
The WINDSHEET



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

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

April 2008

KEN DOUBLE
 May 4th, 2008, 2³⁰ PM
 Berkeley Community Theatre
 Ken Double is the current ATOS President



playing the organ for the *Tommy Bartlett Water Show* in the Wisconsin Dells, and a stint as the first organist at the Market Square Arena in Indianapolis helped Ken pay for college, and it was off to the broadcast world as a sportscaster. However, he would never stray too far from his love of the theatre organ, and in December of 1978, he was on the bill for his first public concert. He performed a holiday show on the Page organ at the Embassy Theatre in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. But, it would be three years before Ken would perform in concert again.

That three-year hiatus proved fruitful. Double began subbing on the staff of the pipe-organ-equipped Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, all the while appearing nightly on the news to deliver the sports headlines of the day.

In February of 1982, Double performed the first concert on the new installation at the Long Center in Lafayette, IN. This marked two firsts in his career.

It was the first of now 26 annual concerts at Long Center. And, it was the first of four 'premier' concerts he would play on new installations in Indiana. (The others being the Warren Center Barton organ, the Paramount Theatre Page organ in Anderson, IN and the Wurlitzer at Manual High School in Indianapolis.)

During his concert career, Double has
(continued on Page Three)

Organist/broadcaster/entertainer **Ken Double** likes to tell people, "I've worked very hard for over 30 years trying NOT to work for a living, having been paid to watch sporting events, and play theatre organs.

"Like the song says, 'Nice work if you can get it.'" For more than 30 years, he has been heard on radio and seen on television as a sportscaster, and since 1978, has been at the console of great theatre pipe organs, indeed working hard to entertain his audiences.

Born in Chicago the last of six boys, his love of sports was just a normal part of growing up. Double parlayed that into a degree in Radio-TV from Butler University

in Indianapolis, and enjoyed a career that has included play-by-play in the NHL, AHL, NBA, major college sports, the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race and more.

But even after 30-plus years of broadcasting, he is still better known in certain circles for his talents at the pipe organ.

Ten years of lessons, three summers

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 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 kevjking@juno.com	SECRETARY Arthur Woodworth 600 Coventry Road Kensington, CA 94707 510/524-7452 awoodworth@bigfoot.com	TREASURER Jan D. Durbin 217 Eddy St, Apt 412 San Francisco, CA 94102 415/563-3219 jandav41@earthlink.net	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
---	--	--	---	--	--	---

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.

CHRIS ELLIOTT

Concert Review

March 9th, 2008

Chris Elliott raised the console and the spirits of the audience with the theme march from the 1933 film *King Kong*, and he maintained the pace and excitement throughout his enjoyable concert.

Chris is one of the premier silent movie accompanists performing today, and it is quite evident in the ease with which he accomplishes transitions in mood, as he employs the voicings and dynamics available from a theatre organ such as NorCal's 4/41 Wurlitzer.

I was seated, as usual, far to the left of center (to avoid disturbing audience neighbors with my occasional flashlight use as I take notes) and I particularly noticed how often Chris uses his left hand on the upper manuals, especially the *bombarde* (the third keyboard from the bottom) to add contrasting accompaniment, counter-melody, or even to take the melody while the right hand plays flourishes and embellishments. As an amateur organist, myself, I am delighted to observe the techniques that accomplished musicians use and blend with yet other techniques, to achieve the beautiful results that we all love to listen to.

Chris gave us a varied and fresh program of music; mostly the *genre* that we associate with theatre organs, including medleys from Broadway shows composed by **Frederick Loewe**, **Jerome Kern**, **Cole Porter**, and **Irving Berlin**. But he also included one classical piece by **Robert Schumann** and what he described as a sort of gospel hymn, arranged by Chris, himself, as a suitable concert piece. There were some well-loved standards, but also several little known, but enjoyable tunes.

There was also a lyrical composition by **Richard Purvis**, *Night in Monterey*, which had a hint of spanish undertones.

