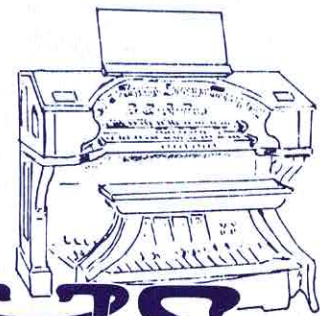


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EDITOR

John Atkinson, 46 Lily Street, Allawah, 2218
587 3374

T.O.S.A. NEWS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

ADDRESS BOX A584 P.O. SYDNEY SOUTH, 2000

REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

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Please address all correspondence to Box A584 P.O. Sydney South, 2000

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

Friday, 10th September, 8 p.m.

A quarterly General Meeting will be held in the Showroom of Wurlitzer Australia Pty. Ltd., whose address is, 56 Alexander Avenue, Taren Point and after the business section of the meeting we will be entertained by the head demonstrator for Wurlitzer, Kurt Zimmer. Members are advised that during the business meeting if sufficient members are present the matter of the reduction in the numbers of members required to form a quorum as publicised in these pages, will once again be placed before the meeting. It is suggested to members that if they have folding chairs that they bring them along as seating accomodation is limited. Supper will be provided at the conclusion of the evening and we urge all members to attend, for an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

Sunday, 12th September, 2.15 p.m.

A concert featuring Tony Fenelon and Lyn Larsen to be presented in Sydney's Regent Theatre is selling fast and we urge members who have not bought their tickets yet to do so as the seating accomodation in the Regent Theatre is large but not unlimited and the tickets allotted to the Theatre Organ Society are the best in the house - if you trust to luck in obtaining good tickets at the door on the day you may be disappointed. As this outstanding programme featuring Australia's formost, and one of America's best, Theatre organists promises to be one of the GREAT concerts for 1976. Tickets are available from P.O. Box 150 Epping, 2121 please include a stamped, self addressed envelope and see page three of this issue for further details.

PRINTED BY T.O.S.A. PRESS

26th September, Sunday, 2.30 p.m.

A FREE SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT on the Society's Wurlitzer Organ featuring Cliff Bingham at Marrickville Town Hall, playing in Cliff's inimitable style is a rare treat that every member should take advantage of and bring along your neighbours and friends. Cliff Bingham, as you know is an organist of outstanding ability and his concerts in the past have always been of the highest standard. As this is a free concert we urge you to make every attempt to fill Marrickville Town Hall for an exceptional (FREE) afternoon's entertainment.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER Visit to East Lindfield Baptist Church more details will be published when they are made known.

NOVEMBER

16th November, Tuesday, Marrickville Town Hall

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This very important Annual General Meeting will be staged this year at Marrickville Town Hall so that we can indulge in the use of our Wurlitzer Organ at the conclusion of the business. It is anticipated that two organists will be offering their services to entertain members and this meeting should be put high on your list of things to do as it not only effects the business affairs of your Society for the next twelve months but also the entertainment which will be provided should be a great drawcard.

In this issue on Page 15 there is for your convenience and use a committee and executive nomination form which must be completed and signed by the nominator and nominee and in the hands of the Secretary before the closing date 5th October, 1976, to comply with the Society's constitution. The positions which have to be filled and which automatically become vacant at the Annual General Meeting are President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, six Committee Members, Newsheet Editor. Any matters which members require to raise at the Annual General Meeting are to be submitted in writing to the Secretary and once again if necessary the matter of the motion regarding the quorum will be placed before the meeting.

DECEMBER

Christmas Cabaret, details to be announced

12th December, Sunday 2.30p.m. The husband and wife organist and piano team of Denis and Heidi James from America will be featured at Marrickville Town Hall for your enjoyment. A photograph of Denis and Heidi appears on page 5 of this issue as they appeared at the Ohio Theatre, Robert Morton Organ during a recent concert performance there.

REVIEWS

Quarterly General Meeting 20th July, 1975. - Rob Weismantel

Following a short but interesting general meeting at which members discussed various aspects of the Society with the executive Committee and made some very worthwhile suggestions in regard to improving the Society's policies we were ushered into the Main Hall where David Parsons started the night rolling with a varied selection of light music which included 'Cherokee', which David played in the famous Vic Hammet style and the ever popular 'Nutcracker Suite' which ended his segment with the 'Russian Dance'.

