



CITY OF MCKINNEY - ARTS COMMISSION FINAL GRANT REPORT – SUMMARY

Grantee Name: North Texas Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Grant Amount: \$14,250.00

Name of Events: **Silents on the Square** - 10/29/11

“**The Lodger**” featuring Dr. Steven Ball, Organist

Silents on the Square - 03/17/12

4 Comedy Shorts featuring Jim Pitts, Organist

An Armed Forces Salute - 05/19/12

Musical Revue featuring Dave Wickerham, Organist

Summer Sizzle II - 08/25/12

Musical Revue featuring Brett Valliant, Organist

Date of Events: See above

Location of Events: McKinney Performing Arts Center

Total Revenue: Budget - \$ Actual - See P&L attached

(including the grant award)

Total Expenses: Budget - \$ Actual - See P&L attached

Performances 4

Total Attendance 256

Tickets: Sold 146

Tickets: Comp 199

- Did you include in all promotion, publicity and advertising the following line:
“This project is funded in part by the City of McKinney through the City of McKinney Arts Commission” YES NO

If no, why not?

- Did you use the City of McKinney logo on printed material? YES NO

If no, why not?

- How successful was your event in accomplishing the Arts Commission goal **“to create a vibrant and viable arts community in which diverse, high quality arts opportunities are available to McKinney residents and visitors”**.
 Very Successful Somewhat Successful Not Successful

Comments:

Although this is not reflected in our Financial Statements, the Wurlitzer theatre organ at MPAC (which NTC owns and maintains) has generated other monetary as well as social benefits both to MPAC and McKinney. Other groups, such as the McKinney Repertory Theatre, have used the organ in their programs. The organ has also been used in weddings, etc., for which MPAC receives a usage fee. NTC receives no monetary benefit from these activities.

Also, please refer to the F/Y 2011-2012 Narrative.

North Texas Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society
Profit & Loss
October 2011 through September 2012

	Oct '11 - Sep 12
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
400 Contributed support	
Corp/business grants/awards	14,624.23
Indiv/Business Contribution	
Gifts In-Kind	44,471.83
MPAC Wurlitzer Maintenance Fund	30.00
Indiv/Business Contribution - Other	1,054.00
Total Indiv/Business Contribution	45,555.83
Total 400 Contributed support	60,180.06
402 Earned Revenue	
Membership Dues 2012	1,042.50
Total 402 Earned Revenue	1,042.50
404 Interest	1.24
408 Program Events	
CD/DVD Sales	342.00
Concessions	113.00
Ticketing	1,590.00
Total 408 Program Events	2,045.00
Total Income	63,268.80
Gross Profit	63,268.80
Expense	
504 Credit Card Charges	-536.00
508 Misc expenses	
Advertising	583.00
Gifts In-Kind	2,689.00
Insurance - non-employee	2,946.00
Other	5,613.12
508 Misc expenses - Other	36.31
Total 508 Misc expenses	11,867.43
510 Non-personnel expenses	
Equip rental & maintenance	1,309.61
Legal/Accounting services	2,746.00
Organ Upgrade/Maint	20,902.89
Pipe Organ assets storage	4,596.00
Postage, shipping, delivery	467.07
Printing & copying	48.28
Rent	375.00
Supplies	12.99
Telephone & telecommunications	59.70

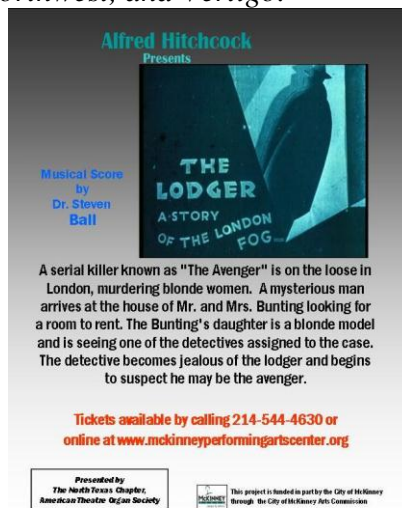
North Texas Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society
Profit & Loss
October 2011 through September 2012

