A FINAL NOTE

Dear friends:

I received a telephone call this evening [December 13th] from Steve Levin’s brother-in-law informing me Steve passed away peacefully tonight at 7:30 PM.

His sister Lois, Harold and dear friends were at his bedside giving him love and support throughout the evening. The family feels it appropriate to celebrate Steve’s life sometime after their return from Port Townsend.

Respectfully, Ed [Stout]

Steve Levin was a founding member of the Theatre Historical Society of America, past president, and past editor of THSA’s quarterly journal, Marquee. Born and raised in San Francisco, he was the son and grandson of Bay Area theatre operators and an acknowledged authority on San Francisco theatres.

YOUNG ORGANIST YOUTH CAMP

NorCal will contribute to the 2009 ATOS Youth Camp. The contributions from NorCal members will be matched up to a total of $1,500 by NorCal TOS and forwarded to the Youth Camp organizers, to pay for the expenses of transportation and housing of the selected young talent. This means that if NorCal members contribute $1,500, we will send a check for $3,000!

Let’s support our beloved musical form and a young person who also appreciates it. Send your contribution in the form of a check made out to NorCal TOS, PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome:

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Joseph
from San Leandro
JONAS NORDWALL
CONCERT NOVEMBER 2, 2008

What a great start to NorCal’s 2008-2009 concert season! Jonas Nordwall never disappoints his audience, but I truthfully thought that this was the most exciting concert I’ve seen Jonas perform. As can be seen from the Playlist below, Jonas transcended the usual categories of music we hear at theatre organ concerts. Yes, there were show tunes (from Sound of Music to Jumbo). Yes, there was blues (12-bar blues style). Yes, there was classical (Saint-Saëns, Mendelssohn, Grieg transcriptions). Yes there was jazz. Yes, there was nostalgic music (Ellington, Jesse Crawford). Yes, there was ragtime (can you say ‘Scott Joplin’?). Yes, there were novelties (Jingle Bells à la George Wright, featuring our tuned sleigh bells!). And that was just the beginning!

Jonas knows our NorCal Wurlitzer, having graced us with several concerts, over the years. It shows, in his deft use of its distinctive voices, to create just the right emotional impact for every phrase.

Jonas made a brief announcement about the Young Organists Workshop and Youth Camp that he, Donna Parker, Jelani Eddington, Clark Wilson, and Jeff Weiller devote so much of their time and effort to.

To top it off, this was the première of our new keyboard video projection system, thanks to the engineering skills and hard work of Frank La Fetra. The system worked flawlessly and added a new layer of enjoyment to the concert, permitting the clear visibility of the artist’s fingers on the manuals, projected on a 10-foot wide screen at the right edge of the stage.

PLAYLIST

Console Up:

Raiders of the Lost Ark
♫ John Williams

First Half:

Frankie and Johnnie
♫ Jerome Moross
Fireside Fantasies
Suite: A Cheerful Fire,
Grandfather’s Wooden Leg,
The Kettle Boils
♫ Joseph Clokey
Euphonic Sounds
♫ Scott Joplin

Medley from Sound of Music:
including The Sound of Music, My Favorite Things, Edelweiss, Do Re Mi, and Climb Ev’ry Mountain
♫ Richard Rodgers

Freedom
from Sacred Concerts
♫ Duke Ellington
Danse Macabre
♫ Camille Saint-Saëns

Second Half:

Jingle Bells
(à la George Wright)
Little Girl Blue
from Jumbo
♫ Richard Rodgers
Hora Stoccato
♫ Grigoras Dinicu
(arr. by Charles Magnante, Tony Mottola and George Wright)
Romanza
♫ Edvard Grieg
The Toy Trumpet
♫ Raymond Scott
Political Medley:
Baby Elephant Walk (Rep.),
Donkey Serenade (Dem.), Over the Rainbow (everybody else)
Stars Are the Windows of Heaven
♫ Jimmy Steiger & Tommie Malie
(arr. by Jesse Crawford)
1st movement (Allegro) of the 4th Symphony (“The Italian Symphony”)
♫ Felix Mendelssohn

Encore:

Down By the River Side
♫ John Rogers Thomas

OVERSIGHT DEPARTMENT

In our last issue, when listing some of the artists who played at the now closed Bella Roma, we neglected to mention a popular artist known as Jump-N-Jack, who is actually none other than our own Robert Reichert. Robert may be the only one who has made CD recordings on the Bella Roma organ, one that he calls A Burlesque Parody, and another he calls A Rock Parody, they are available from him. Robert is usually at our Record Table at concerts and sometimes substitutes at the Grand Lake.

