

The WINDSHEET



NEWSLETTER OF THE NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438 • (510) 644-2707

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal
December 2003



Dean Cook

The Berkeley Community Theatre
1930 Allston Way

Membership Meeting December 7th, 2:00 PM

Bay Area native Dean Cook heard his first Theatre Organ at the age of three at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo. He acquired his first organ, a Conn spinet, at 14 and studied privately with jazz organist Chet Smith at 15. After studying music theory in school, Dean began playing at most of the restaurants and theatres that featured organs, becoming something of a Bay Area fixture. Between 1985 and 1996 Dean performed at venues such as

Pizza & Pipes in Redwood City, Serramonte and Santa Clara; the Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland; the Avenue Theatre in San Francisco; and St. James Episcopal Church, Oakland. He has also performed at the Bella Roma Pizza in Martinez.

In 1996, Dean relocated to Chicago where he became the featured organist at the famous Music Box Theatre and also appeared at Beggar's Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. Dean relocated

back to San Jose in 2001 and can now be heard at Angelinos where he plays Thursday, Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Dean has played for NORCAL previously at Redwood City, and at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt. We look forward to his concert at Berkeley.

Annual Membership

Concert, Meeting, & Dinner

Our 17th Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner will begin after the concert. After the meeting we'll enjoy for the 6th time, a dinner fully catered on stage by the same caterers who have served us excellent meals for the last five years.

For dinner reservations call Jack O'Neill, at (510) 632-9177 or send your check for \$34.95 per person to him at P.O. Box 2741, Oakland, CA 94602-0041. Tickets will be held at the theatre for reservations received too late to mail.

Membership Dinner cont'd Pg. 2.

January 24th, Sat., Tentative Meeting
Bella Roma Restaurant, Martinez.
Bob Reichert, Staff Organist, will play an opening set, after which there will be open console.

2003-2004

Wurlitzer Pops
Public Concert Series
Berkeley Community Theatre
1930 Allston Way

All Concerts Sundays
at 2:30 PM

Jelani Eddington February 22nd
Chris Gorsuch March 14th
Walter Strony May 9th

Federal Employer Identification Number 23-741594-7 • State Charitable Trust No. CT 45966 • State Organization Number D-0726636 M12

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MEMBERSHIP/TICKETS
John H. O'Neill
P.O. Box 2741
Oakland, CA 94602
(510) 632-9177

Membership Dinner cont'd.
The following is the menu:

Caesar Salad
Green Salad Vinaigrette
Chilled Vegetables with Dill Sauce
Imported and Domestic Cheeses
Fresh Baked Dinner Rolls
Condiments
Herb Roasted Chicken
Baked Ham
Top Round of Roast Beef
Coffee and Soft Drinks
Dessert

The price of the dinner will be \$34.95 per person. Remember, to gain access to the theatre during the school construction, approach from Allston Way, and walk around the west side of the building to the front entrance on the south side.

BOARD MEETINGS

The next board meeting will be held January 16th at the residence of Warren Lubich, (415) 566-2623, to elect officers and set the meeting dates for the remainder of the year.

Meetings are open to all members however, please notify the host if you wish to attend so that seating and refreshments can be arranged.

OPEN CONSOLE

Open console for members will be held Sunday, Jan. 11th from 1-5 PM. Due to the holiday season there will be no open console in December. Call the NORCAL voice mail at (510) 644-2707 on Sunday morning to confirm theatre availability. If available enter via the back stage door at 1930 Allston Way.

Chris Nichols

♠, Chairman, Open Console Host

CONTRIBUTIONS

We thank and acknowledge Chris Nichols of San Francisco and Harold Lentz of Alamo, CA for their recent donations, and Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Butcher's donation in memory of Charles O. Groff of Oakland which will help to perpetuate theatre organ preservation and presentation in the Bay Area.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new member R. M. Rogness of Lafayette.

EDITOR'S CONSOLE

In columns one and two on this page and continuing in the next *Windsheet* is an article about the Wanamaker organ and it's curator Curt Mangel. The article is reprinted from U.S. Airways in-flight magazine, *Attaché*, August, 2003, with the publishers kind permission.

