



THE HERITAGE

The Mighty Wurlitzer Debuts at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion on June 24.

Starting with a brief history, the Wurlitzer Company was the most prolific manufacturer of organs in the early to mid-twentieth century. These instruments were installed in theatres, homes, churches, and other public places. The cost of paying a small band or orchestra for silent films and vaudeville shows became prohibitive making possible the rise of the theatre pipe organ to provide musical accompaniment. Englishman Robert Hope Jones, considered the inventor of the theatre organ, developed the concept of the organ as a “one-man orchestra” to accompany silent movies. Hope-Jones’ concept was based on two principles: a pipe organ should be able to imitate the instruments of an orchestra and the console should be detachable from the rest of the organ.



instruments. He also used a system of unification which multiplied considerably the number of stops relative to the number of ranks.

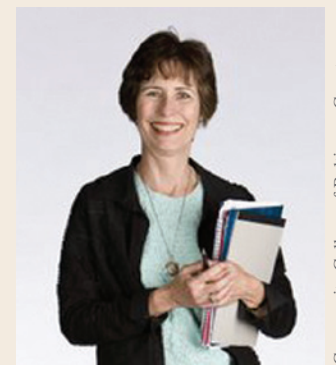
Between 1887 and 1911, his company employed 112 workers at its peak, producing 246 organs. But shortly after merging his organ business with Wurlitzer in 1914, he committed suicide in Rochester, New York, frustrated by his new association with the Wurlitzer Company, it is said. From 1914 to 1942, Wurlitzer built over 2,200 organs: 30 times the rate of the Hope-Jones Company and more theatre organs than the rest of the theatre organ manufacturers combined. A number were shipped overseas with the largest export market being the United Kingdom.

The State Theatre in Baltimore purchased the standard Model E. The organ was shipped from the factory on December 27, 1926. Many such instruments were delivered and assembled in a day or two by a team of workers. One might consider this their version of “plug and play.” When “talkies” movies were introduced and

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GJMEF’s Advisory Board Member and Archivist... **Bernadette Low, Ph.D.**

“Coming to Baltimore from the Southwest where I grew up in El Paso, created in me a sense of culture shock. From the outset, I was fascinated by Baltimore architecture, so different from Southwestern ranchers. I was fascinated as well by many of its personalities from the colorful, iconoclastic, H.L. Mencken to the enthusiastic, dollar-a-house mayor, William Donald Schaefer.”
- Bernadette Low.



Community College of Baltimore County
Public Relations Department

The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund has an Advisory Board Member and Archivist, **Bernadette Low** who comes well-qualified to take on the task. Dr. Low attended college in El Paso

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THE
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The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion
11 West Mount Vernon Place
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"Heritage" is distributed to members and friends of The Garrett-Jacob Mansion Endowment on a quarterly basis.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund is to preserve and restore the Mansion as a National Historic Landmark and to share the history, architectural and civic legacy of the Mansion for the benefit and education of the public.

from page 1 - Theatre Pipe Organ

became all the rage, it was the death knell of the theatre organ. Most instruments were dismantled and destroyed, but a few remained in their original unaltered form. This particular organ is one of those rare and treasured instruments. Roy Wagner of Glen Arm, Maryland acquired the State Theatre instrument (opus 1539) and moved it into his basement where it resided for over 40 years. Mr. Wagner provided tender love and care and hosted wonderful parties where the organ was the center of attention. Last year, he made it known that he wanted to pass the instrument to a new owner who would preserve and care for it as he had done. Dick Magnani, past President of The Engineers Club and Dale Whitehead, the Executive Director, both noticed an article in The Baltimore Sun about Mr. Wagner and the availability of the instrument. Could the Club and the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund take on such a task?

The Trustees of the Endowment Fund and the Directors of the Club Board agreed to initiate a fundraising effort. If successful, they would move forward with the acquisition and installation of the instrument into the historic Mansion ballroom which once housed a large player pipe organ installed by Mrs. Garrett. The

initial fundraising goal was reached and the project received the "green light." The final concert at Mr. Wagner's home was given on a Sunday afternoon in October 2011 where he played "I'll See You in My Dreams," a ballad from the same era as Wurlitzer and the same song Wagner played "before he cut the cable" at the old State Theatre on East Monument Street.



Fast forward to March 2012 – the instrument has been dismantled and moved to the Mansion and is in storage awaiting the completion of the pipe chamber that is suspended nine feet above the stage floor. The installation begins May 1st with an expected completion date of June 7.

Submitted by Dale Whitehead, ESB Executive Director.

Go to the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund website (garrettjacobs mansion.org) for the organ specifications list and to learn more about Michael Britt, our organist. ■

Trustees Announce Receipt of State Grant



In April, the Maryland General Assembly granted \$200,000 to the GJMEF at the recently concluded 2012 Session. The Trustees are grateful to Delegate Keith Haynes, who sponsored the measure, and Delegate Adrienne A. Jones, Chair of the Capital Budget Subcommittee, without whose support the measure would not have been successful.

The State funds are dedicated to "the design, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion". The

Mansion needs to match the State funds with an equal amount of cash or in-kind contributions.

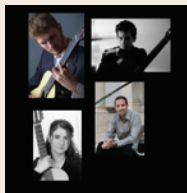
The Trustees of the Endowment Fund thank American Joe Miedusiewski for his able representation of the Mansion during the legislative session.

Follow-up on The Fire Ball 2012

Four hundred seventy-five 475 people attended the Fire Ball on Saturday February 11 which was about the same number of attendees as last year. The Ball netted \$57,755.



