

Meet Your Member: Jan & Howard Kast

It is hard to start how I/we got interested in mechanical music. I think we got our taste when I was working at Euclid Beach Amusement Park. I worked there for ten years from 1954 to 1964. The park had three band organs that played every day the park was open. There was the 46-key Artizan Style A that was located under the big Rocket Ship ride. That was the first organ you heard as you entered the park from the parking lot. The next organ encountered was the 82-key North Tonawanda which was located on PTC#19 Carousel.



Jan Kast (left) with her Raffin 20/30 and Howard (right) posing with his Hofbauer.

music. After talking it over with Jan, and crying a lot, she gave me permission to buy it. We joined the MBSI, and then the COAA, and have had the most enjoyable times of our lives. In 2002 Jan said she would like to have an organ so we purchased a beautiful new Raffin 20/30 “Mini” for her and the rest is history. We have enjoyed all the wonderful people we play our instruments with and the public that we have entertained over the years.

It is true it is the “Happiest Music on Earth” which you can see in the smiles of the people

The North Tonawanda has been rebuilt to its original specifications and is located once again in Northeast Ohio in a private collection. The third organ was the grand lady of the park, the 110-key Gavioli that played nightly and weekend afternoons in the skating rink.

One day in the mid-1990s we read that there was going to be a collection of band organs at the Medina fairgrounds so we went with our grandchildren, and the weather was nasty. It was cold and a fine mist fell almost all day. This is the first time we saw the little monkey and street organs. Most of them were not playing, however, because the owners were keeping warm.

We were at the auction of the Euclid Beach Carrousel PTC #19 which was held at Trolleyville USA (Ohio) in 1997. It was there we met Rich Pauly who was selling his 1995 Hofbauer Harmonipan 37/64 street organ with a 12-note glockenspiel, cart and lots of

and the enjoyment the kids get from cranking our instruments. If it were not for the COAA, MBSI and other organizations the band organs and smaller crank organs would not be enjoyed by the public. Most of the amusement parks are now using recorded music and the mighty, proud band organs are deteriorating to a point they may never be heard again. The organizations, however, are keeping this wonderful music playing and the smiles on all the people that hear our instruments. Everyone of us are artisans in one respect or another. By rebuilding instruments, making music for them, or just simply playing our instruments, it makes it all worth while and enjoyable.

We have belonged to the Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society since 1962 and have helped install and maintain the Wurlitzer 3/15 Theatre pipe organ located in Cleveland Grays Armory in downtown Cleveland, Ohio.

2006 Organ Rally Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Person</u>	<u>Date</u>
COAA Rally #3	Crossroads Village Flint, MI	Carl & Sharon Curtis carldcurtis@hughes.net (734-428-0159)	July 14-15, 2006
Heart of America (AMICA)	St. Joseph, Missouri	Greg Filardo (816-671-1975)	July 14-15, 2006
Mid-Am Rally (MBSI)	Warren, OH	Dave Calendine (810-869-4778)	July 27-28, 2006
COAA Rally #4	DeBence Museum Franklin, PA	Martin Anderson (814-432-8350)	Sept. 15-17, 2006
Heart of America (AMICA)	Lauritzen Gardens Omaha, Nebraska	Jerry Golmanavich (402-390-9834)	Oct. 7-8, 2006