	Oct '11 - Sep 12
Traveling Organ assets storage	1,200.00
510 Non-personnel expenses - Other	195.00
Total 510 Non-personnel expenses	31,912.54
512 Program Events - Expense	
Advertising	2,822.35
Artist Expense Reimb	735.67
Artist Fees	6,340.00
Artist Honorarium	530.00
CD/DVD Sales	296.00
Concessions	59.76
Emcee/Lights/Sound/Stage	2,725.00
Other	6,246.87
Piano Moving/Tuning	1,099.50
Postage, shipping, delivery	106.19
Printing & copying	171.00
Projector/Projectionist	100.00
Rental	
Equipment	125.00
Films	100.00
Theatre	90.00
Total Rental	315.00
512 Program Events - Expense - Other	879.00
Total 512 Program Events - Expense	22,426.34
Total Expense	65,670.31
Net Ordinary Income	-2,401.51
Net Income	-2,401.51

Narrative

The 2011-2012 concert schedule for the chapter saw many advances in our programming as well as technical improvements on the organ itself.

The season began on Saturday October 29 with our traditional Halloween “Silents on the Square” presentation. Our feature this year was the Alfred Hitchcock silent classic *The Lodger*, with music provided by internationally known artist Dr. Steven Ball. This 1927 film set the tone for all of Hitchcock’s future movies. Loosely based on the actual hunt for London killer Jack the Ripper, the story involves a series of unsolved murders of young women on London’s foggy streets. In typical Hitchcock fashion, the actual murderer is not who you think he is. In fact, the plot devices used in this early film would later turn up in most of Hitchcock’s work including *Psycho*, *North by Northwest*, and *Vertigo*.



Dr. Ball’s accompaniment for the movie proved to be so much more than background music. His use of the organ’s lower strings and enhanced bass pedals created a sinister, and downright creepy atmosphere which perfectly matched the action on the screen as the killer plied his trade on the dreary streets of 19th century London. Dr. Ball is an instructor of both theatrical and classical organ music at the University of Michigan. He regularly presents both concerts and silent movies at the historic Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

Also during the month of October the chapter was able to expand its cooperation with other arts organizations in the North Texas area. The drama department at the University of North Texas was producing the classic Edward Albee play *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Wolf*. For one scene they needed a classic doorbell chime to create a special musical sequence. Unable to find anything close to what they needed, they contacted our chapter, and we were more than happy to loan them some classic Wurlitzer chimes from our spare parts bin. Problem solved.

Once again, Christmas was a very special time for our chapter with several of our local artists donating their talents to present several days of holiday music for the shoppers in downtown McKinney. When possible, the music was actually piped outside through the MPAC public address system, much to the delight of the shoppers outside. On more than one occasion, upwards of 50 or so weary shoppers dropped in for the music, tours of the pipe chambers, and a brief lesson on the history of the McKinney instrument.

Also during December, our chapter continued its long relationship with the McKinney Repertory Theater as organist Bob Whiteman added his talents to the MRT's annual production of the Charles Dickens classic *A Christmas Carol*. In addition, our traveling digital theater organ made a trip to Waco where Organist Jim Pitts presented several Christmas concerts and silent films for audiences in that Texas city. Our chapter has a fan base in Waco, some of whom travel to McKinney for our programs on the Wurlitzer.

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With the holidays out of the way, the chapter's attention began to focus on technical issues on the organ itself. Throughout the years we have been fortunate to have so many prominent artists play the McKinney Wurlitzer, and give us their input on improvements aimed at making a good instrument a world class instrument. One particular item often mentioned was the response of the keyboards themselves. A more responsive, individual key contact system was recommended by all of the experts, and to that end, the parts were ordered and the reconstruction began. The project was massive in scope. It took hundreds of hours of rewiring by Ken Brown and reprogramming by Ian Clark to get the job done. The project took several months in all, with various chapter members donating their time in wiring, woodworking, and restructuring the console itself to accept the changes. The work wasn't completed until May.



