
 Newsletter of the NOR-CAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
 PO Box 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438 510/644-2707

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal
 February 2004

JELANI EDDINGTON
 Sunday, 22 February at 2:30 PM
 Berkeley's Community Theatre



Our artist for February's public concert, Jelani Eddington has easily established himself as one of the most prominent and sought-after artists on the concert circuit. Jelani has performed in most of the major concert venues throughout the United States, has toured extensively abroad, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including his selection as the *2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year*.

With roots in Indiana, he, began receiving piano instruction at the age of four, studying classical piano under the direction of his grandmother. At the age of eight, a trip to hear the 4-manual 42-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in the Indianapolis, Indiana restaurant, the Paramount Music Palace, introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ. Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and

ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John Ferguson.

In the spring of 1988 at the age of 13, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's *Young Theatre Organist Competition*, and subsequently continued to pursue both musical performance and academic studies. Jelani went on to graduate *Magna Cum Laude* from Indiana University in 1996, and later received a *Juris Doctor* degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, after which time he was admitted to practice law in New York State.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, and has toured extensively throughout the world, making concert appearances in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England, Wales, Holland, France, and Germany. As a recording artist, Jelani has produced numerous theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country including his 2003 recording *Let's Face the Music* made on the BCT Wurlitzer.

In August 2001, the American

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CHAIRMAN Donald G. Siefert 1102 Windsong Dr Tracy, CA 95377 209/833-6360	VICE CHAIRMAN Kevin J. King 3106 Sheffield Ave. Oakland, CA 94602 510/532-9345	SECRETARY Arthur Woodworth 600 Coventry Road Kensington, CA 94707 510/524-7452	TREASURER John H. O'Neill P.O. Box 2741 Oakland, CA 94602 510/6329177	EDITOR Robert K. Shipley 1734-9 WEI Camino Real Mountain View, CA 94040 650/968-3290	PROGRAM	TICKETS/ MEMBERSHIP John H. O'Neill P.O. Box 2741 Oakland, CA 94602 510/632-9177
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Theatre Organ Society honored Jelani's extensive career as a concert and recording organist by naming him the *2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year*. Having received the award at the age of 27, Jelani retains the distinction of being the youngest-ever recipient of this prestigious honor. Since then, he has been even more active in the theatre organ world, accepting new musical challenges and redoubling his efforts to bring the happy and exciting sounds of these magnificent instruments to an ever-larger audience.

We heard him in last year's Morton Madness, and are delighted to present him again in concert at Berkeley.

Introducing our new Chairman— Don Siefert



(Editor's note: I asked Don, as our new chairman, to provide a bit of an introduction, and he offered this interesting and colorful ramble that fills the bill beautifully.)

"As an introduction to the members who don't know me: I have very little musical education. Three years in the high school band playing a French Horn, Then I had a year of accordion lessons on the side, and one year in the high school orchestra playing piano parts on an accordion. My first organ, bought

in 1964, came with a short course of lessons, of which I took the first three or four months. Musical education beyond that came from a junior college course in harmony and some guidance from Bill Langford who lived about a block from our home in Newark.

I started listening to theatre organ music when one was installed in a store front on College Ave. next to an Oakland firehouse. I was in the 7th grade at the time and was attending Claremont Jr. High across the street from the firehouse.

Later I took to riding a bicycle to the Paramount Theatre where an Oakland police officer would play in the early mornings after he got off duty. When the organ was removed, there was a long gap until the Hi-Fi show in San Francisco woke the world to Leon Berry's recording of *Traps, Bells, and Plenty of Pipes (Vol. 1)*. This was about the same time that George Wright recordings started showing up in record shops. (You do remember records, don't you?). In 1966 I bought a six-rank Smith organ and started to do some restoration work. By 1967 I realized it would never play because it was being restored by unskilled labor. I sold the Smith and bought a Rodgers 322 which I still have in a summer home in Truckee. I upgraded to a 33e and finally to my present Allen 4600 (A predecessor to the MDS III).

I regularly attend the open console meetings and most if not all of the public concerts.

Don't hesitate to come up and introduce your self at any time."

Chairman's Windline

We are looking for volunteers to serve on a committee to revise the general meeting and Banquet format to gain better attendance. Remember its your organization and it will be around a lot longer and successful, if more members participate in its operation. It's all volunteer work and the same old core doesn't want to do it all. The chair of this committee would be asked to report to the board.

With the dwindling of Pipe organ venues Gordon Pratt has suggested forming an e-tone sub group for playing members, and others that enjoy listening, that would meet periodically in the members home for console/social session. The format would be similar to the old organ clubs sponsored by the sales companies.

We are in need of a Program Chairman. This is one of the most interesting of all of the board or committee actions as it entails meeting and working with the artists and occasionally the venues. The volunteer should be willing to and able to attend the remaining board meetings (see Pg 3)

I would also like to see the reviews, similar to those so well written by Evelyn Woodworth for so many years, returned to the Windsheet. I would like a volunteer for this activity.

