
The WINDSHEET



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

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal
May/June 2008

SUNDAY, JUNE 22 STAGE DOOR SOCIAL

This will be the first *stage door social* that NorCal has held in quite some time. The idea is to combine an informal gathering, a CDs and sheet music sales table, a slide show presentation of the early history of our organ, some playbacks of notable past concert pieces on our instrument, some light refreshments and a chance to wander around on stage and just socialize with each other.

At 2:00 PM a slide show of the *Toledo Paramount* organ's reawakening for performance will be shown, made by the last organist of the *Toledo*, **Virgil Howard**, with audio narration, telling the story of how the organ was brought back to life and played in the 60's prior to it's removal. This is quite a fun presentation and tells some details that most don't know about our BCT organ.

All the donations of records, CD's and sheet music will be out on tables for silent auction. Bids can be placed on the items you wish to purchase, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. If no one has outbid you on an item, you can purchase it at 3:00 PM (a Post-It™ note can be placed on the item with the bid, if someone wants to bid higher, they can write a higher bid on the note, etc.).

This will all happen until about 4:00 PM, at which time we'll cleanup/pickup.

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges generous donations from:

- Edward M. Stout, III
- David A. Strassman



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

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, SIERRA/NORCAL PICNIC at Shingle Springs

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 dessert and plan to arrive around 1:00 PM on **Sunday, June 8**, when chamber tours will be conducted. Lunch will begin at 1:30 followed by *open console* on Pete's 3/19 *Wurlitzer* (originally installed in the *Tulare Theatre* in central California).

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, and note your odometer reading. Exactly **14½ 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. 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**. Exit your car and follow the path past the main house and into the long building straight ahead.

NorCal Theatre Organ Society (NorCal TOS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

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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.

MORTON MADNESS 2008

review by Art Woodworth

April 12, 2008 was the first *shirt-sleeve weather* Morton Madness this reviewer can remember. The warmth of the day matched the warmth of the friendships made and renewed as theatre organ lovers from throughout California gathered at Bob Hartzell's *Blue Barn* east of Lodi. The barn is really an organ studio with a 3/15 Robert Morton pipe organ. Many attendees brought a picnic lunch to eat in the garden before the concert.

Before introducing, **Ron Rhode**, our artist for the day, Sierra Chapter Program Director **Craig Peterson** asked for a show of hands for "Morton Madness First Timers." ~~Lots of hands shot up.~~ Ron opened with an enthusiastic *On A Wonderful Day Like Today*, followed by *Whispering*. Ron said his arrangement of *I'm Confessin' That I Love You* [was] borrowed from **Paul Whiteman**, **Ruth Etting**, and **Jesse Crawford**. The tricky Crawford arrangement was clearly featured.

Next were two **Cole Porter** numbers dealing with love—*I Love You* and *True Love*. The transition from a beguine beat to waltz time was very nice. These were followed by **Emile Waldteufel's** lively *España Waltzes*. Ron said that among the things that got him hooked on theatre organ were the *Farewell to the Fox* recordings, particularly **Everett Nourse** playing *Pietro's Return*. Ron played this 6/8 toe-tapper with all the ascending bass runs. To honor the start of baseball season, Ron played *Take Me Out to the Ball Game* with wood block taps at just the right time.

Ron slowed the pace a bit with Ray Noble's *The Very Thought of You*, featuring tibia and chrysoglot. He then ramped the pace back up with Irving Berlin's *When the Midnight Choo Choo Leaves for Alabam*. He finished the first half of the concert with *Oceana Roll*, which he said he learned off a player piano roll.

Ron opened the second half with a lively *This Will Make You Whistle*, followed by a quite British sounding *On the Road to Mandalay*. At this point **Bob Hartzell** took the opportunity to introduce **Dave Schutt**, who had been instrumental in rescuing the organ from San Francisco's *Castro Theatre*. Ron then played *The Cop on the Beat*, *the Man in the Moon*, and *Me*. Before playing *Corn Silk* (from Ron's recording of that name), Ron explained that the word *corn silk* refers to the brown tassel coming out of the top of an ear of corn. He said that the vertical sign outside the *Iowa Theatre* included the



Kautz Ironstone Winery Music Room

photo by Jan David Durbin

outline of an ear of corn, and that the sign was ceremonially buried at the Iowa state fairgrounds. He also said that song was written by [the] **Waltz King Wayne King**.

