



PIPES

&

PERCUSSION

192
MARCH
2020

**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

WHAT A PICKLE WE NOW FIND OURSELVES IN !!

Dear loyal *Friends of the Wurlitzer*, As I put this newsletter together, I am celebrating my 59th birthday in a world that seems to have gone crazy. In a nation that makes its own food and toilet rolls, we have people "panic-shopping" and clearing the shelves to the detriment of so many others. Our wonderful museums, art galleries and libraries all shutting their doors and "lock-downs" coming into play.

Meantime in our little circle of life, some of our favourite theatre organists, guys and girls who entertained us during our Hollywood Cinema days, are now being hit hard by the needed cancellation of concerts worldwide. Also being hurt by this are the venues themselves, thousands of dollars lost on airfares, immigration visas, promotion etc – for us, this might be the only good thing to come from our present hiatus in our shows, as we would have already had the year planned and underway, had our beloved Wurlitzer been in action in its new home.

So where are we at now.....?? See inside for more.

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

NEWS FROM THE WESTERN FRONT

In January, as planned, the organ was moved from MOTAT's storage facility to now sit in a million pieces on the Playhouse Theatre stage in readiness for installation.

However, following on from still further delays, the builder of the organ chamber annex is only just now, finally on the home straight. With the building delays we have lost our window of opportunity with the Melbourne Organ builders and the theatre itself, to begin installation, planned for February thru March.

With end-March looming fast, our major concern was now the need to move the organ from the stage, to permit theatre hires to come in from April 1st. But move the organ to where?? Then along comes the Covid-19 virus to change everything. Theatre hirers have cancelled their bookings through to June, giving our team opportunity now to prepare the chambers for the Aussie team to come over, but...because of the closed borders now, they cannot travel. So, things are at a stalemate! But with the theatre closed, we now have some breathing space to regroup and put Plan C?? in to place.

Amid all this doom & gloom, came a ray of sunshine in the form of a wonderful donation towards the organ project from the MOTAT Society. Although the MOTAT (Museum of Transport & Technology) Society no longer directly runs the museum, today it acts as a supporting society, offering an extended knowledge base in support of the Museum's preservation and conservation efforts. The Society's membership is made up of current and former MOTAT volunteers and staff, and general enthusiasts with transport, technology and heritage interests, as well as affiliations with kindred organisations. WOTA is extremely grateful to the MOTAT Society for their gift.



My friends, we need your support now, more than ever! Firstly, to help us survive this storm, then, when the rainbow appears, we will work towards raising the balance of finance required to see the installation completed. We are so close.....

So please consider seriously, renewing your subscription to *The Friends of the Wurlitzer* and if you can, spare a few pennies extra for a donation, this will be appreciated more than you know. Amongst other operating costs, we have the insurance premium on the organ soon to be paid and your donations will help greatly to cover this huge expense. Remember please, all donations are Tax deductible and we issue receipts for all donations over \$5.00.

Some of you have automatically sent your sub fee into us already, but for those who have not renewed yet, a subscription renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.



**January 2020,
and the organ
begins to arrive
on the stage at
the Playhouse
from its
previous home,
stored at
MOTAT.**

(John Palmer)

"The Heavies" !

**Here's the team
tasked with the
job of packing
the truck at
MOTAT and then
unloading on
arrival at the
Playhouse!**

(John Palmer)



**The almost
completed Organ
Chamber Annex
at the rear of the
stage at the
Playhouse
Theatre.**

(John Palmer)



**THE
WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST
of AUCKLAND**

(REG. CHARITABLE TRUST No.10966)

Visit us at:

www.theatreorgans.com/wota

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THE MOTAT SOCIETY



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