

## The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ

“ To some, the theater organ is no more than a vestige of a time long gone. But if you listen to one close enough, you might hear something more timeless: pure, unadulterated fun. ”

-Edgar B. Herwick III  
WGBH



HANOVER THEATRE  
& CONSERVATORY

Dr. Jonathan Kleefield, resident organist, on the Mighty Wurlitzer. Photo Erika Sidor.



## AN INSTRUMENT OF MAJESTIC PROPORTIONS

**10,000 hours of work.  
2,495 pipes. One man's dream  
turned into a magnificent piece  
of living history.**

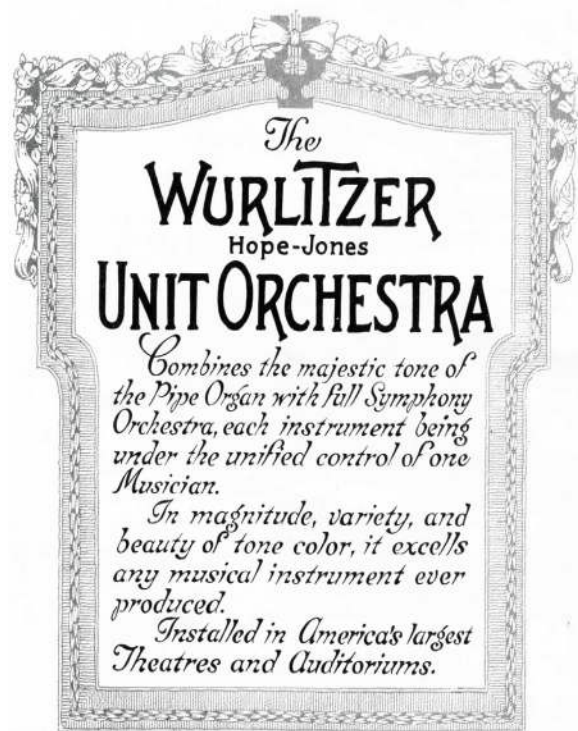
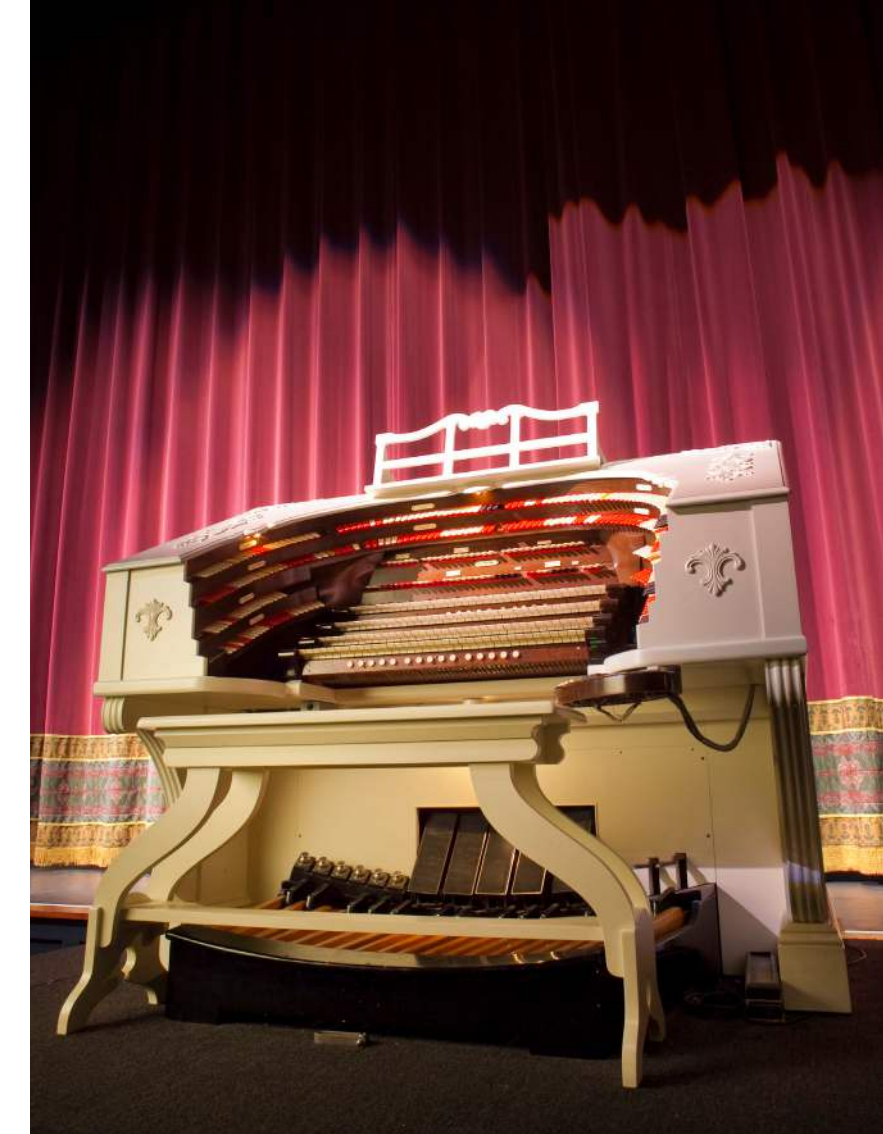
The Mighty Wurlitzer Organ was gifted to The Hanover Theatre by Don Phipps in 2007. With 2,495 pipes, it can replicate the sounds of an entire symphony orchestra.

