
The WINDSHEET



 Newsletter of the NOR-CAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
 PO Box 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438 510/644-2707
 www.theatreorgans.com/norcal
 September 2005



OCTOBER MEMBER'S PICNIC

at Bert and Ann Atwood's

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2—
 Ann and I are pleased to host the Nor-Cal picnic this year. We ask that those planning to attend email or call us no later than **Friday, September 30th** and let us know how many will be coming with you. We need an accurate count so we can prepare properly. We will then email you a map and directions to our home. If you don't have email, call far enough in advance so that we can send you the map and directions in the snail mail. (707-277-7208 or atwoody@mchsi.com)

Please bring your own picnic lunch. We will have



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 MONTEREY STATE THEATRE

On Sept. 18, 2005 all interested Nor-Cal members are invited to arrive at the Golden State Theatre on Alvarado Street in Monterey at **11 a.m.** for a tour of this jewel of a theatre. Nor-Cal member **Tom DeLay**, owner of the Golden State's 2/13 Wurlitzer, will conduct a tour of the theatre and describe the work that has been done since current owner **Warren Dewey** took over in October of 2004.

Following the tour, Nor-Cal members **Kevin King** and **Warren Lubich** will perform their magic on the Wurlitzer, during which time you may wander about and more closely examine the restoration. Since this an operating theatre, we must be

out shortly after 1 p.m. as there is a 2 p.m. showing of *Rebel Without A Cause*.

For those who may wish to bring a picnic lunch, *Dennis The Menace* park is located a few blocks east of the theatre. For those who do not want to picnic, there are a variety of restaurants close by, including the Marina and Cannery Row with it's famous Monterey Bay Aquarium. For history buffs, the Old CustomHouse, California's first theatre and the Presidio of Monterey are close by. *Bring your friends and prospective Nor-Cal members.*

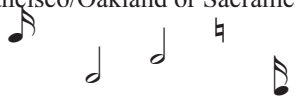
(Directions to Theatre on Page 3)

a barbecue set up for those who wish to cook. We will provide condiments and cold soft drinks, wine, and beer.

There will be Open Console throughout the day on 'Gigi' – our GW-IV Allen. I will play a short program starting about 2 PM.

Please no smoking in the house.

You are welcome to arrive anytime after 11 AM and stay until evening (probably best for you to leave by 6 PM so you'll be driving home in daylight). The trip will take you a little over 2 hours from San Francisco/Oakland or Sacramento.



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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.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It's time once again to nominate Directors to the Nor-Cal Board.

The following Directors' terms expire December 31, 2005: **Bill Schlotter** completes his second term and is thus ineligible to be renominated; **Warren Lubich** has indicated that he does not wish to be re-elected, and our current Chairman, **Kevin King** completes his first term and has agreed to be re-nominated. That leaves *two* Director's positions open for three-year terms.

Nominations of candidates for the Office of Director may be made by any Active member of Nor-Cal. Submit nominations in writing, to be received, **not later than October 10th** to Chairman Kevin King, for forwarding to the *Nominating Committee*.

Nominations must be signed by no fewer than two Active members of Nor-Cal, and include the name of the nominee with his or her consent to be nominated and agreement to serve, if elected.

Nominations close on October 10th.

ERRATA

In *Upcoming Events* in the previous issue, the *programs* at the Monterey State Theatre on September 3rd and October 29th were *interchanged*—the correct ones are herein.

Also in the previous issue, the date for **Lew Williams'** concert next year in Berkeley was incorrect. The concert is scheduled for **May 14, 2006**.

Dave Hooper's concert at the Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland that had been scheduled for October 22, 2005 has been *cancelled*.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to **Richard and Cheryl Weil** from Los Gatos. Thanks, Mr. **John Lukes** of Henrietta, NY for sending them to us.

OPEN CONSOLE

September 4, 1:00-5:00 PM. Make sure you call the Nor-Cal number, (510)644-2707, prior to traveling to the theatre to verify that the Open Console is still scheduled.

JOHN LAUTER CONCERT REVIEW

by Kevin King

Our August Nor-Cal concert took place at the beautiful Castro Theatre in San Francisco.

Upon entering, it was immediately clear that the Castro management is doing some wonderful things to the theatre. There was evidence of new decorative painting, gold leafing, cleaning, lighting, etc. The theatre looked terrific.

