
The WINDSHEET



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

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

July 2007



Pete McCluer at his 3/19 Wurlitzer console in Shingle Springs

Concert Review RICHARD HILLS

SATURDAY, June 9, 2007

Richard Hills, the British *wunderkind* and master of popular, liturgical and classical pipe organ repertoire, charmed our audience of local theatre organ lovers and the coach-full of *Sierra Chapter* members from Sacramento.

It is difficult to write anything new about the talents of this young man; it has all been written.

We were treated to a rich mixture of American and English compositions, every one of which was performed with precision and great musical sensibility. In his treatment of ballads, especially, Richard liberally employs *rubato* ("[It. 'stolen'] A practice common in Romantic compositions of taking part of the duration from one note and giving it to another. It involves the performer tastefully

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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 *desert* 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 45 minutes*. 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 *14 1/2 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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CHAIRMAN Neal R. Wood 523 Corbett Avenue San Francisco, CA 94114 415/861-7082 nealwood@pacbell.net	VICE CHAIRMAN Kevin J. King 2851 Creston Road Walnut Creek, CA 94597 925/256-7436 kevking@juno.com	SECRETARY Arthur Woodworth 600 Coventry Road Kensington, CA 94707 510/524-7452 awoodworth@bigfoot.com	TREASURER Ronald D. Bingaman 837 Redwood Dr. Danville, CA 94506 925/525-6263 ron.bingaman@safeway.com	EDITOR Don Ravey 127 Chukker Ct. San Mateo, CA 94403 650/573-8027 don@ravey.net	PROGRAM Gordon A. Pratt 15942 Via Cordoba San Lorenzo, CA 94580 510/276-8102 aznme2@webtv.net	MEMBERSHIP Neal R. Wood 523 Corbett Avenue San Francisco, CA 94114 415/861-7082 nealwood@pacbell.net
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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.

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



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

ERRATUM:

The latin piece played by **Jonas Nordwall** in the May 20 concert was *España Cani* by Pascual Marquina. Thanks to **Dave Goggin** for identifying the piece.

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges generous donations from:

Frank Bindt
Bill Schlotter
Peggie Simleness

NEW MEMBER

Alaisande Tremblay of El Sobrante
Welcome to NorCal!



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

I don't receive as much feedback from members as I would like to receive. A welcome exception was the thoughtful E-mail I received on my comments in reviewing the March concert, relating to the inclusion of *classical* and *liturgical* repertoire in theatre organ concerts.

Our member **John Onia** wrote: "Thanks for your April *Windsheet* invitation to send members' thoughts on classical music during a theatre organ concert. I

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 tremas 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.

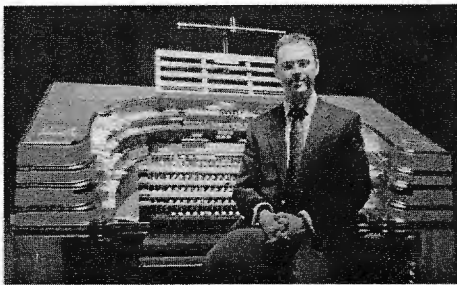
"The average newcomer to TO is a victim of the cliché that organ music is boring and serious, and sounds *churchy*. It is up to ATOS to convince him or her that the TO is different! ... Several of our recent concerts, when ATOS was promoting the *Friends 4 Free* promotion, contained quite a lot of no-trem 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 TOS something!" [Published with permission, edited for length.]

Thank you, John. While your musical tastes may not be exactly the same as mine (*whose are?!*), it is important for every member in NorCal to express his or her preferences. Your board of directors

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(Richard Hills continued from Page One)



stretching, slowing, or hurrying the tempo as she/he sees fit, thus imparting flexibility and emotion to the performance.”). I find it gives more depth and feeling to the music than if he had applied a mechanically strict tempo.

Playlist

Console Up: The Sun Has Got His Hat On – John Leavitt *

Can I Forget You? (from High, Wide & Handsome, 1937) – Jerome Kern

Medley from The Mikado – A. Sullivan *

- Behold the Lord High Executioner
- Three Little Maids From School
- Tit Willow
- The Flowers of Spring
- The Sun Whose Rays
- For He's Going To Marry YumYum

Body And Soul – John Green

High Heels – Trevor Duncan *

Medley from New Moon with Nelson Eddy & Jeanette McDonald, 1928 – Sigmund Romberg:

- One Kiss
- Stouthearted Men
- Softly, As In A Morning Sunrise
- Marianne
- Lover, Come Back To Me

Spanish Dance #5 in A major – Moskovsky (?)

