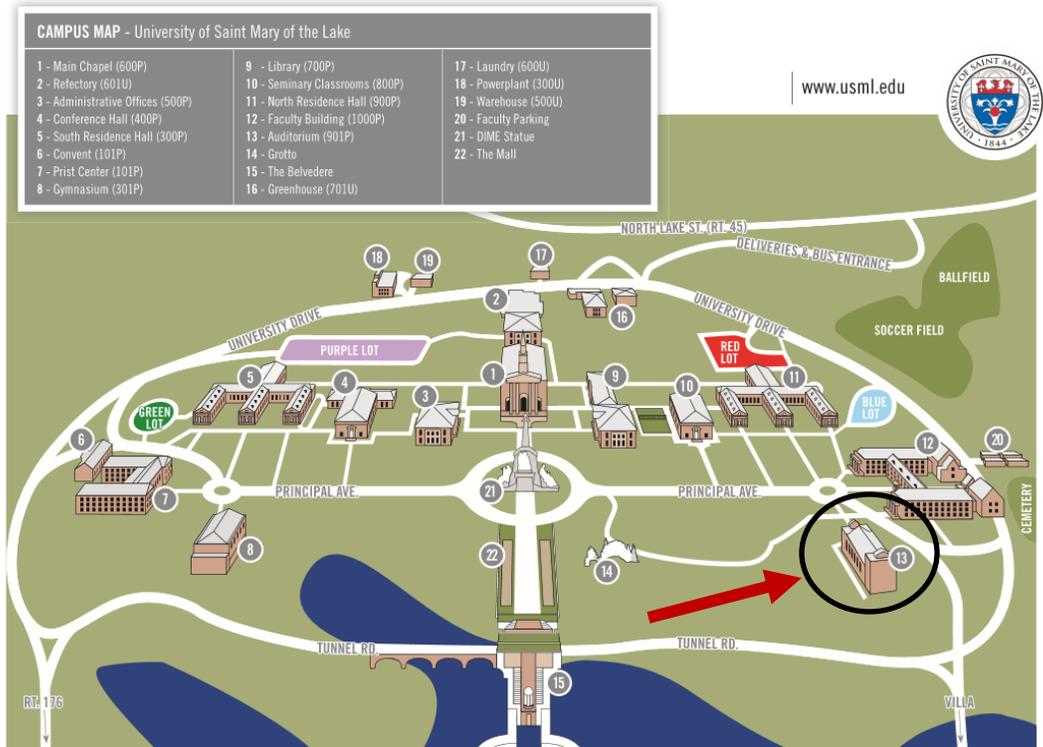
From the NORTH:

From Interstate 94, take the Hwy 137 exit and turn right. Go approximately 5 miles and turn left onto

route 45 (Lake Street). Approximately 2 miles, at University Drive, the entrance is on the left.

Note: The seminary has one entrance on Route 45 (Lake Street) and another on Highway 176 (Maple Avenue). Upon entering the campus follow University Drive to the left. The auditorium is on the north side of the campus on Principal Avenue. (North of the offices and library.) **See page 2 for more**

