

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

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2008 ATOS Convention ? Day 4

Written by David on July, 7 2008

The Strand Theatre of Shelbyville is highlighting the events of the 2008 American Theatre Organ Society Convention held in Central Indiana in July 2008. Our friends and partners of the Central Indiana Chapter of ATOS are the hosts of this years event. It is a convention that brings theatre organ enthusiasts from all over the world to our part of the country. By the time CIC-ATOS hosts its next convention, the Strand Organ Project should be installed and a venue for the convention. We are grateful to CIC-ATOS to bringing world wide awareness to the great theatre organs in Indiana, but also their help in promoting the Strand and its mission to a wider audience.

Day 4 began with a bus ride from the convention headquarters at the Downtown Hyatt hotel in Indianapolis, to the lovely Paramount Theatre in Anderson. Many of our Strand volunteers have visited the Paramount in the past. The Ebersson designed "atmospheric" theatre is stunning. Our convention guests were impressed.

We heard Strand friend and Shelbyville regular Ken Double at the console of the Page Organ. Ken is no stranger, having spent quite a bit of time at Shelbyville's "other" Uniphone while he was in college. Ken was introduced by his friend and fellow sportscaster Bob Jenkins. He opened with "Back Home Again in Indiana." He played an great concert, continuing the trend of tunes from the 1960's too. Not only is Ken a top notch entertainer (and sportscaster), but he is also the national president of ATOS. Ken has been in the background keeping track of our Strand project from its very beginning. The Strand appreciates the support of Ken through the years in helping us make our theatre organ a reality. Below Strand Volunteer Elizabeth F. catches up with Ken after his concert.

At the concert we caught up with Strand friend Justin N. (a great organ technician too!) and his pal Andrew from Buffalo, NY. Justin entertained at the open console session following the concert and played an impressive set of tunes.

Following the concert and lunch in Anderson, we traveled up I-69 to Fort Wayne. Next stop was the Embassy Theatre, home to its original Page Organ. CIC-ATOS member Mark Herman, and Strand Friend John Ferguson's student, played an excellent program. Mark included a wonderful singer and a special guest appearance by long time Embassy supporter and pianist Dyne Pfeffenberger. Dyne, along with the late Buddy Nolan and Bob Goldstein, accomplished with the Embassy what we strive for at the Strand. It was a magical moment when Dyne played an early Irving Berlin tune on the piano and was joined by Mark playing four hands. It was great to see the two generations of musicians share the same bench and the same enthusiasm for the music and the theatre.

Following dinner, we headed back to the Embassy for a silent film. "The Winning of Barbara Worth" was accompanied by Strand Friend Clark Wilson on the Embassy Page. Clark, as always, did a masterful job of bringing this very dramatic film to life with his expert scoring of the film. A silent film series is one of the things we have to look forward to when our theatre organ is installed.

Also today we hosted the Shelby County Player's first day of their summer acting camp on the Strand stage. They will be in the theatre all week helping introduce young people to the thrill of performing on stage!

Images on this post:



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