

# MUSICAL BOX SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

## Awards

69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Detroit, Michigan

Saturday September 1

2018

# **Unsung Hero Award**

Selected by the Vice-President to honor those who have worked quietly behind the scenes, often at the Chapter level, and who deserve to be recognized for their outstanding dedication to the Society's mission and goals.

# Donald Henry

- Don has been very active in the Southern California Chapter serving as its President several times and maintains the Chapter communications and mailing lists. He is a reliable source of information to Chapter members seeking valuations of instruments. Don was co-chair of the planning committee for the annual meeting held in 2015 in the Los Angeles area and produced the promotional video for that meeting. He was instrumental in securing film canisters and snippets of 35 mm film from the “Wizard of Oz” that were used in table displays during the meeting.

# Emery Prior

- For his service on the Museum Committee and his significant time to travel, set up and maintain displays of mechanical musical instruments at the following locations from 1977 to the present time:
  - Western Reserve Historical Society
  - Great Lakes Historical Society
  - Cleveland Great Lakes Science Center
  - Packard Museum
  - Barlow Farm Museum

# **Q. David Bowers Literary Award**

This award is given for outstanding literary contributions to the field of automatic music.



Matt Jaro

# MBSI Membership

- Joined MBSI in 1992
- Currently chair of the National Capital Chapter
- Loved mechanical music since seeing machines in Disneyland in the 1950's
- Never realized you could actually buy the machines!
- Didn't realize that anyone else would be interested in mechanical music
- His career was in computer science – not literature!



# Literary Start

- John Mottoros suggested a column for the AMICA Bulletin concerning nickelodeons – since this was a neglected subject.
- The first column of “Nickel Notes” was in the November/December 2009 issue of the AMICA Bulletin.
- Topics covered included machines, music, history and above all: people.
- The journals would show people standing in front of machines, but there was never any background or personal stories. “Nickel Notes” attempted to change that.



# 2013 Ornstein Literary Award (AMICA)



## 2013 LEO ORNSTEIN LITERARY AWARD

*Awarded with gratitude to*

**Matthew Jaro**

*For outstanding writings in the field of automatic music*

By: Alan Turner, Vice President  
and Awards Committee Chair

# Subjects Include:

- Nickelodeons and player pianos
- Restorations of machines
- Aspects of the music business
- Reproducing pianos (history)
- Music rolls
- History of machines
- Profiles of collectors and restorers

# MBSI Nickel Notes

- First article appeared in “Mechanical Music” Jan/Feb 2016
- Reprinted articles are all updated
- Color reproduction quality in “Mechanical Music” is excellent



--- PEOPLE ---



# Steve Boeck and Alan Bies





# Arnold Chase



# Bart Off





# Durward Center





# Cheryl and Dick Hack





# Don Teach





# Glenn Thomas





# Jim and Sherrie Krughoff





# Marty and Sandy Persky





# Art Reblitz





# David Ramey, Jr.





# - Historical Articles -



# Nelson-Wiggen and J.P. Seeburg



Oscar Nelson and Peder Wiggen



J. P. SEEBURG



# Reproducing Pianos

THE SUN, SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 1914.

THE AEOLIAN COMPANY  
ORIGINATORS AND SOLE MANUFACTURERS OF THE PIANOLA, TAKE  
UNUSUAL PLEASURE IN PRESENTING A NEW AND WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENT OF THAT INSTRUMENT

## THE DUO-ART PIANOLA



WHEN The Pianola, the first successful instrument of its type, was given to the public fifteen years ago, the hitherto inaccessible Art of Music was literally thrown open to the world. The Pianola made the pianoforte available to everyone. It conferred on all the inestimable privilege of musical self-expression with music's noblest instrument.

Many and notable have been The Pianola developments during intervening years. Every forward step in what has now become a great world-industry, has originated in this famous instrument. Today, The Pianola offers to every music-lover, trained or otherwise, the ideal means for playing the pianoforte.

