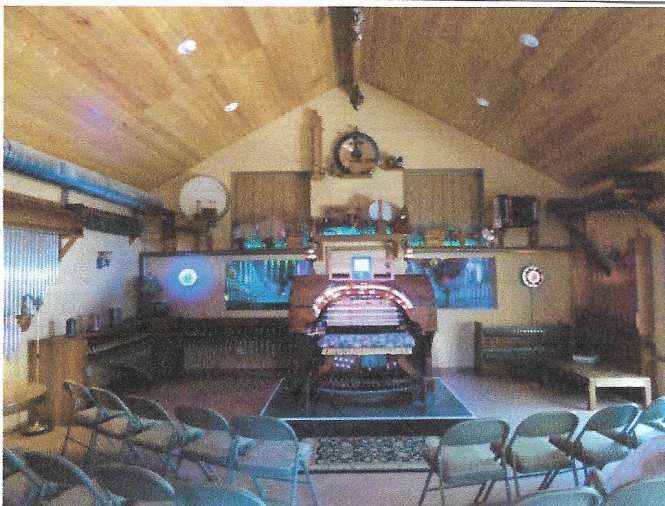


August 2025

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society
www.norcaltos.org
P. O. Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Berkeley Community Theatre
1930 Allston Way, Between Milvia /Street &
Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

NORCAL PICNIC AT
KEVIN KING'S STUDIO
Seamus Gethicker at Kevin's Wurlitzer
Saturday August 23rd, Noon to 4:30 pm
Kevin King's Organ Studio
2851 Creston Road, Walnut Creek.



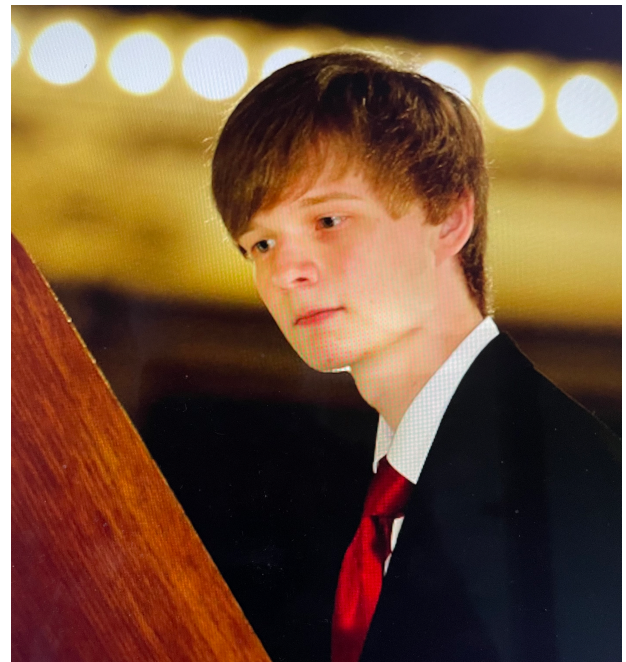
the mighty Kotzschmar Organ played by Ray Cornils, with whom he later studied classical organ throughout middle and high school. Soon after discovering the pipe organ, he suddenly found out about the theatre organ by stumbling across a video online and was instantly hooked.

Since 2022, Seamus has been a guest organist at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona, home to one of the largest theatre organs in the world, where he fills in as needed through out the year. Having a broad roster in music, Seamus' programs contain a wide variety of selections that are sure to have something for everyone.

The gate will open at 12:00 noon. At 1pm Seamus Gethicker will play.

Seamus Gethicker is a young theatre organist from Bath, Maine. He is the 2016 winner of the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Organist Competition and has since had the privilege of performing at venues across the country.

Seamus' interest in pipe organs began at age 8, when he attended a Christmas concert at Merrill Auditorium in Portland Maine, and first witnessed



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CLOSING CHORD

Jan La Fetra passed away peacefully on June 23, 2025. She was 93 and she enjoyed a wonderful life. She and her husband Frank were active members and supporters of NorCal for many years. Frank was a past Chairman of NorCal. He passed away in 2021.



Jan and Frank both worked on committees of the very successful National Conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society presented by NorCal Chapter in 1991 and 1998. After the conventions, they hosted parties at their home to reward the hard working members of the convention committee, a group of about 20 people.

Jan grew up in Denver, CO, the youngest of four children. Early on, Janice inherited her dad's love of golf, ranking in the state at the age of 13.

While at Stanford in October 1952, a blind date with Frank La Fetra turned to love, marriage, and a true partnership spanning 68 years. Jan and Frank shared many interests and were active leaders in everything they threw themselves at: St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Stanford (alumni) Club, Western Wheelers Bicycle Club, and NorCal.

Beneath the exterior a traditional housewife, Jan was a civic and community leader, including serving as Mayor of Menlo Park in 1988.

