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# The WINDSHEET



Newsletter of the NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY  
PO Box 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438 510/644-2707

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

January 2007

## IMPORTANT NOTICE!—Sunday, June, 10 concert changed to **SATURDAY, June 9, 2:30 PM**

### Clark Wilson

Sunday March 18, 2007

at 2:30 PM



NorCal Theatre Organ Society is proud to present **Clark Wilson** in concert at the Berkeley Community Theater.

A native of Ohio, **Clark Wilson** began his musical training at age nine. While growing up, he accompanied numerous stage musicals and was organist at several churches.

Following several years with the Schantz Organ Company as a reed voicer and tonal finisher, Clark's professional playing career began with his appointment to the featured organist post at *Pipe Organ Pizza* in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has since been on the playing staffs at the *Paramount Music Palace* in Indianapolis, Indiana, *Pipes and Pizza* in Lansing, Illinois, and is currently associated with *Organ Stop Pizza* in Mesa, Arizona, where he is on the organ staff as well as having assisted with the planning and installation of one of the world's largest Wurlitzer organs.

Clark's recording credits include seven albums. He has given all-transcription recitals for the *American Guild of Organists* (AGO), played for the 1990 *Organ Historical Society* (OHS) convention and performed at numerous National and Regional conventions of the *American Theatre Organ Society* (ATOS), as well as giving a series of highly lauded workshops for young people's *Pipe Organ Encounters*. He has also been a visiting lecturer on Theatre Organ and silent picture accompaniment for the Indiana University organ department, a great step in the advancement of these art forms. He has concertized in the United States, Canada, Australia and England, and done extensive silent film accompaniment, including at the *Chautauqua Institution* in New York, the Packard Foundation's *Stanford Theatre*, UCLA, and the *Fox Theatre* for the Atlanta premier of the restored *Metropolis*.

He plays a silent picture annually on the organ series at L.A.'s new *Walt Disney Concert Hall*, is scoring for Kino International

**N**OTE: As announced last month, Due to a double booking error at the BCT, we asked **Richard Hills** if he would perform for us on *Saturday, June 9* instead of Sunday, *June 10*. We are pleased to report that he has confirmed our request.

**P**LEASE CHANGE YOUR CALENDAR AND THE DATE ON YOUR TICKETS.



for a commercial release, and has performed at both the *Cinequest* and *San Francisco Silent Film Festivals*; as well as for the *Los Angeles Conservancy*. Clark is the resident organist and organ conservator at the famed *Ohio Theatre* in Columbus, Ohio (for the *Columbus Association for the Performing Arts*) and was chosen by them to re-premier the renowned Chicago Theatre organ on a bill that included **Michael Feinstein**. He also headed the professional crew that began restoration on the *Chicago's* landmark Wurlitzer.

Along with a busy concert schedule, Mr. Wilson runs his own pipe organ business and is heavily in demand as a tonal consultant and finisher of both theatre and classical pipe organs; he has been given the singular honor of being brought to England multiple times for tonal finishing and consulting. He has received both the *Technician of the Year* and *Organist of the Year* awards from the ATOS, the only person to have done so, and his time is now nearly equally divided between concert and technical work. He has been professionally involved with more than 100 organ installations throughout North America and England and has provided consulting and voicing expertise for several different organ companies.

### FIRST TIMERS ARE 4 FREE

*Remember: first time concert goers are admitted free, so bring your friends and neighbors who have never experienced the power and drama of a Theatre Pipe Organ concert.*

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

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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.

## Chris Gorsuch

February 11, 2007

—Concert Review by Don Ravey

On a bright, sunny afternoon in Berkeley, nearly 200 NorCal members and guests were treated to a rousing performance of theatre organ stylings by the talented **Chris Gorsuch** from San Diego, playing our 4/40 *Wurlitzer* using *both* of our 4-manual consoles — the original *Toledo Paramount* french style console and the dazzling art deco *Center Theater* console. *Not at the same time*, of course, but alternately, throughout the concert.