PLAYLIST

Console Up:

King Kong March

♪ Max Steiner ♪

First Half:

At Last

♪ Harry Warren ♪

In A Persian Market

♪ Albert Ketelby ♪

Turkish Towel

♪ Fain / Russell / Mills ♪

Nocturne (Night in Monterey)

♪ Richard Purvis ♪

Medley from My Fair Lady (1964)

including *I Could Have Danced All Night*,
On the Street Where You Live, *Wouldn't It*
Be Lovely, *Get Me To the Church On Time*,
I've Grown Accustomed To Your Face,

With A Little Bit of Luck

♪ Frederick Loewe ♪

From This Moment On

♪ Cole Porter ♪

Second Half:

The Piccolino (from Top Hat)

♪ Irving Berlin ♪

Sketch in F Minor

♪ Robert Schumann ♪

Beautiful Love

♪ King, Van Alstyne, Young ♪

I Would Be True

♪ Joseph Peek (arr. Chris Elliott) ♪

Medley from Swing Time (1936)

including *A Fine Romance*, *Just the Way*
You Look Tonight, *Pick Yourself Up*

♪ Jerome Kern ♪

Blue Moon

♪ Richard Rodgers ♪

Medley from Kiss Me, Kate (1948)

including *Wunderbar*, *Why Can't You*
Behave?, *Another Opening, Another Show*,
True To You, *In My Fashion*, *So In Love*

♪ Cole Porter ♪

The Burning of Rome

♪ E. T. Paull ♪

Encore:

The Lady Is A Tramp

♪ Richard Rodgers ♪

— Don Ravey

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



On March 9th, Chris Elliott provided the audience with a very fine concert on our Mighty Wurlitzer. With this concert a new rank of pipes was introduced. Did you hear the French Horns? The NorCal organ now has forty-one ranks, one rank shy of our goal of forty-two ranks. This is a great accomplishment by the organ crew.

Along with our next concert on May 4th featuring **Ken Double**, mark your calendars for June 15 (tentative) for a Stage Door Social. More information about the 'Social' will be in future Windsheets. From what I've heard, this is a very fun event. We will have refreshments, organ playback from the Relay, a slide show, and lots of sheet music and recordings available for sale.

The board is looking for volunteers to audit the Treasurer's Report that is submitted by the Treasurer at the end of the fiscal year. This is a requirement of the NorCal Chapter By-Laws. The report includes a balance sheet, an income statement, and a statement of changes in financial position for the fiscal year. If you are interested in helping us with this audit, please contact me. My contact information is on Page One of the Windsheet. Thank you.

Neal

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

DONATION

NorCal gratefully acknowledges a generous donation from:

Al Schoenstein

NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of all NorCal members, we welcome the following new members and hope you will introduce yourselves to all of us when you attend our concerts and other activities:

Jon G. Johnston of Rohnert Park

Bill Stewart/David Stein of

El Cerrito

(Ken Double continued from Page One)

performed all over the world, including stops in Seattle, WA; Wilmington, DE; Tampa, FL; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA; the famous Casa Loma in Toronto, and three six-week tours throughout Australia. In addition to his hundreds of concerts, he has many CD's to his credit, including, A Musical Toast to the South, *Double Southern Comfort*, played on the Walker RTO 335; and his ninth disc, *Christmas at the Nethercutt Museum* on the 4/76 Wurlitzer.

His latest and 10th recording entitled *The Music of Casa Loma* is the first-ever recording on the Wurlitzer in the Great Hall of Toronto's historic castle.

The concert season of 2007-08 finds Ken performing from Minnesota to Massachusetts, Missouri to Texas, a fourth tour to Australia, and a return to the Casa Loma in Toronto, Ontario. He will also hit the *trifecta* as artist, MC, and acting President during the 2008 ATOS Annual Convention in Indianapolis, IN, in addition to his annual visits to Long Center in Lafayette and the Warren Center in Indianapolis.

Sportscaster, master of ceremonies, theatre organist, even vocalist upon occasion, Ken Double indeed works hard at making it look easy when entertaining at the pipe organ

This year **Ken Double** is President of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS).

**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, May 18, 2008

Sunday, June 8, 2008

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
April 2008

present, each has one or more 15-minute sessions at the console, in rotation.

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 backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

53rd Annual ATOS Convention

Hosted by Central Indiana Chapter

July 4th to 9th, 2008

The 53rd annual ATOS convention will be held in Indianapolis this year. Here are the scheduled venues, organs and artists:

Hilbert Circle Theatre (3/24 Wurlitzer):

Simon Gledhill

Hedback Theatre (2/11 Page-Wurlitzer):

Scott Foppiano

Indiana Theatre, Terre Haute (3/11

Wurlitzer): **Jim Riggs**

Manual High School (3/26 Wurlitzer):

Donnie Rankin & Young Artists

Warren Performing Arts Center (3/18

Barton): **Richard Hills**

Paramount Theatre, Anderson (3/12

Page): **Ken Double**

Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne (4/16

Page): **Mark Herman, Clark Wilson**

North United Methodist Church (4/60

Kimball): **Trio Con Brio**

Hilbert Circle Theatre (3/24 Wurlitzer):

Walt Strony

Wehmeier Residence, Cincinnati (4/36

Wurlitzer): **Jelani Eddington**

A complete schedule for the convention

can be found in the ATOS Theatre Organ and on the ATOS website.

