
The WINDSHEET



Newsletter of the NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625 510/644-2707

www.norcaltos.org

March 2010

The Berkeley Community Center (The BCT)

Is located on the Berkeley High School Campus. The entrance to the theatre is from Allston Way between Milvia and MLK, Jr Way, one block south and two blocks west of the **Downtown Berkeley BART station**. Parking is available in three nearby garages between Milvia St. and Shattuck Ave with entrances on Addison St., Center St., Allston Way and Kittredge St. Parking MAY be available at the Tennis Courts at the corner of Milvia St. and Bancroft Way.



CHRIS GORSUCH
in NorCal Concert at the
BCT
Sunday March 14, 2010 — 2:30 PM

Chris Gorsuch returns to the Berkeley Community Theatre on March 14th for a third turn on our Mighty Wurlitzer. Members will remember his 2004 and 2007 concerts that displayed his special feeling for Big Band era music, as well as for Classical Jazz and music of the 20's and 30's.

Born in Springfield Ohio, Chris started formal studies at age fourteen, and was soon playing at local Churches. At age twenty he

accepted a staff position with Organ Power Pizza in San Diego. This gave him a chance to play the famed five manual Reginald Foort Travelling Moller Theatre pipe organ among other theatre organs. It was here Chris became a student of **Lyn Larsen**, one of several well known artists he has worked with.

In 1979, he formed his own company with the purpose of designing and manufacturing electronic systems for pipe and electronic

organs. The company has created many new and innovative products including digitally sampled sounds and computer software. Chris is also a competent pipe voicer and is the tonal finisher of several major instruments in this country, working equally well in organ chambers as on the bench playing. This concert will long be remembered!

NorCal Theatre Organ Society (NorCal TOS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Federal Employer Identification Number 23-741594-7 State Charitable Trust No. CT 45966 State Organization Number D-072 6636 NT20S M12

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When emailing, include ATOS in the subject line. Otherwise, if you are unknown to the recipient's computer, its SPAM filter may divert your mail.



DONNA PARKER REVIEW

-- Don Ravey

Donna Parker's home is near Portland, Oregon and she has performed at most of the important theatre organ venues in the U.S. and abroad, as well as many church venues. She studied with several notable teachers, including **Richard Purvis**, who dedicated a composition to her, which she played for us. Prior to this Saint Valentine's Day, her previous most recent appearance in Berkeley was in March 2002.

Donna presented a lovely mix of musical genres, displaying her solid talent. She is equally comfortable with classical, Broadway musicals, Rock 'n' Roll, and Big Band. She tends to play somewhat shorter versions of some pieces than some other artists, and that can often be a virtue. I especially noted and admire her precision (I didn't detect even one wrong note, something I can't say about every concert I attend), and her rock solid rhythm and tempo, even when playing 5/4 time and other intricate rhythmic patterns, as in *Everything's Alright* from *Jesus Christ, Superstar* and *Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da*, was a joy to listen to.

Donna's registrations were very appropriate and artful. For the melodious passages, she used simple combinations and solo instruments, but when more bombast was called for, ranks were added to create just the right show of power.

I also appreciated that Donna does not try to set speed records. Her tempo is sometimes slower than I have heard others interpret the same selections, but I find that I can appreciate the musical nuances more when the notes and chords aren't rushed.

In fact, overall, Donna has a very relaxed and comfortable stage presence, and she seems not to be flustered by such things as a loose sleeve catching on the keyboard.

PLAYLIST

Up console:

Good Morning, Baltimore from
Hairspray – Marc Shaiman

First half:

Moondance from *An American Werewolf
in London* – Van Morrison

Bésame Mucho – Consuelo Velázquez
Avenue C – Buck Clayton (a Count Basie
repertoire standard)

Fanfare from *A Trio of Contrast* – Richard
Purvis

Lilliburlero – Richard Purvis
(dedicated to Donna Parker)

Wouldn't It Be Lovely from *My Fair
Lady* – Frederick Loewe

Ease On Down The Road from *The Wiz*
– Charlie Smalls

España – Emile Waldteufel

Intermission

Second half:

Up console:

I Feel The Earth Move – Carole King
Smokey Mokes (1899 Cakewalk) – Abe
Holtzmann

Chelsea Bridge – Billy Strayhorn
Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da – Paul McCartney
Don't Be That Way – Benny Goodman &
Edgar Sampson

Linus And Lucy – Vince Guaraldi
So Blue – Ray Henderson & Helen
Crawford

Jesus Christ, Superstar Medley – Andrew
Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice:

**Heaven On Their Minds, Everything's
Alright, Hosanna, I Don't Know How
To Love Him, King Herod's Song, Jesus
Christ, Superstar**

Encore:

Mama Mia – Benny Andersson, Stig
Anderson, & Björn Ulvaeus

NEW MEMBERS

John & Ashley Ahn
Livermore, CA



CONSOLE POSTERS

Remember the stunning photo quality R24 x 36-inch full-color posters that were in the lobby a while back? There are still a few available, and still at \$20, including sales tax and protective mailing tube.

