

# The Console

The console is the control center of the organ, in theaters this was the only part of the organ that was actually visible to the audience. Our Wurlitzer console was built in 1929 for the Seneca Theater in Buffalo, NY. It has had several homes since then, most recently the Avalon Theater in Milwaukee.

The rows of multi-colored tabs are called Stops, these turn on ranks of pipes in the chambers. The colors are: red for reed and brass sounds; yellow for string sounds; white for flutes, diapasons, and percussion; and black for coupling one keyboard to another. The organists can pre-select combinations of these stops, which can be recalled at the push of a button. Also controlled from the console are buttons, pedals, and switches for various sound effects (bird whistles, sirens, door bells, etc.), and theatrical lighting effects.

## **The Console has:**

Three 61-note Keyboards

One 32-note Pedal board

234 Multi-Colored Stop tabs

136 Other Miscellaneous Controls (Combination Pistons, Sound Effects, Lighting Controls, etc.)

*With a Grand Total of 584 controls at the organists' fingertips (or feet!)*

## **The Wind System:**

All of the air which feeds the organ is produced by a 10 horsepower blower made by the Spencer Turbine Company of Hartford, CT. The pressurized air is transmitted through large ducts to various regulators which can be seen near the floor of the organ chambers. These regulate the static pressure from the blower down to pressures which the pipes require to speak. The larger regulators feed several sets of pipes, the smaller ones generally only feed one set of pipes.

From there, pressure is fed into the wind-chests on which the pipes sit. Under each and every pipe, there is a small electro-magnet and a series of valves which are activated when the organist plays that note and stop combination.

The other crucial components of a theater organ wind system are the tremulants. These devices exhaust air at regular intervals which fluctuate the air pressure to the pipes, creating vibrato as in a human singing voice. This fluctuation causes the regulators to "bounce" as they attempt to steady the wind pressure at the pipes.

The picture below was taken under the wind-chests in our main chamber. The objects with the springs are two of the regulators and the wooden boxes in the foreground with the holes in the tops are tremulants.

# Specifications

Solo Chamber	Main Chamber
Leiblich Flute - W	Vox Humana - W
Viol D'Orchestre - W	Concert Flute - W
Viol Celeste - W	Musette - K
Quintadena - W	Tibia Clausa - W
Trumpet - Trivo	Flute Celeste - W
Vox Humana - W	Tuba Horn - W
Kinura - K	Oboe Horn - W
Orchestral Oboe - K	Violin - K
Horn Diap. Celeste - K	Horn Diapason - K
Saxophone - K	Violin Celeste - K
Violin Cello - K	Clarinet - K
Tibia Clausa - W	
Violin Celeste - K	
Diaphonic Diapason - K	
Tuba Mirabilis - W	
Eng. Post Horn - Moller	
Mixture III Rks. – Wangrin	

<b>Toy Counter 1:</b>		<b>Tuned Percussion</b>
(above piano)		Cathedral Chimes
Bass Drum		Chrysoglott
Timpani Roll		Marimba
Tambourine		Glockenspiel
Snare Drum		Xylophone
Car Horn		Tuned Sleigh Bells
Triangle 1		Upright Piano
Wood Block 1		
Castanets 1		<b>Toy Counter 2:</b>
Horse Hoof 1		(Right Side)
Fire Gong		Yoke Tambourine
Door Bell		Splash Cymbal
Bird 1		Choke Cymbal
Train Whistle		Finger Cymbal
Acme Whistle		Wood Block 2
Tap Cymbal		Sleigh Bell Strap
Crash Cymbal		Horse Hoof 2
		Cow Bell
<b>Toy Counter 3:</b>		Bird Whistle 2
(Left Side)		Police Whistle
Triangle 2		Chinese Gong
Wood Block 3		Roll Cymbal
Castanets 2		Wind Chimes
Horse Hoof 3		Ship Bell
Slap Stick		
Telephone Bell		
Party Horn		
Raspberry		
Tom Tom		
Slide Whistle		
Boat Whistle		
Duck		