
The WINDSHEET



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

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal

July/August 2008



Entrance to Ann and Bert Atwood's home at Clearlake. Remember this photo, it will help you get there.

GRAND LAKE THEATRE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 8:30 AM

Once again NorCal members will have the opportunity to both listen to and play the fine *Wurlitzer 3/18* in Oakland's **Grand Lake Theatre** at 3200 Grand Avenue. In order to schedule this event, we must fit it into the theater's public film schedule, so we should arrive about **8:30 a.m.** and we can remain until about **11:00 a.m.**, when the theater must be cleared for the normal Saturday public hours. Our own **Kevin King** will open the morning with a few tunes, following which it will be Open Console for members.

Parking meters are enforced on Saturdays, but there is a limited amount of unmetered parking across the street and around the block.

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges generous donations from:

- John T. Carleton of Citrus Heights
- Tom Madsen of Berkeley

NEW MEMBER

- Dr. William Coale of Spring Arbor, Michigan.

A FINAL NOTE

With deep sympathy we report the recent passing of the following NorCal members:

- Ralph O. Beaudry of Fresno
- Jan David Durbin of San Francisco
- M. Wayne Harter of San Leandro

PICNIC AT CLEARLAKE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Once again Ann and Bert Atwood have invited NorCal members to an afternoon of music and socializing at their home in Clearlake, overlooking the beautiful Lower Lake of Clear Lake. Please bring your own picnic lunch and plan to arrive around **noon**. The drive from the Bay Area should take about 2 1/2 hours.

Please phone or email the Atwoods so they can accommodate us, as well as give you directions to their home. Their email address is atwoody@mchsi.com and their phone number is 707-277-7208.

We will enjoy Open Console on Bert's Allen custom GW4.

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

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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.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

STAGE DOOR SOCIAL

This was the first *Stage Door Social* that NorCal had held in quite some time. Those who attended were treated to two excellent slide projection slide shows of the history of our Toledo Fox Wurlitzer, from its storage and loading through its arrival and unpacking and on to its painstaking installation in the Berkeley Community Theatre. **Bill Schlotter** narrated the fascinating story.

We enjoyed a playback of selections from *the very first concert in BCT*, performed by the late **Tom Hazelton**.

Tables were set up to sell recordings (in several formats), sheet music, and magazines that have been donated to NorCal.

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



I'm back home from my trip to the ATOS Indianapolis convention; tired but very happy. My hat is off to the Indiana chapter for presenting a nearly flawless convention. The only flaw was our transportation bus was rear-ended by truck and trailer carrying an Indy race car. Needless to say, that car is out of the race. Thankfully, no injuries.

The concerts and venues were extraordinary. I had never been in an atmospheric theatre, nor had I heard a Page or a Barton organ in a live performance. All the artists were exceptional, as always. Some of the concerts were not just organ concerts. **Mark Herman** performed a wonderful piano duet with Ohio artist **Dyne Pfeffenberger**, and also accompanied vocal artist **Anthony Snitker**. **Jim Riggs** played organ arrangements along with a piano that played reproducer piano rolls. **Jonas Nordwall**, **Donna Parker**, and **Martin Ellis** (*The Trio Con Brio*) played an Allen, Piano, and a 73 rank classic Kimball. (Have you ever heard *The Simpsons* theme song in a church?). All of the concerts received standing ovations from a very knowledgeable audience.

On the home front in Berkeley, progress is being made by **Frank La Fetra** for the video projection system. It will enable the audience to view the keyboards on a screen.

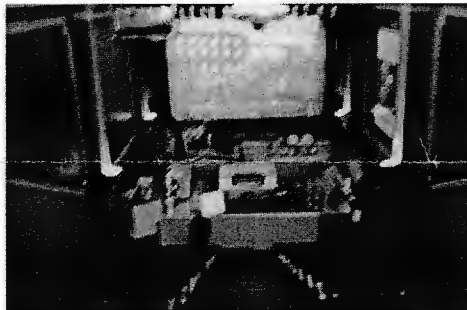
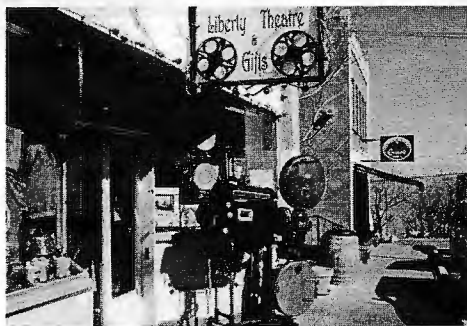
The wood harp renovation project is proceeding nicely. We are working on the

next concert season artist schedules and hope to have them confirmed soon. I think you will be very pleased with NorCal's upcoming events.