The final financial report for the convention has been submitted. The convention was deemed a great success by everyone I talked to during and after. Nothing but compliments from attendees. All

members owe a great big thank you to the committee that worked so hard to make it a success. It is the profits from such activities that is the principal support of the chapter and its instruments

Don

Open Console for members will be held Sunday, February 15 from 1-5 PM at the Berkeley Community Theatre. Call the NorCal voice mail at (510) 644-2707 on Sunday morning to confirm theatre availability. If there will be Open Console, enter via the back stage door at 1930 Allston Way.

New Member
We welcome David Hegarty of San Francisco.



Editor's Notes
Windsheet Deadline:
February 26. I'm always looking for material to share with Nor-Cal. Contact me: by email bshiple1@atmc.net, by phone (650) 968-3290, or by US mail 1734-9 W. El Camino, Mountain View 94040.

Bob Shipley

Future Board Meetings

April 13 - Neil Wood

June 8 - Don Siefert

Aug 10 - TBA

October 12 - TBA

November 16 - TBA

Dec 5 - tentative - This will be the Annual Meeting at Berkeley

All members are encouraged to attend. Please contact the meeting host so that there can be sufficient chairs and refreshments.

Nor-Cal TOS Events

Berkeley Public Concerts

Jelani Eddington - Feb 22

Chris Gorsuch - Mar 14

Walter Strony - May 9

Morton Madness

Jonas Nordwall - Apr 17

Other Chapters' Events

'Meet Me in Saint Louis' weekend <www.slto.org> - March 19-22

'Fabulous Fox Weekend' - an ATOS Regional convention in Atlanta May 28-30 <www.theatreorgans.com/atlanta>

ATOS Convention in Milwaukee, July 1-7 (dates include pre-glow and after-glow) <www.atos.org>

OTHER VENUES

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

Bay Theatre /55 Wurlitzer, Pacific Coast Hwy. and Main St., Seal Beach, CA, 5, (562)431-9988.
<www.baytheatre.com>

Castro Theatre, 429 Castro, SF, CA.
4/22 Wurlitzer, 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, CA
Rob Richards, John Ledwon
& **Ed Vodicka** play preview music 30 minutes prior to film.
(800)DISNEY6 [800-347-6396]
<www.elcapitantickets.com>

Grand Lake Theatre, 3/18 Wurlitzer,
3200 Grand Ave., Oakland.
Intermission music: **Warren Lubich**
(Fridays) & **Kevin King** (Saturdays)
(510)452-3556.
<www.renaissancerialto.com>

Nethercutt Collection, 15200 Bledsoe St., Sylmar, CA 91342, 4/74 Wurlitzer. Concerts are free, but reservations are required (818)367-2251.
<www.nethercuttcollection.org>

Old Town Music Hall, 4/26 Wurlitzer.
Check website for details and events.
(310)322-2592
<www.otmh.org>

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer,
2025 Broadway, Oakland. Public tours on first an third Saturdays of month at 10 AM. (510)465-6400
<www.paramounttheatre.com>

Towe Auto Museum, 3/15 Wurlitzer, 2200 Front St., Sacramento, CA. Free Sunday concerts with Museum Admission (exception, Sierra Chapter concerts).

<www.sierrachapterATOS.org>

BAY AREA GOURMET MEALS

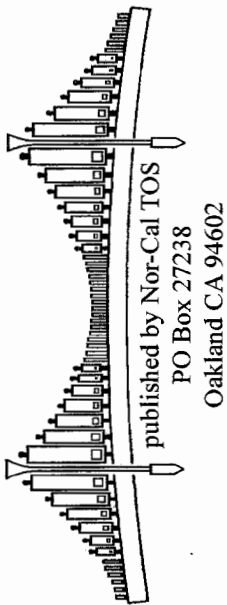
(Piping Hot Meals)

Angelino's Restaurant, 3/13 Wurlitzer, 3132 Williams Rd., San Jose. **Dean Cook**, Thu. and Sat.; **Mike Wright**, Fri. & Sun. More info: (408)243-6095.

Sunday, 7 March at 4PM—Silent film with Theatre Organ Accompaniment
The General with Buster Keaton

Bella Roma Pizza, 3/16 Wurlitzer, 4040 Alhambra Rd., Martinez, CA. **Dave Moreno**, Tue., Wed, Sat.; **Bob Reichert**, Thu. & Fri.; **Kevin King**, Sun. (925)228-4935

The WINDSHEET



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NOR-CAL 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 O'Neill at (510) 632-9177, PO Box 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438.

Your Name: _____ Your Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Occupation: _____

Dues are \$40 National ATOS and \$20 Nor-Cal (\$60 total) per year. 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.