The second organist for the evening was Bill Schumacher who started off with the very lively 'Something's gotta give' and then 'Stella by Starlight'. Bills segment continued with many quiet numbers which he played in medley form.

The night was highly successful and gave our many new members an opportunity to be introduced to the society. The growing numbers attending general meetings suggests that the committee's decision to have short informal meetings with a chance to talk afterwards is having the desired effect of involving more people in our activities.

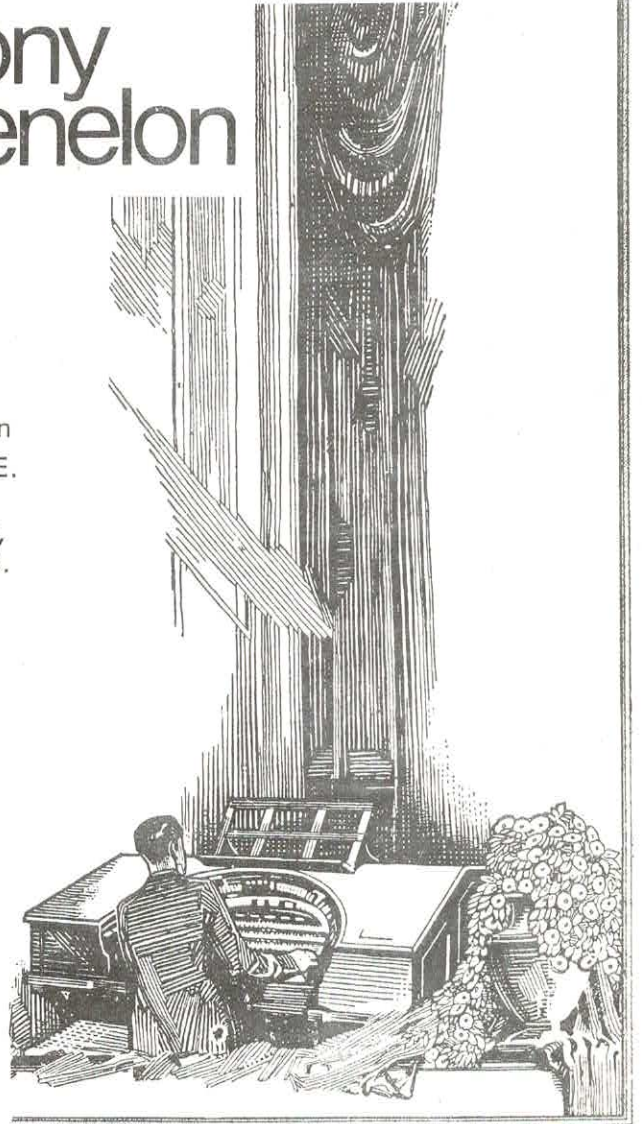


Lyn
Larsen &

Tony
Fenelon

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Theatre Organ Society, P.O. Box 150, Epping, 2121.
and at Society functions.

AN HISTORIC OCCASION AS THIS IS THE FIRST TIME FOR
16 YEARS THAT THE SOUNDS OF THEATRE ORGAN MUSIC
HAS BEEN HEARD IN



CAPITOL ORGAN MOVES AGAIN - Rob Weismantel

At 9 am on Saturday 31st July a group of members interested in the Capitol organ restoration gathered at Ernie Vale's home at Haberfield to load parts of the organ, which includes the upright piano, Bourdon pipes, Tibia bass pipes, Tuba bass pipes and crates of small pipes, onto a table top truck and onto Ron Smith's trailer for transportation to the A.G.L. gas works at Alexandria. Many hands made light work and this resulted in a very successful move which finished at about 1pm. The piano was inspected by some members and it was suggested that someone in the Society with the knowledge of restoring the piano, which is in very bad condition, would be given the opportunity of doing so as this will be a very expensive operation if it is restored commercially.

Our thanks to Ernie for organising working bees on the organ and to the members involved with the instrument to date. Ernie can be contacted by ringing 798 6816 at home.

