

The WINDSHEET



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

theatreorgans.com/norcal

October 2007

2007-2008
 Public Concert
 Season

For the opening concert of the 2007-08 season on **Sunday, November 4, 2007**, we are very pleased to present **Jelani Eddington**. Jelani last played for us at Berkeley Community Theater in February of 2004.

Our second concert, on **Sunday, March 9, 2008**, will feature Bay Area resident and noted silent film accompanist **Chris Elliott**.

Our third concert, on **Sunday, May 4, 2008**, will feature the current ATOS president, **Ken Double**.

These are all outstanding artists; we are delighted to be able to bring them here for our members and friends this season. More background on these fine artists is available in the concert brochure just mailed to members, and we will also publish more about each artist in the *Windsheet* preceding their performance.

For the opening concert of the 2007-08 season on **Sunday, November 4, 2007**, we are very pleased to present **Jelani Eddington**. Jelani last played for us at Berkeley Community Theater in February of 2004.

During the years that Jelani Eddington has given concerts, he has established himself as one of the most prominent and sought-after artists on the concert circuit. Jelani has performed in most of the major concert venues throughout the United States, has toured extensively abroad, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including his selection as the **2001 Theatre Organist of the Year** by the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). Having received the award at the age of 27, Jelani retains the distinction of being the youngest-ever recipient of this prestigious honor.

Jelani Eddington was born in 1974 in Muncie, Indiana to Louise Eddington and the late Robert Eddington and grew up in a very musical family. Between the interests of his mother, a professional music teacher of many years, and those of his grandmother, Florence Arnold, a well respected piano instructor, it was no surprise when Jelani demonstrated an inclination toward music at a very early age.

At the age of eight, a trip to hear the 4-manual 42-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in the Indianapolis, Indiana restaurant, the Paramount Music Palace, introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ. Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John Ferguson, whose skills as a theatre organ instructor have been highly acclaimed internationally.

In the spring of 1988 at the age of 13, Jelani won the ATOS *Young Theatre Organist Competition*, prevailing over competitors ages 13-21 from the United States, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Jelani remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title. Jelani went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in



JELANI EDDINGTON
 in Concert at The BCT
 November 4, 2007—2:30 PM (PST)

1996, and later received a Juris Doctor degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, after which time he was admitted to practice law in New York State.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional conventions of ATOS and has toured extensively throughout the world, including numerous concert appearances in the United States,

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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.

NorCal TOS Annual Meeting

Following a change to our By-laws, approved by a vote of the membership earlier this year, the NorCal annual members' (business) meeting will be scheduled in January each year. The first meeting on this new schedule will take place on **Sunday, January 27, 2008**.

There will be a members' concert by a first-class organist, followed by our required business meeting, at which the newly elected Directors will be introduced.

We will then have a no-host dinner at a restaurant in Berkeley; this was so successful last year.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to NorCal TOS:

David J. Dehner of San Francisco
Greg De Santis of Santa Rosa
Gianni Zeno of San Francisco

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges generous donations from:

David J. Dehner
Chris Kenward
Phyllis Hechim
Harry Hoyt
Jim and Marie Parker

CORRECTION

Your Editor goofed in describing the organ at Grace Baptist Church in San Jose as having been installed originally in the Liberty Theater in Oakland. It was, of course, the **Liberty Theater in San Jose**. Also, it is a 12 rank organ, not 10 ranks. Thanks to Tom DeLay for his keen eye, as well as his extensive knowledge of the history of pipe organs, for catching these errors:

CONCERT TICKET SALES

We regret to announce that Jack O'Neill is experiencing health problems and, after so many years of handling ticket sales and related matters, he is currently unable to carry out these tasks. We are all grateful for Jack's many years of service.

For tickets and poster sales, please contact Neal Wood at (415) 881-7082 or by email at nealwood@pacbell.net.

Let's all direct our collective *karma* to send strength and wellness to Jack.



