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# 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 2006



## SCOTT HARRISON

Members and Guests

**Saturday, January 28th, 9:00AM**  
**Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland**

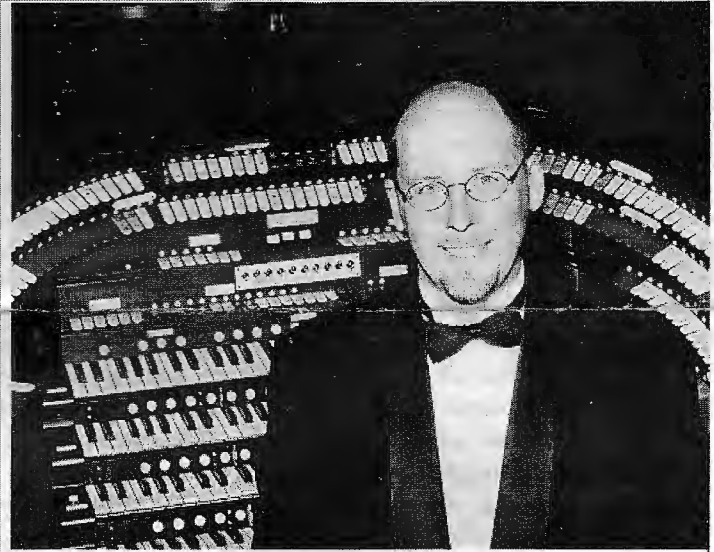
Scott Harrison will present our January member concert. Doors will open at 8:30 AM. The concert will begin at 9:00 AM. A \$4 donation will be requested to defray concert costs.

We excerpt Scott's biography that he provided us for his concert in October 1998. Here it is using many of his words.

"I started to play the organ at the age of 14, later progressing to the piano at 17. In 1986, I heard my first Theatre Organ. I was invited to a T.O.S.A. [Australia] club night held at the Moorabbin Town Hall in Melbourne. I had no idea what to expect, and I should add, that I wasn't really all that interested in hearing the organ as my musical focus was the piano. And of course, an organ was not really a very 'cool' instrument for a then 20-year old guy to play!

"I can still remember that night at Moorabbin as I heard the sound of the Mighty Wurlitzer for the first time; I never knew an organ could sound like an orchestra! From that night forward I again turned back to the organ with a newly found interest, in fact, I loved the thing!

"My Theatre Organ recordings include: *The Majesty of Music*  
 (continued on Page Three)



## DAVID PECKHAM

Public Concert

**Sunday, February 12th, 2:30 PM**  
**Berkeley Community Theatre**

**THE HEAT IS ON!**—During renovation work in the Theatre, the heating plant was inoperative for a period-of-time. The only warm place in the building was high up in the organ chambers! We are happy to announce that now everything is working again and we should have a comfortable auditorium in which to enjoy our concerts and open console sessions.

We are glad to present **David Peckham** once more on the Nor-Cal Wurlitzer (now 37 ranks) at the Berkeley Community Theatre.

David started playing the piano when he was 8 and organ when he was 11. He graduated from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester with a Bachelor's in music.

He was fortunate to grow up in a home packed with a modest Theatre Organ and all sorts of automatic musical instruments. **David's** formal musical training all has been in the classical realm, culminating with study with **Dr. David Craighead** at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music. Theatre Organ study has primarily been through listening to concerts and recordings and in the 1970's occasional coaching with **Dennis James and Don Kinnier**.

**David Peckham** is associated with L.A. Peckham & Son Pipe  
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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.

## ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING and ELECTION to BOARD

As reported in the December 2005 Windsheet, there were only three nominations for the three Director vacancies. In accordance with the Nor-Cal Bylaws in this circumstance, the nominees are seated without a ballot being needed.

Welcome to **Ron Bingaman**, a relatively new member, **Kevin King**, for his second term, and **Frank La Fetra**, returning to the Board.

Newly seated Board Member, **Frank La Fetra**, proposed an amendment to the Bylaws allowing the Board to schedule the Annual Membership Meeting in other than December (present Bylaws require the meeting between December 1 and 15, inclusive). He pointed out there are several advantages to this proposed change:

Avoids schedule competition in the busy Christmas/Hanukkah/Holiday season.

Permits a social, reasonably priced dinner afterwards, if desired.

If the Annual Meeting were in January, the Board could have the required Organizational Meeting concurrent with the normal February Board Meeting.

The attendance at the Annual Meeting is likely to go up with less competition for Holiday time. Nor-Cal needs to encourage more member participation.