We arrived early, (doors opening at 8:30 a.m.) and settled in ready to hear the truly grand Castro Wurlitzer. Our artist for the morning was **John Lauter**. John is from the Detroit area. He has played extensively in that area with concerts at the Detroit Fox, Oriental Theatre in Chicago, Krughoff and VanDerMolen residences, Mundelein near Chicago, as well as the Denver Paramount and previously for Nor-Cal at the Castro. We have been trying for quite a while to arrange to have John back to play for us. Somehow there were always schedule conflicts. It was very nice to finally have him back at the Castro to play for us.

To ask any organist to play a concert at that hour is demanding a lot, believe me. John came through as the pro he is, playing a nicely varied program utilizing the full range of the Castro Theatre Wurlitzer. John's program included rousing marches, favorite ballads, bouncy novelty numbers, as well as some lesser-known numbers I had not heard before. We heard music written by **Robert Farnon**, **Duke Ellington**, **Cole Porter**, as well as a medley by his favorite composer **George Gershwin**. He also included a dedication to his wife Amy, who was there visiting the Bay Area for the first time, by playing the song *Once In Love With Amy*.

John worked hard to keep all of our sleep deprived, red eyes open. The audience was sleepy and quiet, but very appreciative of John's musical offerings. Perhaps he should have opened with *You're the Cream in My Coffee* or *Java Jive*. I could have used a medley of favorite "caffeinated tunes".

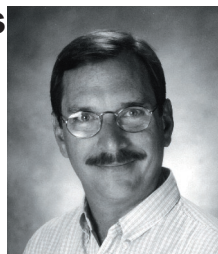
The Castro Wurlitzer sounded as pristine as ever, (the new Tuba Mirabilis on 25 inches of pressure is stunning), and John Lauter provided a fine morning of lively musical entertainment.



Windsheet

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE

Greetings to my fellow Nor-Cal members.



I'm sorry to have missed writing a column for our last Windsheet, it has been a busy time for me the past few weeks.

I know that those of you who were in Southern California in July for the annual ATOS convention had a fun time. We heard some organs that have not been featured in quite a while, and heard some new installations. It was exciting for me to finally hear the reinstallation of our San Francisco Fox Wurlitzer in the beautiful El Capitan Theatre. One of the highlights for me was the evening of music and fireworks at the famous Hollywood Bowl on the 4th of July.

Things back here at home continue to progress. It won't be very long now before our own Nor-Cal Wurlitzer jumps from 35 to 41 ranks of pipes. The organ crew is nearing the completion of adding the additional six ranks of pipes in the center chamber. Some of these ranks are truly rare items.

In some cases less than a handful of these particular ranks were ever made by the Wurlitzer Company. We should all be proud that we have a real museum collection of rarities at Berkeley. Also remember that the organ crew works almost every Saturday at the theatre, and Nor-Cal members and their friends are welcome to stop by and see what we are working on. Be sure to call our message phone number at (510)644-2707 in the morning to make sure we will be there. Then just come to the stage entrance on the street, (not the audience entrance).

See you soon,

FRIENDS 4 FREE —FIRST TIME—

The Nor-Cal Board announces a repeat of last-year's offer to increase attendance at our concerts at no cost to the members. Members are encouraged to invite their family and friends to attend our concerts for their first time at no admission cost to the member or guest.



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

I'm not as nervous about becoming the new Windsheet Editor as I would be about trying to give a concert on the BCT Wurlitzer, but it's a close second.

First I want to sincerely thank outgoing Editor Bob Shipley for his patience and thoroughness in preparing me for my new duties. If I fall short in any way, it will not be in the least his fault!

Then I want to publicly state my gratitude to our Publisher, Frank La Fetra. It is his tireless work that really results in the appearance of the Windsheet in your mail each edition. Without such an experienced and cooperative guy as Frank, I wouldn't even consider taking on the Editor's job!

For those who don't know me, I'm a retired systems analyst and computer teacher who began playing piano when I was 7. I know, a late starter! In my 20's, I moved to a small apartment without room for a piano, so I bought a little Baldwin spinet organ. Who would have thought that, 50 years later, I'd have a 3 manual Allen Renaissance electronic organ?

I still dabble in computers, teaching an occasional class for a Senior Center, doing web design and database design for several nonprofits, and hosting several Internet domains on my own server.

I'm excited about Nor-Cal's 2005-2006 concert season at Berkeley Community Theatre, leading off with the incomparable **Tom Hazleton** on November 13th.

Oh, yes, before I forget: *the deadline for the October Windsheet will be September 16th*. Anything you want published in that issue must be in my hands by then.

(See details of how to get stuff to me in the First Page Footer.)