Social at Mundelein



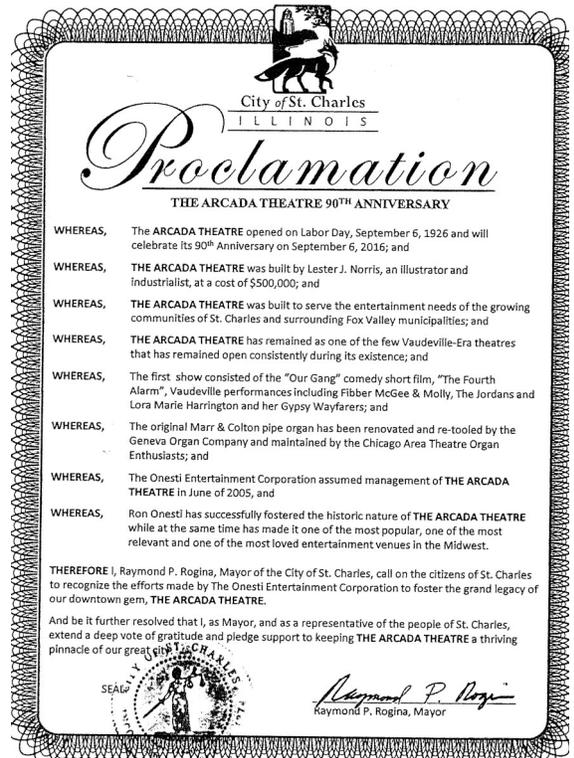
Check out our
web page
www.catoe.net

Update

We hope you have enjoyed your summer — we have been very busy at the Arcada Theatre working on the Marr Colton/ Geneva organ in preparation for the 90th Birthday Celebration. Thanks to **Ron Onesti** and his staff for all their help. As part of the celebration, CATOE was recognized by the City of St. Charles for their contributions to keeping the organ playing. Special thanks to **David Rhodes** for all his time that he volunteered to get this phase (1 of 6) of the project completed. Also to **Taylor Trimby, Tim and Gail Charlton** for their help with the restoration!



David Rhodes will be accompanying **Nosferatu** on Monday October 31st, 7:00 pm at Grace Episcopal Church, 924 Lake Street in Oak Park. Tickets are \$20.00 or \$10.00 if you are in costume!



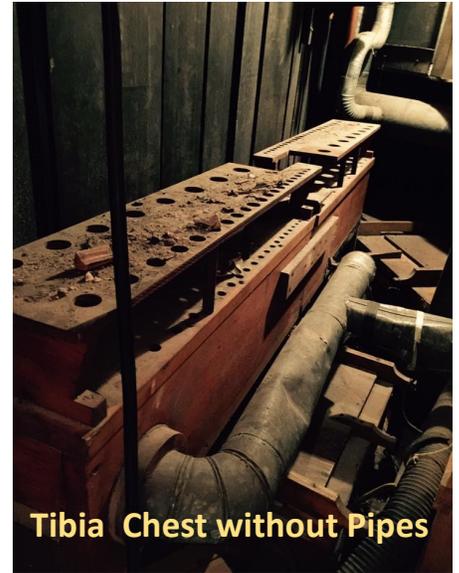


Tibia Before



Tibia After

The CATOE work crew has been working very hard at the Arcada. The entire left chamber (Geneva) was cleared—including the Tibia, Post Horn, Diaphone/ Diapason and the Piano. As we began to remove the parts, it was very obvious that water damage was just about everywhere. The chamber was so crammed and crowded, it was almost impossible to service it. The crew found replacement chests, regulators and tremulants and re-leathered them prior to installation. There still is much to do at the Arcada—but when you hear it, you will be amazed at the new sound. We are tentatively planning on having a social at the theatre in **March of 2017.**



Tibia Chest without Pipes



Old view of the Chamber



CATOE work crew—Tim Charlton, Gail Charlton and David Rhodes working on a chest



David Rhodes performs during the 90th at the Arcada



Rack Boards—Before and After

Arcada*David Rhodes*

After years of reoccurring water damage and the inability to easily and safely access anything in the chamber it was decided that the best way to address the issues were to remove everything from the chamber and start over.

The oversized cone valve (church organ style) regulator and undersized tibia cone valve regulator were not appropriate for proper tremming, they had received water damage and had been patched with contact cement. For that reason, it was decided that they would not be reused. They were replaced with Wurlitzer three-valve regulators, the best regulators to achieve the desired theatre organ trem. Two Wurlitzer reservoirs and a Moller regulator (Vox) were added; one of the Wurlitzer reservoirs was re-leathered. Two newly re-leathered Wurlitzer tremulants were also purchased and installed.

The piano had been hit by water several times in the past 89 years and was so far beyond restoration that it wasn't even hooked back to the organ when the Peterson solid state relay was put on the organ in 1997. It took up prime real estate by the shade openings, therefore it was not retained. The wood Diaphone also had taken on large amounts of water from roof leaks....so bad in fact that as far back as 1967, a new chest for the bass notes was constructed and all new beaters were made (from hardware store parts and other non original materials) by Catoe members, just to keep them producing sound. Over the past 40 years further water damage had occurred causing splits in the resonators so bad that they were coming apart at the miters and seams. Roofing tar was slathered on in an attempt to seal them. In recent years the tuning on these pipes would go out so radically that Styrofoam and duct tape were used to try and keep the pipes in relative tune, as the resonators themselves were not capable of going flat enough do to their lack of structural integrity. There was no longer a factory standard to go back to since the original beaters were long since replaced and the resonators were all but falling apart. They were dangerously installed and very treacherous to tune, therefore it was decided that they would not be retained for this job.

