



PIPES

&

PERCUSSION

203
OCTOBER
2023

**NEWSLETTER FOR
THE FRIENDS OF THE WURLITZER**

**& THE "KIWI CHAPTER" of the
AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

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UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND
www.theatreorgans.com/wota

NOISES BACKSTAGE !!!

Hi there friends, it is still early days, but I'm thrilled to advise that the Wurlitzer's Tuba rank of pipes was given wind pressure and "spoke" for the first time in the organ chambers at the Playhouse Theatre.

There is obviously a massive amount of work to be continued, to bring each rank of pipes up to the stage where they too can receive full wind pressure and each pipe in the rank manually played and tested.

The next working bee with our Adelaide organ techs is to be early in November, and we thought it a great idea to organise a Club Afternoon to enable you to check out the organ chambers once again. During the show, there will be opportunity to have a Q&A with Peter Hosking where you can ask questions and he can give you an update on where we are at.

This Club Afternoon, which will include another fun theatre organ video presentation, and a cuppa afterwards, is taking place on **Sunday 5 November @ 2pm.**

++ *The opinions expressed in this Newsletter* ++
are not necessarily those of The Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland.

THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND

Invite you to our

FRIENDS OF THE WURLITZER CLUB AFTERNOON

Sunday 5 November @ 2.pm

Playhouse Theatre, 15 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

Doors open 1.30pm

Organ Chambers open for inspection from 1.30pm until 1.55pm

At this coming Club Afternoon, there is opportunity for you to actually meet one of our two theatre organ technicians from Adelaide, Peter Hosking, who will be in town to work with our own team to progress the organ installation at the Playhouse.

From 1.30pm the organ chambers will be open for you check out the continued work being undertaken, and the theatre doors will also be open for you at this time.

2pm is Showtime and Peter Hosking and our own Neil Warrington will be on stage to answer your questions and update us on the progress and work currently underway to get the organ singing again.



Following this Q&A is a very entertaining video selection from a recent concert given by USA organist Dave Wickerham, once a very popular organist back in our days at the Hollywood Cinema. (pictured left)

This video excerpt sees Dave playing the Rochester Theatre Organ Society's *mighty* 4 manual 23 rank Wurlitzer pipe organ at the Auditorium Theatre in Rochester, New York State. We will enjoy the first half of this toe-tapping concert - just on an hour of great music.



The Auditorium Theatre, Rochester New York, USA - Rochester Theater Organ Society

At the conclusion of the video, the kettle will be on for you to enjoy a cuppa, before heading out into the late afternoon. Do hope you will join us on Sunday 5 November at the Playhouse Theatre - Showtime is 2pm.

PRIVATE FUNCTION FOR FOTW MEMBERS & FRIENDS

\$15.00 each

NO TICKETS ISSUED AND NO DOOR SALES!

Attendees will be checked in on arrival.

Please call/email Jan to organise your payment for the event

PH: 522-8944 / jandenise@xtra.co.nz

INTERNET BANK PAYMENT

Account Name: The Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland

Account Number: 12-3045-0449278-00

Quote the following:

PARTICULARS: **Your Name** / **REFERENCE:** **Club Doo**

Bookings Close Wednesday November 1

NO DOOR SALES

NEWS FROM THE PLAYHOUSE ORGAN CHAMBERS.....

Neil Warrington our Organ Curator reports....

We have commenced regulating the organ but are plagued by significant issues with wind leaks. These coming from the bottoms of the chests, around the seals and the valves. There has also been a lot of leaking in the new wind lines. We are currently working extensively to cure this.

We have spent multiple days systematically going through and finding wind leaks, some big and some small. Currently, the five-rank chest is leaking badly through the valves. The valves need to be reset and we are continuing to do that work. We have stopped the leaking in both of the four-rank chests in the solo chamber. Valve leaks are to be expected considering the organ has been out of the Hollywood and in storage gathering dust for eight years. I have spoken to Richard Larritt our Adelaide expert, and he advises that this is a normal part of the reinstallation and that we will just have to continue to reset valves and clean detritus out of them whenever it appears, this could go on for quite some time. We have also discovered a leak at the top of the main blower expansion box at the flange. We will be able to examine this when we return to the theatre with a small step ladder as it is round the back of the blower. We may find more once the organ develops more pressure.



Wind pressures are increasing gradually, but we cannot measure them accurately while there are so many wind leaks on the organ. We are at this stage unsure as to how many inches of wind the main blower is producing. We are beginning to see 10 to 12 inches of wind at some of the chests. Most of the chests require 11 inches.

After discussions with Richard, it has been decided not to cut the hole in the wall from the blower room to the green room at this time. He has suggested that we wait and see where the organ is pulling wind from and whether or not the blowers get too warm. This will inform the need to cut an air intake hole into the green room. Currently the green room can still be used with both blowers running. They produce a low rumble in the room which allows for normal conversation.

Organ blowers in place....Neil Warrington

During installation we have discovered that multiple brass inserts that hold the screws for the bottom boards are missing. They have been replaced with ordinary brass screws to hold the bottom boards in situ. I would like to make inquiries to see if we can purchase more Brass Insert's. We will need approximately 20. It is a relatively simple job to drill out the holes, insert a 12mil dowel and to drill out the dowel 8mil and insert brand new inserts. This can be done at any time, when the theatre is quiet, and we have the time. This will help to prevent leaking in the future. We have already used this method to tighten up brass inserts that were loose in the bottom boards.

John Swales and myself hope to install the final regulator for the organ and to begin to wind the offset ranks back to the small blower before Richard and Peter return to New Zealand. At this stage, Peter is returning for two weeks in early November, and I have discussed this with Cherylyn, the Theatre Curator, and the theatre is booked over this period. However, Cherylin is great in working with us to fit organ work in around other bookings in the theatre.

We also need to install fencing around the blowers. We could possibly do this with pool fencing. Which would be relatively cheap and effective.

CLOSING CHORDS



It is with sadness that your scribe needs to report the passing of another of our stalwart workers on the organ project and Trustee on the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland - Johan (John) Kleingeld passed away following a period of illness in early July this year.

Our sincere condolences were extended to his wife Robyn, also a hard-working volunteer at our shows.

***Pictured is John Kleingeld
in the Main Chamber at the
Hollywood Cinema
in happier days
(Kerry Ellen)***

MEMORIES FROM OCTOBERS PAST.....



2006 – UK's Simon Gledhill (John Parker)



2009 – USA's Brett Valliant (Zvonko Djuric)

**2010 –
USA's Martin Ellis
& Lyndsay Freer**

(Bill Ridge)



**Our own
Margaret Massey**

(James Duncan)



**....and of course, our own
John Hardicker**

(James Duncan)





**THE
WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST
of AUCKLAND**
(REG. CHARITABLE TRUST No.10966)

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www.theatreorgans.com/wota

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