

The WINDSHEET



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

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

April 2007

Paul Quarino plays Morton Madness April 14, 2007



Paul Quarino will be the featured artist this year at both vineyard venues, Hartzell's Harmony Wyneyards near Lodi and Kautz's Ironstone Winery in Murphys. **\$45/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.

The tradition of Morton Madness began in 1995 with the concept of presenting *one* artist playing *two* concerts on the same day on *two* 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 vineyards, the first being *Hartzell's Harmony Wyneland* near Lodi and the second, *Kautz's Ironstone Winery* in Murphys.

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**.

Visit Sierra Chapter's web site for driving directions and other details:
sierrachapterATOS.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to extend a welcome to these new NorCal members:
Timothy & Carmen Lane of San Leandro
Janet & Jerry Mullin of Walnut Creek.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
 Sunday, June, 10 concert changed to
SATURDAY, June 9, 2:30 PM
 gain we remind you, and will continue
Ato do so. 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.
**PLEASE CHANGE YOUR CALENDAR AND THE
 DATE ON YOUR TICKETS.**

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|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|
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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.

**Sunday, May 20, 2007
2:30 PM Jonas Nordwall
at BCT**

NorCal Theatre Organ Society is proud to present Jonas Nordwall in concert at the Berkeley Community Theater on Sunday, May 20, 2007 at 2:30 PM.



Jonas Nordwall is an internationally renowned organist who performs both classical and popular music with equal virtuosity.

Jonas has been a frequent ATOS convention artist and a former organ design specialist for the Rodgers Organ Company.

Jonas last performed for us on the NorCal Wurlitzer in March of 2005. We are delighted to welcome him back again.

A more complete biography of Mr. Nordwall will appear in the May *Windsheet*.

**CHAIRMAN'S
WINDLINE**



As I continue to get my feet wet in this new role as Chairman, I have had the opportunity to work with some of the very active members of the NorCal chapter. I thought I would share some of my experiences with you.

Maintenance Crew Workday - On Saturday, the week before the Clark Wilson concert, Bill Schlotter and crew got together to go over the Wurlitzer in preparation for the concert. Chris Nichols and Chuck Hagstrom checked over the console and pipes for dead keys, stop tabs, and notes for the pipes, percussions and traps. There were a few problems, but not many for a 41 rank pipe organ. With Chuck at the console and Chris and myself in the chambers, I watched as Chris deftly solved most of the problems. The organ was concert ready!

Then the fun began for me. Chris took me on a tour of the inner workings of the Wurlitzer. We visited all of the chambers, the relay room, the area in front of the swell shutters where the piano is located, and an area above the chambers where the percussions are located. I was overwhelmed

by the complexity and perfection that has gone into the installation and maintenance of this organ. Bill later told me that more than 50,000 manhours of labor have been put forth in the design and installation of the organ. (Bill actually quit counting after 50,000, so the number is much higher than that.)

Trip to Salinas - Many chapter members may not be aware that the NorCal chapter was also involved in the installation of the El Capitan Wurlitzer in the *Salinas Fox Theatre*. There was a change in ownership of the theatre and the new owners requested that the organ be removed. NorCal had donated the organ to the *Central Indiana Chapter* of ATOS a couple of years ago. However, there were a few items that had not been removed from the Salinas Fox, and it was our responsibility to remove those items. Bill assembled a crew of Art and Evelyn Woodworth, Gordon Pratt, Tom De Lay, and myself to accomplish the task.

When we arrived at the Fox, we took a quick survey of the remaining organ parts. It was apparent that this would be a two day job. Bill determined the items of value and we set about loading his pickup. If you remember the opening scene of *The Beverly Hillbillies*, you can visualize what Bill's loaded truck looked like. The trip back to Berkeley was uneventful in that nothing fell off the truck.

The next day, Gordon, Bill, and I met Tom De Lay for the final load. This day was less labor intensive and we managed to load the truck before lunch. Afterwards, Tom treated us to a mini-concert at *St Paul's Episcopal Church*. The church has a 2nd manual, 22 rank, *Aeolian Skinner*. The organ sounds wonderful in this beautiful church.

Clark Wilson Concert - I arrived at the Berkeley Community Theatre around 10 AM. Bill and crew were already at work, readying the theatre and organ for the concert. I was amazed at the amount of work required prior to the concert. Tasks included rewiring the patch panels and setting up the spot lights, the stage, signboards, record table, and most importantly tuning the organ to concert readiness. My favorite part again was to be in the chambers while Kevin tuned the reed pipes. This is a very intensive, ear numbing experience, even with ear protection. I hope you were able to attend the concert. Clark did a wonderful job.

