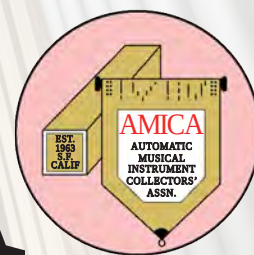


THE AMICA

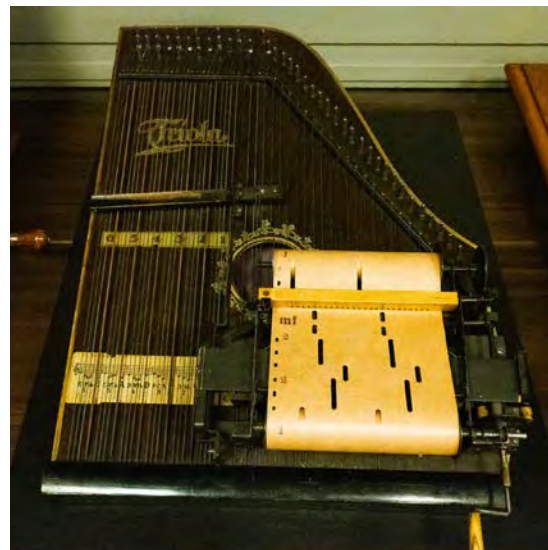


AUTOMATIC MUSICAL INSTRUMENT COLLECTORS' ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN



2025 AMICA/MBSI Convention in Chicago



Northern Lights Chapter

Photos & Report by Tracy and Merrie Tolzmann

The Northern Lights Chapter of AMICA and the Snowbelt Chapter of the MBSI gathered at the bucolic Big Lake, Minnesota, home of Gary Goldsmith and Alex Stolitza on Sunday, August 9th. The inclement morning gave way to a beautiful afternoon when 17 members gathered to see the fine collection displayed in the house and Gary's large outbuilding workshop.

Attendees brought appetizers and enjoyed them with cool beverages while listening to a 13-1/2-inch Symphonion disc box with Alex's large collection of discs providing plenty of music. Taking a short walk down the driveway to Gary's workshop, we were greeted by Nate Otto, who has moved a portion of his Rum River Restorations shop from nearby Anoka into Gary's spacious building. Surrounded by assorted parts, Nate's Style 50 American Fotoplayer awaits future restoration. (Nate's beautifully refurbished Style 15 Fotoplayer was a featured attraction at the 2023 MBSI Annual Meeting in Saint Paul, and he now presents open-to-the-public silent film shows in his Anoka workshop which he accompanies live on the Style 15.) Gary's workshop houses his Aeolian Orchestrelle player reed organ and a few projects, including a work-in-progress, a 78 rpm juke box.

Back at the house, members enjoyed hearing a Mermond Freres with bells, drum, and castanets, the Young Chang grand piano with QRS Playola system, an 18-1/2 inch Mira console box, an upright 25-1/2 inch Polyphon, a Fischer & Sons Duo Art reproducing piano, plus other instruments.

A new addition to the home houses Gary's new glass gallery on the lower level with numerous cabinets displaying his collection of Steuben and Art Nouveau glass collection.

A brief business meeting was called to order reviewing upcoming events which include two more meetings and the impending auction of the late Bill Nunn's Skyrock Farm collection. After business, members enjoyed chef Gary's Cajun Shrimp Fettuccini served with Ciabatta Bread. The delicious entrée was accompanied by salads, side dishes, and desserts brought by attendees.

Following dinner, we parted company looking forward to our next gathering in late September.



Tom Kuehn, Ralph Schultz, and Jim Kutzner (slightly obscured) listen to co-host Alex Stolitza's 13-1/2-inch Symphonion.



Nate Otto discusses his future project, the Style 50 American Fotoplayer, surrounded by parts, as (l to r), Susan & John Ellingson, Ron Olsen, Nate, Jim Kutzner, and Tom Kuehn look on.



(l to r) Tom Kuehn, Jim Kutzner, Nate Otto, and John & Susan Ellingson look over the stored piano parts in the workshop.



Rich Poppe, Henry & Caleb Miller (who made the trek North from Iowa), Merrie Tolzmann, co-host Gary Goldsmith -- at the console of the Aeolian Orchestrelle player reed organ -- and chapter treasurer Susan Ellingson.