These posters of our *Center Theater Console* includes a listing of all 42 ranks that can be played from it. They are beautiful to look at and are suitable for framing or mounting.

To order one make your check for \$20 payable to NorCal Theatre Organ Society (Note Poster Order on the check) and mail to:

NorCal Theatre Organ Society
P.O. Box 625
Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

DONATIONS

Chris Nichols
Bank of America (Matching Funds)
Don Ravey

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



Chairman's Windline

I hope you had a chance to attend the Valentine's Day concert at Berkeley. **Donna Parker** provided a wonderful performance.

The Ironstone Pops concert is completely sold out; This is amazing! Because of the increased interest in this program, the event planners are considering two separate concerts for next year, so that more folks will be able to attend.

At the Board of Director's meeting on Feb. 12, we discussed the need to publish a NorCal Chapter member directory. We are very aware of those members who would like to keep their information private, and therefore determined that we would use an 'opt-in' process to create the directory. This means that those who wish to be in the directory can choose the amount of their information that would be published. We will provide opt-in information forms on the reverse side of the membership renewal letters, a form at the concert record table, or you can call or email me. The directory will be a living document and will be distributed to those NorCal members who request the directory. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me.

Lastly, the highly successful ATOS Summer youth camp is going to be held on July 19-23rd, in Phoenix, AZ. This camp is a unique opportunity for young organists to learn the art of theatre organ by attending lectures, master classes, and private study. Mentors include, Donna Parker, Martin Ellis, Jelani Eddington and Lyn Larson.

2010 ATOS CONVENTION

in Seattle - Where it all Began!

Convention is June 29 to July 3

Overture June 28 - Encore July 4

Puget Sound TOS has lined up 14 Vintage Theatre Organs, and many famous artists. Check it out at www.atos.org and click on the center picture for full details. The 13-minute video is worth watching.

OPEN CONSOLE Hosted by Chris Nichols



This is an opportunity for NorCal members to try their hand at playing the chapter's Wurlitzer at the Berkeley Community Theatre. When the theatre is available, these sessions run from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The next scheduled dates are:

Sundays,

March 21, April 11, & May 23

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, **Chris Nichols**, ensures that any NorCal member feels comfortable. Chris lends help and support to anyone who needs it. Depending on how many members are present, each has one or more 15-minute sessions at the console, in rotation.

Important: Call the NorCal voice mail at (510) 644-2707 on *that* Sunday morning to confirm that the theatre is available. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

EDITOR'S



EDITOR'S NOTES

When you travel, do you think to check on what the local ATOS chapter is doing?

Right now if you are headed to Southern California you could catch **Dennis James** with Buster Keaton's *Girl Shy*, a concert by **Jerry Nagano** or **Dave Wickerham** or the dedication of **Gordon Belt's** organ at the Santa Monica High School.

Closer to home *The Pink Panther* is playing at the Bob Hope Theatre in Stockton, and *The King of Kings with Walt Strony* in Sacramento.

Check Upcoming Events and other Venues for dates and other information.

Going north remember the annual ATOS Convention is in Seattle this year. See article on this page.

- Jan La Fetra

A Reminder from the Crew Chief

Please remember that no one should come in the Stage Door except the Stage Crew or others with business on the stage. Setting up a concert is intensive and extra people are a distraction and sometimes get in the way.

ATOS YOUTH CAMP

The NorCal Chapter is proud to sponsor a matching fund to help support the youth camp. NorCal will match up to \$2,500 in donations. The matching fund will close on June 30th. I hope you will consider supporting this worthy cause. Donations can be sent to NorCal's Berkeley address listed on the front of the Windsheet.

NorCal BOARD MINUTES

Every NorCal member is entitled to request copies of the Minutes of meetings of the NorCal Board of Directors, which meets 6 times a year. Requests should be sent to the Secretary, whose email address and telephone number is published at the bottom of Page One of every issue of the Windsheet.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Have you admired the blue membership badges that many NorCal members wear to concerts? They are available for \$13 shipped to the member's address.