On a sad note, after the Wilson concert, *Windsheet*

Kevin played the organ at the *Bella Roma* for perhaps the last time. I wish I could have attended. The owners of the *Bella Roma* have lost their lease on the building, and the future of the organ is undecided. We are hoping the organ will be installed in their new location. Only time will tell.

Neal

Clark Wilson

**March 18, 2007
concert review**

—Don Ravey

The last time Clark Wilson played NorCal's Wurlitzer in Berkeley was in January of 2003, and as for me, that's just too long between concerts! Clark delivered an enjoyable performance of mostly lesser known (other than his tuneful *South Pacific* and *Cole Porter* medleys) music, but quite true to the period that we associate with theatre organ music—the 1930's and '40's.

PLAY LIST

Console riser: *Deadwood Stage*—Fain/Webster
The Way We Were—Hamlich

Don Miller tribute:

Serenade Español—Bizet

Pale Moon—Logan

Dancing Tambourine—Ponce

Did You Ever See a Dream Walking?—Gordon

Harold Arlen medley:

Right As the Rain, Fun To Be Fooled
Selections from South Pacific—Rogers & Hammerstein:

Bali Hai, You Have To Be Carefully

Taught, Younger Than Springtime, I'm

In Love With a Wonderful Guy, Some

Enchanted Evening, We Ain't Got

Dames, This Nearly Was Mine

INTERMISSION

Console riser: *Don't Rain On My Parade*—Styne

Beauty and the Beast—Ashman/Menken

Cole Porter medley:

It's De-Lovely, In the Still of the Night,

You're the Top

Without a Song—Youmans: Medley from the '30s—

Sittin' In the Dark, I'm Playin' With

Fire, This'll Make You Whistle

Cherokee—Noble

Transcription: The Great Gate of Kiev from Moussorgsky's Pictures At An Exhibition

ENCORE

Please Don't Mention It—Wyse & Pepper

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Clark mentioned **Barbra Streisand** in connection with *The Way We Were* and *Don't Rain On My Parade*. I find it interesting that vocalists often establish the definitive versions of songs and we forever after associate those songs with the singer.

Clark commented before playing *Without A Song* that his arrangement would make our 4/41 Wurlitzer "growl like a lion" – and did it ever! I enjoyed his use of tuned percussions in his whimsical encore, the title of which comes from the lyrics, as sung by a boy and girl:

Girl: Thank you for calling me, I wanted you to...

Boy: Thank you for thanking me, because I love you...

Girl: Please don't mention it...

Boy: I won't mention it, it's been no trouble at all.

The program included two transcriptions from the classical repertoire: **Bizet's *Serenade Español*** and **Moussorgsky's *Great Gate of Kiev*** from his *Pictures At An Exhibition*. Personally, I enjoy hearing this genre as a part of a theatre organ concert, assuming that it doesn't dominate the character of the performance. But I have heard some members criticize concerts in the past for even including one such piece. To my taste, theatre organ music should not be limited to what was once played to accompany silent films. There is so much more music that sounds *so beautiful* when well played on a theatre organ! I would welcome receiving any member's thoughts about this by email or postal mail.

DONATIONS

NorCal is grateful for cash donations from **Jerry Mullin** and **Bob Wilcox**.

Don't Cry For Me, Angelino's

Angelino's in San Jose is no more. The restaurant has been sold and will reopen as a Mediterranean restaurant. The Wurlitzer organ has been removed to storage. **Dean Cook**, the long time resident organist, suggested the headline above.

With the closing, also, of **Bella Roma** in Martinez, and the uncertainty of its reopening in a new location with its organ, Northern California is now bereft of *pizzan-pipes* installations.

April 2007

**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, May 6, 2007

Sunday, June 3, 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.



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

Probably a large number of NorCal members have not given much thought to the necessary work involved in maintaining the pride of our organization, *the Berkeley Wurlitzer pipe organ*, and in planning and presenting *season after season* of the finest theatre organists currently performing *in the world*.

My purpose this month is to call your attention to some of the details of what often goes unnoticed as you enjoy our public and member concerts at the Berkeley Community Theater. And I will ask for your support, because without the coming forward of some folks to share the work, I am obliged to tell you that this wonderful opportunity we have to hear this glorious music will gradually grind to a halt when the present over burdened volunteers find that they can no longer carry the load.

There are several categories of tasks that are vital to the operation of NorCal Theatre Organ Society. All are volunteer jobs. A few of the jobs involve technical expertise, while others can be accomplished by

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anyone who is willing to contribute just a small amount of their time. Even the more technical jobs need apprentices to learn the skills for the future of our existence.

I am confident that NorCal has a lot of dedicated members who would be willing to donate a few hours a month to insure that NorCal will continue in its tradition of preserving and maintaining our magnificent instrument and presenting the finest artists in concert. I think where we have missed the opportunity is in making known our needs.