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Despite the behind the scenes work, the concert schedule continued in March with events planned in several venues in the North Texas area. On March 10 the traveling organ made a trip to the Allen Public Library for a silent film tribute to comedian Charlie Chaplin. The program was conducted by Chaplin biographer and expert Dan Kamin who actually trained actor Robert Downey Jr. for his academy award winning role as Chaplin in the 1992 film. The evening was climaxed with the showing of a short Chaplin film with Bob Whiteman providing the musical accompaniment. Kamin has performed his show all over the country, but oddly enough, never with a real theater organ providing the music. Following the program, Kamin took the time to personally speak with chapter members, and thank us for our participation. He has performed his show hundreds of times, but noted he enjoyed it so much more this time with a real theater organ setting the mood.



On March 17, comedy shorts were again the order of the day at the MPAC auditorium with a “Silents on the Square” presentation of “The Kings of Comedy”. The program contained four classic works featuring Harry Langdon, Charlie Chase, Laurel and Hardy, and Buster Keaton. Organist Jim Pitts provided the musical scores which were uniquely tailored to the different comedy styling’s of each performer. It was impressive to see so many young people attending with their parents and grandparents. All were fascinated by the instrument and its capabilities. Many stayed around after the show to ask questions, and even take a turn at the keyboard themselves.

Kings of Comedy

Saturday, March 17, 2012
McKinney Performing Arts Center
Courtroom Theater
7:30 PM


The **NTC-ATOS** presents the **Silents on the Square** tribute to the *Kings of Comedy* of the silent film era. Whether it's being mistaken for a dangerous criminal, getting a stolen work of art mixed up with a racehorse or trouble with the little woman, life for a silent film comedian was never easy. In four short comedies, stretched out over the heart of the silent era, you'll see that the real original kings of comedy could mine gold out of everyday strife. The comedies will be accompanied on the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ by theatre organist Jim Pitts in the style originally presented in the movie palaces of the 1920's.

See <http://www.ntc-atos.org> for more details.

Tickets: Adults \$12 in advance or \$14 at the door.
Children \$5 in advance or \$6 at the door.
For seniors over 65, admission is **FREE**

**Tickets available by calling 214-544-4630 or
online at www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org**

Presented by
The North Texas Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society

 This project is funded in part by the City of McKinney
through the City of McKinney Arts Commission

Also on March 17, the traveling organ hit the road again in Corsicana with chapter organist Al Cavitt performing a concert and silent movie presentation for the regional members of the International Order Of Odd Fellows lodge and their families. Many had never seen either a silent movie or a theater organ, but all were impressed with the instrument and how it contributed to the overall presentation.

Although it didn't happen in McKinney, one significant event did take place in Hollywood which made somewhat of a local impact. The Academy Award for best picture was awarded to the film, *The Artist* which was filmed in black and white, and became the first general release silent movie made since the late 1920s. If nothing else, it raised public awareness of silent movies and their musical scores as noted by more than a few new attendees to our programs.

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The month of May got off to a very prestigious start with a special meeting of the professional society, the American Guild of Organists. NTC chapter member, and AGO Dean Benjamin Kolodziej presented the silent film *The Parson's Widow* for a nearly packed house at the MPAC auditorium. The 1920 film was produced in Norway, and depicts the life of a young minister who applies for a position as pastor of a small church in the late 1700's. He will get the job, with only one catch. He has to marry the previous pastor's wife. She has already sent three previous ministers to the grave! The program was a huge success. Kolodziej is a professor of music at SMU, and serves as the resident organist at the university's Perkins Chapel. Keeping with the theme of the movie, his program featured the music of Edward Grieg, and other Norwegian composers.

The AGO is a large national organization whose local chapter is comprised of music teachers, students, and church organists from all over the Dallas-Ft, Worth area. The McKinney program got national publicity in several musical publications.

