
The WINDSHEET



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

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

January 2005

Chapter Member Concert
Warren Lubich
 plays
 The Castro Theatre Wurlitzer
Sunday, January 23
9:30 AM



San Francisco's Castro Theatre, on Castro Street, near Market Street will open its doors at 9 AM on January 23rd for us to hear our Program Chairman, **Warren Lubich**, entertain us on the 4/23 Wurlitzer in a chapter member's concert. The program will start promptly at 9:30. There will be a \$4 charge at the door.

In previous issues of the *Windsheet*, we had identified **John Lauter** as our intended artist. With a change of plans of that artist, Warren was again on the spot to find someone to ride up the organ lift that morning. He made calls to several other fine area artists who might be able to perform on such short notice, but without success. So, Warren has graciously offered to serve as our artist.

Warren began his formal music education at age seven with four years of classical piano followed by two years of pop arranging and harmony. Upon graduation from college he became involved with the Avenue Theatre in San Francisco and its Wurlitzer. After honing his skills on a pipe organ, he was named staff organist at the Avenue and performed the Friday night 'solo spots' until the theatre ceased operation in 1984. In 1978, Warren also became

staff organist for Pizza and Pipes, Inc. and performed first at the Daly City location and then the Redwood City location until it ceased operation in 2001. Between 1980 and 2003, Warren performed 27 overseas concerts in England, Australia and New Zealand and performed several silent-movie programs at the Egyptian Theatre in Boise, Idaho.

In 1993, he joined the organ staff at the Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland, CA and in 2000, he was added to the organ staff at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco. He performs weekly at both locations. Aside from all this, Warren enjoyed a thirty-six year career as a Staff Research Associate at the University of California's School of Medicine in San Francisco working in the fields of osteoporosis and hyper/hypoparathyroidism with the Department of Medicine and brain tumor research with the Department of Neurosurgery. His hobbies include gardening and his collection

of vintage automobiles [*Packards—Pub.*].

Warren joined ATOS and Nor-Cal in 1969. In 1970 he was elected Vice President of Nor-Cal and after one year moved up to President to fill the vacancy resulting from health problems with President **Dewey Cagle**. At that time, Nor-Cal's treasury held the handsome sum of \$80.00. He doubled as program chairman and managed to organize regular chapter events at the many organ equipped pizza restaurants in the bay area. He continued on as President until 1976 at which time he stepped down and left the treasury with several thousand dollars on hand. During his tenure he established Nor-Cal as a corporation and saw the chapter through the 1975 National Convention with **Judd Walton** as Convention Chairman. The success of that convention is what put money in the bank for Nor-Cal and provided the seed money for the World-Class Wurlitzer we now have in Berkeley.

Federal Employer Identification Number 23-741594-7 • State Charitable Trust No. CT 45966 • State Organization Number D-072 6636 NT20S M12

CHAIRMAN Donald G. Siefert 1129 Augusta Pointe Ct Ripon, CA 95366 209/599-7480 dsiefert@sbcglobal.net	VICE CHAIRMAN Kevin J. King 3106 Sheffield Ave. Oakland, CA 94602 510/532-9345 kevjking@juno.com	SECRETARY Arthur Woodworth 600 Coventry Road Kensington, CA 94707 510/524-7452 awoodworth@bigfoot.com	TREASURER John H. O'Neill P.O. Box 2741 Oakland, CA 94602 510/632-9177	EDITOR Robert K. Shipley 1734-9 W El Camino Real Mountain View, CA 94040 650/968-3290 bshiple1@atmc.net	PROGRAM Warren P. Lubich 2950 26th Avenue San Francisco, CA 94132 415/566-2623 lubie65@aol.com	TICKETS/MEMBERSHIP John H. O'Neill P.O. Box 2741 Oakland, CA 94602 510/632-9177
--	---	--	--	--	---	---

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.

February Concert at Berkeley



David Wickerham will be our artist at Berkeley Community Theatre for our next public concert **Sunday, February 6 at 2:30 PM.** Our next *Windsheet* will have more to say about this fine artist, but one item we learned recently was that he will be relocating to accept the position of Resident Organist at the Milhouse Collection and Museum in Boca Raton, Florida.