ATOS.org

NorCal Website

We now have copies of the current and the three 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

Windsheet

EDITOR'S RAVINGS



A few months ago, we aired several divergent views concerning the genres of music presented by artists at NorCal concerts. I have received a number of welcome responses to those letters and articles. Not that we resolved the issue, but at least we gave differing viewpoints an opportunity to be heard and considered.

This month, I would ask another question: *Should NorCal attempt to extend the events we organize for our members, to include more than our traditional single-artist theatre organ concerts?*

Some other chapters of ATOS present silent movies, overnight field trips on buses, joint concerts with barbershop quartet clubs or dance orchestras. We are currently looking into the possibility that our BCT concerts could be enhanced with video technology to show the artists' talented hands on a projection screen. And ATOS is planning a national touring show that would combine an orchestra with a theatre organ performance.

Before anyone jumps in and says, "Yes, that sounds great! Let's do it!", let me voice the obvious issue: Who is going to do all the work required to plan and execute any new operations?

So my message is twofold:

(1) I invite your opinions about the desirability of any of these innovations. (I believe it was John F. Kennedy who said, "Too often we enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought." A more polite description of *opinions* than some others I have heard.

And (2) I invite you to volunteer some of your time and skills to plan and later carry out whatever innovations you may propose.

NorCal is a membership organization. We have no employees or paid staff. Everything that happens is the result of volunteering, and some of it requires a great deal of that. We cannot expect the same few volunteers to continue what they have been doing *plus* delve into new endeavors.

Would *you* be willing to put in some of your valuable time to enrich the enjoyment of your fellow members, while having some fun, yourself?

Page Three

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 4, 2008 – 2:30 PM – **Ken Double** in concert, *Berkeley Community Theatre*

June 15 — hold date for stage door social

July 4 – 9, 2008 — *Indianapolis, Indiana* — **53rd Annual ATOS Convention**. See details elsewhere in this issue!

August 9, 2008 – See notice at far right.

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**. (425) 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. The organ is played before and between films. (650) 324-3700.

StanfordTheatre.org

Towe Auto Museum, 3/21 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 Schoenstien
(Dschoen940@aol.com)

FOR SALE

1. Small 2 manual, 6 rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. Origin unknown but supposedly a small Hollywood theatre. Not a pedigree at this point. 2 three rank chests. Needs complete restoration.

2. Style 185 (original 2 manual, 7 rank) now 3 manual (French style console), 10 rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. Originally from the Turlock Fox Theatre. Was playing when removed from residence.

3. Wurlitzer 9 rank chest (single) available separately.

4. Farrand, of Detroit, Michigan "Cecilian" (It is Farrand, not Girrard!) player piano, Mahogany colored. Player not working at present, rebuild possibility questionable due to construction. Piano part OK.

Call or write **Roger Inkpen** at 408-720-0730 office, or 408-398-3221 cell, if interested for all the details. Both organs in San Jose area.

SPECIAL EVENT at RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

The Theatre Organ Society International (TOSI) announces a Musical Spectacular on Saturday, August 9th at 8:00 PM, at the world famous RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL in New York City:

<http://www.radiocity.com>

The Music Hall for the day's program is made possible by a very generous donation from **Jack Moelmann**, TOSI's Secretary and Executive Director.

Entitled, *A Musical Showcase featuring Col. Jack Moelmann and Friends at the Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ*. The Friends include: **Dan Bellomy**, **Russell Holmes**, **Fr. Gus Franklin**, and **Walt Strony**. **Nelson Page** will serve as the *Emcee*. It is the first time in a long time this type of show will happen and be open to the public. Plans are to have the organ amplified and to use the second console for some duets.

The program will include a variety of music and styles plus an audience *sing-a-long* with words on the screen and Jack's *Tribute to America*.

For additional information e-mail RadioCityShow@aol.com, or call (618) 632-8455.

More details will be posted on the website:

www.theatreorgansocietyinternational.com

Advance Ticket Sales: \$50.00 each for General Admission and may be purchased now on the website or by sending your check or money order to **TOSI, PO BOX 251, O'FALLON, IL 62269**; make payments payable to TOSI.

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.