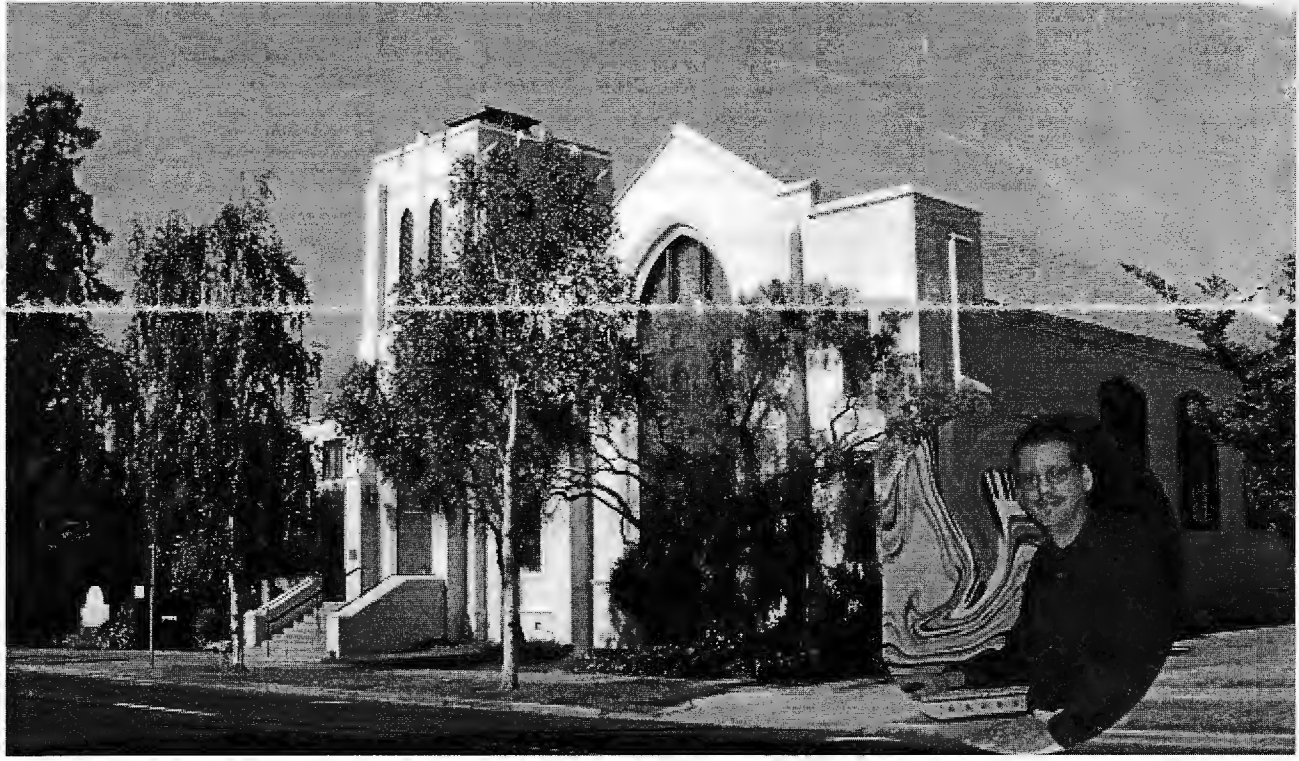

The WINDSHEET



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

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

September 2007



DEAN COOK

Sunday, Sept. 16, 1:00 PM, Grace Baptist Church, San Jose
Followed by Open Console

Once again NorCal members will have the opportunity for an *open console* on the 3/10 Robert Morton pipe organ (with *tremols!*) installed at **Grace Baptist Church in San Jose**. Preceding open console, we are delighted to present **Dean Cook** in concert. Dean has been playing theatre pipe organs most of his life, most recently at the now-defunct *Angelino's* in San Jose.

Dean Cook is a Bay Area native who played at *Pizza & Pipes* in Redwood City, *Serramonte* in South San Francisco,

the *Grand Lake Theater* in Oakland, the *Avenue Theater* in San Francisco and St. James Episcopal Church in Oakland, prior to moving to Chicago in 1996, where he was featured at the *Famous Music Box Theatre*, and appeared at *Beggar's Pizza* in Lansing, IL. Returning to San Jose in 2001, he was the house organist at *Angelino's* until its recent demise. He also played at *Ye Olde Pizza Joynt* prior to the fire that destroyed that venerable place.

The organ at *Grace Baptist Church* in

Oakland was originally installed at the *Liberty Theater* in Oakland. It retains all the theatre organ features to permit the presentation of lively, theatre-style music (although these are probably not routinely utilized in its current role as the sanctuary organ!).

Grace Baptist Church is located in downtown San Jose at 484 East San Fernando Street at 10th Street, across from the corner of the San Jose State University campus

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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



At our last chapter board meeting, an idea was tossed around for an event in February; a stage door social. Since I am a relative newbie to the organization, I have never participated in this kind of event. The more I heard about it, the more it sounded like a fun event.

