

# THE AMICA



AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN



## The Orguinette.

**It Plays Everything. Anybody Can Play It.**

Large Pipe Organs, Pianos and Reed Organs may all be seen operating mechanically as Orguinettes and Musical Cabinets, at the most novel and interesting music warerooms in the world.

**Prices, \$8.00 and upwards,  
LARGE INSTRUMENTS, \$60.00 TO \$2,500.**

**No. 831 BROADWAY,**  
NEW YORK  
Bet. 12th and 13th Streets,  
**THE MECHANICAL ORGUINETTE CO.**  
Call and see them or send for Circular.



Gem of Musical Wonders.

THE  
**Marvelous ORGANINA**

At **THEO. J. HARBACH'S**  
1223 Chestnut St. and 809 Filbert St  
PHILADELPHIA, PA

# Pacific Can-Am Chapter Report

Reporter Marc J. Sachnoff

The Pacific Can-Am Chapter held our final meeting of the year at the home of Marc and Lynn Sachnoff in the Ballard neighborhood of Seattle. The weather cooperated and the sun peeked out welcoming 18 members and guests.

Members came from as far as Portland, Oregon to share news, updates, and instruments that have become available in our area. A lively piano roll exchange took place on the porch while many holiday rolls were played on the Sachnoff's 1928 Mason and Hamlin Ampico and 1925 Steinway Duo-Art upright.

Warren Scott, who presented a workshop on his laser-driven perforator at the recent AMICA convention, brought several new piano roll arrangements of modern pop tunes he cut this year. After a holiday sing-along we were all treated to a full length performance of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite on the Mason and Hamlin Ampico.

New officers were announced including David Goodwin as Secretary, Bill Mote as Vice President and Marc Sachnoff as chapter President. Thanks and kudos were made to our graduating officers. Plans are being made for a new schedule of chapter meetings in 2026.



# MIDWEST CHAPTER Visit to Dundee, Michigan

Reporter: Christy Counterman

Photos by Christy Counterman and Chapter President Gary Rasmussen

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, AMICA and MBSI members and guests visited the collection of B and Maria Bronson in Dundee. We were happy to see friends that we haven't visited with in many years! The Bronsons demonstrated their huge collection of music boxes and mechanical music machines including a Mills Double Violano for which Dave Calendine arranged the theme from *The Little Rascals*. Around the perimeter of the building, instruments included a Wurlitzer 157, and Arburo and Decap dance organs. Surrounding the instruments were collections of phonograph needle tins, mechanical music advertising, coin boxes, music box discs and other musical memorabilia, something for all collectors to enjoy! B shared the history of many of the machines while playing music on each.

If the instrument room wasn't spectacular enough, we walked through a corridor into the adjacent "John Rogers Room" named for the American sculptor who pioneered a method of replicating bronze sculptures in plaster. Most of the Bronson collection depicts Civil War themes, created by Rogers from 1860-1893. The sculptures were never meant to be painted, though later collectors added colors to some in the 1950s. These artworks surrounded the comfortable theater room, home to the 10-rank, 3-manual Wurlitzer theater organ. B and his dad did most of the work restoring the organ, with advice from well-known organist Lyn Larsen. Member Dave Calendine gave us a quick selection of "Moonlight Serenade" accompanied by the rotating mirror ball overhead.

At the front of the room, B showed his amazing collection of early electrical devices with glowing bulbs, rotating lights and early cathode ray tubes. We then had a brainstorming session for possible convention locations and attractions for 2027. Then we split up for dinner, many of us went into Dundee to eat at The Social House.

Returning to the "John Rogers Room" after dinner, Dave Calendine, organist for the National Hockey League's Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Tigers baseball club, treated us to a concert featuring "Misty," "Yellow Bird" and "Chattanooga Choo-Choo." The highlight of the evening was the organ accompaniment of the Laurel and Hardy silent film "Battle of the Century." The battle turned out to be an enormous pie fight on the streets of Los Angeles. When it was filmed in 1927, they used 3000 real lemon meringue pies baked by the L.A. Pie - a business featured in the movie. The pie fight scene was done in 3 takes, with the L. A. Fire Department hired to hose down the streetscape in between takes as the sticky lemon goo attracted bees!