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

NorCal recently received a donation of hundreds of theatre organ recordings on audio cassettes and reel-to-reel tapes from Phyllis Hechim of San Mateo, daughter of the late Marie Tilson, in turn the widow of Willis (Byll) Tilson, who passed away more than a decade ago. We understand that some of these were copied from albums, some were recorded live at concerts, while others are recordings of Byll and friends on his electronic organ. We don't know the condition or the quality of these tapes, but the scope of recordings and artists is so wide that we might find some historically interesting material.

As for me, I have a whole shelf of LP platters—and even 45 RPMs—and no way to play them anymore. *Sic transit gloria mundi.*

NorCal ELECTION of OFFICERS

This is the beginning of NorCal's campaign season for board members to replace those expiring at our January 2008 Member Meeting. Yes, we have *term limits* built into our By-laws!

Our board of directors consists of **nine**

members, three of whom are elected each year for a term of three years. A director may be re-elected *one time* without a gap of at least one term.

In accordance with our By-laws, the Chairman appoints a **Nominating Committee**, who propose a slate of candidates for election to the board, after assuring that those nominated are willing to serve in that capacity. In addition, any **Active NorCal member** (full members, *i.e.* NorCal TOS plus ATOS) may nominate other Active NorCal members. Such nominations must be submitted *to the nominating committee in writing* and **must include the nominee's consent** to serve if elected. Also the nomination *must include the signatures of at least two Active Members besides that of the nominee*. **The nomination must be submitted to the nominating committee not later than November 10.**

The Nominating Committee this year consists of the following members:

Warren Lubich, 415-566-2623

lubie65@aol.com

Kevan Lesch, 650-367-0786

kevan1955@hotmail.com

Elbert Dawson, 925-372-6536

bigreenmonst@earthlink.net

Nominations close on November 15.

The names of all qualified nominees are passed to the Secretary by **December 1**. If there are more nominees than vacancies, the secretary prepares and sends out ballots before **December 15**. Ballots when needed, are counted at the Annual Members Meeting.

HAROLD SODERSTROM

invites Members

Harold Soderstrom, past Chairman of NorCal, of San Pablo has completed an extensive two-year renovation and expansion of his *Rodgers 340* organ and invites NorCal members to contact him at (510) 724-5254 to arrange a convenient time to visit him and play the instrument. It now includes 54 speakers, up to 16-inch woofers, and many modifications not available from the factory, Harold says that it is now really fun to play.

(Jelani continued from Page One)

New Zealand, England, Wales, Holland, France and Germany. Jelani has also distinguished himself as a recording artist and has produced numerous theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country.

[Note: the concert date, November 4, 2007, is special; Daylight Saving Time (DST) ended the prior night. Make a note of this and save yourself the embarrassment and disappointment of arriving an hour late!]

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE

You are probably wondering why you haven't received the concert schedule for this upcoming season. Due to scheduling difficulties with the Berkeley School District (the first requirement for organizing concerts), we had to abandon the first concert of the season. We are now back on track and we can look forward to an exciting concert series. Mark your calendars for the upcoming concert Sundays: November 4th (See article on page one.), January 27th, 2008 (board meeting and concert for members, no-host dinner afterward), March 9th, and May 4th.

Per the NorCal TOS By-laws, we have established a nominating committee to choose new director nominees to replace retiring board members, Don Siefert and Mark Putterbaugh. More information about the nomination process is in our Editor's column. I wish to thank Warren Lubich, Kevan Lesch, and Elbert Dawson III for volunteering to be on the nominating committee. If you do not have a copy of our By-laws (last updated and distributed in 2006), let me know and I'll send you a copy.

Lastly, I know why this column is called the Chairman's Windline. Kevin King, our past chairman, is an excellent windline builder. I hope to follow his lead and add a few windlines, myself.

Neal

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, October 21, 2007
- Sunday, November 18, 2007

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, Chris Nichols, ensures that every 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.