The Board saw no immediate negatives to this proposal. Frank was authorized to prepare the necessary papers to call a vote of the Membership on this subject.



### OPEN CONSOLE

—Hosted by **Chris Nichols**

This is an opportunity for Nor-Cal 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 to 5 PM. The next scheduled dates are Sunday, **Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006** and Sunday, **March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006**.

**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.

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## NOR-CAL T.O.S. ANNUAL MEETING CONCERT

December 4, 2005

—By **Evelyn** and **Art Woodworth**

Those who attended the annual meeting were treated to a wonderful concert by not one, but two artists on our 4 manual, 36 rank [just turned 37-pub.] Wurlitzer pipe organ. Both artists are Nor-Cal members.

Our first artist was **Gordon Pratt**, a long-time Nor-Cal Member. **Gordon** plays upbeat, **George Wright** inspired arrangements. He started appropriately enough with *This Could Be the Start of Something Big*. In a more relaxed mood, **Gordon** next played *I'll Never Smile Again* as a salute to the Greatest Generation. He next pulled out all the stops for *Jalousy*, following the **George Wright** (as inspired by the Boston Pops) arrangement. In a quieter mood, **Gordon** played the **Dave Brubek-Paul Desmond** number with that tricky 5/4 beat, *Take Five*.

As a tribute to last year's movie *De Lovely*. **Gordon** played a medley of **Cole Porter** numbers. They were *It's DeLovely*, *In the Still of the Night*, *Night and Day*, *True Love*, and *It Was Just One of Those Things*. They were all very nice arrangements, with well thought out and appropriate transitions between numbers. We especially enjoyed *In the Still of the Night* which opened very softly and built up to soaring combinations, then slowly softened to its the ending. **Gordon** followed this medley with *Winter Wonderland*.

**Gordon's** next medley was from *Man of La Mancha*. He played the *Knight's Theme*, the *Squire's Theme*, and the *Impossible Dream*. He finished his half of the concert with the rousing *National Emblem March*. **Gordon's** encore was a wistful and romantic *I'll be Seeing You*.

**Paul-Wesley Bowen** ("PW") joined Nor-Cal recently. He returned to California after spending considerable time in Minnesota. He has his own style, which features big, lush combinations and rich harmonies. **PW** started off with a medley from *The Sound of Music*. The titles were *The Sound of Music*, *Do Re Mi*, *Sixteen Going on Seventeen*, *The Lonely Goatherd*, *Edelweiss*, *Climb Every Mountain*, and a reprise of *The Sound of Music*. His arrangements kept the medley flowing along well and conveyed the feeling of each number. **PW** followed the medley with a gospel/blues arrangement of *Where Could I Go But to the Lord?*

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**PW** next played *Lazy Afternoon*, a piece we were not familiar with. He played some mellow, relaxed reed combinations over lush strings, setting a mood appropriate to the title. He followed with an up-tempo, latin beat *Poinciana*. The big bands had updated *Song of India* by introducing swing phrasing. **PW** further updated it by playing it with a 5/4 beat. (How many theatre organ concerts have you been to with *two* numbers in 5/4 time?)

Another number unfamiliar to us was *Pepito*, a lively cha-cha-cha. **PW** then played a driving big-band-style arrangement of *In the Mood*. He closed with what he called his 'good-night number', a soaring re-harmonized arrangement of *To the Evening Star* from Wagner's opera, *Tannhäuser*.

We are lucky to have such talented artists in our chapter and hope to hear more from them soon!—

### AT OUR NOR-CAL WEB SITE

<[www.theatreorgans.com/norcal](http://www.theatreorgans.com/norcal)>

There is a link to a new page that lists pipe organ parts available to be purchased from Nor-Cal.

Of course our Nor-Cal Events Calendar is also available there.

Visit our web site often to stay informed about everything that Nor-Cal TOS is engaged in.

### — FIRST TIME — FRIENDS 4 FREE

We want to insure that all Nor-Cal members understand our policy regarding free admissions to our public concerts.

*Absolutely anyone* is welcome to enjoy their *first-time attendance* at a Nor-Cal public concert at the Berkeley Community Theatre with no admission charge. They do not need to use a coupon or be accompanied by a member. All we ask is that we obtain contact information from them so we can inform them of our concert schedules.

Thus, even in the event that you may not be able to "bring" a first time guest, they are welcome to simply arrive a few minutes early for a concert, go to the special table we've set up and request their tickets.

**AT THE CONCERT THERE IS A DRAWING FROM THE FIRST-TIMERS FOR A FREE TICKET TO THE NEXT CONCERT.**

Folks, there are precious few free offers these days with such straightforward rules and benefits!