DIRECTIONS TO THE MONTEREY STATE THEATRE

Better figure on an **hour and a half or more** drive from San Jose. (Mapquest says 75 Minutes and 69 Miles from I-280/680 and 101 *via* 101/156). Two recommended routes are:

SCENIC ROUTE (slow, but beautiful)

Take **Hwy 17** through the Santa Cruz Mountains to **State Hwy 1**, following signage to **Monterey**. Take the exit toward **Monterey** and the ramp toward **Fisherman's Wharf / Peninsula College**, merge onto **Fremont St.**, which becomes **Munras Ave.** Turn slight right onto **Alvarado St.** *Note the many one-way streets!* The Monterey State Theatre will be in the second block, on your right.

ALTERNATE ROUTE (much faster)

Take **Hwy 101** or **I-280** through San Jose, then **Hwy 101** through Gilroy to **Hwy 156** in Prunedale and follow the signs to **Monterey** and then as above to the Theatre.

SUMMARY OF AUGUST 2005 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

This is a summary of the minutes of the Nor-Cal Board meeting of Aug. 9, 2005:

Treasurer **Don Siefert**, reported that we have \$93,641.36 in our bank accounts and cash on hand. He has reviewed the Nor-Cal books with an accountant friend who says that our books are in the form of a running journal. The accountant has noted that we do not have a petty cash journal.

Program Chairman **Warren Lubich** announced the following confirmed events:

August 14 (9:00a.m.): **John Lauter** at Castro Theatre.

November 13: **Tom Hazleton** at BCT.

December (TBA) Annual Business Meeting.

April 8, 2006: Morton Madness, **Jim Riggs**.

May 14, 2006: **Lew Williams** at BCT.

The previously scheduled October event at the Grand Lake Theatre will not take place.

It was suggested that there be a stage door social at BCT in January.

Berkeley

Crew Chief **Bill Schlotter** reported that the organ is two wires (one ground wire and one trem wire) away from being a 4/36. The new rank is a musette. It will need to be voiced. Wind lines have been installed from the regulators to the chests for the next five ranks. The two tremulants need to be connected to the chests. Wiring for these ranks is well underway.

Work on the outside trap shelf is underway.

The 6-volt "ah-oogah" type auto horn has been installed in the bottom of the piano, next to the air-raid siren.

Salinas

Bill Schlotter said that Central Indiana Chapter arrived on August 7th to remove the former San Francisco El Capitan Wurlitzer from the Salinas Fox Theatre. The agreement was that they would also take the Paramount Theatre Publix #1 relay but they have no interest in it. **Tom DeLay** is working with them on Nor-Cal's behalf. We will need to have a work party to remove items Nor-Cal will be retaining. These include several pipe chests, some ranks of pipes, and a 10 HP blower. Much of it is sellable.

Nor-Cal 2003 Tax Returns

It appears that the 2003 returns have now been prepared and submitted. **Anthony Gravante** has advised Chairman **Kevin King** that he now has everything he needs to prepare the 2004 returns.

Complete official minutes of Board meetings are available to members, on request to the Secretary.

UPCOMING EVENTS of Nor-Cal Interest

September 3 (8:00 PM) Monterey State Theatre, Monterey--**Dennis James** *The General* **Buster Keaton**. (Public event)

(Note correction of program this date.)

September 18 (11 a.m.) Monterey State Theatre, Monterey—**Warren Lubich** and **Kevin King** will be featured. (Nor-Cal Event)

October 2 Kelseyville, CA—Nor-Cal members' party at **Bert Atwood's** home. *See article in this issue.*

October 29 (8:00 PM) Monterey State Theatre, Monterey—**Tom Hazleton**—1925 *Phantom of the Opera*, **Lon Chaney**. (Public Event)

(Note correction of program this date.)

November 13 (1:00 PM) Berkeley Community Theatre—**Tom Hazleton** opens Nor-Cal's 2005-2006 concert season at the BCT. *(See Friends 4 Free, herein.)* (Public Event)

April 8, 2006—Morton Madness—**Jim Riggs**—*Wyneland*, Lodi and *Kautz' Ironstone Vineyards*, Murphys.

May 14, 2006 (1:00 PM) Berkeley Community Theatre—**Lew Williams** at the BCT. *(See Friends 4 Free, herein.)* (Public Event)

OTHER VENUES

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

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

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

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221 University Ave, Palo Alto, CA. **Silent films** with organ accompaniment by various artists on Wednesdays. Intermission organ every night. (650) 324-3700. <www.stanfordtheatre.org>



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. Neal R. Wood at (415)861-7082 <nealwood@pacbell.net> , 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.