I **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.

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/

Open Console at Grace Baptist



Bill Pike



Gordon Pratt



Art Woodworth

MEMBER CONCERT and Open Console

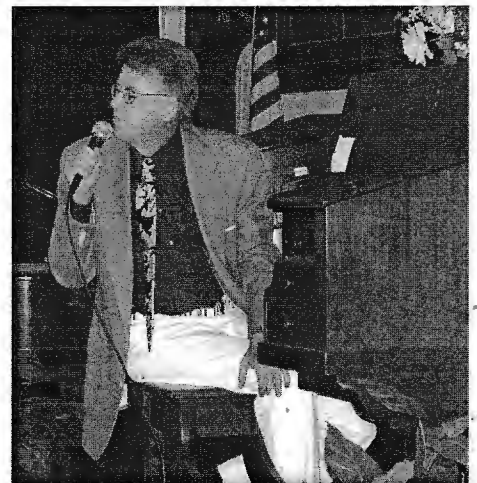
San Jose Grace Baptist, September 16, 2007

This was the second annual 'Sunday Afternoon Organ Concert' and members' Open Console presented at, and through the kind cooperation of the *Grace Baptist Church of San Jose*. Through the tireless effort of Bill Brooks, the 3/12 Robert Morton organ has not only been restored to excellent condition, but has been made available for events like this, as well as occasional silent movie nights.

For the members' concert, we were fortunate to hear Dean Cook, whose talented performances have been missing from the local music scene since the closing of Angelino's restaurant in San Jose early this year. Dean graced us (pun intended) with a bright and varied collection of traditional and modern selections, and the venerable Robert Morton, originally from San Jose's Liberty Theatre, sang out in true theatre organ style, complete with drum rolls and cymbal crashes.

Following the concert, several NorCal

members took to the bench and had the opportunity to try out quite a different arrangement of tab stops than most of us are familiar with. Some of us were able to accommodate better than others. [I place



Dean Cook

Photos by Don Ravay

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Oct. 21, 1:00 – 4:00 PM –
Berkeley Community Theater – Open
Console for NorCal members.

Friday, Oct. 26, 8:00 PM – *Towe Auto
Museum, Sacramento* – Silent film
accompanied by **Paul Quarino**. Details at:

SierraChapterATOS.org

JELANI EDDINGTON

Sunday, Nov. 4, 2:30 PM – *Berkeley
Community Theater* – NorCal presents
Jelani Eddington in concert.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 2:00 PM – *Grant
Union High School, Sacramento* **Clark
Wilson** in concert. Details at:

sierrachapterATOS.org

Sunday, Jan. 14, 2008, 7:30 PM – *Castro
Theater*, 429 Castro St., San Francisco
415-621-6120 – Silent film *Joyless Street*
accompanied by **Dennis James**.

castrotheatre.com

Sunday, Oct. 21, 1:00 – 4:00 PM –
Berkeley Community Theater – Open
Console for NorCal members.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008 2:30 PM –
Berkeley Community Theater – NorCal
Annual Meeting, Members' Concert
followed by a *no host* dinner.

CHRIS ELLIOTT

Sunday, Mar. 9, 2008, 2:30 PM –
Berkeley Community Theater – NorCal
presents **Chris Elliott** in concert.

KEN DOUBLE

Sunday, May 4, 2008 2:30 PM –
Berkeley Community Theater – NorCal
presents **Ken Double** in concert.

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.

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.

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.

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.

sierrachapterATOS.org

Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 *Wurlitzer*,
300 W. Main St., Visalia, CA.

(559) 625-1FOX (1369).

OTHER CHAPTERS

Sierra Chapter, Sacramento, CA

sierrachapterATOS.org

Mount Shasta Chapter TOS

Contact **Al Schoenstein**
DSchoen940@aol.com

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>, 523 Corbett Av, San Francisco CA 94114-2219

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.