We thank our hosts for a wonderful day, after which we adjourned to our hotels. In the morning we were surprised to find our cars covered in snow, an early season surprise which made our journeys home a bit challenging!



*B Bronson demonstrates the upright Regina Style 34 changer for the appreciative group. The inset photo shows the machine in detail.*



*Dave Calendine plays "Yellow Bird" on the Wurlitzer, which was largely restored by B Bronson and his dad.*



*Our group enjoys a musical tour of the many instruments in the Bronson collection.*



*In the late 1890's, these inventions demonstrated the properties of electricity and early cathode ray tubes.*



*This is just a fraction of the Bronsons' display of phonograph needle tins and related advertising.*



*A close up of the Decap playing "A Spoonful of Sugar" – part of a medley featuring its 3 accordions.*



*Jerry Biasella, who traveled all the way from Chicago with recent Chicago Convention host Kurt Kresmery, shows just how big the giant handmade AMPICO roll is. It was rumored to be a Halloween costume.*



*The John Rogers Room was large enough for our whole group to gather before the debut of a silent movie.*



*The LINK Piano-Mandolin from Binghamton, NY features a beautiful landscape of leaded glass. It was acquired from Tom's Musical Wonderland by B's dad and brought to Michigan in a snowstorm.*



*Maria Bronson cranks "Puttin' On the Ritz" on the Pell.*



*This Oak Style 39 Regina 20 3/4" music box was shipped to Pittsburgh, PA on March 16, 1900. It was sold at the C.C. Mellor store, which later carried player pianos and phonographs. Mellor's was known as Pittsburgh's first music store.*



*While playing this highly carved Wurlitzer CX, B pointed out the Wonderlamp, a multicolored twirling combination of light bulbs and reflectors at the top of the machine.*



*We were happy to catch up with several members we haven't seen in years! Mary Zamba, Nan Flint and Silvi Caporale stand with Maria Bronson in front of the Mills Double Violano.*



*Many of us gathered for dinner at The Social House in Dundee before the organ concert and silent movie.*

# Northern Lights Chapter

Photos & Report by Tracy and Merrie Tolzmann

**T**he Northern Lights Chapter of AMICA and the Snowbelt Chapter of MBSI travelled south, nearly to the Iowa border, to meet at the Glenville, Minnesota home of **Cheryl and Kiven Lukes** on Sunday, November 23rd for our annual Holiday Party.

The Lukes' are hog farmers with much of their livestock destined for the Spam facility in nearby Austin. The gathering got underway in the Lukes' music building at Noon with members checking-in and paying 2026 dues (\$5 per household!). Each member's name badge was adorned with a different cartoon pig in red and white holiday attire!

As the 32 members and guests enjoyed *hors d'oeuvres*, **Cheryl and Kiven's** friend **Sue Radloff** serenaded the gathering on the violin. Sue is Concertmaster of the Austin Symphony Orchestra and co-Chair of the Friends of the ASO. Kiven is co-President of the symphony. Sue's beautiful renditions of familiar violin melodies were the perfect *appetizers* for the automatic music wonders in the Lukes' collection that we would enjoy hearing after lunch.

Cheryl and the Lukes' son **John** prepared a delicious dinner of barbeque ribs (pork, of course!) and roast chicken, with mashed potatoes, asparagus, salad, rolls and butter. There were plenty of beverages on hand, and a delectable array of tempting desserts awaited those that saved room for the treats!

Following dinner, the musical tour started with an instrument that undoubtedly started many others' collections, a **15½-inch Regina Disc Music Box**. The beautiful tones of the instrument were lovely.