Neal

GHOST TOWN IN ARIZONA HAS A THEATRE ORGAN

On a recent trip to Sedona, Arizona, we took a side trip to Jerome, Arizona, an old mining and now ghost town. It is located high in the hills above Sedona with only one road leading there. The town now is only for tourists, with stores that sell the usual tee shirts, coffee mugs, etc. While looking in the shops and walking the streets, we saw an old theatre. In front of it was a large movie projector from the 1920's or 1930's. The projector drew our attention and we went to have a closer look. There was a sign in the window of the theatre that said, *Come in and see the Robert Morton Theatre pipe organ that we are installing.*



We entered the building and again saw all the usual tourist stuff. This was on the first floor, which may have been the lobby of the main theatre. Toward the back of the room was another sign that said *\$2.00 per person to see the organ located on the second floor.* I paid the fees and my sister and I went up the stairs. We were surprised to find this was the old wooden theatre. It was very narrow and the floor rise was very steep. The seats were very close to each other with almost no leg room between rows. There it was, all in parts, the Robert Morton Pipe Organ sitting in the front of the picture screen.

The sign telling about the organ said, *The 2-manual 6-Rank Robert Morton Theatre Pipe Organ came from the Marina Theatre, San Francisco, CA.* The person who sold the tickets for the viewing of the organ said the owner of the theatre was going to install the organ himself, since he was quoted \$100,000 to install it, and this was out of his price range.

You never know where you might find an old theatre organ!

— Jack Gustafson

[Thanks, Jack, for the photos--publ]

FOR SALE

Leslie speaker, Model 145, came with a **Rodgers 33E organ**.

Also available, Rodgers 'flat panel' speaker array. Contains twelve 6 by 9 inch speakers and tweeter, with internal amplifier and cables. This speaker was used for the 'brass channel' on the Rodgers organs.

Price: Best offer.

Kevin King (925) 256-7436



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

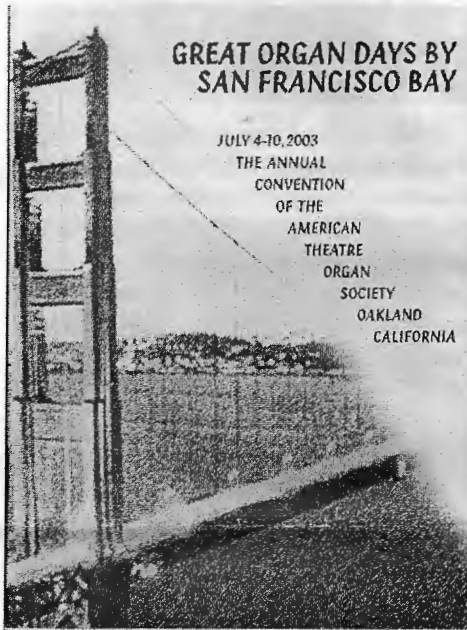
Back in April of this year, I wrote a column and asked for opinions on augmenting NorCal's traditional concert performances with other musical presentations. I think it is now time to report on the opinions I have received: *100% of the responses favored expanding the content of our concerts to include other instruments, vocalists and groups.*

Now, the fact is, I received only *one* response. **John Onia** sent me an email with several suggestions that ranged from enhancing standard concerts by including explanations of some of the basics of pipe organs, to duet performances with a piano or even a chamber orchestra (no, not *that* kind of a chamber!), or showing of silent movies.

What am I to make of this response? Should I assume that everyone agrees with John? Should I assume that nobody cares? Should I assume that nobody reads my columns?

I would really like to hear from more of you!

From the Archives of Prior Windsheets



5 Years Ago—2003 CONVENTION

The Oakland Convention was a rousing success. There were 566 registrants including from abroad: United Kingdom (28), Australia (10), Switzerland (3), 2 each from Canada, Japan and Netherlands, and one each from Puerto Rico and Thailand.

The first afterglow in Monterey was attended by 292 people. The second afterglow in the wine country was attended by 205, a capacity crowd. The record shop on the top floor of the Oakland Marriott did a hefty business.

Attendees seemed to enjoy themselves at the convention; not surprising with talented organists from around the world, and the excellent local Wurlitzers. NORCAL will net a comfortable profit... It's good to know that the earnings were received from a satisfied audience.