### THE NEW PRINCIPLE IN THE DUO-ART PIANOLA

In The Duo-Art Pianola is added a new and an extraordinary element of interest to that which The Pianola already possessed. Not only can it be played by hand, or music-roll, but

#### IT WILL PLAY ITSELF, WITH PERFECT ART

Through the medium of a new, electric-pneumatic action and specially prepared music-rolls, The Duo-Art Pianola will reproduce the actual performances of eminent pianists, with all the charm and individuality of the original rendition. Every slightest variation of tempo, every subtle tone-shade, every nuance, every elusive rubato is portrayed with a fidelity that is amazing and has never before been even approached.

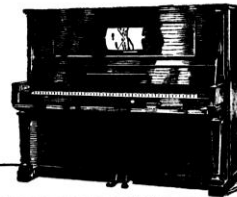
The Duo-Art Pianola is undoubtedly the greatest achievement in the history of the piano industry. It has aroused the utmost enthusiasm in all to whom it has already been shown. The Aeolian Company is desirous that every present owner of a Pianola or a Player-piano of other make, as well as the public in general, shall have an opportunity to see and hear this great invention. It has therefore arranged for

### INFORMAL DEMONSTRATIONS

Every afternoon, at Three o'clock, The Duo-Art Pianola will be played in the Steinway Salons at Aeolian Hall.

In addition, private demonstrations will be given at any hour during the business day, to all who call. These demonstrations are free and attendance will entail no obligation of any kind.

The Price of The Steinway Duo-Art Pianola is \$1500. Convenient terms involving a moderate initial payment and subsequent monthly payments may be arranged. Liberal allowances will be made on Pianolas, player-pianos of other make and regular pianos in exchange for The Duo-Art Pianola.

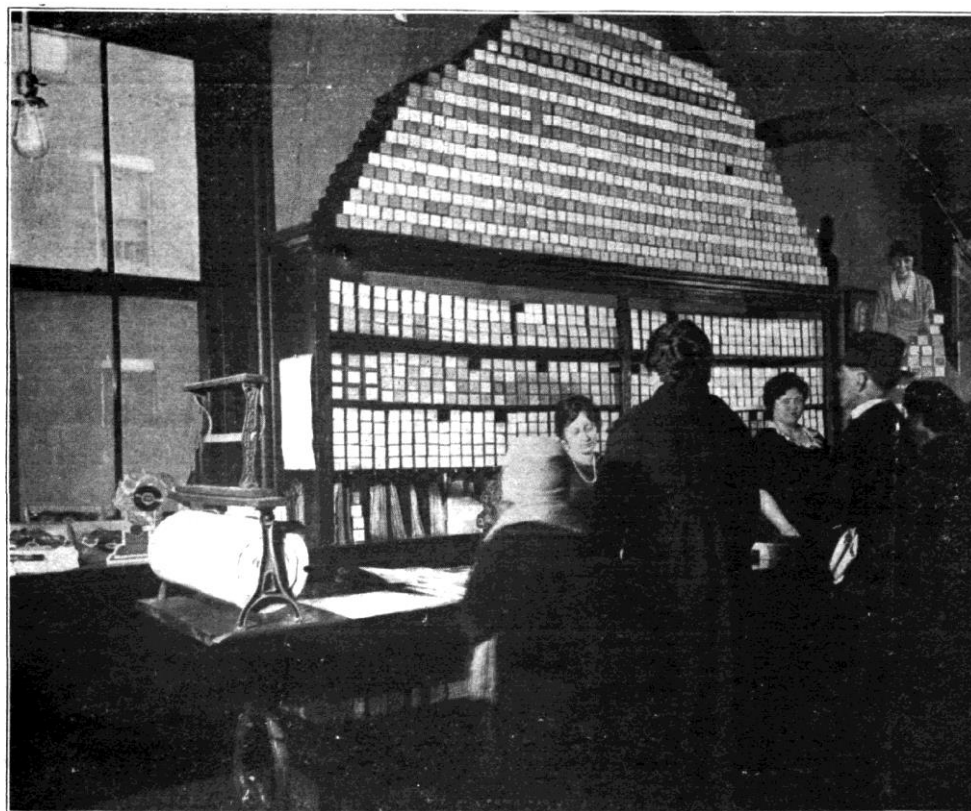


THE AEOLIAN COMPANY, AEOLIAN HALL, N. Y.