The Diapason and post horn chests also had significant water damage, including splits in the channeling causing murmurs and ciphers. Parts of the internals of the Diapason chest were removed and Direct Electric magnets were installed, however, these style magnets won't work on the higher pressure that the Diapason was on, causing these notes to remain silent. Due to the significant damage and large size of these chests, they were not reused. The Diapason was moved back to the right side as it was originally in 1926.

The main Tibia chest was in the bottom of the chamber near the shade wall and received the least amount of water damage. It was decided that this chest could be restored to its original functionality. Everything on the chest was replaced with new leather and valves, screws were de-rusted and refinished, wood was rid of coal soot and caked on dirt from water retention and was brought back to like-new appearance. No unnecessary sanding or re-finishing was done, the natural patina of the wood was retained with a lot of cleaning and elbow grease. Wurlitzer bourdon chests were acquired and newly fabricated racking and repacking the 8' tibia stoppers were done to complete the tibia restoration.

Arcada*continued*

Marr & Colton chests were purchased by Catoe to replace the damaged Geneva chests, and to add two more ranks to this side to make the Geneva chamber more of a Solo chamber. The Kinura (Kimball replacement) from the MC side was moved to the Solo.

A few years ago Catoe purchased a post horn to put into the organ (the original was stolen in the 50s and a tuba was placed in the chest), however the chest was high above the shades and it didn't get out very well. The post horn is now much lower in the chamber and rips right out of the shades. A Kimball Trumpet and Wurlitzer Vox from the David Rhodes collection was added to augment this chamber and give a better ensemble to the organ.

Catoe also purchased a Kimball clarinet to replace the non-original small scale set that was in the Marr and Colton side. We also purchased new LED lights for the lighted panels in the console; the original lights had been replaced several years ago.

Several hundreds of man hours were donated to this project as well as several hundred dollars and materials personally donated just to get the job done. CATOE has spent almost **\$2,600.00** on pipes, chests, tremulants, leather and other organ related parts and supplies so far on this project!

Thank You

A very special **THANK YOU** goes out to **Greg Simanski** for his years of being our treasurer. Greg has done a wonderful job of keeping the books for CATOE. Thanks again Greg!

Conn Organ Available

Conn Organ available Please contact Angela McCormick at 773-588-0287 or at

bobandangmc@aol.com

if interested for more information. They are in Irving Park.





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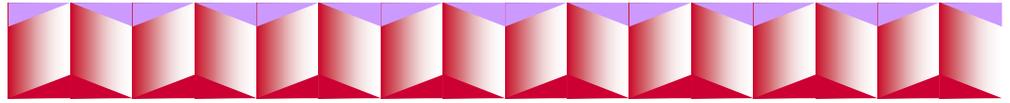
The Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts are committed through performances and educational efforts to help the public understand and appreciate how remarkable these organs truly are. It is also why we are dedicated to their preservation.

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**CATOE is on
Facebook... Check out
the:**

**Chicago Chapter of
the American Theatre
Organ Society**



What's Up in the Area?

David Rhodes and **Tim Charlton** share bench duties at the Tivoli Theatre on CATOE's 3/10 Wurlitzer each Friday and Saturday nights playing before the movies. Stop in and enjoy their performance on our Mighty Wurlitzer!

Future Socials: **November 12th** at the Tivoli Theatre with **Dennis Wolkowicz** at the 3/10 Wurlitzer. Dennis will have a silent short, sing-a-long and some organ favorites. Doors 9:30, program starts at 10:00 am. Doors 1:30 and program begins at 2:00 pm. **December** social announcement soon and **March** at the Arcada!



At the Arcada: 9/30 **Jay and the Americans**, 10/07 **The Stylistics**, 10/08 **Buddy Guy**, 10/09 **Johnny Rivers**, 10/14 **Travis Tritt**, 10/16 **Pat and Debby Boone**, 10/23 **Little Anthony and the Imperials**, 11/03 **Charlie Daniels**, 11/04 **Dionne Warwick**, 11/20 **Vikki Carr**, 11/26 **Bobby Rydell**, 12/10 **Tony Orlando**. Pre-show organ performances in **RED**



You can check out their web site for more info — www.arcadalive.com or call the box office 630.962.7000