In the past, the stage door socials have included a tour of the organ, a slide show history presentation, a few tunes played on the organ from previous concerts, a sales table for sheet music, records, CDs, organ paraphernalia, and maybe a few NorCal T-shirts. The event is held on the stage, so there is a lot of room to socialize. So, what do you think? Would this be something you would like to do? Let me know, 415-861-7082 or nealwood@pacbell.net.

I received a letter from NorCal member Mr. P.W. Bowen regarding our affiliation with the ATOS National. His main concern is our communications between the national organization and the NorCal chapter. ATOS is on top of this issue, and has provided a liaison to facilitate a communication path for NorCal. His name is **Vernon P. Bickel**. I look forward to

Neal

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to NorCal TOS:

Mr. Jan David Durbin
of San Francisco
Gerard Montana
of San Francisco

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges generous donations from:
Bert Atwood of Clearlake, CA, for valuable materials.

Electronic Organs

Available

NorCal member **Warren Lubich** is trying to find new homes for two Rodgers Model 34E organs. If anyone is interested, please contact Warren: lubie65@aol.com or 415-566-2623.

ATOS YOUTH Organ Adventure

NorCal's treasurer, **Ron Bingaman**, reports that NorCal forwarded a total of \$2,200 to ATOS to support attendance at the 4-day resident master class last month in Wheaton, IL for aspiring organists of age 21 and under. The total included \$1,000 in matching funds, the remainder from our generous members.

We received a gracious acknowledgement and thank-you letter from **Nathan Avakian**, one of the students who benefitted from our sponsorship.

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/

Grand Lake Theatre Open Console

Saturday, August 18, 2007

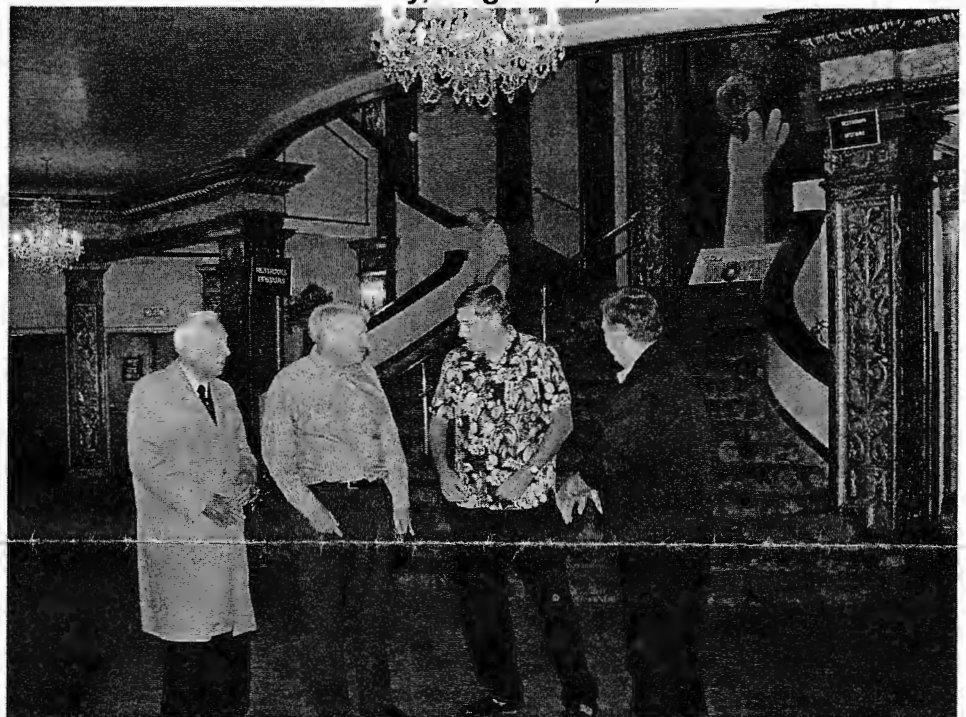


Photo by Don Ravey—Grand Lake Theatre Lobby, Ray Taylor, Bill Taylor, a NorCal member, Chris Nichols

The only negative aspect of our open console at the Oakland Grand Lake Theater was getting up so early on a Saturday morning. For some of us, it was early for *any* morning!

NorCal member and Past Chairman **Kevin King**, who owns the 3/18 *Wurlitzer* and plays intermissions on weekends, arranged with the theater management to permit us to come in early, before the theater's regular 11:15 AM opening time and enjoy the rich tones of this

well maintained instrument in its natural environment, a modest sized theater with nice acoustics. With chambers on the two sides of the stage proscenium, the *main* and *solo* divisions speak distinctly and can be contrasted with one another by skillful registration.

