**SIERRA / NORCAL PICNIC**

**SATURDAY, JULY 21, 2007**

Once again, NorCal and Sierra Chapter members have been invited to hold a potluck picnic and open console at the home of Dianne and Pete McCluer, right off Hwy 50 in the town of Shingle Springs, about 35 miles East of Sacramento.

Bring your favorite potluck salad or casserole or dessert and plan to arrive around 10:30 AM on Saturday, July 21st.

Jerry Nagano will play an informal concert before lunch on Pete’s lively 3/19 Wurlitzer [mistakenly described as a 3/12 in last month’s Windsheet.—Ed.]

It has become an annual affair, that Pete and Dianne McCluer open their beautiful hilltop hideaway to members and friends for the big party. The McCluer’s have built a special gathering place just to house the ever-growing Wurlitzer, which was originally installed in the Tulare Theatre in central California.

Last year this event was a brilliant success, both musically and gastronomically!

Pete’s address is 5001 Mistywood Lane, Shingle Springs, CA 95682. If you should get lost, call Pete or Dianne at (530) 676-5922. The drive from Sacramento to Shingle Springs should take about 1.5 hours. Take Hwy 80 from the Bay Area to Sacramento. Follow signs through Sacramento to Hwy 50/Placerville. As you approach the city of Folsom, watch on your left for the Intel complex. As you are passing Intel, look at your odometer.

Exactly 14½ miles from Intel you will come to Shingle Springs Drive, also marked EXIT 39. At the bottom of the off ramp, turn Left, go under the freeway and up to the gate straight ahead. It should be open, but in case it isn’t, scroll through the names on the call box, call the McCluers and they will let you in. Continue through the gate to the first Left, which is Tennessee Drive, and take the next Right on Mistywood Lane. Turn into the driveway to the Left. Look for the mailbox with the number 5001. Pull in and park up on the grassy knoll. Watch for the balloons and the paper plate signs with the ATOS letters on them. Get out of the car and follow the path past the main house and into the long building straight ahead.

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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.
Summer is finally here, heralded by the last concert of the season. I hope you had a chance to hear Richard Hills play the Berkeley Wurlitzer. It was truly an eye exercise watching his fingers fly over the keyboards. I enjoyed not only the performance, but Richard’s British humor as well (A Nightingale Sang in ‘Berkeley’ Square, for example). It was great to see many friends from the Sierra Chapter.

The day after the concert, Schoenstein & Company, Organ Builders, now located in Benecia, California, had an open house. It was fascinating to see pipe organs in various stages of assembly. Entertainment was provided by the guests on a two manual, six rank, classical organ. I think I heard three versions of Toccata and Fugue in D minor during my tour.

Now that summer is here, and the concert season is over, I hope you can fit some of the summer NorCal chapter events into your busy schedule. See you there.

Neal

ATOS THEATRE ORGAN ADVENTURE
July 20-23, 2007

The ATOS Theatre Organ Adventure provides young enthusiasts the opportunity to study and learn the art of the theatre pipe organ through lectures, master classes and private instruction.

The primary instructor for the Theatre Organ Adventure will be Jonas Nordwall, with teaching assistance from Donna Parker, Jeff Weiler, and Jelani Eddington. Most of the classes and sessions will take place at the 4/26 Robert Morton theatre organ at the Wheaton Fox Studio in Wheaton, Illinois, and will also include the 4/27 Barton at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, and the 5/80 Wurlitzer at the Sanfilippo Victorian Palace in Barrington.

Additional details can be found on the ATOS web site: www.atos.org.

DONATIONS SOUGHT

Students wishing to attend this summer camp will be asked to pay a tuition fee, but ATOS welcomes donations to subsidize deserving students. In the NorCal board meeting on June 12, your directors voted to offer matching funds for the first $1,000 donated by NorCal members. That is, if you send a check to NorCal, clearly marked as intended for the ATOS Adventure, NorCal will match the amount, up to a total of $1,000. Please make your checks out to NorCal, which will make your donation tax deductible. Send to: NorCal Treasurer ATOS Youth Matching Challenge P.O. Box 27238 Oakland, CA 94602-0438

Time is of the essence! This is a way for you to help bring young musicians into the theatre pipe organ fold. But the date is only a few weeks off, so please take time to think this is a very important subject.

“You said that some members have criticized concerts in the past for even including one such piece.

“My short answer is: I agree. This is theatre organ, it’s supposed to be fun.