CAPITOL ORGAN RESTORATION - Ernie Vale

It is my pleasure to report that the moves referred to in last month's TOSA News have been carried out very smoothly and I would like to thank everyone who took part for their teamwork on these occasions. There was a change in the Transport arrangements during the week prior to the move and I am most grateful to Jack and John Lopez, carriers of Gladesville for helping out with transport at short notice.

I might say that the unloading of part of the organ in a busy shopping centre on Saturday morning created considerable interest amongst passers by.

In response to last month's 'Items required' I would like to thank Norm Weismantel for providing blotting paper, George Smith for the dust sheet which was put into use the day it arrived and Peter Bidencope for the Loan of his guillotine.

TUTORIAL AFTERNOON In spite of the fact that Saturday 14th August was probably the coldest day this year, some 12 members gathered in the Organ Loft where they were shown firstly small chests in operation, then some secondary motors and pallets in various states of restoration, then some chests and bottom boards. After a demonstration of covering of motors with Perflex it was decided that this is best performed in a production line situation. All but one rank was stripped of secondary motors and pallets. One rank of secondary motors was cleaned together with a number of pallets. Finally pallets and secondary motors were distributed to members for stripping and cleaning in preparation for a gluing session. Whilst the tutorial didn't cover as many items as originally intended everyone was busy most of the afternoon and I think we all learned a little more about the organ. Thanks again to everyone who came along I would also like to thank all members who rang to let me know they couldn't make it for various reasons.

As a result of the tutorial afternoon the following items are required:-

Three 40 watt Fluorescent lights for semi-permanent use.

Please phone me on 798 6816 in this regard.

Instruction on covering secondary motors and facing pallets is to be the subject of the next session at my place, 49 Boomerang Street, Haberfield on Wednesday evening 22nd September commencing at 7.45p.m. All those who are able to attend please phone me before hand so that I have some idea of how many are coming. Ring on 798 6816 between 7.30p.m. and 9.30p.m. week nights. The aim is to tackle one rank at a time so that we maintain some degree of order about the whole affair. I look forward to a good attendance and please call me and let me know you are coming.

Regards, Ernie Vale.