Mark Herman Entertains at Nor-Cal's Annual Meeting

by Bob Shipley with assistance from Art and Evelyn Woodworth

The forty or so of our members who came to the Berkeley Community Theatre for Nor-Cal's 48th Annual Chapter Business Meeting were treated to a full concert by **Mark Herman**, a young performer who has fully grasped the fine points of entertaining an audience on the theatre pipe organ. His carefully selected program ranged through the fine tunes of the '30's through the '60's, with a few items of more recent vintage that included a composition of his own. He also showed his skills at arranging by providing several tasty and well thought out medleys that helped recall the extensive gifts of some of the great pop tune and show composers of the great years of Broadway shows and musical movies.

Mark rode the stage lift with a version of George Gershwin's *Swanee* that included a number of nice variations, registration changes and counter-melodies in the several choruses of that tune. He explained that his interpretation of this piece was influenced by the arrangement of that tune as performed by Al Jolsen. Taking a minute or so to review this first tune and introduce his second number, Mark revealed himself to be a pleasant and gracious speaker, thanking those of the Nor-Cal crew and Berkeley Community Theatre staff who had assisted him in preparing for the day's performance.

His second selection, Rogers and Hart's *Mountain Greenery*, was a bouncy but subdued arrangement that put me in the mood of a person taking an old-fashioned sleigh ride in the snow of the late autumn—an apt recollection of what might be a happy activity to pursue in

Mark's home town of Ft. Wayne, Indiana about this time of year. Next, a slow and danceable Ellington original, *I Got it Bad and That Ain't Good* combined various smooth registrations on the pipework with harp carrying the melody on an especially delicious chorus.

Mark's first medley mined a rich vein, the work of Jerome Kern. In an introduction that interpolated in many instantly recognizable phrases from other timeless Kern hits, Mark quickly settled into playing solid arrangements of *I Won't Dance*, *The Way You Look Tonight*, *Who Stole my Heart Away*, and ending with *The Song is You*. We were particularly taken by Mark's gift of making the transitions between songs, his key changes and changes of registration, mood, and tempo were musically meaningful. In Mark's arrangements we were effortlessly guided from one song to the next.

Poinciana, a tune that hints of exotic tropical locales was next, and Mark happily refrained from laying on the "exotic tropical" part too heavily, but stayed with an arrangement that enhanced the haunting melody. Similarly, in Zez Confrey's *Jay Walk*, the arrangement Mark developed drew attention to the start-and-stop motion of a walking jaybird and played down the "finger-buster" aspect of Confrey's tune.

Disney movie music, with which we all grew up, yielded a delightful medley in Mark's hands, with *Zip-a-Dee-Do Dah*, *A Whole New World* (a duet from *Aladdin*), *Whistle While You Work*, and *When You Wish Upon a Star* combining to bring back happy memories.

A sassy *Chicago* (that toddlin' town), up-tempo and syncopated brought the first half to a close.

Mark opened the second half with Gershwin's *Strike Up the Band* in an arrangement that reminded me of the subtleties possible in a concert band performance, rather than the strident tone of a marching band. He next took us to the happy place we hold Christmastime to be, with a medley of *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Away in a Manger*, and *Winter Wonderland* that ended with a coda reprising *Wonderful Time*.

Next, the Burke/Van Heusen tune *Like Someone in Love*, in a lovely ballad arrangement that Mark said was inspired by his hearing of the Rosemary Clooney recording. He treated it like a love ballad, with a harp introduction leading to a

smooth transition to the chorus that was the main body of the song. His phrasing was a singer's phrasing. Just right.

It's hard to pigeonhole Cole Porter into one style of music, and Mark's selection of tunes for his next medley showed both his versatility and that of this other Indiana native. A big, fast *From This Moment On*, which was then followed by a surprisingly easy segue to a lush *Easy to Love*. The percussions then came out in a light, whimsical *Let's Do It (Let's Fall in Love)*. A brooding, minor key introduction then led to the heart-tugging *I Love You*, which was followed by the closing number, a happy, not too brassy *Anything Goes*.

