Musical Box Society International

Awards

69th 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!
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
Durward Center
Cheryl and Dick Hack
Glenn Thomas
Jim and Sherrie Krughoff
Marty and Sandy Persky
Art Reblitz
- Historical Articles -
Reproducing Pianos
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 player pianos. 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 player pianos.
Mechanical Music on Records
Perforators

**Names of Machine Parts**

No. 1—Base—Supporting the entire mechanism.
No. 2—Roller—Brass roller.
No. 3—Roller-bearing areas slide operating lengthwise over paper.
No. 4—Time scale used to locate perforations and to measure time duration.
No. 5—Handle for operating areas slide.
No. 6—Time scale index pin controlled by escaille handle measurable by locating position of perforations.
No. 7—Bullet relief punch slot moving sideways over paper for insertion of music.
No. 8—Punch operating handle for making perforations.
No. 9—Index button to release index pin from slot scale.
No. 10—Index pin operating in index under each note on scale.
No. 11—Note scale representing treble, tenor, bass and treble clefs, name of each note with key illustrating keyboard of piano.

**Leabach Roll Perforator, Style 1**

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

[Page fourteen]
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.
Art Reblitz(left) and Al Svoboda on his calliope float in a steam engine rally in New Lennox, IL 1967
Military Service


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

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

• "Treasures of Mechanical Music" (with Q. David Bowers), Vestal Press, 1981.
• Interpretive display signs for the Sanfilippo Collection, 1993 - present.
• Many articles for MBSI, AMICA and The Coin Slot, 1966-present.
Harvey Roehl and Art laying out the 1st 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
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

• 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 and Carolee with the table favor from the 2009 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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