

The WINDSHEET



Newsletter of the NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
 PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625 510/644-2707

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

March 2008

Chris Elliott (next NorCal program) at BCT 2:30 PM, Sunday, March 9, 2008

See Lead Article of the February 2008 issue of The Windsheet. Remember to change your clocks; Daylight Savings Time *sprang ahead* the night before this concert.



It is Morton Madness Time Again — Two Great Organs at Two Wineries Two Concerts with **RON RHODE** as the Artist April 12, 2008 marks the 14th Annual Event at Harmony Wynelands in Lodi, CA & Ironstone Vineyards in Murphys, CA

NorCal TOS joins with the Sierra Chapter of ATOS starting at 1 PM for the first concert in Lodi then traveling to Murphys for dinner and the second concert.

Ron Rhode is beginning his 34th year as one of the most popular theatre organists. He received "Top Rating 10/10" from *CD Review Magazine* on two of his many recordings; he was awarded "Theatre Organist Of The Year - 1989" by the American Theatre Organ Society. He has played virtually every major theatre organ installation in the world.

Ron is a native of Illinois, where he began his musical career on the piano. He quickly advanced to classical pipe organ, and in 1968 held his first theatre organ job playing for roller skating. In 1973 Ron moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to start a long association with the Organ Stop Pizza restaurants. In 1975 Ron moved to Mesa, Arizona, where



he held the Featured Organist post and played for pizza patrons until November, 1986. In July, 1988, Ron again joined the staff as Associate Organist until his retirement in 2000. In Phoenix, he has been the Featured Organist for the Orpheum Theatre Silent Sunday Series, a silent movie series, since its inception in May, 1999.

Since leaving the pizza parlor on a regular basis, Ron has completed a Bachelor of Education degree in Early Childhood Education at Arizona State University, and in 1995 he earned a Master of Elementary Education degree from Northern Arizona State University. He is currently a Media Specialist at Roosevelt Elementary in Mesa, Arizona. In addition to teaching, recording, and concertizing, Ron is the organist for the Church of the Beatitudes, U.C.C., in Phoenix, Arizona.

Although Ron is held to the classroom through the week, he still

NorCal Theatre Organ Society (NorCal TOS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
 Federal Employer Identification Number 23-741594-7 • State Charitable Trust No. CT 45966 • State Organization Number D-072 6636 NT20S M12

CHAIRMAN	VICE CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER	EDITOR	PROGRAM	MEMBERSHIP
Neal R. Wood	Kevin J. King	Arthur Woodworth	Ronald D. Bingaman	Don Ravey	Gordon A. Pratt	Neal R. Wood
523 Corbett Avenue	2851 Creston Road	600 Coventry Road	25855 Sweet Rd.	127 Chukker Ct.	15942 Via Cordoba	523 Corbett Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94114	Walnut Creek, CA 94597	Kensington, CA 94707	Grass Valley, CA 95949	San Mateo, CA 94403	San Lorenzo, CA 94580	San Francisco, CA 94114
415/861-7082	925/256-7436	510/524-7452	925/525-6263	650/573-8027	510/276-8102	415/861-7082
nealwood@pacbell.net	kevking@juno.com	awoodworth@bigfoot.com	ron.bingaman@safeway.com	don@ravey.net	aznme2@webtv.net	nealwood@pacbell.net

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.

finds time to maintain an active concert and recording career. He continues to perform professionally across the United States, Canada, England, and Australia. He is a favorite at American Theatre Organ Society national and regional conventions. He has more than twenty recordings to his credit.

Tickets are \$50 per person for the day (includes Gourmet Buffet Dinner and wine); they are available from Neal Wood, 523 Corbett Ave., SF 94114 [415/861-7082]. Orders for tickets must be Post Marked no later than April 5, 2008. Neal Wood will have driving instructions. More information is available at:

SierraChapterATOS.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHRIS ELLIOTT
AT THE BCT MIGHTY WURLITZER

Sunday, Mar. 9, 2008, 2:30 PM

(Remember *Daylight Savings* just began at 2:00 AM!) – *Berkeley Community Theatre* – NorCal presents **Chris Elliott** in concert.

Sunday, March 16, 2008, 1:00 to 5:00 PM

– *Berkeley Community Theatre* – Open Console for NorCal members. (see Pg. 3)

Saturday, April 12, 2008, 1:00 PM

through Dinner — Morton Madness XIV — Joint Program NorCal & Sierra Chapters ATOS — Harmony Wynelands, 9291 Harney Lane, Lodi, CA — Ironstone Vineyards, 1894 Six Mile Road, Murphys, CA (See Article on Page One)

KEN DOUBLE
AT THE BCT MIGHTY WURLITZER

Sunday, May 4, 2008 2:30 PM – *Berkeley Community Theatre* – NorCal presents

Ken Double in concert.

THE ORGANS

Both organs are *Robert Mortons* of nearly identical specification *on paper*. Their manufacture dates are 1922 for the Wynelands instrument and 1927 for the Ironstone Winery instrument. There were huge changes in Theatre Organs made only

five-years apart. According to Organ Historian, Tom De Lay, their rehabilitation makes them today quite unlike they were originally. The vast difference in room acoustics at the two venues makes these *on paper* similar instruments totally different in sound.

The Harmony Wynelands Instrument (to the right with console inset) began life in San Francisco's Castro Theatre. After an intervening owner, who replaced the two-manual console with a three-manual one, Bob Hartzell purchased it in 1987. Hartzell's son, Mark, designed the 'Blue Barn' to house it. This 'Blue Barn' in the middle of a vineyard is hardly a barn inside, but a wonderful organ studio, 30-ft wide x 60-ft long with a 30-ft high beam ceiling, and it includes guest quarters for visiting artists.



The Ironstone Vineyards instrument (below with console inset) is in a nearly 4,000 ft² room with 5th floor picture windows overlooking the valley below; its original home was the Alhambra Theater in Sacramento. When the theater closed it went to a Baptist Church in Stockton. Bob Hartzell bought it when the church no longer wanted it. John Kautz later bought it for his winery and built the Alhambra Music Room to house it and provide banquet space.



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 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625.

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.