THE ORGAN STOP

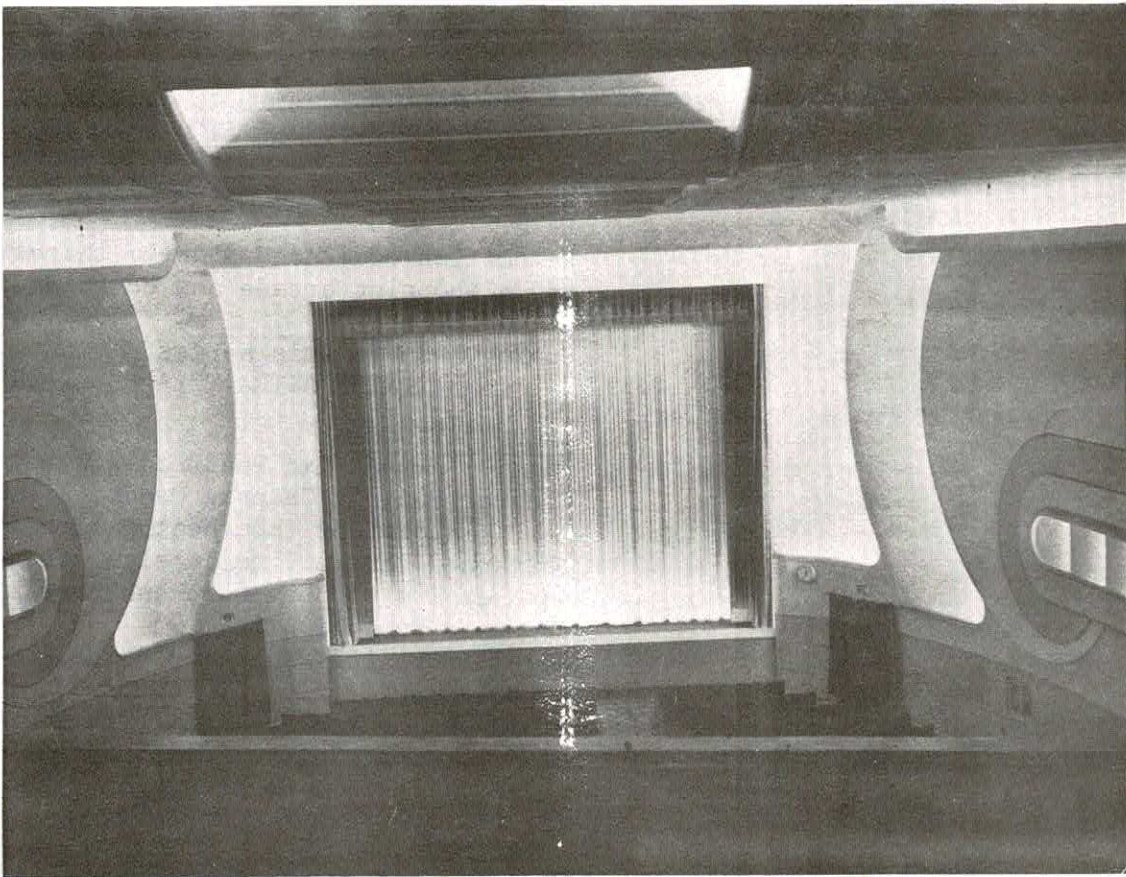
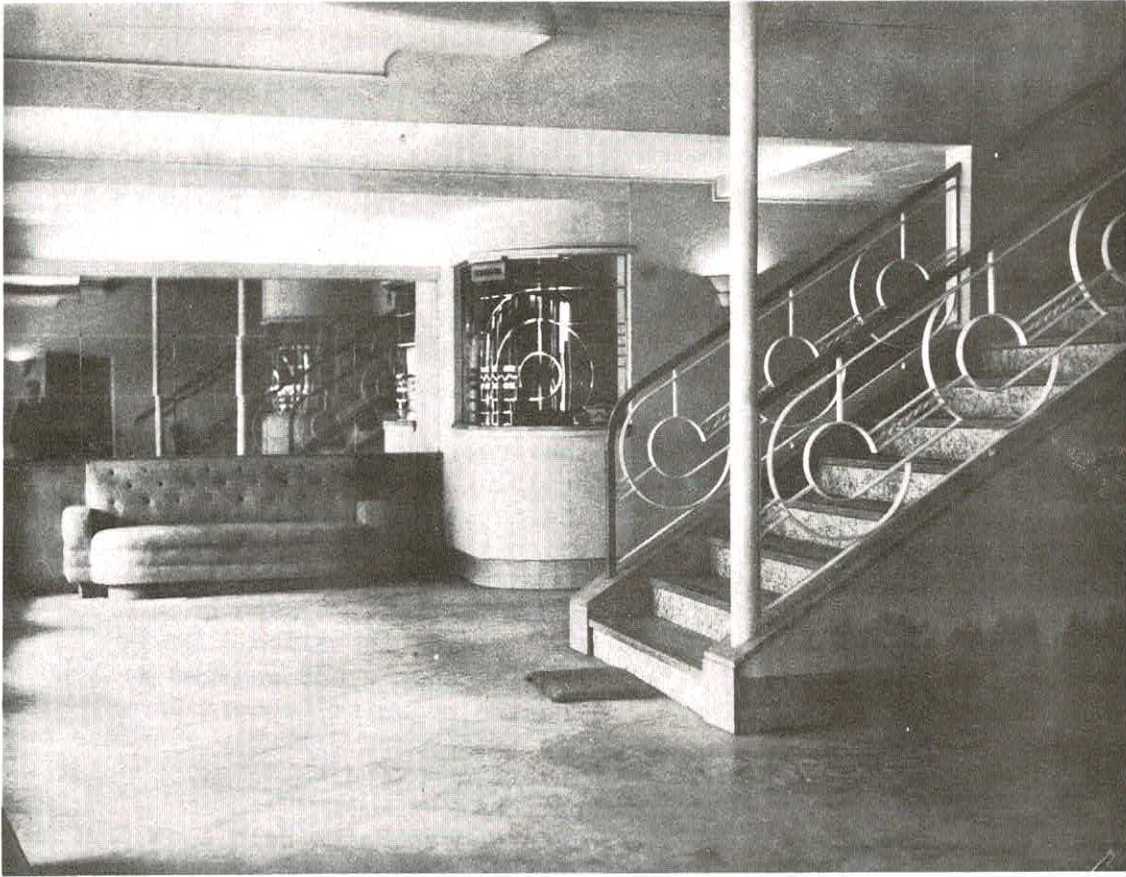
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Presenting: SHOWCASES OF THE PAST
No.8 CAMPSIE ODEON

by - Barry Sharp

Situated in Beamish Street, this theatre had a very old history.