10 Years Ago—1998 CONVENTION

As Convention Chairman, I have received 15 letters expressing the gratitude of the [ir] writers for the job Nor-Cal did. In addition to the letters attesting to the aesthetic excellence of our convention, the statistics are equally impressive. There were 853 registrations. There has not been a [n ATOS] convention with a registration over 750 since...San Francisco in 1991! Ten percent of the attendees were from abroad, making it truly an international convention. They came from the U.K., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, July/August 2008



Japan and Switzerland.

The Afterglow was attended by 472 people, 415 rooms were booked with the Marriott. The convention was...a profitable operation, as was the record shop and the afterglow.

My sincerest thanks to all the Nor-Cal and Golden State Theatre Organ Society members who worked so diligently to make...[this]...the ...success that it was.

Counting, ...make[ing] allowances ...for ...double duty...there were 68 members ...support[ing] the convention. [There was sense of] the satisfaction of our guests from around the world...[many] expressed...gratitude for the effort Nor-Cal made in producing the enjoyable convention...

I would like to share an excerpt...of one of these letters [from Timothy Needler the ATOS Convention Planning Co-ordinator].

"While I will be sending a formal letter of thanks...this...(E-mail message)...will informally convey my deep appreciation for...present[ing] a memorable and successful ATOS convention. The careful planning, attention to detail, and hours of hard work all paid off in spades with 850 people having a fabulous time with fine instruments, outstanding artists, excellent transportation, beautiful accommodations and a host chapter filled with gracious and hospitable people. Thank you all so much for the job well done!"

Once again thanks to all who worked so hard to make it happen.

[/sig]Rudy Frey

1998 Convention Chairman
Windsheet



25 Years Ago—1983 CONVENTION

Nor-Cal Chapter hosts the 28th Annual Convention of the American Theatre Organ Society July 1-5, with activities centered at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Eleven pipe organ concerts in theatres; two pipe organ concerts in pizza restaurants; a silent movie with pipe organ accompaniment; five technical seminars in organ playing, organ maintenance, and magazine writing; a record shop; manufacturers' exhibits, and a sumptuous banquet in the magnificent historic Garden Court of the Sheraton-Palace Hotel "the most beautiful dining room in the world." World famous for elegant food, service and patronage. Join your fellow enthusiasts from Australia, Canada, England, Hawaii, all over the continental U.S., and from the Union of South Africa, for the largest turnout for a convention in over four years!

[Publisher's note -- Mention is made in these excerpts that our Conventions have been profitable; indeed they have been. Those profits are what allowed NorCal to create the world-class Wurlitzer that is in the Berkeley Community Center.

Incidentally, NorCal has hosted several other conventions not fitting the time frames outlined. All have been profitable; these profits have allow NorCal to present the world-class Artists we are privileged to hear. These Convention profits subsidize our Public Concerts. Ticket sales do *NOT* cover our concert costs.

**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, August 10, 2008

Sunday, September 7, 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 the theatre availability. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

OPEN HOUSE AT SCHOENSTEIN & Co.

Schoenstein & Co. will hold an Open House at their new plant located in **Benicia** on **Sunday, August 24, from 3:00 to 5:00 PM.**

They will have organs awaiting installation. A new 2-manual, 17-rank instrument will be playing and available for open console. A new 4-manual, 76-rank is in the erecting room. Two Schoenstein organs being relocated are also set up; one going to Pinole and the other to a residence in New York. The first organ of Schoenstein's second century is moving to Fair Hope, Alabama.

There will be plentiful refreshments and parking.

Schoenstein & Co. is located at 4001 Industrial Way, Benicia, CA. Phone: (707) 747-5858.

Directions: **From US 80:** At Vallejo, take 780 toward Benicia. After the East Fifth St. Exit, get in the right lane. Exit onto 680-North (Exit 7A). **From 680:** At Benicia, take Lake Herman Road (Exit 61). Go East (toward the water) on Lake Herman Road. Go over the railroad overpass. Take the first right onto Industrial Way. Go 13 miles. The plant is on the right, just past a curve (look

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 10, 2008, 1:00 – 5:00 PM

— **Open Console at Berkeley Community Theatre**

Saturday, August 16, 2008, 9:00 AM

— **Grand Lake Theatre, Oakland.**
— **Members' Open Console.** See article in this issue.

Sunday, August 24, from 3:00 - 5:00 PM — **Schoenstein & Co.** will hold an Open House at their new plant located in **Benicia.** See article in column at left.

Sunday, September 7, 2008, 1:00 – 5:00 PM — **Open Console at Berkeley Community Theatre**

Saturday, September 20, 2008

— **Picnic and Open Console at Bert Atwood's in Clearlake/Kelseyville.** See article in this issue.

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 Schoenstein
(Dschoen940@aol.com)

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.