# Music Rolls

## Q R S ROLLS IN PENNSYLVANIA



Men, women and children at times crowd into the store of the C. F. McCaw Piano Company, New Brighton, Pa., to buy the Q R S music rolls for their playerpianos. The McCaw company keeps a large supply of these rolls on hand, as will be seen by looking at the stack of them in the picture.

New Brighton is a manufacturing town of Beaver County in western Pennsylvania. Coal and clay are among the mineral productions. The borough is located two miles north of Beaver, the county seat, and 30 miles northwest of Pittsburgh. Its inhabitants own many playerpianos.



# Mechanical Music on Records



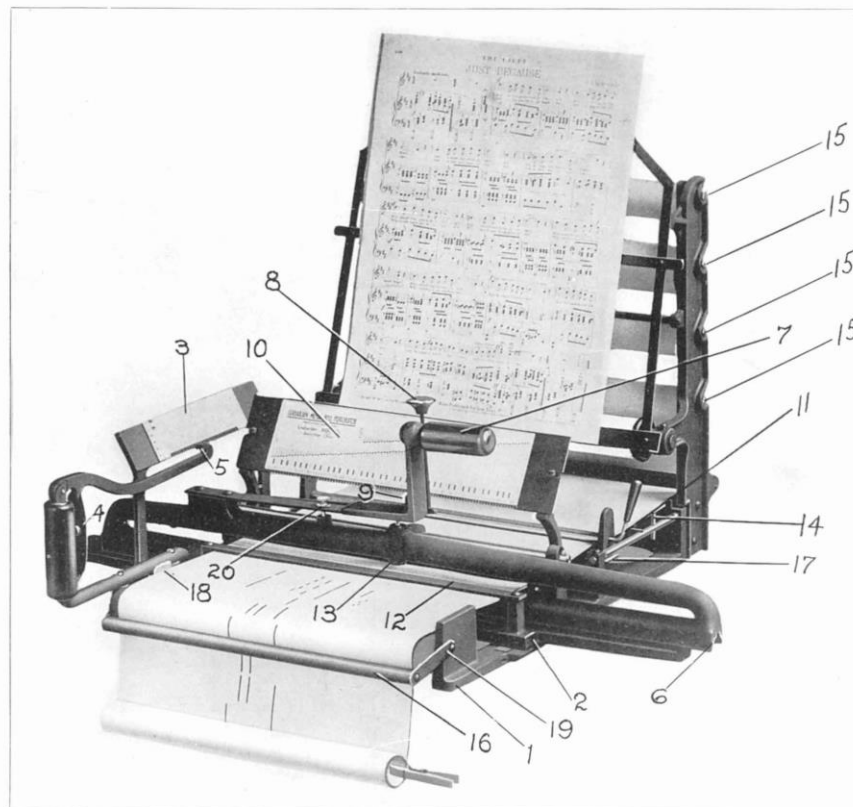


# Perforators

## LEABARJAN

### NAMES OF MACHINE PARTS

- No. 1—Base—Supporting the entire mechanism.
- No. 2—Ball-bearing cross slide operating lengthwise over paper.
- No. 3—Time scale used to locate perforations and to measure tone duration.
- No. 4—Handle for operating cross slide.
- No. 5—Time scale index pin controlled by cross-slide handle to accurately locate position of perforations.
- No. 6—Ball-bearing punch slide moving widthwise over paper for location of notes.
- No. 7—Punch operating handle for making perforations.
- No. 8—Index button to release index pin from note scale.
- No. 9—Index pin operating in index under each note on scale.
- No. 10—Note scale representing chromatic scale, bass and treble clefs, name of each note with key illustrating keyboard of piano.



