To open NorCal’s 2008/2009 concert season, we are delighted to present one of our favorite artists, Jonas Nordwall.

Most readers of this newsletter will be quite familiar with Jonas, but for the benefit of any newcomers who haven’t had the pleasure of attending his concerts, here is some background.

Jonas Nordwall is a native of Portland, Oregon. He learned to play the accordion when he was only four-years-old, and at the age of 16, Jonas performed for King Gustav Adolf during a tour of Sweden. Jonas studied piano, organ, and orchestration with Arthur Hitchcock and graduated from the University of Portland in 1970 with a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance. Additional organ studies were with Frederick Geoghegan, Richard Ellsasser, and Richard Purvis.

Jonas has been the organist at Portland’s First United Methodist Church since 1971. He currently holds the title, Artistic Director of Music and Organist. He is the organist (continued on Page Three)

ELECTION for BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As if we didn’t have enough elections to be concerned with these days, it is time for NorCal’s members to choose directors for the vacant or soon-to-be-vacant seats on the NorCal Board of Directors.

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 member, 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.

To submit a nomination, contact Kevan Lesch, (650) 367-0786 . kevan1955@hotmail.com

Special thanks to Kevan and the other two committee members, P-W Bowen and Bill Schlotter.

Nominations close on November 15. The names of all qualified nominees (continued on Page Three)
Summer is winding down and Concert Season is soon to begin. I hope you have your calendars marked for the Jonas Nordwall concert on November 2nd.

FLASH! We have just confirmed the bookings of the artists for the 2008-2009 concert season. Following Jonas Nordwall’s season opener on November 2nd, we are pleased to announce that our February 15, 2009 concert artist will be the popular Ron Reseigh, then on March 15th, another favorite, Jim Riggs, and on May 3rd our season will conclude with Lew Williams. NorCal continues to present the very top tier artists of the theatre organ.

The picnic at Bert Atwood’s beautiful home was a huge success. Thank you, Bert and Ann for hosting this wonderful event! The weather was just perfect. The overflow audience from the living room could enjoy the organ music from Bert’s waterfront deck.

Bert’s Allen GW4 french provincial organ, (A.K.A. Gigi) is unique in that the percussions, piano, toy counter, and expression shades are real theatre organ instruments, and not electronic. So I guess you could say that the Allen is partially powered by wind.

Looking forward to seeing you all, at the future NorCal events.
Several weeks ago I spent five days in San Diego, attending my old Navy ship’s reunion (USS Electra, AKA-4) and re-visiting my old haunts, having spent the first 30 years of my life in that city. The reunion was great, but our ranks are inevitably thinning, since the ship was decommissioned in 1955, so there are no crew members under the age of 70, and most are considerably older. We had four World War II veterans at the reunion, however. In case anyone might be curious, I have posted photos at the ship’s web site, usselectra.org.

My reason for mentioning this is that there is an interesting contrast between our ship’s reunions and NorCal. We are both aging organizations, but in the case of the ship, there is no alternative. There is no pool from which to draw new participants. This is certainly not the case for NorCal.

Music is universal. People of all ages, all social and economic circumstances, can and do find pleasure in listening to good music. The only reason that we aren’t attracting new audiences (and members) is that we aren’t trying hard enough! When I say “we,” I include every one of us.

Stop and think: Have you invited someone you know to a NorCal concert? How recently? Indeed, have you described to a friend or relative how much you enjoyed the last concert you attended? Your friends who decide to sample our music will surely thank you for introducing them to it. And their first concert will not cost them or you a penny! What a bargain! Please try it!

(Election continued from Page One)

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. When needed, ballots are counted at the Annual Members Meeting, which will be Sunday, January 25, 2009.

There will be two vacancies to fill this year.

(Nordwall continued from Page One)

for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra and has made several recordings with the orchestra.

Jonas was also Senior Staff Organist for ten years at the Organ Grinder pizza restaurant in Portland.

An organist equally skilled in both classical and popular music, Jonas has presented concerts all over the world and has produced over 25 highly acclaimed recordings.

The American Theatre Organ Society named him Organist of the Year in 1987. He has been a frequent performer at ATOS conventions and at regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

He has appeared on television programs in both the United States and Australia, and his recordings are often heard on Pipe Dreams, a syndicated PBS radio program.

The design and manufacture of pipe organs and electronic organs has always interested Jonas, and he was associated with the Rodgers Instrument Corporation for over 30 years. Jonas is currently affiliated with the Allen Artists Program.

(Open Console continued from Page One)

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, November 23, 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.

ANNUAL MEETING, CONCERT, and (no host) DINNER

A trio of ’goodies’ await us on January 25, 2009 — a concert by NorCal Member P-W Bowen; the Annual Business Meeting (required to maintain our tax-exempt status), and a sociable (no host) dinner afterwards at Herby’s Restaurant in the Durant Hotel. (This is where we have had such good camaraderie the last several years.)

Mark your calendars NOW. More information will be in a later issue of the Windsheet.
UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, November 2, 2008 at 2:30 PM
JONAS NORDWALL opens the 2008-2009 Season at the Berkeley Community Theatre. (See Page 1)

SUNDAY, November 9, 2008 at 2:00 PM
MARK HERMAN at Grant Union High School in Sacramento GEORGE WRIGHT Memorial Concert. Details at: SierraChapterATOS.org

SUNDAY, January 25, 2009 at 2:00 PM
NorCal TOS Annual Concert, Business Meeting, and (no host) Dinner. P-W Bowen in concert at the BCT. (See Page 3)

RON RESEIGH
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

SUNDAY, February 15, 2009 at 2:30 PM
RON RESEIGH plays NorCal’s Second 2008-2009 concert at the BCT.

JIM RIGGS
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

SUNDAY, March 15, 2009 at 2:30 PM
JIM RIGGS plays NorCal’s Third 2008-2009 concert at the BCT.

LEW WILLIAMS
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

SUNDAY, May 3, 2009 at 2:30 PM
LEW WILLIAMS plays NorCal’s Last 2008-2009 concert at the BCT.

OTHER VENUES


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.

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of month at 10 AM. (510) 465-6400.


Tooe 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.

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 WEBSITE

W e now have copies of the current and two previous 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/

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

H ave 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 94611-162