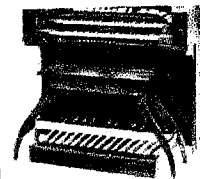


ORGAN NOTES



FOR SCHOBER ORPHANS AND FRIENDS

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OVERTURE

Disclaimer:

We accept no responsibility for any unfavorable consequences resulting from following our advice

I would love to say "I hope you had a wonderful Summer", but no matter how nice it might have been for any of us, the horrid events of September 11 just makes everything personal seem unimportant. I hope that time will lessen the pain of those who lost loved ones and I thank those who rescued, helped, gave blood, gave aid or comfort.

MINI SELF-PORTRAIT OF ERIC JOHNSON

You have asked for "background" stories about Schober owners and thought, what the heck, I'll put in

my not-very-exciting tale for posterity: I first became interested in pipe organs through my exposure to them at our church in Spokane, Washington my hometown. As a kid I was of course impressed with the sheer immensity of sound that one person could produce! And all those buttons and switches! A few years later on I acquired a recording of E. Power Biggs playing Bach on the old organs of Europe and was hooked for life. I would listen to that record over and over until it just about wore out. From that time on it became my goal to learn to play the Toccata in D minor and all the rest myself.

My father bought a small Wurlitzer spinet (he still has it in his home), this was probably around 1966 or so, and I began noodling around with it.

That summer we vacationed in Nebraska and my grandmother gave me a music book with simplified arrangements of Bach compositions. Without the benefit of lessons I learned two of the pieces and shortly after began lessons.

Well, a spinet with a one octave pedalboard didn't stay satisfying for long. Right about 1969 or so I came across an ad in the back of Popular Science magazine for Schober kit electronic organs. We wrote for the catalog and information. As I recall, my parents gave me for my birthday the first of many kits leading to the completion of a full AGO conforming instrument! It took about a year and the work of myself, my brothers and my father to get it all together. We had regular assembly lines going for soldering and assembling the circuit boards. I still remember how we all waited for the UPS guy to deliver the keyboards and final assembly kits. After fixing a few bugs we had it going and I had an instrument to play and practice on.

Eventually I learned enough to become organist at our church and continue to work at that yet today. However, the old Schober began to deteriorate, and of course Schober ceased to exist. For many years the Schober sat in the basement, or, after I left home for

ire on my own, in my garage. I wanted to get it going again and bring it back to life but had no idea where to go for help! With the advent of the Internet I began searching for anybody who might have info on parts and repair on the old Recital. I came across Devtronix and wrote Ray. He at that time did not have any more parts to sell since he had run out of the proper chips to use but suggested the Schober Orphans and also gave me several other ideas for fixing up the old instrument. The path I chose to follow was to take out the old tone generators and install one of Ray's MIDI systems.

Once done, I hooked up to an Ahlborn expander unit, a digital reverb, and voila!--a terrific sounding instrument, brought back to life! Yeah, I know it isn't quite the same, probably not for a Schober purist (if there is such a being) but now my son is playing and I use it for practice, for fun, and for recording hymns and liturgical music for use in a congregation in a small town near my home in Richland, WA. I still need to improve the pedalboard keying system. Those old copper springs and whatnot keep going out of whack. I have been out of touch with the Schober group for a while but I just got somewhat up to date via the web site. I was very sad to read about the passing of Ray Devault.

Well, that went on longer than intended! Anyway, Mr. Devault was most gracious in helping me out and I am glad to see from a past Newsletter that the company will be taken over and continue operation. Thanks for your work for the group Alex.

PLEASE.

I travel from New York to Vermont and back. Some of my Schober "stuff" is here, the rest there. So, some notes I take may be forgotten in one place, the same with e-mail. What I have on one computer is sometimes not transferred to the other. So, please, if I forget to send you something, do something I said I would or whatever, please remind me.

INFORMATION WANTED

Our member, Bill Bruce wrote to me. He was in contact, years ago, with another member of our group, Dr. Edward Peterson who was going to write a book about organs. Does anyone know if Dr. Peterson ever wrote his book? If you know anything, please let Bill know at bravopapa@ap.net. I would also like to know. If you don't have e-mail, write to me and I will relay the information to Bill.

Disclaimer:
Any deals, making of payments, receipt of payments or verifications are strictly your responsibility.

ADS

Recital For Sale

Schober Recital model with combination action, LLS-10 Speaker and 3 brand new Devtronix tone generators assembled but never installed. One new Devtronix Reverberation unit (installed), One +15 Volt DC Power supply (never installed), Maas-Rowe tubular chimes 21 note with keyboard installed on organ. Asking \$1500 or BO for everything. You must provide pickup transportation. Reply to:
Peter Westra,
Newton, NJ
Tel.: 973-383-9458,
Email: woodenshoes70@hotmail.com

Free Theatre

A three manual Theatre Schober with chimes is available from:
Tom Hettus,
RR 3 Box 360
Greentown, PA 18426 (25 miles east of Scranton),
Tel.: 570-857-1154

Free Theatre

A Theatre Schober (does not work) with all manuals, testers, etc., is available in the Rochester, NY area.
Contact Faith Steves
Email: StevesF250@aol.com

Wanted

A solid state reverb is needed for a Schober organ John Sherman is restoring for a church. Contact him at: Tel.: 804-384-2403, or Email: johnsher@aol.com

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