Rodeo March – Harold Ramsey *

Intermission

Console Up: Brazil – Xavier Cugat

A Nightingale Sang In Berkeley Square – Manning Sherwin, 1915

Dance In The Twilight – Eric Coates *

Medley from Kiss Me Kate – Cole Porter:

- Another Opening, Another Show
- Always True To You In My Fashion
- Wunderbar
- So In Love
- Too Darn Hot
- Why Can't You Behave

We'll Gather Lilacs In Spring – Novello

Satyr Dance – Edward German *

Midnight In Mayfair – Newell Chase *

Poet and Peasant Overture – Von Suppé

Encore: Tiger Rag (Where's That Tiger?)

– La Rocca

* (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 Ravings continued from Page Two)

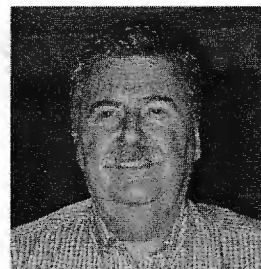
cannot be expected to deliver what you want if we don't hear from you.

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.

Windsheet

**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, July 8, 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.

PHOTOS OF CONCERT ARTISTS AT BCT WANTED

NorCal wants to create a photo archive of artists who have played concerts at the Berkeley Community Theater. If you have taken such photos and would be willing to let us use them, please contact **Frank La Fetra** at frank@lafetra.com (please include the words [NorCal] in the Subject line) or call him at (408) 532-1044. We especially want pictures that include our console(s), and of course we are looking for in-focus, reasonably lighted shots where the subject is in a pleasant pose. In particular, we would appreciate any recent photos of our late friend, **Tom Hazleton**.

FIREWOOD AVAILABLE

No, that's not a joke. There's a lot of fine, aged wood in the form of wind chests and similar organ components that are being stored at BCT pending being sent to the dump. If anyone can make use of this wood, get in touch with **Bill Schlotter** and arrange to pick it up.

Castro Theatre's 85th Anniversary Celebration!

August 10-12, 2007

Celebrating 85 years of diverse programming for a diverse audience, two live music performances will be the opening night attraction for the weekend of August 10-12.

Friday August 10

After garnering rave reviews for her concerts in San Francisco last year, **Amy Gilliom**, top selling female vocalist in Hawaii, will present an evening of traditional Hawaiian songs with new, rarely performed songs from the pop and jazz canons. Also on the program, following in the footsteps of the **Nasser Brothers** theatrical family, will be **Monique Argent** performing songs from movies which span the many decades of the Castro Theatre's programming.

Saturday August 11

Special Kiddie Matinee with **Laurel and Hardy** in *Way Out West* plus *Bugs Bunny & Friends* Cartoon Festival, afternoon matinee of *Sing-A-Long Wizard Of Oz* with hosts **Laurie Bushman** and **Joe Collins**, and an evening show with special guest appearance. (TBA).

Sunday August 12

Afternoon matinee of the timeless classic *Gone With The Wind*. The evening's attraction will be a special tribute to the silent era with Castro organist **Warren Lubich** at the Mighty Wurlitzer accompanying **Laurel & Hardy's Big Business** and **Lon Chaney Sr.** in his most famous role as *Phantom Of The Opera*.

OTHER CHAPTERS

Sierra Chapter, Sacramento, CA

<www.sierrachapterATOS.org>

Mount Shasta Chapter TOS

Contact Al Schoenstein

<DSchoen940@aol.com>

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

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>

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.

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>

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).

NORCAL WEB SITE

We now have copies of the two most recent *Windsheets* on our web site—and in color! They are in .pdf format, which requires that your computer has a copy of the *free* Adobe Acrobat Reader.

We also have an up-to-date Calendar of Events online. Be sure to visit it!

theatreorgans.com/norcal/

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

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 call or write:

Mr. Neal R. Wood at (415)861-7082 <nealwood@pacbell.net> , PO Box 27238, Oakland, California 94602-0438.

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.