

**THE PROVIDENCE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER ANNOUNCES  
THE SPRING 2008 BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF RHODE  
ISLAND "WONDERS OF THE WURLITZER" ORGAN CONCERTS  
*A PPAC Annual Fund Program***

*Providence, RI* - The Providence Performing Arts Center is pleased to announce the Spring 2008 schedule for the Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island Wonders of the Wurlitzer organ concerts this April, May, and June. The concerts run from Noon - 1P and are free and open to the public.

Wonders of the Wurlitzer is a time-honored tradition in the City of Providence; people of all ages are welcome to attend and enjoy local organists demonstrating the impressive and rich sounds of this rare and mighty instrument. The concerts are scheduled throughout the spring and fall and are supported by Providence Performing Arts Center's Annual Fund donors and our sponsors.

The Spring 2008 Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island Wonders of the Wurlitzer Organ Concerts schedule, with organists, is as follows:

- Monday, April 21, *with Patrick Aiken*
- Monday, April 28, *with Jack Cook*
- Monday, May 12, *with Len Beyersdorfer*
- Monday, May 19, *with Jim and Linda Duncan*
- Wednesday, May 28, *with Alden Mitchell*
- Wednesday, June 4, *with Robert Legon and Silent Film*

The concerts are from Noon - 1P and are free to the public. Patrons are welcome to bring a bag lunch; complimentary beverages will be provided. For additional information, call (401) 421-ARTS or visit [ppacri.org](http://ppacri.org) for details and updates.

Theatre organs, like the Wurlitzer, were originally designed to replace theatre orchestras. The console has five keyboards and 21 stops (or settings) that will produce the many instrumental sounds found in a full orchestra, including string, bass, woodwinds, drums, cymbals, xylophone and glockenspiel. The Wurlitzer organ is also capable of producing many different sound effects, such as thunder and a doorbell, used when accompanying silent films. Operated by a single artist, any ordinary organ concert can be magically transformed into a majestic symphony.

In the early years of the Providence Performing Arts Center, organ music was an integral part of performances. PPAC's first organ, a Morton, remained with the Theatre until the hurricanes of 1938 and 1954, which flooded downtown Providence. During those two storms, the organ sustained severe damage and had to be removed in 1956, ending the era of organ music in the Theatre. On January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1982 the lost era was reborn when PPAC purchased the 5/21 Wurlitzer organ that resides in the Theatre today. Originally from Chicago's Marbro Theatre, the Providence Performing Arts Center's Wurlitzer organ was built in 1927 and is one of only three of its type ever built.

The schedule for the Fall 2008 Wonders of the Wurlitzer organ concerts will be announced at a later date.

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### **About PPAC**

Tickets for all shows can be purchased at PPAC's Box Office window, online at [ppacri.org](http://ppacri.org), or by calling (401) 421-ARTS. Discounted admission is available for groups of 20 or more; for more information, contact Paul Hiatt at [groups@ppacri.org](mailto:groups@ppacri.org) or by calling (401) 574-3162. Log onto [ppacri.org](http://ppacri.org) for more information on the 2007/2008 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season.