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**Historic Roaring 20's Pizza Parlor Organ Still Entertaining Crowds at the
Grand Rapids Public Museum**

Grand Rapids MI (January 12, 2010) - After two decades entertaining customers in the 20th Street Roaring 20s Pizza Parlor, the Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Organ now wows audiences at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

The organ was crafted in 1928 by the Wurlitzer Company of North Tonawanda, New York. Designed by Robert Hope-Jones as "one man orchestras" to accompany silent movies, more than 2,200 Mighty Wurlitzers were built between 1914 and 1940 and installed in theaters, homes, churches and other public places.

"Originally created for the Stanley Theater in Jersey City, New Jersey this instrument was acquired by the Roaring 20s Pizza Parlor founders in the mid 1970's," said Dale Robertson, Museum President/CEO. "When the pizza parlor closed in 1991 a committee lobbied to keep this unique instrument in the city and found a place for it in the newly built Van Andel Museum Center." Over 500 donors responded to save, restore and install the Mighty Wurlitzer in the Museum's Meijer Theater, where it has begun its second run at entertaining the public. And entertain it does!

Join us this spring for the ***Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Organ Program Series*** featuring the following performers:

March 5 & 6 • Bill Tandy

April 9 & 10 • Jonas Nordwall

May 7 & 8 • Martin Ellis

Tickets are available at grmuseum.org, by phone (616.456.3977) or in person at the Museum. Members: \$8 Adult/\$4 Child. Non-members \$10 Adult/\$5 Child. Groups of ten or more are \$8 each. Friday night programs begin at 7 pm. Saturday afternoon programs begin at 2 pm.

The organ is also the main attraction for ***Story Time with the Mighty Wurlitzer***, offered on Mondays throughout the year at 10:30 am, 11:15 am and Noon and free with general admission. In this beloved program characters and animals from the pages of story books are brought to life through the dramatic accompaniment of the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ.

The Public Museum is a collector of treasures, a motivator and resource for life-long learning, and a community partner in the pursuit of insight and understanding. The Museum is open Tues 9-8; Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri and Sat 9-5; and Sunday Noon-5. For more information call 616.456.3977 or visit grmuseum.org.

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