### NAMES OF MACHINE PARTS

- No. 11—Paper time-nipper gauge used to measure length of paper for each measure of music.
  - No. 12—Paper guides, keeping paper in position between punch and die.
  - No. 13—Punch and die for making perforations.
  - No. 14—Paper time-gauge pins, gauging length of paper for different time arrangements.
  - No. 15—Paper supply holder.
  - No. 16—Front paper fastener, holding paper in position while perforating.
  - No. 17—Permanent nipper stop. Nipper is pulled against this stop, holding paper while perforating.
  - No. 18—Adjustable paper guides, front and rear, for tracking variations in width of paper perfectly.
  - No. 19—Stationary paper guides. Paper must be adjusted to track close to this guide.
  - No. 20—Screw for adjusting punch movement.
- Note: Place a drop of oil on moving parts occasionally*

LEABARJAN MUSIC ROLL PERFORATOR, STYLE 5



# Modern Perforators



# Matt Jaro



# **Trustees' Award**

This award is given for outstanding contributions to the Society and/or the field of automatic music.



Arthur A. Reblitz

# Early Years

- Grew up in Chicago
- Began piano lessons at age 5 (American Conservatory in Chicago)
- Began flute lessons at age 9
- Attended the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign 1964-1969 graduating with High Honors in Music Education majoring in flute
- Serviced, tuned, and restored instruments at Svoboda's Nickelodeon Tavern in Chicago Heights & played Svoboda's calliope in Chicago area parades during college breaks, June 1965 - August 1968. Worked with Dave Ramey Sr. and Tom Sprague.





Postcard from 1960s



Art Reblitz(left) and Al Svoboda on his calliope float in a steam engine rally in New Lennox, IL 1967





# Military Service

- Played in the Air Force in the NORAD Command Band, a multi-service special band with home base in Colorado Springs, Aug. 1968 – Aug. 1972.
- Toured the U.S. and Canada
- Took the MBSI and AMICA Membership Directories on tour to become acquainted with collectors of automatic musical instruments all over the continent.
- While in the band, restored the automatic musical instrument collection for the Ghost Town Museum in Colorado Springs.

1970s

## Married Jeannie in April, 1972

In August, 1972 upon discharge from the military, opened a full time restoration shop in Colorado Springs (have always had one or more employees).

Tuned/serviced/repared the Bovey Collection (50 coin pianos, orchestrions & organs) in Virginia City and Nevada City, Montana, 1973–1978.



Restored the Wurlitzer Style 155 “Monster” band organ  
in the historic Kit Carson County Carousel, Burlington,  
Colorado, 1976.