The badges are now totally engraved (no silk screening to rub off). Send your check and exactly how your name is to appear on the badge to:

Bill Schlotter
6203 Elderberry Dr.
Oakland, CA 94611-1621

NORCAL WEBSITE

We now have copies of the current and recent past *Windsheets* on our web site—and in color! They are in .pdf format, which requires that your computer has a copy of the *free* Adobe Acrobat Reader.

We also have an up-to-date Calendar Events online. Be sure to visit it!

norcaltos.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

NorCal Events

Open Console BCT
Sundays – March 21, April 11 & May 23
norcaltos.org



Saturday, April 17, 2010 at 12 PM
Ironstone Pops Concert
(old Morton Madness)
Martin Ellis
Kautz Ironstone Winery
This event is now sold out.



OTHER EVENTS

Los Angeles TOS
Monday, March 8 at 7 PM
'Welcome Back to Barnum Hall' includes dedication of **Gordon Belt's** organ which was donated to the Santa Monica High School. In both the home and school installations the specifications were laid out by **Lyn Larsen**.
Sunday, May 9, 2:30 PM **Clark Wilson** at San Gabriel's Mission Playhouse
www.latos.org

Sierra Chapter
Friday, March 19 at 7:30 PM
Silent Film *The King of Kings*
Walt Strony at the Organ.
sierrachapterATOS.org

Paramount Theatre

March 19, 8 PM and March 21, 2 PM
Silent film Buster Keaton's *'The General'* followed by *Sain-Saens Third Symphony* with **Christoph Bull** at the organ.
oeps.org/page/march/19-21.htm

Theatre Organ Society of San Diego

Friday, March 19 at 7 PM
Dennis James with Buster Keaton's silent film, *Girl Shy*
Saturday, April 10 at 2 PM
Concert by **Jerry Nagano**
Saturday, May 1 at 2 PM
Concert by **Dave Wickerham** followed by TOSSD's 35th Anniversary Dinner
www.tossd.org

OTHER VENUES

Bob Hope Theatre Stockton
Friday night Classic Films at 7 PM
(The Pink Panther, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, Thoroughly Modern Millie) with an organ concert at 6:30 PM by Tom Thompson
BobHopeTheatre.com

Castro Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 429
Castro St. SF, CA. Intermission music played daily by **David Hegarty, Warren Lubich, Mark Putterbaugh** or **Harry Garland. (425) 621-6120.**
CastroTheatre.com

Grand Lake Theatre, 3/18 Wurlitzer, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA.
Intermission music: **Warren Lubich** or **Gordon Pratt** (Fridays) & **Kevin King** (Saturdays). **(510) 452-3556.**

Palace of the Legion of Honor, 4/63 E.M. Skinner, Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays from 4:00 to 4:45 PM. Free after museum admission. **David Hegarty** plays an **Organ Pops Concert** on the first full weekend of each month; other artists play classical concerts other weekends.
(415) 750-3600.
LegionOfHonor.org

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10 AM. (510 465-6400).

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA. The organ is played before and between films. **(650) 324-3700.**
StanfordTheatre.org

California Auto Museum, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 2200 Front St., Sacramento, CA (\$10 General, \$20 Family, \$5 Students, \$8 Members.)

Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 300 W Main St., Visalia, CA.
(559) 625-1FOX (1369)

Sorry the Windsheet is Late (How to Learn InDesign the Hard Way)

Your Publisher, Frank La Fetra, had his left knee replaced February 19th and expected it would go as smoothly as his other knee replacement did last October.

The surgery went well, but the recovery has been slow and painful with several ups-and-downs. Last Sunday was a 'down' day and it became apparent that he could not get the WS to the printer Monday. So we sent out the yellow reminder card and I (Jan - his wife) dove into InDesign to get the Windsheet done. It is not up to Frank's standards - but you will understand. And yes, Frank is getting better.

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, Inc.

A Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

ATOS is dedicated to promoting the tradition of the theatre pipe organ and public understanding and appreciation of the instrument and its music, and shall aid in any way possible the preservation of theatre organs through rehabilitation of instruments and fostering the arts of playing, building, voicing and maintenance. If you would like to join us, please call or write:

Mr. Neal R. Wood at (415)861-7082 <nealwood@pacbell.net> , PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625.

Dues are \$20 for NorCal TOS only and an additional \$40 for National ATOS (\$60 total) per year for full voting membership and subscription to *Theatre Organ* the six times a year glossy journal of ATOS. Spouse and children living at home may be included in your membership. We hope you will join us to help preserve and enjoy these great instruments.