Our May 15 “Tribute to our Armed Forces” was much anticipated and worth the wait. This variety show featured world class organist Dave Wickerham, the Frisco Jazz Band, The Andrews Sisters tribute group the “Sorta” Sisters



and various soloists. In addition to patriotic music, the program featured music by American composers. Organist Wickerham literally brought down the house with his footwork on the American Eagle March, George Gershwin medley, and his tribute to our space program featuring a dramatic arrangement of themes from *Star Trek to Star Wars*. The Frisco Jazz Band’s tribute to the five branches of the military brought the audience to its feet. Again, the Sorta sisters completely charmed listeners with the classic World War II hit *Rum and Coca Cola* and other Andrews Sisters selections. This was the second year for the armed forces show, and it proved to be a bigger hit than last year.

It is worth noting this was the first concert performed after all of the upgrades had been completed on the organ. Organist Wickerham, who was the 2010 Theater Organist of the year, and has performed concerts all over the world, gave the improved instrument an “A plus” saying just a few additional improvements are needed to indeed make the McKinney organ world class.

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The Mighty Wurlitzer was busy once again in early August as organist Bob Whiteman joined again with the McKinney Repertory Theater for their summer melodrama. The organ provided a perfect musical match for the intentionally corny plays and the popcorn throwing audience. This year’s production was the final part of a three part series highlighting the residents of a rural Texas town and the impossible situations they get themselves into during the course of a normal day. Bob has provided the music for all three productions.

The NTC-ATOS Presents

Summer Sizzle II

At the McKinney Performing Arts Center
Saturday 25th August at 7:30pm

From Classical to Pop, we have taken nationally known talent and locally grown talent to shake up a cocktail of good music to delight your auditory senses on a hot Texas summer eve.

Take a break from the Texas heat and join us at the McKinney Performing Arts Center to listen to some SIZZLING good music

Featuring



Exciting young, nationally known artist **Brett Valliant**
<http://www.brettvalliant.com>



Dallas based Musician/Composer/Arranger **Danny Wesley Ray**
www.atos.org/artists/ray

Plus
Introducing talented youth artists from the North Texas area for your listening pleasure.

Saturday August 25, 2012 at 7:30PM
in the Courtroom Theater of the McKinney Performing Arts Center
111 N. Tennessee St.

Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door.
Kids 12 and under are \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.
Senior 65 and older free with ticket.
Tickets & Information: 214-544-4630
Also see www.ntc-atos.org
or www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org

This project is funded in part by the City of McKinney through the City of McKinney Arts Commission
The NTC-ATOS is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) corporation, EID #D2-780700 Texas Charter number 0028626-01

Our final chapter presentation of the year took place on August 25th, and could be summed up with one simple sentence. Any program that has the campy 1960's pop hit *Winchester Cathedral* and Rossini's operatic overture to *The Thieving Magpie* in the same program has got to be a hit. And of course it took the musical genius of our own resident composer and performer Danny Wesley Ray to pull it all together. "Summer Sizzle Two" featured theater organist extraordinaire Brett Valliant with Danny at the grand piano. The program took the audience on a musical trip around the world featuring appropriate selections from every part of the globe.



Again, the program featured young performers from around the McKinney and Collin county area, who proved to be a big hit with the audience. High school clarinetist Andrew Clark started the musical tour right here in Texas with native son Scott Joplin's most well known ragtime

piece, *The Entertainer*. Ray and Valliant provided an accompaniment worthy of the soundtrack of the 1973 motion picture *The Sting*, which popularized the early 20th century two-step. Middle School dancer and singer Stevie Michel demonstrated a voice and poise far beyond her years as she danced the Mexican hat dance and sang two folk selections, both in Spanish. The around the world tour included solos by both of the featured artists, and was concluded with a medley of Disney show tunes sung by the Summer Sizzle Two chorus of middle and high school talent.

Of course, just in case things got too serious, tuba soloist Jamie Rawson had the audience in stitches with his accompaniment on *Winchester Cathedral* and his solo of *The Lonely Goatherd* from Rodgers and Hammerstein's hit musical *The Sound of Music*.

The program was the most well attended of the season, and the artists were kept busy long after the closing number answering audience questions about the organ and its many voices. Mr. Valliant, who is one of the most talented and serious artists on the national circuit never stopped smiling throughout the entire program. It was pure entertainment, and a wonderful way to close a great season as we look forward to the upcoming year.