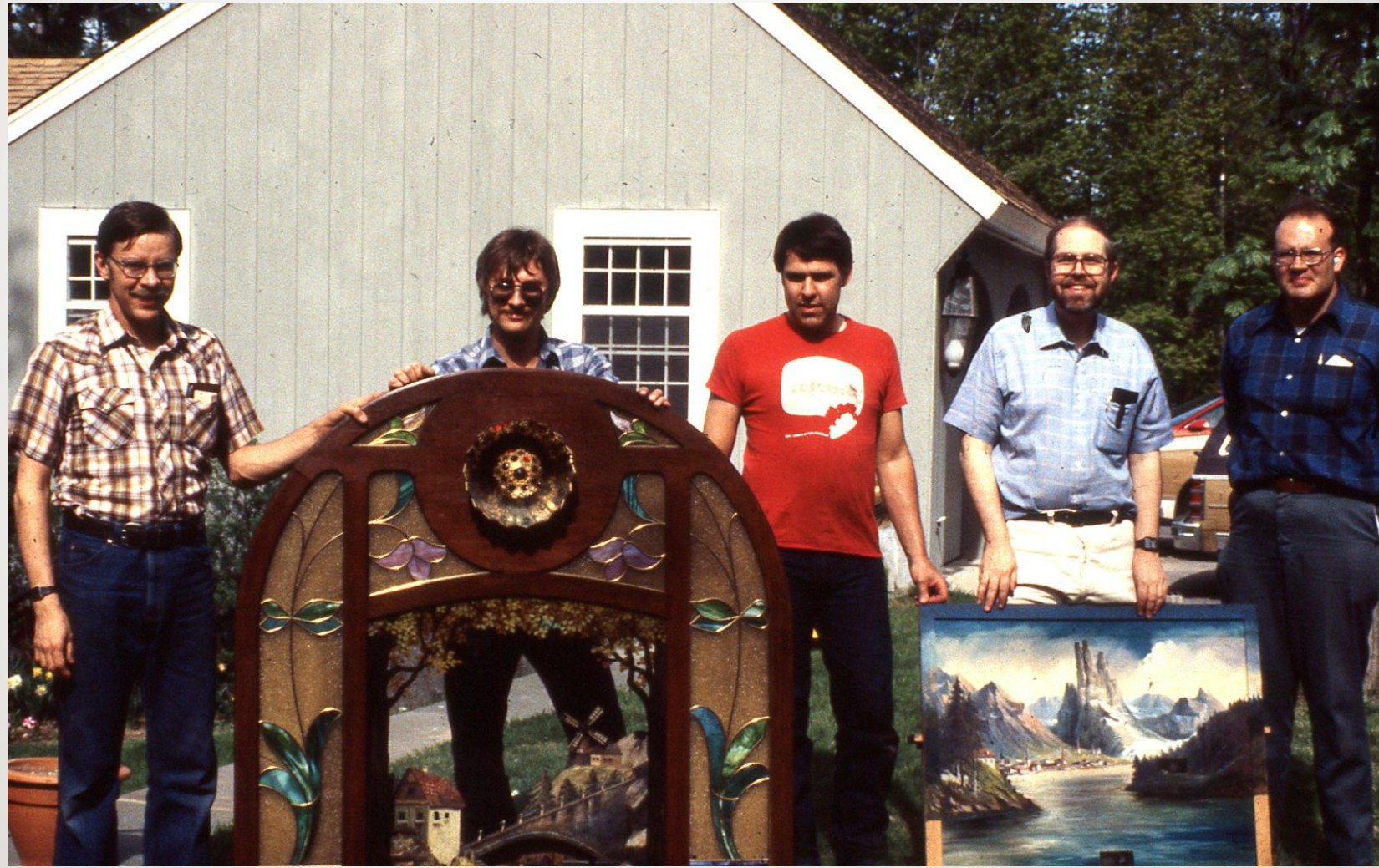
Began restoring for the Sanfilippo Collection in 1982.  
Completed over 35 restorations for the collection.  
Tuner/technician for Sanfilippo, Gilson and Krughoff  
Collections, 1980s – present.



The first Seeburg G  
orchestrion that Reblitz  
Restorations restored  
for Jasper Sanfilippo,  
1985 (Art & Jasper)