It was first opened as an open air theatre around 1906 and owned by the Slater Bros. The galvanised iron building was given a roof about 1912.

In 1923 it was rebuilt and named "Excelsis". Three Campsie men were business partners in the venture, T. Cooke, C. Dobson, and F. Parle (a Chemist). They spent over %50,000 in the erection and furnishing of the building.

The theatre was taken over by Greater Union in 1948, and this house was the Companies first to be given a postwar modernisation. Lessee of the Odeon, Noel Winter installed a Lowrey - Leslie console and engaged well known theatre organist Reubert Hayes. His Friday and Saturday evenings organ interludes were extremely popular with patrons.

TOSA Member Peter Held also presided at this console for a period.

With the closure of eleven cinemas in surrounding suburbs it was thought that the 'Odeon' would survive and continue to operate.

However with reduced attendances, the Company decided to auction the property the final screening was held in January 1972.

Demolition commenced shortly thereafter and a shopping arcade now occupies the site.

Coming next in this series

THE ASTRA THEATRE, DRUMMOYNE.

ILLUSTRATIONS:

Page 7: Attractive Theatre - the front of Greater Union's Campsie Odeon.

Lobby of the theatre floored with patterned terazzo, the design arranged in squares its colours were enhanced by amber and gold tube lighting.

Page 8: Opening Programme "Excelsis" Theatre

Page 10: Auditorium of the Odeon, its plainness broken by light thoughts and a central architectural ceiling feature.

Reubert Hayes at the console of the Lowrey Organ - Campsie Odeon.

Page 8 : TOSA News, September, 1976.

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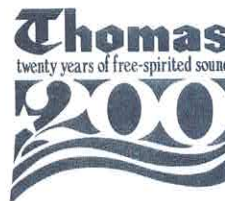
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Letter From Overseas member

My visit to London is, of course, very much concentrated on our mutual interest and even before coming here I knew about the Brentford Piano Museum which has some eighty pianos most of them registering pianos about 30 orchestrions of various makes and the only roll-played Wurlitzer in Europe.

Basically, this is a fairly normal 3/20 unit orchestra, not, however constructed as a theatre organ but as an instrument for use in a private home, and is therefore differently voiced; the tone is not noticeably pleasanter than is usually the case, even allowing for the fact that it could scarcely be more greatly disadvantaged by its installation. The museum is housed in an old church and the organ is placed along one wall, not in chambers, but with each unit placed next to another with excellent windows in each so that the workings can be observed, particularly in the case of the toy counter.

The organ is entirely normal in every respect but has a wooden cabinet about 4' cube which opens on top to reveal a double set-up to play special rolls which besides playing a composition also set the stops and control the swell shutters. The cabinet is connected to the organ's relay box and operates it without any effect on the console, in fact the console is virtually disconnected while playing, although the console stop-tabs will have an overriding effect during a performance.

The organ includes a Steinway Grand piano with special controls in the console to make the piano sound as natural as if it was played directly and this is accomplished to excellence. The rolls also play the piano without the irritating mechanical effect which roll-played pianos so often have. This is mainly because the special controls in the console are operated by slots in the roll. The rolls are all cut by well-known organists.

Hoping the foregoing may be of interest to our members, I am yours organistically,
Frank T. Walker.

ANOTHER DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

A home organ party at the home of Ritchie Willis is Planned for Sunday, 10th October at 2.15 p.m. Ritchie's address is 13 Rosemont Avenue, Mortdale. The featured artist will be Peter Held at the Thomas Lawrence Welk Theatre Organ. Admission will be \$150 and Peter will donate half the proceeds to the Capitol Wurlitzer Organ Restoration Fund. Ring Ritchie now, 57 3581 and reserve your seat, as seating is limited. Be early and avoid disappointment.