Ron played *Canadian Capers* for **Linda Hartzell**, who is Canadian. Ron said he learned *Let's Get Friendly* from a recording by a Bay Area women's trio. He then played *Musetta's Waltz* from *La Boheme*. This was followed by *Hot Lips* in much the style of **Henry Bussi's** trumpet playing. As is traditional at *Hartzell's Blue Barn*, the closing number was a patriotic medley during which an American flag descends from its wall-mounted case. The medley consisted of:

You're a Grand Old Flag

Yankee Doodle

Yankee Doodle Dandy

Let There Be Peace on Earth

God Bless America

After a drive into the Sierra foothills to the *Kautz Ironstone Winery* just outside Murphys, and a delicious buffet dinner, Ron opened his second concert of the day with a lively *Così Cosa* from the Marx Brothers movie *A Night at the Opera*. He followed with an arrangement of *Hello Baby*, based on **Ruth Etting's** first recording. Next he played *Walkin' My Baby Back Home*. From a **Victor Herbert** operetta, *When You're Away*, played with feeling that expressed the lyrics. A bright, brassy arrangement of *The Lady In Red* was played in a tango rhythm.

Ron told the story of opening night at the *Center Theater* in New York and organist **Betty Gould**, whom he had known in Phoenix. Located just around the corner from the Radio City Music Hall, the 3,500-seat house featured a big Wurlitzer that was the source of one of the consoles and six ranks of pipes now at Berkeley Community Theatre. Betty was scheduled to play something "serious" and dignified during the second half. During the first half, she saw that the program was too long and the audience was getting tired. So she changed out of her "serious" black gown and put on

a red (plum Betty) dress and played the then current Number 1 radio hit, *Fit as a Fiddle and Ready for Love*. Ron said Betty was the last organist at the Center when she played for the premiere of *Pinocchio*.

Ron next played *Raining in My Heart*, which **Bernadette Peters** sang in *Dames at Sea*. This beautiful number built up to a hope-filled, strong conclusion. Returning to Betty Gould, Ron explained that she often played organ at a Phoenix wedding chapel. On at least one occasion, Ron substituted for Betty. Many of the weddings there are in the Mexican tradition and both the processional and the recessional are *Zacatecas March*. (*Zacatecas*, a patriotic song, is sometimes called "Mexico's unofficial national anthem.") Ron played it in a lively and polka-like rhythm.

Ron's medley from **Merideth Willson's** *The Music Man* included:

The Wells Fargo Wagon

Goodnight My Someone

Til There Was You

Gary Indiana

Lida Rose & Will Ever I Tell You

(an entertaining amalgam)

76 Trombones

After intermission, Ron opened with *March of the Steel Men* and **Harry Warren's** *I've Got A Feelin' You're Foolin'*. These were followed by a reverent *The Green Temple*, which slowly built to its climax. Next was the piano novelty *Flapperette*.

Ron explained that the show *Wicked* deals with the contrast between the good witch and the bad witch. This is expressed in the emotional *For Good*. He then played a favorite **Don Baker** arrangement, *When Yuba Played the Rhumba on the Tuba*. Another Ruth Etting song was a brassy *Red Lips Kiss My blues Away*.

After thanking Sierra and NorCal for inviting him, and the audience for coming, Ron played the *March and Procession of Bacchus* from the ballet *Sylvia*, by **Leo Delibes**. This selection contains a number of contrasting themes, some calling for a crisp and light touch, some for a one-note melody line on the lower register tubas, and other for a strong combination. Ron's registrations and playing were very orchestral, making this a grand ending for the concert. And what an appropriate number to conclude a concert played at two wineries! As an encore, Ron played *Be Like the Kettle and Sing* which segued into *We'll Meet Again*. A wonderful ending to another wonderful Morton Madness.



KEN DOUBLE Review of May 4th concert

NorCal was very pleased to present **Ken Double**, the current President of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS), in concert for the very first time at Berkeley Community Theater. Ken's long dual career as a theatre organist and sports announcer gives him a confident stage presence that lends even greater impact to his virtuoso talent at the key desk. I should say *key desks*, because both of NorCal's consoles were used during his performance.

Ken's repertoire is fresh and, while there were plenty of traditional show tunes and songs from the era of silent films, there were also quite a few more modern songs and even one Strauss waltz! Ken plays with precision and superb registration, from his use of just a few solo ranks to full organ with 32' diaplane, and always well balanced. He introduces many interesting key changes that enhance the interpretation of his songs.

Following intermission, Ken was re-introduced by Bill Schlotter, but Ken was not immediately present onstage. Then we heard our organ playing an introduction, obviously a playback captured from our relay, then Ken walked out with a microphone and proceeded to sing *When You're Smiling* in a beautiful baritone voice, to his own accompaniment!

Following enthusiastic applause for his vocal rendition, Ken took the opportunity to tell the audience about the exciting programs that ATOS is pursuing, to further advance the appreciation of theatre organs and theatre organ music. Ken briefly described ongoing summer camps for youth and for adults, scholarship funds and special events, such as will be presented in 2010, which will be the centennial celebration of the installation of the first **Hope-Jones/Wurlitzer** organ in a theater. He referred

May/June 2008

us to the **ATOS Journal** and web site (www.ATOS.org – click on *ATOS in Action*) for details.