I would like to thank some individuals for their invaluable help over the last nine years. Chris Nichols for proof reading, Membership Secretary Jack O'Neill for printing address labels, Bob Shipley and Nan Bostick for picking up the newsletters at the printers and preparing the mailings, and my wife Gail for at various times, sharing the editorship. All have contributed considerable time and effort to the publication.

I'm happy to announce that Bob Shipley will become the *Windsheet* Editor effective January 1st. Contacts for Bob follow:

Robert K. Shipley
1734 W. El Camino Real #9
Mountain View, CA 94040-2466
Telephone (650) 968-3290
<bshipley1@atmc.net>

The next *Windsheet* press deadline will be January 9th.

Rudy

Ciphers

It has been officially announced that the Boyd theatre in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania has been saved. The Boyd Theatre was the original home of the Kimball Theatre Pipe Organ that is now at the John Dickinson High School Auditorium in Wilmington, Delaware. There are plans to install another Theatre Pipe Organ in place of the original. For more information visit the following web site:

<www.savethesameric.org>

The Pipes Are Calling

by Robert Klara
(*Last Installment*)

Mangel remembers from a few days ago that a D-sharp in one of the Solo's tuba stops isn't sounding. Facing a thicket of pipes, he reaches instinctively in and grabs one. Lifting it gently from its wind chest, Mangel finesses its boot off, then lightly blows on the exposed reed. Will that alone fix the problem? Yes, because a single speck of dust lodged beneath the reed was enough to keep an eight-foot-long pipe from making a peep—and Mangel suspected as much on his way up the ladder.

"There are very few people in the world who can do what Curt does," Conte says. "This organ is so much larger than any other, and it only functions because of his persistence. I can't fathom what he does intuitively. It's a gift."

A renaissance man of all things mechanical (he knows how to fix clocks and steam engines, too), Mangel first became aware of his gift as a teenager when he joined a local youth group. The Freemason's hall in which they met housed a long-dead Victorian pipe organ. "I couldn't keep my hands off it," Mangel remembers. He had it working in a few weeks. After decades of repairing organs in the Midwest, Mangel was invited to care for the Wanamaker. He sold his house, left his friends, and moved to Philly, where he now keeps an apartment just blocks from the store so he can reach his charge within minutes. "This is," he explains, "the most important organ in America."

Before long, Mangel is out to find the wayward F-sharp that malfunctioned during Conte's recital. Climbing up into the Great Division, he scans the rows of pipes dimly gleaming under a fluorescent tube. "Rats!" he scolds, plucking a 4-foot-long pipe from its windchest. If a pipe is malfunctioning, it's a

straightforward guess that there's something wrong with that pipe or the valve mechanism beneath it. But Mangel, eyebrows in a crinkle, senses otherwise. Intuitively, he slides down beneath the wind chest and starts taking things apart—not beneath the problem pipe, but the one beside it. Minutes later, he pulls out a leather diaphragm with a nasty-looking tear through it. "The neighboring F-sharp of another rank had a leaky pneumatic," Mangel explains. "When the rank wasn't on, it let the air through to our F-sharp. Had that rank been on, the pressure would have closed the valve." Come again? Suffice it to say that an open window in one room can cause a draft in another. Mangel happily climbs down to pluck a new diaphragm from his supply cabinet. "Am I good," he asks, "or what?"

Indeed, the Wanamaker organ is very fortunate that Mangel is that good, because much of the organ still isn't working. Mangel has rebuilt two whole divisions, but the Orchestral is silent, and so is the Original String Division, which sits in pieces as of this writing. For Mangel, this will mean months, if not years, of work. "We can get the whole thing restored in my lifetime," he says confidently.

If a lifetime spent in devotion to a dusty wooden contraption in the wall seems extreme, you will have a hard time convincing Mangel to see it that way. "I am about legacy," he says. "This organ is going to be here after I'm gone and after you're gone. It's my job to keep it playing."