Mr. Gorsuch presented a wide range of styles, moods and techniques that ranged from bombastic and intricate to soft and wistful, showcasing some of the delicate and beautiful voices of our *Wurlitzer*. The variety of musical *genre* in the program was impressive, from **Chopin** (not the traditional concert presentation!) and **Gershwin**, to Broadway musicals, to **Ellington** and **Brubeck**, several stunning latin numbers, and much more.

### PLAYLIST:

*I Feel A Song Coming On* (**McHugh**)

*Love Walked In* (**Gershwin**)

Medley from *Gypsy* (**Stine**) [*shades of Ethel Merman and Jack Klugman!*] including:

*Everything's Coming Up Roses*

*Small World, Isn't It*

*Let Me Entertain You* (red light version)

... and several more

*What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life* (**Legrand**)

*Aqua* ["a Peruvian waltz"]

*Take Five* (**Brubeck**)

*Fantasy Impromptu* (**Chopin**)

### INTERMISSION

*This Could Be The Start of Something Big* (**Basie**)

*Prisionero del Mar* (**Sollis**)

*Somewhere from Westside Story* (**Bernstein**)

*Ecstasy Tango* (**Green**)

*Send In The Clowns* (**Sondheim**)

*Satin Doll* (**Ellington/Mercer/Strayhorn**)

Gershwin medley:

*'S Wonderful*

*Our Love Is Here To Stay*

*You Can't Take That Away From Me*

*I Got Rhythm*

### ENCORES

*Primer*

*San Francisco*

I was struck especially by Chris' use of special harmonic backgrounds for several of his selections, including a *walking chromatic* accompaniment for his rendition of January 2007

**Dave Brubeck's Take Five**. And my favorite was the **Gershwin** medley, in which Chris used excerpts from several of Gershwin's other compositions as transitions and intros, including melody 'snippets' from *An American in Paris*, *Rhapsody in Blue* and his *Piano Concertos*.

In particular, his very spirited treatment of *I Got Rhythm*, with lots of tuned percussions, was spectacular.

Chris said that his arrangement of **Michel Legrand's** *What Are You Doing The Rest of Your Life* was inspired after hearing **Barbra Streisand** sing it. Before treating us to a lively *Ecstasy Tango*, Chris mentioned that he had obtained the sheet music from long-time friend, **Donna Parker**. As with the Legrand piece, his version of **Steven Sondheim's** *Send In The Clowns* was also inspired by a famed vocalist, **Sarah Vaughn**.

Chris often uses arrangements and techniques reminiscent of **George Wright**, always with a respectful acknowledgment to the late, great wizard of the *Wurlitzer*.

## DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges a cash contribution from member **Dennis Fertitta** of Reno, Nevada.



## EDITOR'S RAVINGS

At the NorCal Board meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup> (yes, Valentine's Day), our recently elected

Board of Directors appointed **Neal Wood** as our new *Chairman*, as well as **Kevin King** to be our new *Vice-Chairman*, **Art Woodworth** to continue as *Secretary* and **Ron Bingaman** to continue as *Treasurer*.

Rather than recite all the topics of NorCal business that were considered at the Board meeting, let me just say that it was a productive and cooperative meeting and that NorCal is in good financial condition. If you would like to know more details, the official Minutes of every Board meeting are always available from our Secretary.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, at the Berkeley Community Theatre Scene Shop, which is adjacent to the Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way. Members are always welcome to attend.

Our outgoing (in several senses of the word) Chairman, **Kevin King**, has served NorCal as Chairman for two years, but he has served NorCal in so many capacities for so many years that it's hard to write a suitable *thank you* testimonial on the occasion of his passing the mantle of Chairman on to **Neal Wood**. Even during his terms as Chairman, Kevin has been an indispensable part of the design and maintenance of our magnificent *Wurlitzer* at the Berkeley Community Theater. Many of you know that the reason Kevin is rarely seen by concert attendees is that he, as well as several other NorCal members, are backstage, assuring that everything goes as planned, and that when a note *ciphers* or *sticks*, a knowledgeable (*and agile*) person immediately scampers up the 3 stories into the pipe chambers to clear it. And that's just on concert day.