So here are some of the categories of work that absolutely *must* be done. Please read the list carefully and decide whether you might be able to volunteer to help. These tasks are being handled very competently at present, but having a trained assistant would make life a lot easier, allowing occasional absences, and most importantly, insuring that operations don't cease if someone is unable to fulfill their usual commitments for awhile.

- ✓ **Board of Directors** – 9 directors, 3 elected each year – meets 6 times a year
- ✓ **Organ Maintenance** – work parties most Saturdays – mostly technical, but opportunity to learn
- ✓ **Concert Crew** – backstage, setup, box office, CD sales
- ✓ **Windsheet** – concert reviews, editorials, columns, printing & mailing.
- ✓ **Ticket Sales** – handle season ticket sales, telephone/email sales
- ✓ **Open Console** – monthly, setup and moving the console, etc.
- ✓ **Folding & Labeling Parties** – at irregular intervals and various locales, but vitally important

Did I just sense that some of you said to yourself, *I'm not sure that I could do those things? Or, I just can't spare the time?*

We all have our commitments, our skill sets and our logistical limitations, so no doubt there are some who just are not in a position to help out.

But folks, the dwindling number of people who are performing the tasks outlined above are likely to burn out if they don't get some assistance from the rest of us!

Even if you have never repaired a pipe valve, maybe you might find it challenging to join the Saturday crew and *learn* something new. Perhaps you have some carpentry skills. The most valuable talent

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you can offer is *reliability*. If you can be counted on to show up for work parties, the rest will gradually follow.

Even if you have no skills nor interest in the mechanics of our instrument, you may contribute greatly, by becoming a *concert greeter*, to welcome attendees at our public concerts. Or a roustabout backstage. Or help out with brochure mailings. Or speak up in the late Fall when it's time to nominate 3 new directors to serve on the Board. *It's very easy to volunteer*: just let any board member know that you'd like to help out! In next month's Windsheet we will have a volunteer sign-up form that you can mail in to let us know that you really care about the future of NorCal.

NEW on NorCal Web Site

You can now view online the two previous months' issues of the Windsheet. Just click on *Windsheet Archives*.

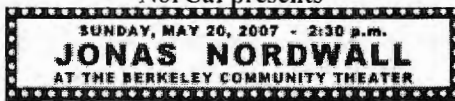
www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 14, 2007 – 1:00 PM: Morton Madness – See Lead Article-Page One

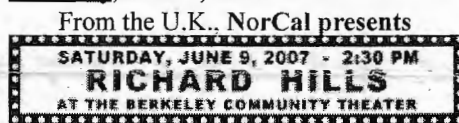
May 6 and June 3, 2007—Open Console, see Prior Page.

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



NOTE SCHEDULE CHANGE (SEE PAGE ONE!)

Saturday, June 9, 2007 – 2:30 PM:

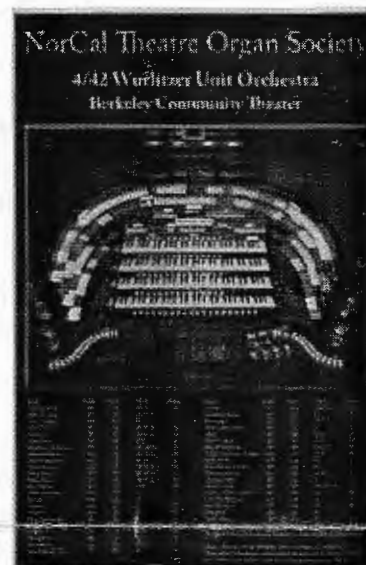


Membership Badges

Have you admired the blue membership badges that many NorCal members wear to concerts? Badges now cost NorCal members \$13 to have manufactured and shipped prepaid to their address. Send your checks and the exact spelling of your name as you want it to appear on the badge, and your complete mailing address to :

Bill Schlotter
6203 Elderberry Dr
Oakland, CA 94611-1621
(Allow several weeks for order processing and delivery)

CONSOLE POSTERS Available



For those who have missed the last concert or two, you may not know that NorCal has available a high resolution, photo quality 24"x36" color poster with a close-up picture of our *Center Theater* console; including a complete list of all 42 ranks that can be played from that console.

It is really a stunning poster, suitable for framing or mounting. The black-and-white rendition above *does not begin* to do it justice! We plan to have some available for sale at the CD sales table at public concerts, complete with protective mailing tube, for \$20, including sales tax. If you want to order one of these before attending our next concert, please send your check for \$25 to Jack O'Neill, at PO Box 2741, Oakland, CA 94602, and it will be mailed to you, postpaid. Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for delivery.

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@pachell.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.