

Duluth Masonic Temple
4 West 2nd Street
Duluth, MN 55802
218-722-4553

W.W. Kimball, Opus 4790, ca 1910
Rebuilt by Harry O. Iverson (Mpls, MN) in 1937

Contact: Terrence Becker and Charley Korsch

Sam Black and I visited the Duluth Masonic Temple on Monday afternoon, May 18 to investigate the Kimball organ. Charley Korsch and Terrence Becker, two masons who are members of the Temple, met us there. Terrence Becker has been the primary force behind recent repairs to the organ and he is passionate about the Kimball. He told us what he knew about the organ's history and gave us written information as well. I've attached this information which includes the organ's specifications.

The Kimball organ sits in the upper gallery to the right of the stage with the console located in the center of the balcony. The organ's façade blends beautifully with the colors and style of the room. The room is quite interesting with Egyptian motifs on the walls. I don't think the room has been changed much over the years, so you really feel like you have taken a step back in time when you enter the room.

The organ's orchestral sounds are typical of many organs built in America in the early 20th century. The only percussion stop is a set of tubular chimes.

There are a number of condition issues, including several notes that do not speak and ciphers that occur frequently. Recent maintenance on the organ has been done by David Beyer, an organ technician who works for Scott Riedel and Associates from Milwaukee. These various repairs and improvements are listed in the attached document. Enough repairs were made to allow the masons to host a silent film with organ accompaniment a couple years ago. A second silent film was planned but cancelled due to organ ciphers. The masons hope to have more repairs done this summer. Terrence said that re-leathering needs to be done, but it doesn't sound like they have received a cost estimate on this yet.

Both Sam and I feel that this organ should definitely be included on the Duluth Day if its condition is improved. Terrence Becker really wants to get it restored. The problem is having enough money to make it happen. So far, the repair cost has been reduced considerably by technicians offering services at reduced rates and masons volunteering their time.

Velda Bell