Gary shows Merrie Tolzmann and Jerrilyn Boehland his 78 rpm juke box restoration project.



With Fotoplayer parts in the background, Nate Otto explains his future restoration project to (l to r) Rich Poppe, Jim Kutzner, Henry Miller, Tom Kuehn, and Ron Olsen.



The 18- $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch Mira disc music box.



Gary's Steuben and Art Nouveau glass collection in the new gallery was of great interest.



(l to r) John Ellingson, Ron Olsen, Jerrilynn Boehland, Merrie Tolzmann, Henry Miller, Carol & Ralph Schultz, Susan Ellingson, Tom Kuehn, Caleb Miller, Gary Goldsmith, Jim Kutzner, Mike Merrick and Tracy Tolzmann in the glass gallery.



The 15-1/2-inch Regina.



Tom Kuehn, Rich Poppe, and co-host Alex Stolitza.

A Summer Evening of Music and Community at Centennial Lakes Park

On Sunday, August 10, Centennial Lakes Park in Edina came alive with the sounds of summer as visitors gathered for an evening of music and camaraderie. Kicking off the festivities, Tracy Tolzmann brought whimsical charm and nostalgic flair with a pre-concert performance on the Pell Busker's Street Organ, beginning at 6:30 pm at the Maetzold Amphitheater.

As twilight settled in, the amphitheater welcomed the beloved John Philip Sousa Memorial Band for their annual "Torchlight" Concert, a free event that began at 8:30 pm. Families, friends, and music lovers filled the park, enjoying the spirited program under the warm, humid skies—a quintessential Minnesota summer night.

Centennial Lakes Park, located at 7499 France Avenue South, offers convenient parking off Plaza Drive near Hughes Pavilion—making it an ideal venue for community gatherings and cultural events.

The evening was a celebration of tradition, talent, and togetherness. Thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hello and share in the music!



Founding Chapter Reports

Reporter: Russ Kriegel

February 2025

Our first meeting of 2025 was held at the lovely home of Bob Gonzalez, in the Bayside community of Corte Madera. On Sunday afternoon of February 23rd, a decent sized group of AMICA and MBSI members came together to enjoy music, food and friendship.

Although Bob has recently downsized his collection, we nonetheless enjoyed some great tunes played on his Yamaha C-6 Disklavier grand piano, as well as his Weber Duo-Art grand. What's more, several of the more talented guests (i.e. Jared DiBartomoleo and Dave Moreno) treated us to a few numbers played on the Conn organ.

Of course, food and wine were plentiful; an abundance of finger foods, salads and desserts were provided by the host and guests for all to enjoy. At the business meeting, Sandy Swirsky and Lyle Merithew filled us in on preparations for the upcoming AMICA/MBSI convention in Chicago. Festivities continued well into the afternoon.

May 2025

Our second meeting took place on Sunday, May 4th as a combined get-together with the Golden Gate chapter of MBSI, at the Menlo Park home of Bob and Judy Caletti. It was a balmy Spring afternoon, and attendees were keen to enjoy an al fresco luncheon graciously provided by our hostess, along with contributions by our members.

The Caletti's place is home to an impressive collection of fully restored music boxes of all kinds, plus player pianos, and orchestrions, including a beautiful Seeburg H (fitted with a midi interface) and a Banjorchestra. Bob operates a music box restoration business and maintains a fully outfitted machine shop in his basement.

In addition to lunch, guests were treated to a backyard mart, with a number of fine disc and cylinder music boxes available, as well as other music-related items.

Our combined meeting focused on further preparations for the MBSI-AMICA convention in Chicago this summer. Also discussed were various options for, and potential complications with fusing AMICA and MBSI into one organization. This has been an ongoing topic of debate, and facing dwindling memberships, it bears further discussion.

Afterwards, more musical entertainment was provided by Bob and Judy's well-maintained collection.



Lyle Merithew, Russ Kriegel , David Corkrum and a stately grandfather clock.



Ann Starlin and John Ulrich



Dave Moreno performing on the Conn organ



Jared DiBartolomeo plays a rag for our host Bob Gonzalez



John Kiszla operating the Weber Duo-Art reproducing grand piano