



PIPES

&

PERCUSSION

195
MARCH
2021

**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

GOING UP!! GOING DOWN!!

What crazy times we now live in. The constant change of COVID levels up and down are very reminiscent of old-time department store elevators....oh the memories!

Sadly, for our Wurlitzer organ install project, it has completely stymied our efforts to get started on putting the organ in. Our Organ Crew from Melbourne cannot spare time from their employment, to be in quarantine for two weeks before they can get to the Playhouse theatre and start working on the organ. We just have to wait now on the NZ borders being opened up to Australia, but without quarantine requirements, before the main organ installation can begin.

We were further thwarted, when a request came through for the return of the funding made by the *Trusts Community Foundation*, as we had not used the allocated funds by December 2020. Despite our attempts to explain that this was a result of the COVID situation, they suggested we reapply later, once the work could begin.

But there is some good news on the horizon.....*turn the page for more*

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

MUCH ACHIEVED DESPITE COVID....

When you look back over the last two years, despite trying times, we have achieved so much, and have so much to be proud of! Much of this is due to your on-going support, helping us push this project through its various stages that will eventually see our Wurlitzer pipe organ installed and playing.

- ✓ **Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre Trust** saw the construction of the annex on the back of the theatre, that will house the organ chambers, pushed along to completion
- ✓ **The Western Districts Community Foundation** awarded the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland AND The Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre Trust, \$100K EACH!! This was to see both sides of the project fulfilled – Theatre Trust to complete the organ chamber build, then the Organ Trust was to roll in and have the organ installed. Talk about an answer to a prayer!
- ✓ Additional funding also came from the **Trusts Community Foundation**, however, there was still a shortfall of some \$30k to find and just before COVID lock-down in 2020, **NZ Lotto** awarded the Trust the full amount needed.
- ✓ Even though the Wurlitzer wasn't playing, the Trust still needed to find the insurance premium for this heritage instrument now currently in storage, and as a Registered Charitable Trust, the books and accounts require annual auditing. Funding for this still had to be found, and with no revenue from shows coming in, it was you, our *Friends of the Wurlitzer* members who prevented the Trust from going under.

All the funds awarded to the organ installation project are set aside solely for that purpose. However, as we move into yet another year without the organ, the *Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland* resolved to try and continue to keep the organisation solvent, in the hope that there will soon be an end to the restrictions that COVID brings and the installation can finally begin with urgency.

Once again, this can only happen, if each of you are equally resolved to stay with us and help see us through these dark days. It will be your subscription renewal and donations that will keep this pipe organ and this art form safe, until the day it can play again.

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.

Just to keep WOTA solvent, covering general admin costs, right up to those massive insurance and the annual audit fees, we need to find \$7500! This can be met by your subs and those wonderful donations. 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.

CAN'T WE GET THE ORGAN INSTALL STARTED ?

Yes we can! Julien Arnold, our Organ Technician from Melbourne, has done all the design work for how the organ chambers will be laid out. We are working with one of our large church organ building companies here in New Zealand, to see if they and Julien can work together via online video conversations, to begin setting the chambers up with the chest locations and wind lines.

We will keep you posted on how this proceeds....

THE END OF THE CHEQUE AS A FORM OF PAYMENT

A year or so back, a couple of banks advised that they were no longer issuing cheque books to their customers. This then evolved to the statement they would no longer accept deposits by cheques....now most of the country's banks are no longer accepting cheques as a form of payment and it has finally hit the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland.

We are all too much aware that so many of you really relied on that humble piece of paper called a "cheque", to make payments for subs/donations/tickets for shows, etc, but sadly this is to end.

For those of you not up to speed with internet banking, you can go to your bank with our Renewal Letter and ask them to make the payment for you, from your account, via in-branch internet banking. ***Make sure you tell Jan, our Membership Secretary, that you have made a payment into the Trust's Bank Account!!***

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - SEE NEXT NEWSLETTER!!

We have secured a booking at the Playhouse Theatre for another of our popular video shows and hope you can join us for an opportunity to get-together, enjoy some afternoon tea, and some great theatre organ entertainment via the wonders of video. For this show, we feature the Mighty Moller theatre pipe organ of the Atlanta Fox Theatre.

Sunday May 30 @ 2pm





**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