

Strand Theatre Shelbyville, Inc.

Old Website Article Backup

Articles prior to December 5, 2018

Theatre organ on the move

Written by David on March, 14 2010

The Strand organ project, endowed by the Shelby County Historical Society, took one step closer to completion on Sunday March 14, 2010. The last know Louisville Pipe Organ Company "Uniphone" theatre organ was moved from its location in Richmond, KY to Shelbyville.

The organ, Opus 519, was originally installed in the Oak Theatre in Louisville, KY. It has been in storage since 1999. Strand volunteers Don Clapp, Bob Schlick, Gordon Hood, Jim Alton, Maurice Finkel and Steve Frazee joined David Finkel and Dave Bottom to remove and transport the instrument back to Shelbyville. The instrument was in two locations. The second location required the bulk of the organ, including the largest and heaviest pieces, to be moved from the second floor. This little fact was accidentally not mentioned before the Strand crew volunteered!

The volunteers left at 7:00 am and the organ was unloaded and palletized by 7:45 pm. That includes the 7 hours of driving necessary to go to Richmond and back. The organ and all its treasure are now safely stored with the other two Uniphones for the Strand project.

This organ was built in 1926. The opportunity to find an organ like this is diminishing with every passing day. This experience, while dirty, heavy and wet, was still an opportunity not to be missed. The real reward will be hearing the organ in the Strand!

(editor's note: for those of you who know theatre organs, you are correct. There are some non-theatre components with our acquisition. At one of the storage units we were required to buy the entire contents. If you need a Kilgen Chest, Hillgreen Lane shades, a small Pilcher console or a big Pilcher reservoir, let us know! They are free for the taking. Thanks to Pete in Louisville who took the 3 manual Kilgen console)

Images on this post:







Archive File: 2010-03-14_theatre-organ-on-the-move.pdf
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