While written for the general public, hopefully the above article will be of interest to NORCAL members. It updates the status of the world's largest operating pipe organ. Curt Mangel, was recently honored in Buffalo, for his effort in restoring the 3,400 seat Sheas' Buffalo Theatre and its 4/28 Wurlitzer.

Board Meeting Excerpts

The October 7th meeting was held at the home of Director and Mrs. Don Siefert. Complete minutes are available from NORCAL Secretary Art Woodworth.

Membership Secretary Jack O'Neill reported that the NORCAL Mailing list now contains 244 addresses including 17 complementary mailings.

Chairman Chris Nichols has received announcements of the following from ATOS:

Hobbyist Competition
Electronic Theatre Organ
Competition

Mentor Program

If you are interested in any of these ATOS programs, contact Chris.

Spoon fed but still won't eat[Ed.]

A letter dated October 1, 2003 has been received from the Assistant City Manager of the City of Tracy. The letter was regarding Nor-Cal's proposal to install a small theatre pipe organ in the Grand Theatre that will soon undergo restoration. The letter reads in part: "...Including an organ in the Center would displace a number of seats in the theater, and affect the functionality of access to critical areas around the stage. In addition, the space and storage area needed for the organ system, in the already tight constraints of the theater, were problematic. There were also considerations related to mechanical issues and the budget (for infrastructure purposes). Given the programming plans for the Center, we decided not to place a restored organ in the Center. Nevertheless, we thank you for allowing us to consider this option and assure you that this matter was discussed in detail."

Don Siefert reported that he, Chris Nichols, and Warren Lubich visited the Tracy Grand Theatre earlier in the day. At some time in the past, the building had been gutted and a level floor installed for storage. Don said that he has been told that the project needs 550 seats to be profitable but there is room for only 500. He said

there may be a misunderstanding of space requirements for a small pipe organ. Don also said that he understands that the overall project costs will be more than originally estimated.

Scoop: The Windsheet learned just before press time that the artist to be featured at the El Capitan Theatre on Saturday, January 17th is **Tony Fenelon** from Australia!

Wurlitzer Weekend V

Admission to all events except
Old Town Music Hall \$99

Friday - January 16th

8 PM - Orpheum Th., 3/13 Wurlitzer
CHRIS ELLIOTT

Saturday - January 17th

9:30 AM El Capitan Th 4/37 Wurlitzer
TONY FENELON
2 PM - Nethercutt's 4/72 Wurlitzer
JONAS NORDWALL
8 PM - San Gabriel 3/17 Wurlitzer
DAVID WICKERHAM

Sunday - January 18th

9:30 AM Bay Th, 4/54 Wurlitzer
TOM HAZLETON
2:30 PM - Plummer Aud, 4/37 Wurlitzer
DAN BELLOMY and Friends

\$20 added cost option

7 PM - Old Town Music Hall 4/26 Wurlitzer
RON RHODE

Make checks payable to "LATOS Wurlitzer Weekend V". Send to Wurlitzer Weekend V, C/O Wayne Flottman, 2721 West 182nd St., Torrance, CA 90504-5228. Phone (310) 329-1455, or internet:

<wflottman@kualumni.org>

OTHER VENUES

Arlington Theatre, 1317 State St., Santa Barbara, CA, 4/27 rank Robert-Morton. (805) 692-0939.

Bay Theatre, 4/55 Wurlitzer Pacific Coast Hwy. and Main St., Seal Beach. (562)-431-9988.

<www.baytheatre.com>

Castro Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 429 Castro, SF. Intermission music played daily by David Hegarty or Warren Lubich. (415) 621-6120.

<www.castrotheatre.com>

El Capitan Theatre, 4/37 Wurlitzer, 6338 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, Rob Richards, John Ledwon & Ed Vodicka play preview music 30 minutes prior to the film.

Phone: (800) DISNEY6. Website:

<www.elcapitantickets.com>.

Grand Lake Theatre, 3/18 Wurlitzer, 3200 Grand Avenue, in Oakland. Intermission music played Fridays by Warren Lubich and Saturdays by Kevin King. (510) 452-3556.