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(Scott Harrison continued from Page One)

recorded at the Victoria, Australia's Moorabbin Wurlizer, and *The Sounds of Southward* recorded at the beautiful 3/16 ex-Civic Auckland, New Zealand Wurlizer installed in **Sir Len Southward's** Auto Museum at Paraparaumu, New Zealand.

"To sum it all up, Music is what makes the world go round, and I consider myself very lucky to be able to share my music with so many wonderful people around the world."

To have **Scott Harrison** return to play for us on Kevin King's Grand Lake Theatre's Wurlitzer is indeed a thrill for us.

(David Peckham continued from Page One)

Organ Service since 1983. On most Sunday mornings, **David** is found on the organ bench at the Horseheads, NY First-United Methodist Church (with the tremors off).

Q: Why do bagpipe players walk while they play?

A: To get away from the noise.

## ATOS 2006 ELECTRONIC THEATRE ORGAN COMPETITION

The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) announces its third Electronic Theatre Organ Competition which is offered to allow ATOS members who may not have access to a Theatre Pipe Organ to participate in a Theatre Organ competition. The Electronic Theatre Organ Competition will feature two Divisions, Youth (13-21) and Adult (22 and up).

The Competition is open to current ATOS members and their dependents who are amateur Theatre Organists as defined in the Competition rules. The complete 2006 Competition Rules and Entry Form have been provided to Nor-Cal's Secretary and Windsheet editor and may be obtained from them.

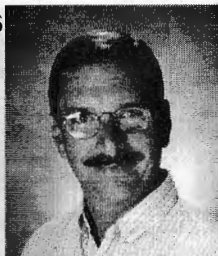
Entrants must provide a recording on analog cassette tape, mini-disc (MD-80), CD or DVD of three separate songs, an 'up-tempo' selection, a 'ballad', and a third 'entrant's choice' selection. The total time limit for all three selections must not exceed ten (10) minutes.

All entries must be received by the Competition Chairman no later than **March 15, 2006**.

For further information, official rules and entry form, contact **Art Woodworth** or **Don Ravey**.

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## CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



I can barely believe it is the year 2006. It seems not too long ago that just the thought of the 'big 2000' milestone seemed far off. At least I have finally stopped writing the dates on my checks starting with "19\_\_".

I want to take this chance to give a big thank you to the **Sierra Chapter** of the ATOS. They are a very enthusiastic group, and they are great at getting events organized and pulled together. Specifically, they have, several times, organized a whole bus full of their chapter members and friends to come down for our Berkeley concerts. This is not just a convenience for them, it is a gift to us. I'm sure that I speak for all our members when I say how much we appreciate the effort and support. If we had other groups who went to the time and trouble to do this, we would have larger audiences for our programs, and could actually break even in our concert production costs.

I hear that they are well underway in filling the bus for the trip down to our next Berkeley concert in February. I'll bet it's a fun trip; maybe I will have to drive up to Sacramento just to ride with the bunch down here! But, then I wouldn't get the lights set and the organ tuned, oh well.

There were many questions about the DVD we had playing in the lobby at our last concert. It gave a 'tour and demonstration' of our marvelous Nor-Cal Wurlitzer.

There are many people who have never been up the six-story climb to the pipe chambers. Some may have no idea what all is up there that makes that marvelous sound. [It's a long climb and there are insurance considerations, so visiting the chambers is limited.-pub.] We will try to have the DVD available for purchase at the 'record table'. All profit will help support Nor-Cal. It's also a great way to show friends what they may be missing. Then you can bring them, (FIRST TIMERS FREE) to the next concert.

I hope to see you all at the next concert, if not sooner.

*Kevin*



## EDITOR'S RAVINGS

Please indulge me; I seem to be in a particularly whimsical mood today. I've been thinking about a form of indigenous American popular music known as nonsense songs.

Of course, there have been many songs with silly lyrics, like the 100+ year old *Capital Ship For An Ocean Trip Was The Walloping Window Blind*. Who remembers that one?

But, I'm thinking about songs whose lyrics are made up, at least in part, by syllables that are not even legitimate words. A very early one, written in 1914 but popularized by **Debbie Reynolds** in a 1950 film, was *Abba Dabba Honeymoon*, an ode to a pair of romantic chimps. The film was *Two Weeks With Love*, starring **Jane Powell** and **Ricardo Montalban**.

There was a children's song that I seem to recall may have been sung by **Jimmy Durante**, *Skid-a-marink a dink a dink, Skid-a-marink a doo*.

During the bleak WW II years, several nonsense songs were written and were sung by the troops, including *The Hut Sut Song* and *Mairzy Doats*. There was also *Three Little Fishies*, with its chorus of *Boop boop dittum dottum wottum choo*.

After the war, *Ragmopp* and *Mnah Mnah* (the latter with no real words in it at all).

**Perry Como** recorded a song from Disney's *Cinderella* in 1950 called *Bibbidi Bobbidi Boo*.

And in 1964 **Julie Andrews** sang *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* in the movie *Mary Poppins*.

I don't know if this interests anyone else, but I had to get it off my chest! If anyone remembers other songs with meaningless lyrics, send them in.

If you can't remember the lyrics, try using Google, entering a few distinctive words that you can remember. I've found the lyrics of many old songs that way.

*Don*

Wow—Am I dating myself, I remember nearly all, except the *Walloping Window Blind* bit—pub.

## FINAL CHORDS

We are saddened to report that the following Nor-Cal members have heard their final chords:

**Gregory Gardner-Koch** passed away on June 29, 2005. He died of lung cancer at age 45.

**Kenneth W. Petersen** of Santa Rosa passed away recently. He is survived by his wife **Nancy**.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 28 SATURDAY (9:00 AM)  
Nor-Cal members' and guests concert.

FROM MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
**SCOTT HARRISON**  
AT THE GRAND LAKE THEATRE, OAKLAND

February 12 SUNDAY (2:30 PM)  
Public Concert

**DAVID PECKHAM**  
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

February 19 SUNDAY (1:00 PM)  
Open Console for Nor-Cal members at Berkeley Community Theatre.

March 5 SUNDAY (1:00 PM)  
Open Console for Nor-Cal members at Berkeley Community Theatre.

March 12 SUNDAY (2:30 PM)  
Public Concert

**RON RESEIGH**  
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE



## Morton Madness April 8, 2006



**Jim Riggs** will be the featured artist for the annual Morton Madness event, at both vineyard venues, Hartzell's Harmony Weynards in Lodi and Kautz's Ironstone Winery in Murphys. We will bring you more information in the next Windsheet.

Tickets available on March 1, 2006 from **Jack O'Neill**, PO Box 2741, Oakland, CA 94602, 510/635-9177 or by ordering online:

<[www.sierrachapteratos.org](http://www.sierrachapteratos.org)>

May 7, 2006 SUNDAY (2:30 PM)  
Public Concert

**LEW WILLIAMS**  
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

## AVAILABLE

Nor-Cal member **Bob Smith** has many years of back issues of *Theatre Organ*. *He will give them* to someone who has the space. Call Bob at 925/294-9659.

Nor-Cal member **Bill Smith** (different member) has a Rodgers *Trio* 3-manual electronic organ **for sale**. Original instruction manual, matching pair of *Klipsch La Scala* loudspeaker/amplifiers and large collection of organ music. *Best offer*. Phone Bill at 408/736-1317.

Conn Model 651 - De Luxe Theater Organ must move from my Mom's house in San Francisco. *I'm willing to donate it*, if someone can pick it up. Mom passed away in May and we must empty her house. As far as is known, the organ is in fine working condition.

Manual and music books are included.  
Roxanne Ekhos <[rcekhos@earthlink.net](mailto:rcekhos@earthlink.net)>

## OTHER CHAPTERS

Sunday, January 29 at 2 PM.  
Sierra Chapter, Sacramento, CA  
**Chris and Jonas Nordwall** play the Allen and Wurtitzer organs at the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

<[www.sierrachapterATOS.org](http://www.sierrachapterATOS.org)>

## OTHER VENUES

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

<[www.castrotheatre.com](http://www.castrotheatre.com)>

**Grand Lake Theatre**, 3/18 Wurlitzer, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA.

Intermission music: **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 AM (510)465-6400.

**Stanford Theatre**, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221 University Ave, Palo Alto, CA. Silent films with organ accompaniment by various artists on Wednesdays (650)324-3700.

<[www.stanfordtheatre.org](http://www.stanfordtheatre.org)>

**Bella Roma Pizza**, 3/16 Wurlitzer, 4040 Alhambra Ave., Martinez, CA. **Dave Moreno, Bob Reichert, Kevin King** at the console (925)228-4935.

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

<[www.sierrachapterATOS.org](http://www.sierrachapterATOS.org)>

**Visalia Fox Theatre**, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 300 W. Main St., Visalia, CA. (559)625-1369 (1FOX).

## 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](mailto: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.