Through Mark's remarks between numbers, we were reminded that this young talent was also a very normal and personable high school student who is combining his music studies with the family and school activities that go along with being that age. So, not surprisingly, Mark chose a theme for a piece he had written and next played for us that gave a glimpse of what goes on in the life of a teenager. His *Making it to Class On Time*, was colorful and brought to mind the sounds of a high school day, with a ticking clock, the end-of-period bell, and the mad dash from class to locker to next class woven together in a composition that was an enjoyable, scurrying, novelty tune.

New Sun in the Sky, a Dietz and Schwartz tune, was new to me, but Mark's treatment left a clear impression that there was a melody there that ought to be better known. More recognizable (to me) was the ballad *Body and Soul* which in Mark's arrangement stayed a ballad and didn't adopt the trappings of a torch song. Another Confrey number, *Dizzy Fingers* ended the second half, and for an encore, Mark chose *I'll Be Seeing You* which received a romantic, yearning arrangement that reflected this tune's role in the WWII-era movie of the same name. We think Mark meant this piece to state a wish he had--both to return to entertain us again and also to further explore the wonderful tonal resources of our Wurlitzer.

All who we've heard from were similarly taken by his poise, his console technique and easy going nature. This was a very satisfying concert, perhaps the first full concert Mark has performed away from his home chapter, and from a young artist who we do want to see (and hear from) again..

Annual Membership Meeting

Following Mark Herman's fine concert, the Nor-Cal Board, assembled on stage to conduct the 48th Annual Business Meeting of our chapter. Don Siefert, who chaired the meeting made introductions all-around and reviewed the events of the year. Secretary Art Wooworth's minutes of the prior year's annual meeting were approved as presented, and reports on our membership and Chapter finances were presented. Bill Schlotter reported on the chapter instruments, noting progress on installing additional ranks into the Berkeley Wurlitzer, and also that the Salinas Fox instrument, which must be removed shortly, may soon be moved to a new in-theatre home.

Dave Goggin, Chapter member, made a presentation offering several publicity suggestions and offered to head a committee to work on implementing them. Some of the suggestions can be implemented at no cost, others will require funding. Dave did not address how to implement or cover any resulting costs. He is very interested in identifying those among our members who would be willing to help define and then implement a publicity effort that would work to increase awareness of our Berkeley instrument and also to improve attendance at our public concerts.

**Chairman's
Windline**
Don Siefert



(Editor's Note: New club officers will be designated at the January 11 Board meeting. Don Siefert, our 2004 chairman offered the following titled *Chairman's Last Gasp*.)

I would like to personally thank all who supported Nor-Cal this last year. As an organization run entirely by volunteers the work on any one individual load is inversely proportional to the number that will help. We can only get from an organization a return on what we as individuals put into it.

One case in particular, I should have publicly thanked one more person at the meeting and in my interest in getting through totally missed him.

We in fact have behind the scenes two program chairmen functioning and have had for the last several years. The Public concerts, theater and artists are scheduled and booked by **Bill Schlotter**. (The board assists with the selection of artists.) This year was a lot of extra work because of the auditorium uncertainty. **Thanks Bill.**

In this last year I have learned more about the operation of Nor-Cal than I ever felt I would need to know. I want to thank the present board for the opportunity and wish the incoming board success in attaining growth toward the future. *Don*

Donations

We thank **Chris Nichols and Neal Wood**, both of San Francisco, for their donations which will help us in our efforts to preserve the theatre organ and and present it in performances in our community.

We thank **Marie Tilson** of San Bruno for her donation made to honor the memory of **Warren White**.

We thank **Les and Rita Schaefer** of Concord for their special donation which is serving to remind and inspire Nor-Cal chapter.

Open Console

This is an opportunity for 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—5PM. Current dates are: • **January 9** • **February 20**
Important: Call the Nor-Cal voice mail at (510) 644-2707 on that Sunday morning to confirm theatre availability. If there will be Open Console, enter via the back-stage door at 1930 Allston Way.