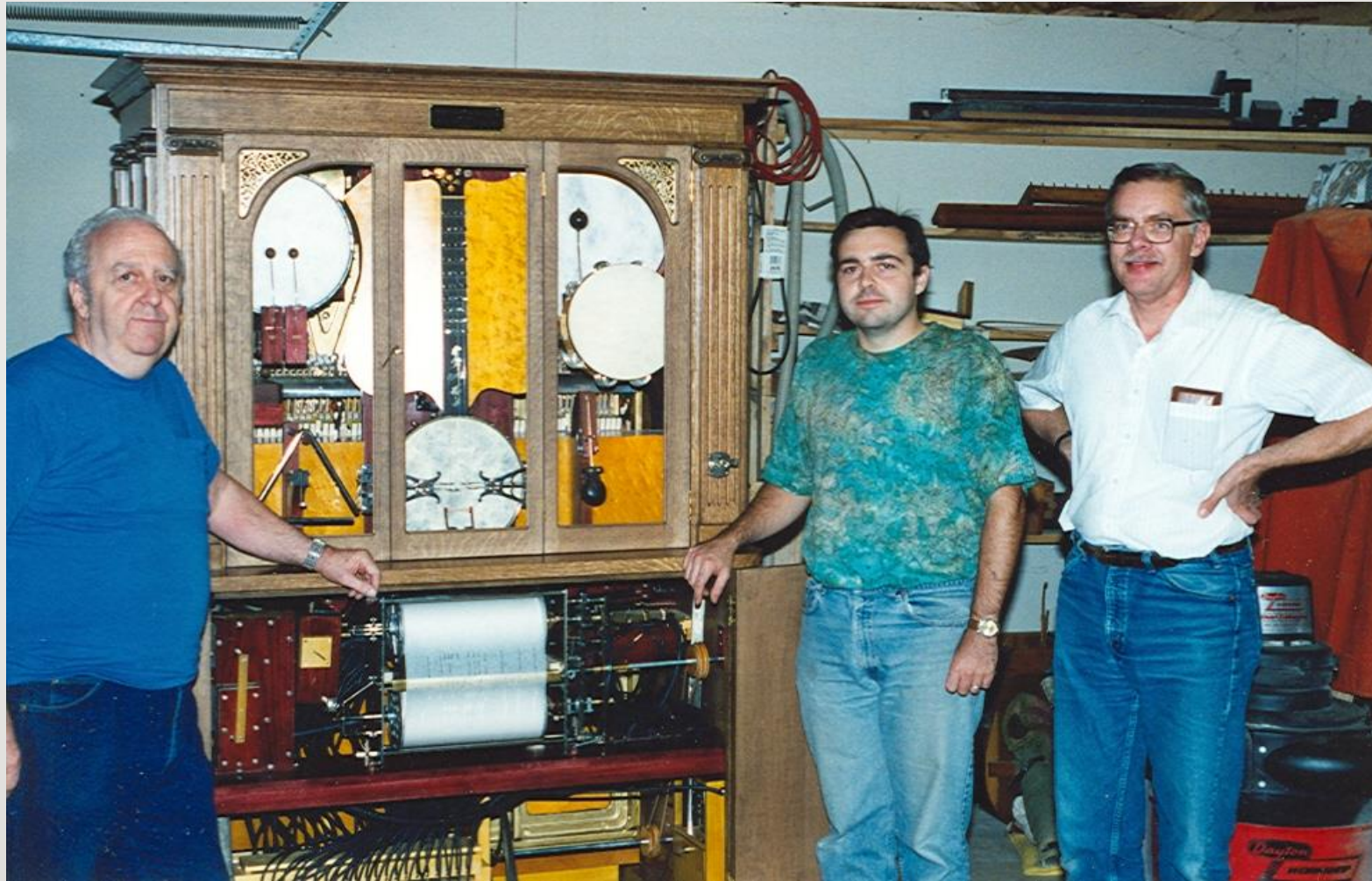


Setting up the Style III/39 Hupfeld Helios orchestrion at Dave & Christie Bowers' home in New Hampshire. (L-R: Art Reblitz, John Hovancak, Bob Gilson, Dave Bowers, Tim Westman.) 1985





Listening to the first Ramey Banjo-Orchestra play the first new 10-tune Banjo-Orchestra roll arranged by Art. L-R: Dave Ramey Sr., David Jr., Art, (1994). Art has arranged all the music for this instrument.







Art, Dave Bowers, and Bob Gilson at the 55th Annual Meeting of the MBSI in Orlando, 2004

# Published Books and Articles

- "Piano Servicing, Tuning, and Rebuilding," Vestal Press, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1976; 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 1993, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition to be published in 2019.
- "Treasures of Mechanical Music" (with Q. David Bowers), Vestal Press, 1981.
- "The Mills Violano-Virtuoso" (with Michael Kitner), Vestal Press, 1984.
- "Player Piano Servicing and Rebuilding," Vestal Press, 1985.
- Interpretive display signs for the Sanfilippo Collection, 1993 - present.
- "The Golden Age of Automatic Musical Instruments," Mechanical Music Press, 2001.
- Many articles for MBSI, AMICA and The Coin Slot, 1966-present.





Harvey Roehl and  
Art laying out the  
1<sup>st</sup> ed. "Piano  
Servicing, Tuning  
and Rebuilding" in  
Art's office, 1975.

