

# *En Chamade*

Newsletter of the Northwest Arkansas Chapter,  
American Guild of Organists

May 2019



## **SOUNDS OF THE SILENT SCREEN**

Saturday, May 18, 9:30 a.m.

First United Presbyterian Church

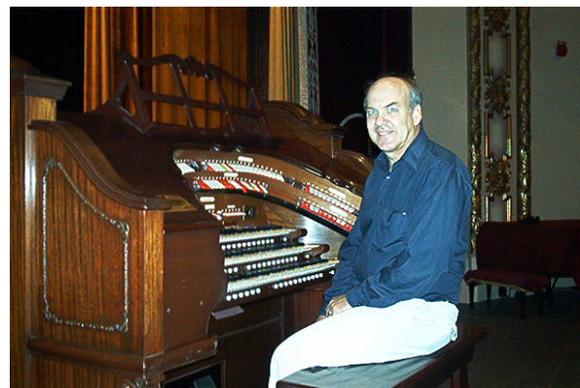
695 E. Calvin Street

Fayetteville, Arkansas

The Northwest Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists welcomes Bill Rowland of the American Theatre Organ Society, who will present a lecture and film-screening on Saturday morning, May 18. Hosted by First United Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, Rowland will first recount the history and techniques of organ accompaniment to silent films in the early 20th century before delighting us with an accompaniment to a Buster Keaton film. Please join us in the courtyard at 9:30am for light refreshments (including popcorn, of course!) before the official program begins at 10:00am in the sanctuary. The presentation is free and open to the public! For more information, contact Jeannie Lee at 479-283-5500.

On his website Mr. Rowland states, *"I am a retired computer programmer, although my first love is music. I have been playing piano since I was three years old, and writing music since I was about fifteen. One of my early passions was Ragtime, and I have written many rags in the classic style over the years. I started writing choral music in 1983, and have had several anthems published by Abingdon Press. I also have a deep and abiding interest in theatre organs and their music, and am past president of the Tulsa chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society."*

Come out and enjoy this diversely talented man as he shares his passion with us. And please forward the attached poster to your church choirs and other interested friends!



*Bill Rowland at the Wurlitzer Console*

## ***March Meeting Recap...***

A group of five gifted John Brown University piano students had an enjoyable introduction to organ playing on March 30. Their piano professor, Dr. Paul Whitley, hosted them at Grace Episcopal Church in Siloam Springs, where he serves as Associate Organist.

The morning began as Ernest Whitmore gave a brief introduction to the history, the construction, the sounds, the stop categories, and the mathematics of the pipe organ. Then Dr. Whitley highlighted the stylistic differences in organ touch vs. piano. He also wowed us all with the Bach *Fugue á la Gigue*.

Students had been instructed to bring an appropriate piano piece from their current repertoire with which to experiment on registration, manual changes, and even some pedal usage. Each student also selected a hymn to “play around with”.

The spirited group interacted comfortably throughout the morning, encouraging each other as they experienced the “weird” sensations of the new instrument. While none indicated an immediate intention to change majors to organ performance (☺), we should probably not be surprised in the future to see some church staff rosters listing a Garrett, Hannah Beth, Job, Julia, or Shawna as their organists.