“My long answer is: I caught the bug from George Wright’s last two Farewell to the Fox concerts in 1962 and 1963... Except for an occasional no-trem passage for contrast or some other musical reason, ... Mr. Wright had the trem on all the time and played popular, or at least non-classical, music. I was fortunate to hear many of his concerts after that, and he NEVER played really heavy classical music. No fugues, no toccatas, no Bizet, no Moussorgsky... He showed everyone that the TO can be a light, happy musical instrument.

“Similarly, Jesse Crawford’s key to success (his own and the TO’s) was playing light, popular music with heavy, TO-style tremulants.

“The average newcomer to TO is a victim of the cliche that organ music is boring and serious, and sounds churchy. It is up to ATOS to convince him or her that the TO is different! ... Several of our recent concerts, when ATOS was promoting the Friends 4 Free promotion, contained quite a lot of no-trem classical pieces. Big mistake if you want to get new recruits (I thought of this and cringed). I’ll bet the newbies only remembered the churchy stuff and will never come again. This is why classical, no-trem music should never be played during a theatre organ concert...

“During the half-way intermission at one of the Oakland Paramount TO concerts in the mid-eighties, performed by one of our best-loved, brilliant, big name organists, who played a lot of serious music during the first half, I heard a lady in the crowd say. “I’d rather go to the Pizza Joynt,” meaning, of course, that great, now-gone place in Hayward. A few years later, one of those concerts was the Lyn Larsen and Jack Bethards Tribute to the Roaring Twenties, and really, as we walked out at the end, I heard a woman say, “Gee, I can’t wait until the next concert!!” All this should tell ATOS and NorCal that something!” [Published with permission, edited for length.]

Thank you, John. While your musical tastes may not be exactly the same as mine (who are we?), it is important for every member in NorCal to express his or her preferences. Your board of directors (continued on Page Three)
Encore: *Tiger Rag* (Where’s That Tiger?)
— Rosca
* (English composers)

Introducing *The Satyr Dance*, Richard said that he selected it for this concert because it was often played by the late Ashley Miller in his performances at Radio City Music Hall in New York, on the ‘sister’ console to ours.

The *Dance In The Twilight* number, which is on his CD, *Graduation*, recorded in 2002 on the Kimball organ at Dickinson High School in Delaware, was played as a request from Frank Bindt.

Richard’s encore, *Tiger Rag*, is rather a specialty of his and is also featured on his *Graduation* CD. Richard’s interpretation begins with a very light, whimsical riff that gradually builds into a jazzy arrangement, with lion roars, and which includes a verse where the melody is played on the piano—in the pedals! I even heard a brief quotation from Bach’s *Little Fugue* at one point.

— Don Ravey

*(Editor’s Raving continued from Page Two)*

cannot be expected to deliver what you want if we don’t hear from you.

There is a particularly sensitive issue involved with this that I would like to mention. As I believe it is with nearly all artistic performance arrangements, the job of negotiating dates and logistics with artists and the theater venue is a very difficult one. For years Bill Schlotter has done a fantastic job of making these bookings. At various times, with various artists, suggestions have been made for what kinds of music we would most like to hear, as well as suggestions about the use of our robust instrument in the Berkeley Community Center’s acoustic environment. I understand that artists tend to listen carefully to these requests—then play the concert the way their musical instincts lead them. What I’m trying to say is that it’s not always possible to persuade an artist to play particular compositions or even styles of music. So please understand that it is the artist who determines the program.

I also want to point out that each of us has our own musical tastes and mine is no more valid than yours, and vice versa. Isn’t it wonderful that we are all different, yet we can find sufficient commonality to enjoy many of the same things? If we all had identical interests, it would surely be a boring world.
UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, July 21 – Potluck Picnic, short concert and Open Console in Shingle Springs – see announcement in this issue!

Friday-Sunday, August 10-12 – Castro Theatre 85th Anniversary Celebration – See column to the left.

Saturday, Aug. 18, 8:30 AM – Grand Lake Theater, Oakland – Open Console!

Sunday, Sept. 16 – Grace Baptist Church, San Jose – Artist: TBA

OTHER VENUES


Grand Lake Theatre, 3/18 Wurlitzer, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA. Intermission music: Warren Lubich or Gordon Pratt (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>

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


MEMBER'S BADGES

Have you admired the blue membership badges that many NorCal members wear to concerts? They are available for $13 shipped prepaid to the member’s address.

The badges are now totally engraved (no silk screening to rub off). Send your check and exactly how your name is to appear to: Bill Schlotter 6203 Elderberry Dr Oakland, CA 94611-1621

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.s ierrachapterATOS.org>

Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 300 W. Main St., Visalia, CA. (559) 625-1161.