PLAYLIST

Console Up:

It's Today (from *Mame*)
♪ Jerry Herman ♪

First Half:

I Love Being Here With You
♪ Peggy Lee & Bill Schluger ♪

Carolina Mammy
♪ Billy James ♪

Medley from Jersey Boys:

Dawn, Go Away
Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You

Sherry, Sherry, Baby

♪ Bob Gauadio ♪

Voices of Spring

♪ Johann Strauss ♪

If (from *Bread*)

♪ David A. Gates ♪

Medley from Follies:

Prologue: Beautiful Girls

Broadway Baby

Losing My Mind

♪ Stephen Sondheim ♪

Granada

♪ Augustin Lara ♪

Love Is A Many Splendored Thing

♪ Sammy Fain & Paul Webster ♪

Second Half:

When You're Smiling (vocal)

♪ Fisher, Goodwin & Shay ♪

Coquette

♪ Kahn, Green & Lombardo ♪

Medley from Finian's Rainbow:

If This Isn't Love

Look To The Rainbow

When I'm Not Near The Girl I Love

Old Devil Moon

How Are Things In Glocca Morra?

♪ Yip Harburg & Burion Lane ♪

Medley of Frank Sinatra songs:

All The Way

♪ Jimmy Van Heusen ♪

My Kind Of Town (Chicago is)

♪ Jimmy Van Heusen ♪

I've Got You Under My Skin

♪ Cole Porter ♪

My Way

♪ Gilles Thibau/Paul Anka ♪

Let There Be Peace On Earth

♪ Sy Miller and Jill Jackson ♪

Medley of Harry James songs:

It's Been A Long, Long, Time

♪ Jule Styne ♪

I'm Beginning To See The Light

♪ Duke Ellington & Harry James ♪

Windsheet

I Had The Craziest Dream

♪ Harry Warren ♪

I've Heard That Song Before

♪ Jule Styne ♪

Encore:

Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone

♪ Sam H. Stept ♪

— Don Ravey

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



Greetings, NorCal wrapped up its 2007-2008 concert

season with a fine performance by **Ken Double**. What a treat to hear Ken's personal *Vox Humana*, accompanied by NorCal's Mighty Wurlitzer.

In the next concert season we hope to add a video projection of the console keyboard, as suggested by a member at the annual meeting. Thanks to **Frank La Fetra** for leading the project.

Hope to see you at the next event at *Shingle Springs*.

Neal

TRIVIA ABOUT ROBERT MORTON TABS

Those of you who have looked at the stop-tabs on a *Robert Morton* console may have noticed that some of the tabs have a horizontal line, while others do not. *R-M* expert **Dave Moreno** tells this writer that if there is a line on a white tab, it is string voice (as opposed to a flute voice); and if there is a line on a red tab, it is a chorus reed (as opposed to a solo reed or a diapason).

— Art Woodworth

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:

Jeffrey & Gail Ann Porto of Orinda

Tom Madsen of Berkeley

Charles W. & Kathy Metcalf of Petaluma

ATOS CONVENTION INDIANAPOLIS JULY 4 – 9, 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

NOTE!
The latest and more complete schedule for the convention can be found in the current issue of the ATOS *Theatre Organ* and on the ATOS website.

ATOS.org



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

With two (three, really) concert reviews in this issue, I think I'll follow P. W. Bowen's advice. He said, "When you want to be recognized, *stand up*; when you want to be heard, *speak up*; when you want to be appreciated, *shut up*." Good advice, P.W.

— Don Ravey

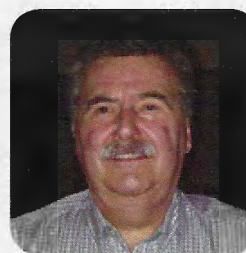
UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday, June 8, 2008 — *Joint Picnic with Sierra Chapter* at Pete McCluer's in Shingle Springs (See Page One)
- Sunday, June 15, 2008, 1:00 – 5:00 PM — *Open Console at Berkeley Community Theatre* (See Column at Right)
- Sunday, June 22, 2008 — *Members' Stage Door Social* (See Page One)
- July 4 – 9, 2008 — *Indianapolis, Indiana – 53rd Annual ATOS Convention* (See Column at Left)
- Saturday, August 16, 2008 — *Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland. Save this date.* (More details will follow)
- Sunday, November 2, 2008 — Jonas Nordwall, 2:30 PM, at *Berkeley Community Theatre*
- Sunday, January 25, 2009 — *Annual Concert, Meeting, and Dinner, 2:00 PM, at Berkeley Community Theatre* (Artist To Be Announced)
- Sunday, February 15, 2009 — 2:30 PM, at *Berkeley Community Theatre* (Artist To Be Announced) *Mark this date on your calendar.*
- Sunday, March 15, 2009 — 2:30 PM, at *Berkeley Community Theatre* (Artist To Be Announced) *Mark this date on your calendar.*
- Sunday, May 3, 2009 — 2:30 PM, at *Berkeley Community Theatre* (Artist To Be Announced) *Mark this date on your calendar.*

OTHER (local) 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. (→)

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, June 15, 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 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.

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

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.