As many of you know, the day or two prior to every NorCal concert, there is always feverish activity, testing and tuning our organ, to insure that our audience hears a properly tuned musical instrument. Kevin's expert musical ear and untiring efforts are critical to the wonderful sounds coming from the pipe chambers.

Kevin's contributions to NorCal don't stop there, either. He promotes NorCal at the venues where he plays organs (the *Bella Roma* restaurant in Martinez and the *Grand Lake Theater* in Oakland). And he carried out all the other responsibilities of the office of Chairman, all the while holding down his challenging *day job* as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Walnut Creek. Some of you I'm sure know that a teacher's job is definitely *not* a *nine-to-five* job!

So, thank you, **Kevin King**, for your years of service to NorCal; we know that you will continue to be at the very heart of NorCal's operations in the future.

## Morton Madness April 14 with Paul Quarino

## Angelino's Closes

### OR DOES IT?



**P**aul Quarino will be the featured artist this year at both *Hartzell's Harmony Wynelands* near Lodi and *Kautz's Ironstone Winery* in Murphys.

The tradition of Morton Madness began in 1995 with the concept of presenting *one* artist playing *two* concerts on the same day on *two*, identical specification Robert Morton theatre organs in picturesque settings in the *Central Valley* and *Sierra Foothills*, combined with a sumptuous dinner served at the second venue. The two venues are both active vineyards.

Hartzell's in Lodi is about a *two-hour drive* from San Francisco. The first concert is scheduled to begin at **1:00 PM**. The drive from Lodi to Murphys is perhaps another *hour and a half*. A tour of the Kautz Winery will begin at **4:15 PM**, then dinner at **5:30**

PM, followed by the concert at **7:00 PM**.

Since the beginning, the Morton Madness event has been the product of the cooperative effort of the NorCal and Sierra chapters of ATOS. The date of the event has varied each year from March to May, according to the availability of the artists.

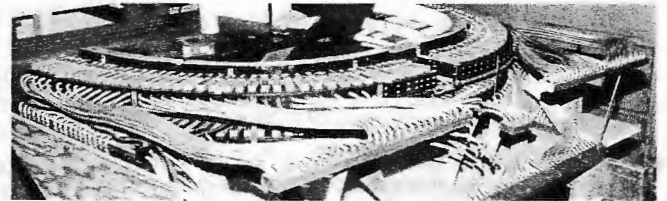
**\$45** for ALL EVENTS. Order tickets from **Jack O'Neill** (510) 632-9177 or send your check to NorCal TOS, P.O. Box 27238, Oakland, CA 94602-0438. Driving and parking directions will be sent with your tickets.

Visit Sierra Chapter's web site for more details: [sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org)

**F**ebruary 25, 2007 was supposedly the final night of operation of **Angelino's** Restaurant in San Jose, California. The business was sold and, in fact, the pipes of the venerable Wurlitzer have been removed from the chests. *Then*, one of the purchasers pulled out of the deal and as of press time, the future of the restaurant and its well known pipe organ entertainment, presided over by **Dean Cook**, are uncertain. We will keep you advised as the events unfold.

### Inside the Console

**T**he photo below is one row of pneumatic actions that move the stop tablets on command of what is set by the artist:



### CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



**O**n February 11, the NorCal Board of Directors elected me as Chairman of the board. I thank the board for this opportunity to become more involved in the NorCal chapter. I look forward to gaining the knowledge and skills demonstrated by other members of the board.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank **Kevin King** for his excellent job as NorCal Board Chairman. During the two years he was Chairman, he was also very busy as a full time teacher, organist at the Bella Roma, also maintained his Grand Lake Wurlitzer, and did the tuning and winding of the NorCal Wurlitzer. He worked backstage at the NorCal concerts planning and supervising the lighting, and just moved to a new house in Walnut Creek. I am sure I have missed many other activities he has been involved in. Kevin

will assume the role of Vice Chairman for which the board and I, are truly grateful.