# Art's Music Arrangements Have Been Featured

- Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey Combined Shows (1969)
- House on the Rock “Mikado” display (1975)
- Debut roll for the Edgerton replica of the Seeburg KT Special (1979)
- Colorado Springs Symphony (1990)
- All music for the Ramey Banjo-Orchestra (1994-present)
- 40 new selections for the Sanfilippo Wurlitzer 180 Concert Band Organ





L-R: John Hovancak, Jerry Biasella, Art Reblitz, David Ramey Jr., Russell Wattam (2010)

# **President's Award**

This award is given at the discretion of the President for outstanding service.



Bill Wineburgh

# Chapter Activities

- Member of East Coast and National Capital Chapters
- Has been Vice-Chair or Chair of the East Coast Chapter several times
  - **Bill is chair of the East Coast Chapter now**



Bill making a presentation of Musical Christmas Tree Stands at a chapter meeting.



# MBSI Committee Activities

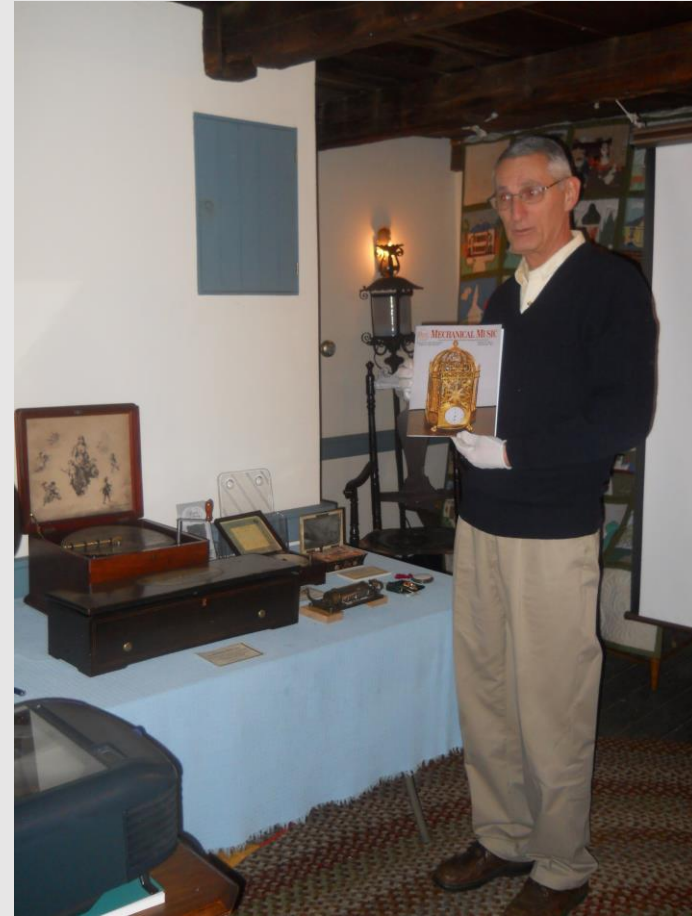


Bill and Carolee with the table favor from the 2009 Annual Meeting

- Member of Special Exhibits Committee
- Member of Museum Committee and Asset Database Manager
- Chaired the 2009 Annual Meeting Planning Committee
- Registrar for the 2017 Annual Meeting

Bill has made numerous presentations to local groups to promote mechanical music

Bill making a presentation  
on musical boxes to a  
meeting of the Historical  
Society in Roxbury  
Township, New Jersey





# Mechanical Music Displays



Musical Box exhibit at the Budd Lake, New Jersey, Library



Musical Toy Exhibit at the Roxbury, New Jersey, Library

# Activities at Local Museums

- Volunteer Docent at the Lockwood-Matthews Mansion Museum in South Norwalk, Connecticut
- Volunteer Docent at the Guinness Collection, Morris Museum, Morristown, New Jersey



Christmas Exhibit at the Morris Museum





# **THIS CONCLUDES THE AWARDS CEREMONY**

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Detroit, Michigan  
Saturday, September 1  
2018