

PIPES

&

PERCUSSION

198
FEBRUARY
2022

**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

THE TRIALS OF COVID !

Late last year, we accepted the reality that with Covid restrictions, there was little to no chance of the Melbourne organ builders getting to Auckland to install the organ in the next few months. So, we're going to have a go at doing the job ourselves. Neil Warrington, our Project Manager rightly says, "...we're looking at this the wrong way round. Let's look at what we can do, not what we can't do." With that in mind, Neil and his small team of helpers, have started the prep work, making the most of access to the theatre for a few days in January and for two weeks in February. Guidance will come from the Melbourne people with Zoom meetings, emails and photographs as required.

Once again, we are at the start of another year, and still no organ for your enjoyment. So instead of asking for subscription renewals, in return for the outstanding and loyal support you have given WOTA, the Trust is waiving annual subs this year in lieu of a donation to help us keep things ticking along. Remember please, all donations are Tax deductible, and we issue receipts for all donations over \$5.00.

See over the page for an afternoon get together in April.....

++ *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 April 3 @ 2.pm

Playhouse Theatre, 15 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden

Doors open 1.30pm

**Vaccine Pass Required & Masks worn
+ Sign in or Scan Tracer QR Code**

Under the COVID Traffic Light System, the Playhouse Theatre can only operate if everybody is vaccinated and scans the tracer app. Which means, for us to have this event, we can only admit those who have their Vaccine Pass on a card or on their phone.

This we will scan at the door, on the day.

If we are in the "Red Light" setting, we are limited to 100 people only, so the bookings will close once we reach 100. Hopefully by April, we might be back in the "Orange Light" setting but suggest you don't leave your booking too late if you are wishing to attend.

We have a real treat in store for you, with an amazing video show that features an instrument regarded as the world's largest Wurlitzer pipe organ. The show features two of the USA's top entertainers – **Jelani Eddington** and **Zach Frame**.

This presentation comes from the magnificent residence of the late Jasper Sanfilippo. Jasper, born in 1931, made his fortune working in his father's nut business, John B. Sanfilippo & Son, Inc. In 1963 upon his father's death, when the company's annual sales were just \$383,000, he assumed day to day control. Over the subsequent decades, Sanfilippo built the business into first a regional, and then national major nut supplier, and in 1991, Sanfilippo led the company in becoming listed on the Nasdaq, with then annual revenues of \$151 million. In 1995 the Sanfilippo business acquired the Fisher nut brand from Procter & Gamble, which later became the best-selling recipe nut brand in the United States.

Jasper had a great love of mechanical musical instruments and created a music room to house a stunning collection of restored instruments. Housing the collection, the Sanfilippo "Place de La Musique", recreates the Victorian era of the first movie palaces, with architectural details. The Music Theatre can seat 350 and houses the largest theatre pipe organ ever built. The overall experience is an auditory and visual immersion in one of the most exciting eras.

The nucleus of the theatre organ, (Wurlitzer opus #1571, built in 1927 for the Riviera Theatre in Omaha) has been expanded to 80 ranks of pipes – that’s around 5000 pipes!! The overall result is the most versatile orchestral theatre pipe organ ever built. Behind the scrim are five chambers containing pipes, percussions, wind regulators and controls in a four-story-tall area. The console is patterned after the original from Chicago's Paradise Theatre; it is mounted on the original organ console lift from the Granada Theatre. Mounted on the wall to the left are the 32' Diaphone pipes, and to the right are the 32' Bombarde pipes. A 32-note set of Deagan Tower Bells, the largest of which weighs 426 lb., hang on each side of the room. To the rear of the room, the 'Ethereal' pipe chamber in the attic echoes softly from the skylight area, while the brass 'Trumpet Imperial' and copper 'Bugle Battaglia' speak with great authority from the back wall.

Every year, Jasper Sanfilippo presented a concert series, with all the proceeds assisting charities serving children, families, arts and culture through the Sanfilippo Foundation. Since his passing in 2020, his family continue this legacy.

At the console for our video-visit to the Sanfilippo "Place de La Musique", will be **Jelani Eddington**, well known to you all from his regular visits to play for us back in our Hollywood Cinema days.



Sharing the program is a new face for you (pictured left) – **Zach Frame**. Zach is the artist in residence at the Wurlitzer organ of the Organ Piper Pizza Restaurant, in Wisconsin.

We look forward to sharing this video-concert with you **and....** so long as we are not still in the Covid Red Light, we will be able to serve a cuppa afterwards.

See over for ticket details.

PRIVATE FUNCTION FOR FOTW MEMBERS & FRIENDS

VACCINE PASSES ARE REQUIRED – MASKS TO BE WORN

\$15.00 each

NO TICKETS ISSUED AND NO DOOR SALES!

Attendees will be checked in on arrival.

Please call/email Jan to organize 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 March 30 – OR.....
if still in Covid Red Light, once 100 seats are sold**

PAYING WITHOUT CHEQUES!