**E**veryone has a story on how they became involved with pipe organs, and I have mine! I remember the first time I heard a pipe organ in a theatre. I was on active duty in San Diego, when my Warrant Officer suggested some of us attend a pipe organ concert at the San Diego Fox. The artist was Eddie Dunstedter. It was the most incredible sound I had ever heard. I was bitten by the pipe organ bug!

When I returned to Seattle, I joined the Granada Organ Loft, and spent all my Tuesday nights working on their 4/32 Wurlitzer. I even remember a concert by Warren Lubich.

If that wasn't enough, I bought a 2/7 Wicks pipe organ and installed it in my folk's house. Needless to say, my folks were not too thrilled when I took over a bedroom and half the basement for the organ installation.

In 1976, I moved to San Francisco, and unfortunately lost touch with the pipe organ world, until that very same Warrant Officer and I went to an organ concert of NorCal's in 2002. I was re-bitten. I joined

NorCal and ATOS, bought an Allen (which now takes up most of a room in my house), and am still trying to learn how to play the organ.

Again, I look forward to serving as Chair of the Board of Directors, and hopefully can spend some weekends with the organ crew.

*Neal*

### Welcome

### New NorCal Members

**W**e are happy to extend a welcome to these new NorCal members:

**Ellen & Allen Fisher**, El Cerrito, CA. Allen is a retired railroad engineer.

**Jane & Sam Gilstrap**, Lincoln, CA. Sam is semi-retired.

**Kathy & Curt Hoppins**, Los Gatos, CA. Curt is an electrical engineer.

**George Husson**, Oakland, CA. George is a church music director.

**Judy & Clifford Luscher**, Sunnyvale, CA



## NorCal Concert Pricing

Except for **FIRST TIMERS ARE 4 FREE**, Admission at the door is **\$15**. Advance ticket sales, seniors, students, NorCal members, or *groups of 8 or more* are **\$12**. Children 12 and under are admitted free with paid adult. No babes in arms, please.

**OPEN  
CONSOLE**  
Hosted by  
Chris Nichols



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 dates are:

**Sunday, March 11, 2007**  
**Sunday, April 1, 2007** (no foolin'!)  
**Sunday, May 6, 2007**

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.

## EVENTS ON OUR WEB SITE

We have a new Calendar of Events on NorCal's web site:

[theatreorgans.com/norcal](http://theatreorgans.com/norcal)

We think you will find it easier to read and more attractive. Be sure to visit it!

## OTHER VENUES

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

**Castro Theatre**, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 429 Castro St., SF, CA. Intermission music played daily by **David Hegarty, Warren Lubich, Mark Putterbaugh or Harry Garland**. (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.

**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 the first full weekend of each month, other artists play classical concerts on other weekends. (415) 750-3600.

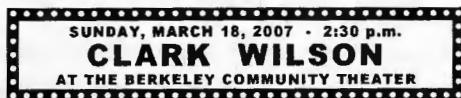
<[www.legionofhonor.org](http://www.legionofhonor.org)>  
**Paramount Theatre**, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of month at 10 AM. (510) 465-6400.

**Stanford Theatre**, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221 University Ave, Palo Alto, CA. (650) 324-3700. The organ is played before and between films. <[www.stanfordtheatre.org](http://www.stanfordtheatre.org)>

**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](http://www.sierrachapterATOS.org)>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, March 18, 2007 – 2:30 PM:  
NorCal presents



April 14, 2007 – 1:00 PM: **Morton Madness**  
– Two concerts on two Robert Morton pipe organs. See Page 2 of this issue.

Sunday, May 20, 2007 – 2:30 PM:  
NorCal presents



### NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE:

**Saturday, June 9, 2007 – 2:30 PM:**  
From the U.K., NorCal presents



## 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)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 \$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.