Board Meeting

Tuesday, 11 January 2005, 7:30 PM
Home of Director **Neal Wood**
523 Corbett Avenue, San Francisco
415-861-7082

All members are encouraged to attend, but if you plan to attend, please call the host in advance so that seating and refreshments can be provided for all.

Future Chapter Events

Mark your calendars to note the following concerts:

February 6 **David Wickerham**, Berkeley
March 6 **Jonas Nordwall**, Berkeley
April 17 **Tom Hazleton**, Morton Madness
May 1 **Lew Williams**, Berkeley



**Editor's
Console**
Bob Shipley

We're hoping that your Holiday season was filled with good times. Your editor has a short two weeks between **Warren's** member concert and the **Dave Wickerham** public concert at BCT, so please have your material to me by January 23 for inclusion in the February issue. Contact me by email <bshipley1@atmc.net>, by phone (650) 968-3290, or mail me at 1734-9 W. El Camino, Mountain View, CA 94040.

Bob

Other Events

Castro Theatre, January 10, 1PM—

Dennis James cues the restored German silent film "Asphalt" as part of the annual film festival sponsored by the Goethe Institut. Admission \$10; Advance tickets on the web at ticketweb.com, or at Café de la Presse, 352 Grant Avenue at Bush, SF

Tickets on the day of the screening:

At the Castro · At the Point Arena Theatre

Info: (415) 621-6120; festival website:

www.goethe.de/ins/us/saf/pro/bb2005/enindex.htm

Fair Oaks Community Club House Organ January 9, 2PM—Dean Cook in Concert, sponsored by The Sierra Chapter.

Admission is \$10.

Directions from the Bay Area: Take I-80 to Sacramento; merge left to Bus-80/Capital City Frwy; Merge Left to Hwy 50; take the Sunrise Blvd/Fair Oaks exit; Turn Right onto California Ave. Address 7997 California Ave., Fair Oaks, CA

St. John's Episcopal Church, 14 Lagunitas Rd, Ross, CA Tuesday Jan 11 7:30pm—Jonas Nordwall plays the E.M.Skinner organ with Allen additions for the SF/AGO.

(In the North Bay, just off Sir Francis Drake Blvd by the Marin Art and Garden Center)

www.sfago.org/SFAGO-01-2005

Other Events (continued)

Los Angeles "Wurlitzer Weekend"

Jan 15-17. \$20 per concert or \$119 for all events. email wflottman@earthlink.net, phone 1-888-528-6722, website order form www.latos.org Events by date and time:

January 15: Stan Kann, El Capitan Theatre 9AM; Charlie Balogh at San Sylmar 2 PM; Bob Salisbury cues *The Thief of Bagdad*: Orpheum Theatre 8 PM;

January 16: Tom Hazleton at the Bay Theatre 9:30 AM; Jelani Eddington at the Plummer Auditorium 2:30 PM; Ron Rhode at the Old Town Music Hall 7 PM;

January 17: Jerry Nagano at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium 10 AM.

LA Chapter hosts 2005 ATOS National Convention Overture: June 30; Convention July 1-5; Encore July 6. Convention Hotels: Hilton Pasadena and Sheraton

Details at www.atosconvention.org; updated information will be published in the "Theatre Organ" journal.

Other Venues

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

Bay Theatre, 4/54 Wurlitzer, Pacific Coast Hwy. and Main St. Seal Beach, CA. (562) 431-9988. <www.baytheatre.com>

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

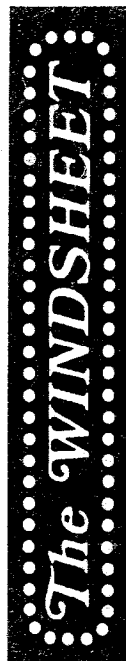
El Capitan Theatre, 4/37 Wurlitzer 6338 Hollywood Blvd., Hollywood, CA. **Rob Richards, John Ledwon & Ed Vodicka** play preview music 30 minutes prior to film.

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

Nethercutt Collection, 4/74 Wurlitzer, 15200 Bledsoe St., Sylmar, CA. Phone (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 and third Saturdays of month at 10AM. (510) 465-6400 www.paramounttheatre.com



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.