By my informal count, I think we had about 20 members or guests present, only about half of whom played. Come on, you sand-baggers, don't be shy!



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

I know that some NorCal members have computers and are active on the Internet, while others are not. I want to direct the next few paragraphs to those who are. Who knows, maybe some who are not might even be encouraged to consider getting online, perhaps just at their local library.

A recent, but influential presence on the World Wide Web is a San Bruno-based company called *YouTube*. It has only existed a little over two years, but has caught the attention of millions of Internet fans the world over. The concept is simple: anyone who registers with YouTube.com can upload *video* clips that they have made with their own camcorders (or in some cases, that they have copied from television shows) and make them available to the public to view. The videos are catalogued so that you can search for particular topics or locales or personalities.

Why explain this in a Theatre Organ publication? Because I've recently discovered that **Jelani Eddington** (or his fans) have uploaded at least a half dozen rather good videos, running from under 3 minutes to over 8 minutes, of his performances on some of the great theatre pipe organs across the country. Many more videos can be found by searching on the terms *theatre organ* or just *pipe organ*, or by name, although I didn't find many other top tier theatre organists whose performances are available there, so far.

I found one very short clip taken from the audience (unauthorized, no doubt!) at the *Castro Theater*, with some ambiguity as to the identity of the artist.

So, those of you who are familiar with using the Internet and the World Wide Web will surely enjoy discovering what little gems of music may be awaiting you, and for those of you who aren't online, or are unfamiliar with YouTube.com, this could serve as an incentive to become so.

Just direct your Internet browser to: www.youtube.com and enter your search terms in the Search box. Enjoy!

Console Posters For Sale

For those who have missed the last concert or two, you may not know that NorCal has designed a high resolution, photo quality 24"x36" color poster with a close-up picture of our *Center Theater* console, with 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 to the right does not 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 NorCal TOS, P.O. Box 27238, Oakland, CA 94602, and it will be mailed to you, postpaid. Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for delivery.



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 date is:

Sunday, September 9, 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.

Two Organs on the Move

[The following is reproduced with permission from Santa Barbara TOS Newsletter, August 2007:]

Ron Rhode informed us, when he was here in May, that he would play the last concert on the former New York Paramount studio Wurlitzer in the Bay Theatre in Seal Beach. **Dick Loderhose**, owner of the organ, donated it to *The Beatitudes Campus of Care*, a retirement home in Phoenix, Arizona. Ron Rhode will be the curator and principal organist. Ron is organist at the *Church of the Beatitudes, U.C.C.* and was instrumental in the arrangement.

John Ledwon has donated the huge 4/52 Wurlitzer organ built into his house to the *Nethercutt* collection in Sylmar, California. After a complete refurbishing, it is to be installed in the auto museum across the street from the original tower building. This will be the second theatre pipe organ installed in the complex, the first is in the tower building. John is moving to Henderson, Nevada.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Sept. 9, 1:00 PM – Open Console, Berkeley Community Theater.

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 8:55 PM – Stanford Theatre – Silent film: *The Navigator* (Buster Keaton), accompanied by **Chris Elliott**.

Friday, Sept. 14, 8:00 PM – Towe Auto Museum, Sacramento – Silent film *The Navigator*, (Buster Keaton), accompanied by **Walt Strony**. Details: <www.SierraChapterATOS.org>

Sunday, Sept. 16, 1:00 PM – Grace Baptist Church, San Jose – **Dean Cook** will play a short concert, then it will be *Open Console* for NorCal members.

Friday, Oct. 26, 8:00 PM – Towe Auto Museum, Sacramento – Silent film accompanied by **Paul Quarino**. Details: <www.SierraChapterATOS.org>

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2:00 PM – Grant Union H.S., Sacramento – **Clark Wilson** in concert. Details: <www.SierraChapterATOS.org>

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).

OTHER CHAPTERS

Sierra Chapter, Sacramento, CA
<www.sierrachapterATOS.org>

Mount Shasta Chapter TOS

Contact Al Schoenstein
(DSchoen940@aol.com)

Educational Corner

A pipe organ *rank* is a set of similarly constructed pipes that create a distinctive *voice* or *timbre* from the lowest to the highest *pitch*. At its simplest, a *rank* might have one pipe for each key on the manual, which is usually **61**, so there would be **61** pipes in the *rank*.

But some *ranks* have fewer pipes and thus produce no sound from keys near the extremes of the keyboard (or pedalboard). And other *ranks* may have extra octaves below and/or above the keyboard range. For example, if there are *tab stops* for a *16' Diapason*, *8' Diapason* and *4' Octave*, there might be only one Diapason *rank*, consisting of **85** pipes: the 61 pipes for the *8'* register plus 12 pipes each for the bottom octave of the *16'* register and the top octave of the *4'* register, and would be called an *extended rank*. This "borrowing" is typical of *theatre organs* and is less common in *classical organs*.

Membership 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 on the badge 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.