If you are not skilled at internet banking, we suggest that you go into your bank with this newsletter and ask them to make the payment to our account, as listed above. Make sure you have photo I.D. or Drivers Licence as proof of who you are.

If they try to chase you out to the ATM machine outside, please remind them that *THEY* removed cheques as a payment option, and therefore, *they* need to take care of payments such as these, on your behalf.

If you wish to make a donation, please include this with your payment.

MAKING A DONATION?

Please follow the steps outlined above.

1. Call or Email Jan to advise that a payment is being made
2. Make the payment by internet banking or visit your bank to organize payment

**Call/email Jan to advise that you are making a payment
into the WOTA Bank Account – failure to notify, will see no
admission to the show or receipt issued for a donation.**

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NEWS FROM THE CHAMBERS!

News from Neil Warrington.....

With the pandemic grinding on and restrictions continuing it has become clear we can no longer wait for outside help and for the time being we must help ourselves. With my small group of volunteers, we have commenced the install. Julian and the Melbourne team are providing support via detailed email instructions, phone call, photos and zoom.

We have installed the 2 swell shutters in the pipe chambers and these are now ready for wind and wire when the time comes. Julian has provided us with a plan of the pipe chamber layout, and we are now laying the chests in the chamber. These are the big wooden boxes that the pipes stick out of. It is an important part of the process to get right. At every step of the way care must be taken that at the end we have an instrument that sounds musical.

We also have to consider how wind will be provided via the new wind-lines, steering clear of all the floor joists which have been added to support the weight of the organ

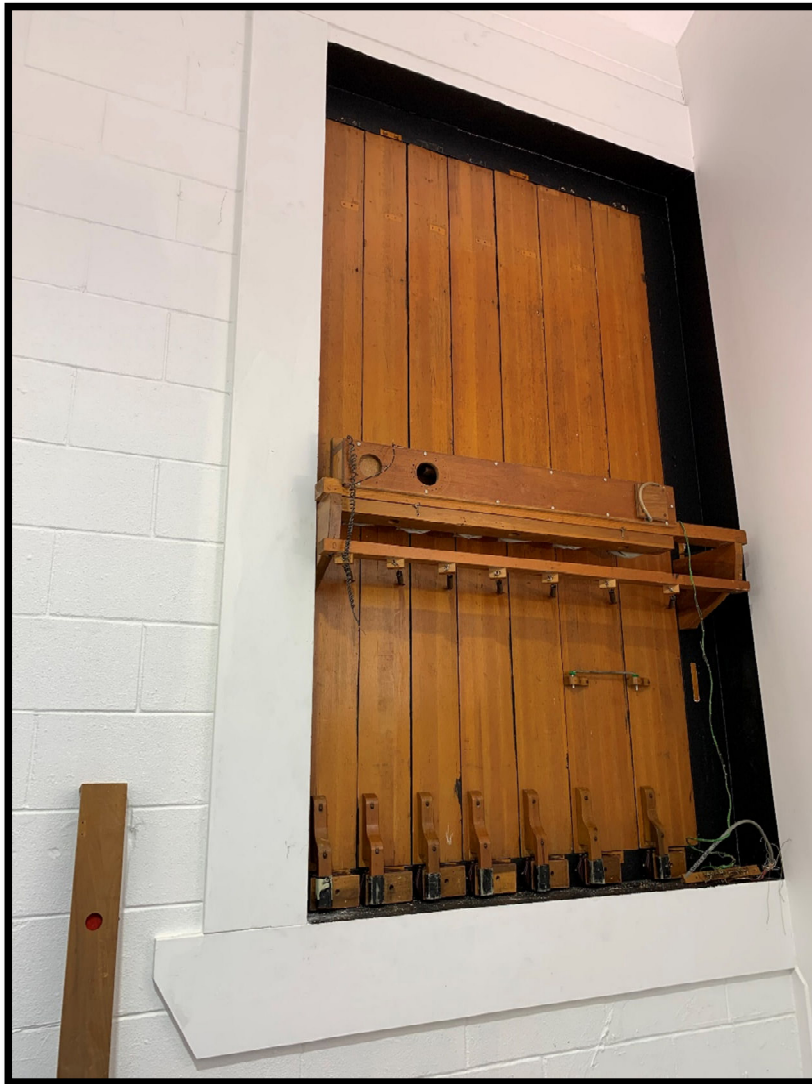
The chambers will end up tight and how we access various parts of the organ and very importantly access for tuning every single pipe is imperative. There is a lot of fiddling and moving involved, but time spent now will avoid problems later on.

BELOW: *The Tremulants and wind regulators are now located in their new home which is the under croft area below the pipe chamber.*





"Main Chamber" with swell shutters in place and the chests coming in....



"Solo Chamber" swell shutters installed and BELOW.....pipe chests coming in here too.....





**THE
WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST
of AUCKLAND**

(REG. CHARITABLE TRUST No.10966)

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www.theatreorgans.com/wota

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THE MOTAT SOCIETY



SUPPORTING THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND