San Jose Grace Baptist Church

Sunday, September 24

The 3/10 Robert Morton organ, originally installed in San Jose's Liberty Theater, now supplies liturgical music for services at Grace Baptist Church, by kind permission of the church, NorCal members will have the opportunity to hear it played once again in theatre organ style by our own member, Paul-Wesley Bowen. 'PW', as he likes to be called, is a native Californian, but lived for 30 years in Minnesota, where he worked for the Dutch organ builder, Eminent Organ Co. and played organs in many venues. PW has performed at an ATOS convention in Oakland in the 1960's. Following PW's presentation, we will be offered an open console period when our members may take their turns at the console.

Grace Baptist Church is located in downtown San Jose at 484 E. San Fernando St. & 10th St., across from the corner of the San Jose State University campus.

October 6 at Grace Baptist in San Jose: Silents!

As a fundraiser for their 3/10 Morton, the church is planning an evening of silent films accompanied by Dave Moreno and Matias Bombal on October 6th at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. Films will include Laurel & Hardy, Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd.

Important NorCal Business Items

Elsewhere in this issue you will find the Minutes of the NorCal Board Meeting of August 8, 2006. Two items deserve your special attention:

The Board has decided to increase the public concert ticket prices. As you may know, most NorCal public concerts create a financial loss to the organization. These slightly higher prices will help to offset these losses.

The results of the mailed ballot on changing the ByLaws were overwhelmingly in favor of making the changes. This will mean that our future annual members' business meetings can be scheduled with greater flexibility. Our next business meeting is being planned for January 2007, rather than in December.

Hazleton Memorial Concert, Sept. 17th

Welcome to Bill Sanders, whose permanent domicile is in Southern California, but whose current employment contract brings him back to his original home in Mountain View, Chris Kenward of Redwood City, and to Homer and Nancy Jamison of Woodside. Let's make them feel welcome!

New Members

Welcome to Bill Sanders, whose permanent domicile is in Southern California, but whose current employment contract brings him back to his original home in Mountain View, Chris Kenward of Redwood City, and to Homer and Nancy Jamison of Woodside. Let's make them feel welcome!
Kevin King at the Grand Lake Theater, Oakland
Saturday, August 05, 2006

Attendance was over 60, which is good for a NorCal Saturday morning concert. (The concert was held on a Saturday morning because this is a working theater and it is rented to a church group on Sunday mornings.) The audience included a number of non-NorCal people who had seen the concert announcement posted in the theater lobby.

Kevin brought the console up with a snatch of Hooray for Hollywood leading into That's Entertainment. Kevin thanked theater owner Alan Michaan for keeping the theater up. He then played a 50's number Since I Fell For You. We were not familiar with this soft ballad. It has very nice harmonies. Kevin played it with tibia and vox, with just a bit of soft bounce. His arrangement became light and jazzy just before the soft ending.

Kevin played You Know That I Know for Ron. It had that exciting George Wright sound. Then he played On Green Dolphin Street for Faye. This jazz standard started in a dreamy mood, working through the chord progressions. It then changed to an up-tempo beat with tap cymbal and untempered reeds. A shift to a full theater organ registration led back to the soft, slow pace of the start. Next was a pensive She's Funny That Way with tibia and strings.

In his introduction to Caravan, Kevin said "I've always wanted to learn to play this." The minor key start was soft and slow, the melody on an un-tremmed clarinet and then on the tibia. His left hand kept up the distinctive pattern associated with the piece throughout. The major key mid-section was fast and in a full theater organ registration. The arrangement returned to the soft and slow of the beginning. Kevin explained that his next number would be from the genre called production music. Recordings of these compositions could be purchased for use as background music for films and for radio and television commercials. This particular theme was used for the television show Truth or Consequences and is called Stop-Gap. Kevin played this relentlessly up-beat number with xylophone runs and brassy accents. We think it would work as a console-raiser.

Kevin then played Stairway to the Stars. The tibia, vox, and strings were accented by the glock. Liza started at a moderate pace with small registrations and a slightly bluesy sound. Adding the tap cymbal, he brought it up to pace with full ensemble registrations, romping through variations and ending with a cute tag. Birth of the Blues started with the bluesy melody over the piano and developed into a long 'ride' of variations which we are certain would have pleased Kevin's mentor, the late Larry Vanucci. He then played Cry Me a River which is from his CD, On the Lake.

Ecstasy Tango was very much in the theatre organ tradition. Kevin built up the minor key first theme with a nice countermelody. This contrasted nicely with the sweet and mellow major key second theme. Each time Kevin repeated one of the themes, he used a different registration.

Kevin's closing number was We'll touch. Thank you Kevin for a wonderful concert. And thanks to the Grand Lake Theater for letting Kevin's 3/18 Wurlitzer be there for all to hear!

This is an opportunity for NorCal 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 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The next scheduled date is Sunday, October 15th.

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, Chris Nichols, ensures that any NorCal member feels comfortable. He lends help and support to anyone who needs it. Depending on how many members are present, each has one or more 15-minute sessions at the console.

Important: Call the NorCal 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.

Minutes of the NorCal Board Meeting on August 8, 2006

[Excerpted for brevity. The complete Minutes are available to NorCal members upon request to NorCal's Secretary, Art Woodward.]

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer Ron Bingaman reported the following balances in our bank accounts:
Checking 5,641.76
Passbook Savings 25,248.01
Certificate of Deposit 66,821.73
Total 97,711.50

Membership Report:
Membership Secretary Neal Wood reported that the NorCal mailing list now stands at 199, consisting of 133 NorCal/ATOS memberships, 53 NorCal only (including the 3 Life Members), and 13 complimentary.

Next Board Meeting:
The next Board meeting will be September 2006
five concerts. It would be reduced to $48 if we have only four. Advance sales will continue to offer one free ticket for each four tickets purchased. Children 12 years of age and under will continue to be admitted free when accompanied by an adult.

NorCal Bylaws:
Secretary Art Woodworth presented the ballots for the bylaws revisions he had received through August 8, 2006. The Board served as the teller’s committee, opening and counting the ballots. 130 Ballots had been mailed out and 91 were returned. The count was:
Disqualified 2
Affirmative 88
Abstention 1
Total Ballots Received 91
The Board declared the revisions to the bylaws to be adopted as of this date, August 8, 2006.

New Business:
First Time Free Program
It was agreed to continue with the First Time Free program for the 2006-2007 public concert season. It was noted that there were many returns on the last two mailings to first-timers.

Windsheet Deadlines:
September Issue August 25
October Issue September 29

Organ Crew Chief’s Report:
Crew Chief Bill Schlotter reported that the Tromba is ready but not yet tuned. Several of the pipes need repairs. The Viola Diapason is now pretty well tuned. We will hold off on installing the French Horn until the Viola Diapason is substantially complete. This is to provide better access to the Viola Diapason due to the large size of the French Horn pipes.

The Toledo Paramount console was recently checked out and everything was found to be working properly. The theater has asked that we keep both consoles in the closet when there are events in the auditorium.

Old Business:
Public Concert Ticket Prices
After discussion, a motion was passed setting the ticket prices for the 2006-2007 public concert season. Prices were set as follows:
All tickets on concert day $15
All advance ticket sales $12
Season Tickets $60
The season ticket price is based on September 2006

---

Small things accumulate over a lifetime. Do the math.

The average person’s pulse rate is somewhere around 72 beats per minute; faster when we exercise, a little slower when we’re sleeping. Let’s just assume an overall average of 70 per minute. That’s 4,200 per hour, or over 100,000 per day, or roughly 36.8 million heartbeats every year! That means over 3 billion ka-plunks over the lifetime of a 90-year-old.

Or consider how much time you spend brushing your teeth: if you brush twice a day, as recommended, and if it takes 3 minutes each time, multiply 6 minutes per day by 365 days in each year, then suppose you began brushing at age 10; by age 80 you will have spent some 153,300 minutes, or 106 days just brushing your teeth.

Okay, how about listening to live theatre organ concerts presented by NorCal? In a typical year, we present four (sometimes five) public concerts on our

---

The following Internet web site has lots of theatre organ music that you can listen to on your computer, originating in Australia:
<www.organfax.co.uk/kelthrodda.html>
UPCOMING EVENTS

September 10, 2006 SUNDAY (5 p.m. and 7 p.m.):
Angelino’s, San Jose: Silent Film, The Mark of Zorro accompanied by Dean Cook on the 3/13 Wurlitzer. Reservations are required. Call (408) 243-6095.

September 24, 2006 SUNDAY (2 p.m.):
First Baptist Church, San Jose: a rare opportunity to hear and play this 2/10 Robert Morton theatre organ. See article in this issue for details.

OTHER VENUES

Angelino’s, 3/13 Wurlitzer, 3132 Williams Rd, San Jose, CA. Fridays & Saturdays, 6 to 9 p.m. Dean Cook. (408) 243-6095.

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


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

Palace of the Legion of Honor, 4/63 E. M. Skinner, Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays from 4:00 to 4:45 pm. Free after museum admission. David Hegarty plays an Organ Pops Concert on some weekends, other artists play classical concerts on other weekends. (415) 750-3600. <www.legionofhonor.org>

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.


Towe Auto Museum, 3/16 Wurlitzer, 2200 Front St., Sacramento, CA. Free Sunday concerts with Museum Admission. Sierra Chapter presents silent movies on Friday night, four times each year. <www.sierrachapterATOS.org>

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

Q. How is playing a bagpipe like throwing a javelin blindfolded?
A. You don’t have to be very good to get people’s attention.

A note left for a pianist from his wife: Gone Chopin, (have Liszt), Bach in a Minuet.

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. Neal R. Wood at (415) 661-7082 <nealwood@pacbell.net>, PO Box 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438.

Your Name: ___________________________ Your Spouse’s Name: ___________________________

Address: ________________________________ Occupation: ________________________________

Phone: ___________________________ Dues are $20 for NorCal TOS only and an additional $40 for National ATOS ($60 total) per year for full voting membership and subscription to Theatre Organ the six times a year glossy journal of ATOS. 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.

Page Four Windsheet September 2006