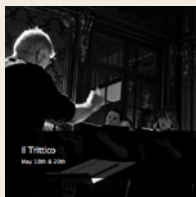
Calendar of Events



Atlantic Guitar Quartet Friday, May 11 at 7:00 p.m. Cocktails – 8:00 p.m. Concert

The Atlantic Guitar Quartet closes its season at the Mansion featuring newly-commissioned works and incorporates live dance, video, and artwork. The cocktails hour will have complimentary hors d'oeuvres for those who purchase tickets in advance. [Contact Patti at 410-539-6914.](#)

Tickets: \$15 Adults and \$10 Students with ID. Parking: Peabody Court



Baltimore Concert Opera Friday, May 18 at 6:30 p.m. for Cash Bar & Hors d'oeuvres – 7:30 Downbeat Sunday, May 20 – 2:00 p.m. Cash Bar – 3:00 p.m. Downbeat

The Baltimore Concert Opera wraps up its 2011-12 season as it began with Puccini. This time you get three for the price of one with Puccini's *Il Verismo* tour de force, *Il Trittico*. *Suor Angelica*, *Il Tabarro* and Gianni Schicchi will offer something for everyone. So act now to reserve your seats for a beautiful evening or afternoon of opera at the Mansion. [Contact Patti at 410-539-6914.](#)

Tickets: \$25/\$35/\$45/\$65

Members receive a 15% discount on the BCO website (baltimoreconcertopera.com) by using the code: BCOclub.



Inaugural Organ Concert Sunday, June 24 at 2:00 p.m. featuring Michael Britt.

Festival seating tickets are available for **\$10**

adults, **\$5** for children under 12 years old. A sumptuous champagne brunch will be offered at a special rate of **\$25** for adults and **\$12** for children with seating between 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. [Please call the Club Reception Desk at 410-539-6914 for will-call tickets and brunch reservations which are required. Available tickets on the day of the performance may be limited.](#)

All ticket proceeds will be used for the Organ Maintenance Fund. Tax-deductible donations to this Fund are welcome anytime. All those who donate \$300 or more to the Fund (past, present, and future) receive a **50%** discount on all organ programs. ■

from page 1 - Bernadette Low, Ph.D.

then completed her doctorate in British literature at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. She accepted a teaching position at the Community College of Baltimore in Dundalk where she remained for 37 years, retiring last year. She was subsequently honored as Professor Emeritus.

While Baltimore never smelled of mesquite after a rain, it revealed many pleasant surprises, including spring and fall, she stated. Dundalk and her students soon became her home and her people. She began exploring the city honors students in a course that she developed and called "Baltimore City as Text." The course focused on exploring and describing the city. They visited neighborhoods and museums, sometimes with the leadership of an expert. They read about the city as presented through its famous characters and historians and they sought to describe the values perceived through observation. In her words, "From the students I learned more about neighborhoods, businesses, and social movements."

On a March Sunday afternoon in 2011, she met GJMEF Board Member, Kathleen Sander, Ph.D. at a lecture jointly sponsored by the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion and the Maryland Historical Society. During a brief conversation on that day Bernadette told Kathleen that she was looking for a Baltimore project to study. Kathleen mentioned the Board was looking for someone to research the evolution of the Garrett Mount Vernon home from upscale row house to Mansion. And, so it began.

Dr. Low found exploring to be the most rewarding. Documents at the Maryland Historical Society and the Baltimore Museum of Art proved most valuable. The documents describing the renovation, mostly bills and letters—very few written by Mary Frick Garrett Jacobs—present a picture of her, albeit a rather distant one. Like many forward-thinking, aristocratic individuals of her day, she longed to create an artistic show place in her home and later donated her art collection to a museum. Dr. Low's stated goal is as follows:

In this research, my goal has been to explore and describe materials that will guide others who want to study more closely some aspects of the renovation, the Mansion, and Mary Frick Garrett Jacobs, a society leader of the era. I envision developing a series of short essays, perhaps blogs, or short articles that reflect some of the information in the many documents. These articles would suggest the boxes and folders especially relevant to the topic. Perhaps they would appear in some accessible place such as in the newsletter, a web page, or file archive. The articles or blogs would also include some of the quirky characteristics of the main players.

Dr. Low discovered that Mrs. Garrett-Jacobs wanted the best and cleverest of everything. As an example, she purchased a parrot that could sing "Mary Had a Little Lamb." While she felt free to spend \$1.5 million over her life on the Mansion, she demonstrated a great reluctance to pay a bill. She supported the community, children in particular. She created ultimately a work of art: the mansion and her life. The embodiment of high society, she sparkled as a clear representative of the Gilded Age in Baltimore.

Now up to the beginning. . .

Dr. Low continues to study Baltimore with a few written articles for the reference work, *The Incredibly Wealthy* for Salem Press which launched her study of George Peabody, John Work Garrett, and Johns Hopkins, who were powerful and influential contemporaries in Baltimore's Gilded Age. Bernadette Low is a remarkable asset to the Advisory Board and the Mansion, itself. ■

Jo Anne Sabas, the Editor invites all suggestions, comments, and opinions. She can be contacted by letter through the address on this newsletter, by e-mail at sabas@outdrs.net, or telephone 410-243-4242.



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Annual Golf Outing Monday, August 20th

The Engineers Club and the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund will hold their Sixth Annual Joint Board of Directors' Golf Tournament at The Country Club of Maryland.

Contact J Bitner at 410-539-6914 for sponsorships, costs, and details.



THE GARRETT-JACOBS MANSION ENDOWMENT FUND
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Your support can help the trustees in their on-going effort to restore and preserve this landmark property, listed in the National Register as part of the Mount Vernon Place Historic District and documented in the Library of Congress as part of the Historic American Buildings Survey.

Benefits include a subscription to the Heritage Quarterly and advance notice of public events at the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion.

Complete this coupon and mail check to:
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Please visit www.garrettjacobsmanion.org for complete membership benefits and description.