Next was the 1925, 5'7" **Steinway Duo-Art XR Reproducing Piano**. The instrument came from an estate in Skokie, IL, and was restored over a year's time by **Pettit Piano** of Eyota, MN, and our late AMICA member **Don Barton** of Minneapolis. The project was finished in 2007.

Another "collection-starter" type of instrument was the foot-pumped **Cable Player Piano**. The 1909 piano was restored by Don Barton in 2010.

Kiven next talked about the **Seeburg KT** nickelodeon, sometimes called the "**Seeburg Eagle**" after its art glass front. The G-roll-operated instrument features piano with automatic mandolin effect, xylophone, castanets, triangle, and tambourine. Popular in the Roaring Twenties, the pianos were often used in speakeasies and the polar opposite facilities, ice cream parlors! Kiven's KT was restored in 2006 by the late dual-chapter member **Don Cunderla**.

Kiven's **Wurlitzer Pianino** was built in 1913. The 44-note piano features a mandolin rail, 21 flute pipes and 21 violin pipes. The Pianino experienced many years of production as a very popular and affordable instrument for commercial operations. It was restored by the **Jensen Player Piano Company** of Wichita, Kansas, in 2007.

Next on the tour was the **Losche Solo Piano** restored by **Tom Kuehn**. Nicknamed "**Lazarus**" because it had been through a fire and was considered a lost cause, the beautiful piano features violin, flute, and clarinet pipes. Tom added the side cabinets for roll storage. The story on Tom's restoration of the Losche is in the MBSI's *Mechanical Music*, Vol. 65, No. 2, March-April 2019.

In his role as co-President of the Austin Symphony Orchestra, Kiven and Cheryl have hosted many fundraising events in their music building and have had numerous visiting guest concert pianists play their **1929, 9-foot Steinway D Concert Grand Piano**, they then sign the piano's harp! The instrument was restored by **Dennis Chup** in New Paris, Indiana, and features a **Pianomation** system using music from the **QRS** library, specially-formatted Pianomation files, or MIDI files. The Lukes' acquired the piano from an estate in Kansas in 2015.

Our final stop in the music building was the **48-key Wilhelm Bruder & Sons Model 79 fair organ, type D**. Once in the U.S., it was converted to play 61 key Artizan rolls. It spent its working life with the **Kissel Brothers Amusement Company** in the Ohio area where duplex roll frames allowed for continuous play. It eventually was part of the **Charles Sebastian** collection where it was renamed after his wife, **Marianne**. The organ is on loan from **Dale and Elaine Lukes'** collection (Kiven's folks).

The party moved out of the music building and across the property to the house, where more treasurers were awaiting. The mild afternoon weather made for a pleasant walk. First was an early 1800s key wind **Nicole Freres Cylinder Music Box** displayed in the dining room. It played 6 tunes on its 13-inch cylinder.

A presentation box made by **B. A. Bremond** for Mr. G.H. Buswell of Boston in the mid-1800s was next. It is a Longue Marche ratchet wind box playing 6 tunes on a fat cylinder with 144 teeth. The tune sheet claims it is extra forte.

An upright **Polyphone Music Box** plays 22.5-inch discs and features glockenspiel. It sits on a cabinet where the extra discs are stored.

A **Stella Model 150 Concert Disc Music Box** in the den played 15.5-inch discs. Made by **Mermond Freres** of St. Croix, Switzerland, it has two combs set at 90 degrees to one another and is in original unrestored condition.

Nearby, an **Ammonite** is displayed. The fossilized mollusks were predators 140-million years ago and were found in the Ural Mountains of Morocco. Kiven's interest in ancient artifacts is also displayed in the music building, where filter-feeding Crinoids from about 340-million years ago are on exhibit!

A **Mira Music Box** in the living room was purchased from **Nancy Fratti** during the St. Paul MBSI convention in 2023. It is an 18.5-inch console with an exceptionally resonant sound.

