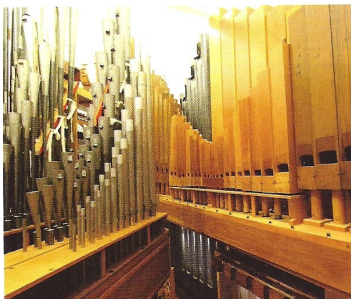
Windline



SOONER STATE CHAPTER
American Theatre Organ Society
Tulsa, Oklahoma
www.theatreorgans.com/SoonerStateATOS

Tulsa Tech - Broken Arrow Campus
4000 West Florence Street, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

"Gospel Music Night"
March 15, 2024 - 7:00 pm

It's time once again for our annual 'gospel music program,' a favorite of our members. And since Easter is in March this year it's very timely for us to celebrate our Christian music heritage!

We are pleased to have guests Gwen Alley and Joseph Bias from Tulsa's First Methodist Church and Joyce Bridgman, professor and leader of keyboard studies at ORU. Carolyn Craft, our 'acting' program chairman and organist at Spirit Life Church, will accompany the singing. Other Chapter members will also participate.

Free Admission
(donations accepted)

"Second Saturday Silents" at the Circle Cinema - 10 S Lewis, Tulsa

March 9, 2024 - Saturday morning at 11:00 am

"Sky High" - starring the great cowboy star **Tom Mix** in this classic film from 1922. Also, a short-short comic film from 1909 will be shown. **The Tom Mix Museum in Dewey, OK is providing memorabilia and artifacts for the public to view and enjoy.**
The silent movie will be accompanied by **Bill Rowland** on the Circle Cinema's original 1928 theatre pipe organ with "walk-in" music by Circle staff organist **Michael Huffman**.

All tickets are FREE, courtesy of Hughes Lumber Company of Dewey and Tulsa

The Sooner State Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is a non-profit corporation under IRS code 501 (c)(3) for the purpose of promoting America's Theatre Organ heritage. Annual membership dues and all donations are used to provide programs and maintain our 1928 Robert Morton theatre pipe organ.

Making the Pipes "Speak"

Hello and I'm wishing each of you a very Happy Easter,

As we enter March of this year, it is interesting and fitting to note that Easter and our annual Gospel Music Program will occur in the same month. Very much looking forward to you joining us with our program which will feature both chapter members and guests presenting an enjoyable evening of vocal, piano, theatre pipe organ, and possibly other instruments with renditions of Gospel music.

As a chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, our mission is to both preserve and promote the theatre organ and its music. With that in mind, I would like to share with you information about the Oklahoma History Center's wonderful WKY 4/14 Kilgen Theatre Pipe Organ Opus 5281 and its related programs.

The organ was built and installed in 1936 by the Kilgen Organ Company of St. Louis for Oklahoma City's Radio Station WKY new studios where it was used for "live aired" programs for about ten years. In 1951, when the radio station moved to a new location, the organ was sold to the City and was installed in the City's Municipal Auditorium where it was used for a variety of programs and concerts.

In 1998, the former Municipal Auditorium (now known as the Civic Center Music Hall) was to be remodeled but the plans did not include the Kilgen. The organ was removed and stored for some future venue.

About the same time, the Oklahoma Historical Society was planning to build the Oklahoma History Center on the State Capitol Complex. The Center was planned to have a large multi-stored atrium along with many large museum exhibit areas for historical displays. OHS Duputy Executive Dr. Bob Blackburn agreed that the Kilgen organ should be part of the Center's exhibits. Funding from many sources evolved for the painstaking total restoration and installation of the organ within the Center's atrium by students and staff of the former American Organ Institute of OU.

For more history about the Kilgen Organ, the documentary "Saved from Silence, Resurrecting an Oklahoma artifact: the WKY Theatre Organ" is available on the Oklahoma Historical Society's YouTube page.

Today this magnificent organ can be heard at select times (basically four times a year). Tedde Gibson, former ATOS president and noted theatre and classical organist provided a masterful accompaniment for the classic drama silent film "Captain January" starring Baby Peggy this past month of February.

The next program will be: April 15 7-8:30pm featuring organist Rosemary Bailey. She is well known not only by her colleagues with the ATOS, but by audiences from around the world. Rosemary possesses "perfect pitch" which allows her to improvise with symphonic orchestras and with various jazz ensembles. Her approach has been labeled unique by critics and purveyors of theatre organ artistry and has been acclaimed by many reviews as outstanding, brilliant, and works of genius. For tickets, call Oklahoma History Center at (405) 522-0765. I highly recommend going to hear this great organ!

Rudy

Rudy Geissler, President

rgeissler@aol.com

918.766.2996