

# **Ken Double/Skip Stine Concert Review**

**October 3, 2009**

Review written by Mark Dresden

Ken Double and Skip Stine once again provided a pleasant evening of familiar music, nicely performed on the Dickinson Kimball Organ by Ken and nicely played on the trumpet by Skip.

Their selections consisted, for the most part, of popular tunes written in the 20's and 30's with a few written earlier and a few written latter. Some were from the movies, some were from Broadway Shows and some were just stand alone pieces. Many of these tunes however have become classics in the American popular music genera. It's also interesting to note that most of these tunes were composed during the heyday of the Theater Organ.

The first half of the program featured Ken Double a consummate theater organist featuring the Dickinson Kimball a consummate theater organ. Throughout his various program we hear from the Kimball a wide variety of the beautiful solo voices ranging from the 4' flutes and tibias to some of the bold but still very melodic 16' reeds. These solo voices were always skillfully juxtaposed against appropriate bass lines and accompaniments chosen to compliment and highlight the solo lines.

Percussions, both tuned and non-tuned were featured throughout the program demonstrating just how well the organ is able to provide these same voices and effects found in orchestras. Ken skillfully presented these voices and effects making them completely integral with the music. Even the theater organ gadgets like the steamboat whistle used in the song "Alabamy Bound" and the siren were used appropriately as accents and used very sparingly.

Throughout the program it was obvious that Ken was very much at home with the Dickinson Kimball. It was also obvious that Ken had mastered quite an assortment of theater organ playing techniques. Second touch was used frequently for counter melodies and for horn hit accents. There were glissandos, smoothly performed portamentos with the intricate fingering required, open harmonies, modulations changes in rhythms and a wide range of tonal dynamics.

This part of the program was well presented; it was always interesting and there was a wide variety of music was presented – fox trots, tangos and the orchestral tone poem, “Winter Storms,” which afforded the opportunity to turn the tremors off for a bit. All in all, Ken was very much at home with the Dickinson Kimball.

In addition to being a fine organist, Ken is also pretty good as a stand up comedian thus providing several laughs along the way.

The songs presented in the first half were: “There’s No Business Like Show Business” from Annie Get Your Gun, This was followed by “Undecided,” “Jalousie” as Tom Hazelton might have played it, “Everything I Have Is Yours,” and a three tune medley of Sinatra hits. Next he played the orchestral piece “Winter Storms,” and then “Pass Me By “ from the movie Father Goose. And finally to end the first half of the program he played a three tune medley to salute the south.

Ken introduced the second half of the program with two tunes – a peppy “Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams” and a more sultry “It All Depends On You.” We were then introduced to Skip Stine, a well know trumpeter who among other things had worked with the Harry James Orchestra. Ken and Skip then performed together for the remainder of the program with Ken providing the orchestral accompaniment and Skip providing the

solos with the beautiful sounds of the trumpet. For this part of the program they played eight very beautiful and well known ballads: "It's Been a Long Long Time" made famous originally by Harry James; "Pennies From Heaven," "Georgia On My Mind," "Stardust," "Around the World," "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White," and "Memories of You." The entire program was very well received by the audience who showed their approval with hearty applause.

For an encore Ken and Skip played a beautiful arrangement of "Granada" missing only the castanets, hmmm but this was more than made up for by more of the wonderful sounds of Skip's Trumpet... Once again the audience showed their appreciation to both Ken and Skip with a hearty and sustained applause. All in all it was a delightful evening for theater organ enthusiasts.

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