Jan loved her family, dogs, and laughter - although not necessarily in that order. Jan was an avid golfer. She played regularly at Stanford, Palo Alto Muni, and eventually all Santa Teresa until 2019.

In 1994, after 31 years in Menlo Park, Jan and Frank moved to the Evergreen area of San Jose. In 2011, they moved to the Forum in Cupertino.

Jan is survived by her four married children: Frank, Jr. (Alicia) of Sunnyvale, CA, Cheryl (Bob) of Woodland, CA, Ross (Sue) of Sunnyvale, CA, and Bruce (Debbie) of Knoxville, TN, and 8 grandchildren.

NorCal thanks Mr. Bruce La Fetra for this family history.

ABOUT NORCAL

THEATRE ORGN SOCIETY

NorCal Theatre Organ Society is a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). "ATOS is dedicated to promoting the tradition of the theatre pipe organ and public understanding of the instrument and its' music, and shall aid in any way possible, the preservation of theatre organs through their rehabilitation and by fostering the arts of playing, building, voicing, and maintenance." If you would like to join us, please contact our

Membership Chairman, Neal Wood.

woodshed523@icloud.com

Normally Nor-Cal dues are \$20. Per year. However if you join now, they will not be due until we return to having concerts.

For \$70 (Special rate of \$25 for students younger than 24) you can join

ATOS, the International organization for a year. With a full voting membership plus six bi-monthly issues per year of the *Theatre Organ Journal*.

HOW OFTEN DO WE PUBLISH THE WINDSHEET?

Until we return to a regular concert series, we will publish as copy accumulates.

GET YOUR WINDSHEET BY E-MAIL!

Would you like to receive your copy of the Windsheet by email? It will be in color, it will be wrinkle and tear-free, It will arrive sooner, and you will save NorCal the cost of postage and envelopes! If so, please contact our Membership Chairman, Neal Wood at the address shown above.

Neal has served as Membership Chairman longer than any other officer has served in NorCal. His membership list is maintained on a computer. Neal would like to retire as Membership Chair and will give the computer with the membership files to anyone who would like to succeed him and he will explain his procedures. Neal's email address is above and his telephone number is:

415 515-4030

BRIEF UPDATE ON OUR WURLITZER AT THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Both 20HP blowers are operational, the Uniflex 5000 computer relay upgrade has been installed and is operational. We have many ciphers to correct which have been caused by damage sustained by the organ during the reconstruction of the stage house. The organ crew is working to clear the ciphers. The crew can only work when management is present at the theatre, so our progress is a function of the available access time.

ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION

Neal Wood and several other NorCal members enjoyed attending the 2025 ATOS Convention sponsored by Dairyland Chapter in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 21st through July 27th. They, along with five busloads of other members from around the world, enjoyed hearing 13 concerts by outstanding organists in homes and theaters in Wisconsin and Illinois. Instruments ranged in size from a 2/10 Wurlitzer at Lake Geneva, to the famous 5/80 instrument in the San Filippo estate in Barrington Hills, Illinois and the 4/90 instrument at Carma Labs near Milwaukee. Pictured below, are some of the NorCal and Sierra Chapter members who attended the convention.



OTHER VENUES

Grand Lake Theatre - 3/17 Wurlitzer, 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by Gordon Pratt and Bob Reichert Fridays and Saturdays. (510) 452-3556. www.renaissancerialto.com

Oakland Paramount Theatre - 4/26 Wurlitzer 2025 Broadway, Oakland. It's newly restored original Wurlitzer "waterfall" style Publix 1, (4-manual) console was purchased and returned to the theatre by NorCal member Bill Schlotter who paid for it's professional restoration by Ken Chrome.

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Kevin King has played the organ for the Art Deco Ball, a for a private PIXAR event and the Speaker's Series at the theatre. So far, it has not been featured by the Paramount for any of its public events. www.paramounttheatre.com

Stanford Movie Theatre - 3/21 Wurlitzer
221 University Avenue, Palo Alto. Open
Thursday through Sunday, featuring classic
films made prior to 1940. (650) 324-3700
Stanfordtheatre.org

California Theatre, San Jose 4/21 Wurlitzer
(auditorium) & 2/10 Wurlitzer (lobby). 345
South First St., San Jose, CA. The lobby
organ is played prior to other musical events
[https://sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/
california-theatre](https://sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/california-theatre). (408) 792-4111

California Theatre, Pittsburg
3/10 Robert Morton.
351 Railroad Ave., Pittsburg, CA
<http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com>

Oroville State Theatre 3/16 Wurlitzer
(former Sacramento Towe Auto Museum
organ) 1489 Meyers Street, Oroville.
<http://www.oroillestatetheatre.com>
(530) 538-2470

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