<www.renaissancerialto.com>

Ironstone Winery, 4/15 Robert Morton theatre organ, 1894 Six Mile Rd., Murphys, CA

For reservations and information about other dinner and entertainment programs and ticket prices call

(209) 728-1251. Internet:

<www.Ironstonevineyards.com>.

Nethercutt Collection. 15200 Bledsoe St, Sylmar, CA 91342, 4/74 Wurlitzer. Wurlitzer. Concerts are free, but reservations are required.

(818) 367-2251.

Dec 5, Fri, 8 PM - Walt Strony

Dec 19, Fri, 8PM - Tom Hazleton

Dec 20, Sat, 2 & 8PM - Tom Hazleton

<www.nethercuttcollection.org>

Old Town Music Hall, 4/26 Wurlitzer, Weekends. Check their web site at <www.otmh.org> for complete listings and details and

future events. (310) 322-2592.

Orpheum Theatre, LA, 3/13 Wurlitzer **Jan 16**, Fri, Chris Elliott, silent film TBA. (Wurlitzer Weekend)

<www.theorpheum.org>

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025 Broadway, in Oakland. Public tours on the first and third Saturdays on the month, 10 AM. (510) 465-6400. Their web site is:

<www.paramounttheatre.com>

Pasadena Jr College 4/23 Wurlitzer For information check the LATOS website: <www.latos.org>

Plummer Auditorium, Fullerton, 4/36 Wurlitzer (Wurlitzer Weekend) **Jan 18**, Sun, 2:30 PM, Dan Bellomy Phone (714) 671-1300. E-mail:

<www.plummerorgan.com>

San Gabriel Auditorium, 3/17 Wurlitzer. For information check the LATOS site: <www.latos.org>

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221 University Ave., in Palo Alto.

Fall: Satyajit Ray Film Festival.

Call (650) 324-3700. or search at:

<www.stanfordtheatre.org>.

Towe Auto Museum, 2200 Front St., Sacramento, 3/15 Wurlitzer. Free Sunday concerts with Museum Admission

Dec 21, Sun 2 PM, Organ Concert by Dave Sauer.

Silent movies when shown are presented by Sierra Chapter, ATOS.

Separate admission is charged for Chapter events. For further information call (916) 925-7440 or search the chapter website:

<www.SierraChapterATOS.org>

FOR SALE

Philadelphia Mastbaum Wurlitzer **Grandfather Clock Chime** (Very Rare) Wurlitzer 12 Note Tibia Octave Chest Wurlitzer Glockenspiel (37 Note) Moller Large Scale Xylophone (49n) Spencer 2 HP Blower, (12" Wind) Spencer 1 HP Blower (50" Wind) 1 HP Test Blower (4-18" Wind) Zepher 1/2 HP Blower (7" Wind) Morton and Smith Chest work Regulators, Tremolos, Rectifiers. Cast Flanges (all sizes) Hill Green Lane 8 Ft Qunitadena Austin 4 Ft Dopple Flute. Morton Magnets, Misc. leather Smith Xylophone. 25 Note For additional items call Ron Downer at (415) 664-3860.

BAY AREA GOURMET ORGAN

(Piping Hot Meals)

Angelino's Restaurant, 3/13 Wurlitzer, 3132 Williams Rd., San Jose. Organists: Thursday, Saturday & Sunday Dean Cook; Friday; Mike Wright.

DEC 14, Sat., 6:30 & 8:30 PM Larrel & Hardy shorts: "Two Tars & Big Business For more information call: (408) 243-6095.

Bella Roma Pizza, 3/16 Wurlitzer, 4040 Alhambra, in Martinez. Organists: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday, Dave Mareno; Thursday & Friday, Bob Reichert; and Sunday, Kevin King. For more information call (925) 228-4935.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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 write or call Mr. John H. O'Neill at (510) 632-9177, P.O. Box 27238, Oakland, CA 94602-0438.

Your Name: _____ Your spouse's name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Occupation: _____

Dues are \$40 National and \$20 local (\$60 total) per year. Spouse and children living at home may be included in your membership. We hope you will join us.