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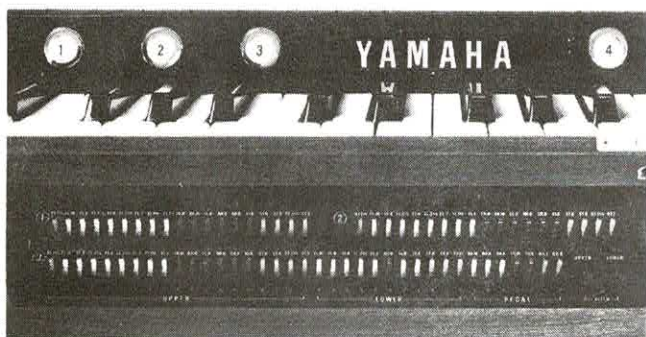
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ON THE SICK LIST

We have had news from Ritchie Willis that member, Ted Seares has been in Royal Prince Alfred Hospital during the past month with a foot complaint. Ted is one of our keenest members, not a musician, but a good listener, and sorry to have missed out on some of our activities. Hope he will be out of hospital soon and back in the circle. Good luck and a speedy recovery.

NEW MEMBERS

Well not what you would call a big batch this month but then we have been relatively inactive with Marrickville Organ out of action and the Winter weather upon us but none the less we extend a warm welcome to two new members, Mr. Charles Large of Mt. Roskill, Auckland, N.Z. and Mrs. D. Wilkinson of Lugarno.

DENNIS & HEIDI JAMES

As mentioned on page 2 of this issue Dennis and Heidi James are coming to Australia and will be presenting a concert for us at Marrickville Town Hall to introduce them to you I am reprinting here a copy of a newspaper review of one of their concerts in Ohio:-

DENNIS JAMES WINS ACCLAIM IN ORGAN 'NOSTALGIA SERIES'

The best, Mmm...dangerous word to use isn't it? the best in Columbus? Nope, too limited. The best of the younger organists? No, that's cowardly, and not true besides. The best heard on the 'Nostalgia Series' presented by the Columbus Association of the Performing Arts?

Well that's closer, but what about all those organists we heard at conventions and on records? He's better than any we've heard on those occasions and a lot of those organists have never appeared on the series at the Ohio Theatre.

No, Let's be forthright about it - Dennis James is the best theatre organist concertizing today. That I've heard. Now you wouldn't begrudge me a little equivocation like 'That I've heard,' would you? How else would I protect myself?

After all I have never heard George Wright, and his supporters are mighty vociferous.

But, with that one small reservation there seems to be little argument that the young organist from Indiana University who was the final event on the Nostalgia Series Saturday night is the brightest shining star in the theatre organ firmament.

A year ago, I would have said James was the best except in the field of silent film accompaniment. Those glorious old-timers, Gaylord Carter Lee Eriwin and Eddie Weaver still had the edge on him.

But in the intervening year, this young artist has evidently applied himself earnestly to this almost vanished art and emerges now as a t master.

James accompaniment to the marvelous early Laurel and Hardy short was brilliant. Precisely timed, expertly constructed musically and full of humorous commentary, his score is worthy of taking its place among any of the great accompaniments of the silent film era. And he's not even 25 years old!

The evening included a good representation of the theatre organist's art; a serious 'classical' work, several highly stylized tunes a Jesse Crawford set, a few novelty numbers and a singalong. And in addition James programs include a specially delightful feature; the appearance of his wife, Heidi as a piano soloist.

Mrs. James is an excellent pianist and gave persuasive account of a List etude. Later, the two collaborated in James' own arrangement of the Warsaw Concerto for piano and organ

Mrs. James played with a fine, passionate flair and fine impressive technical fluency. The organist, in turn, tamed the enormous sound of the Morton organ to achieve a well modulated support for the piano. But I found that, as before, the most remarkable aspect of this young man's remarkable talent is his rhythmic creativity.

Along with his splendid technique, control of timbre and harmonic subtlety is the finest sense of rhythmic organisation and explicit rhythmic realisation to be heard from any theatre organ today.

Sets the pulses racing doesn't it - How about instead of buying your wife a new Theatre Organ recording or a Leslie Speaker for Christmas you think towards buying two tickets for Dennis and Heidi James concert?

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FROM MUSIC BOXES TO STREET ORGANS - Mr. R. de Waard \$7.95

Mr. Romke de Waard several years ago combined his great interest in the instruments with his literary ability and historical knowledge and wrote for the benefit of ours and future generations this wonderful story.