As stewards of this incredible gift, it is our responsibility to ensure the Mighty Wurlitzer is properly cared for and remains a fitting legacy to the work of Don Phipps and the organ team.

Every dollar raised for the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ Fund supports the maintenance of this majestic instrument and creates opportunities where it can be shared with patrons.

The Hanover Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer Organ has been delighting audiences since 2009 during silent films, the annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, special events and prior to select performances.

This past year we began hosting musical revues with Dr. Jonathan Kleefield on the Mighty Wurlitzer. As we continue these concerts, we invite you to join us for an entertaining and informative musical journey featuring the largest and most versatile theatre pipe organ in New England. Utilize the Wurlitzer Organ Concert filter on the theatre's website event listing for the most up to date list of Wurlitzer events.



A 1920s Wurlitzer promotional ad.  
All Mighty Wurlitzer photos by Erb Photography.



### The Mighty Wurlitzer Team

We are grateful to this team who provides exemplary service in maintaining the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, our treasured musical instrument. They take excellent care of the organ, so it always sounds its best, especially during the special events when the Mighty Wurlitzer is featured.

Resident Organist • Dr. Jonathan Kleefield  
Donor and Technical Consultant • Donald Phipps  
Curator • Bruce Hager  
Asst. Curator • Jon Anderson  
Organ Team Member • Ralph Swick



Ralph Swick, Dr. Jonathan Kleefield, Bruce Hager and Donald Phipps.  
Photo WGBH.

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Scan to learn more.  
Enjoy photos, interviews and  
support the  
**Donald Phipps Mighty Wurlitzer Fund.**



## A Holiday Highlight

Our debut album, *Holidays at The Hanover Theatre Volume 1*, was released in July 2023 and features a curated collection of seasonal classics recorded at our very own studios. Music Director Steve Gagliastro and Audio Engineer Nick Joyce highlight the Mighty Wurlitzer on six pieces including the majestic, “We Three Kings.”

Described as the perfect complement to our annual productions of *The Nutcracker* and *A Christmas Carol*, this album features organists Kurt Blomstrom, Dr. Jonathan Kleefield and Timothy Evans.



## One of Worcester's Many Gems

How can a single instrument replicate the sound and potency of an entire symphony orchestra? Through 2,495 pipes, seven tuned percussions and effects mirroring drums and cymbals, the Mighty Wurlitzer has been crowned one of the cultural jewels of Worcester since its installment at The Hanover Theatre in 2009. Assembled and gifted to the theatre by Donald Phipps, the Mighty Wurlitzer is used in multiple ways at The Hanover Theatre. Capturing audiences with its melodic refrains and boisterous sound, this magnificent instrument alone is potent enough to fill the 2,300-seat theater.

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