A **Kawai model RX7, 7 ½ foot Semi-Concert grand** in the living room features a **Performance LX player system** made by **Wayne Stanke**, one of the last he sold before he sold the system to Steinway to be the basis of their Spirio line.

Everyone returned to the music building where a **"Show & Tell"** session was held with members bringing small items of interest to share and demonstrate.

The afternoon ended with a sneak peak at a new installation-in-progress: a Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ. We look forward to returning to the Lukes' when the organ is up and running!



*Snowbelt holiday meeting hosts Cheryl & Kiven Lukes.*



*Austin Symphony Orchestra  
Concertmaster Sue Radloff.*



*left to right: Ralph & Carol Schultz, Pat Kreuziger, and Kiven's folks, Elaine & Dale Lukes. In the background are Kiven's vintage pinball machines which were tuned off until after the tour.*



*Detail on the B.A. Bremond Presentation Box.*



The Lukes' served a wonderful chicken and BBQ pork dinner.



Left to right, a Regina 27-inch Changer, "Seeburg Eagle" KT, and the Wurlitzer Pianino.



Above & below: The Losche Solo Piano "Lazarus," restored by Tom Kuehn.



Kiven talks about the 15.5-inch Regina Music Box, an instrument that started many collections.



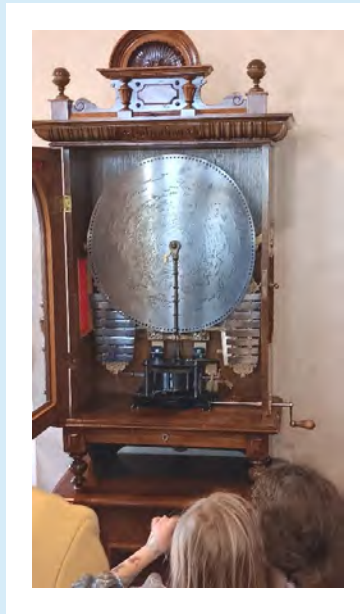
5'-7" Steinway Duo-Art XR from 1925.



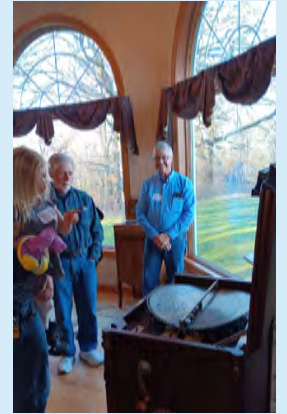
Many visiting concert pianists for the Austin Symphony Orchestra sign the Lukes' 1929 9-foot Steinway D Concert Grand piano's harp.



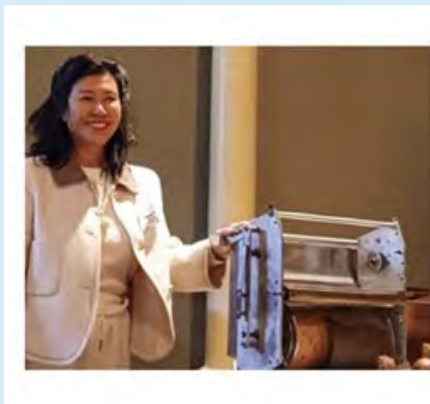
The 140-million-year-old Ammonite -- a fossilized mollusk from in the Ural Mountains of Morocco.



The 22.5-inch Polyphone with glockenspiel.



Members enjoy the Mira Music Box.



"Show & Tell" included Hongyan Kuehn displaying the original fire-damaged roll frame (complete with charred roll!) from the Losche Solo Piano "Lazarus," which her husband and the piano's restorer, Tom Kuehn gave to Kiven as a memento, since he now owns the instrument.



"Marianne," the 48-key Willhelm Bruder & Sons Model 79 Fair Organ, type D.



Kiven discusses the B.A. Bremond Presentation Box.



Kiven, Ron Olsen, and Mike Merrick inside the new theater organ chamber.