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges generous donations from:

John Elliott of San Francisco
Chris Nichols of San Francisco
Art Woodworth of Kensington, CA
Bert Atwood of Kelseyville, CA

S.F. SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

The San Francisco Silent Film Festival is pleased to announce the lineup for our 4th Annual Winter Event, which will take place at the Castro Theatre, on Saturday, February 14, 2009 – Valentine’s Day! With four programs ranging from the romantic to the horrific, this Winter Event will be our biggest and most diverse yet! We hope to see you on Valentine’s Day, 2009!

Winter Event Lineup:

Buster Keaton’s Our Hospitality (1923) and The Kiss of Mary Pickford (1927)
F.W. Murnau’s Sunrise (1927)
Paul Leni’s The Cat & the Canary (1927)

For ticketing and other information about the Winter Event, please go to:
silentfilm.org
MORE on ANNUAL MEETING and (no host) DINNER

Henry's at the Durant Hotel has welcomed us back for another of NorCal's now annual no-host dinners following the concert and Annual Corporate Meeting.

Henry's Dinner Menu is at the right. We will each order as much or as little we want to. The Bar will be open on a Cash basis for those who wish Beer, Wine, or Spirits.

The food and non-bar drink will be paid on one check with an 18% tip and 8.75% Berkeley Sales Tax added by Henry's. (Since the tip is part of the bill, sales tax is by law applied to the tip as well).

Jan and I will circulate through the group with a calculator; ask you what you ate and add Tip and Tax. We will make change for you to the closest dollar. In the final accounting, any excess will go to the servers; any shortfall will be paid by NorCal.

Call Neal Wood, (phone and email on bottom of Page One) to tell us you are coming. —Frank La Fetra

CINEQUEST

Cinequest Film Festival 19 will be held in San Jose, CA from February 25 through March 8, 2009. San Jose's beautiful California Theater hosts a number of the films.

Past years have included Silent Film classics accompanied by the 4/21 Wurlitzer. This year might even include 'walk-in' music from the 2/10 Wurlitzer in the Lobby.

All details are not yet available but will be before February 25. Go to: cinequest.com

NorCal BOARD MINUTES

Every NorCal member is entitled to request copies of the Minutes of meetings of the NorCal Board of Directors, which meets 6 times a year. Requests should be sent to the Secretary, whose email address and telephone number are published at the bottom of Page One of every issue of the Windsheet.
Happy belated Holiday greetings to all of you. Hope you had a wonderful holiday. I am glad that 2008 is now behind us, and we can look forward to new adventures in 2009.

Our next event is the annual member concert and board meeting on January 25th (2:00 PM). This year the theatre should be nice and warm, now that it has heat. But bring a sweater, just in case. I am looking forward to your participation in determining the direction of our chapter. Also, plan on another cozy no host dinner at Henry’s in the Durant hotel.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Friday-Sunday, January 16, 17, 18, 2009—LATOS presents Wurlitzer Weekend.
Bob Salisbury, Chris Gorsuch, Rob Richards, Jelani Eddington, Rus Peck, Ron Rhode — Details at LATOS web site: latos.org/event_ww_2009.htm

Sunday, January 25, 2009 — NorCal Members Annual Business Meeting, concert by P-W Bowen, & Dinner
(See articles on Pages One & Three)

Saturday, February 14, 2009 — S.F. Silent Film Festival – Annual Winter Event (See article on Page Two)

Sunday, February 15, 2009
Sunday, March 15, 2009
Sunday, April 18, 2009 — MORTON MADNESS — Keep the date open. Details will be announced later about this traditional visit to two Robert Morton organs at two wineries in the Central Valley.
Sunday, May 3, 2009
Sunday, June 14, 2009 — Members’ free Concert at Grace Baptist Church, San Jose
Sunday, August 23, 2009 — Members’ picnic at the Grass Valley home of Ron Bingaman
Sunday, September 20, 2009
NorCal WEBSITE

We 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/

Our member Tom Delay received word that the Santa Cruz Boardwalk Carousel’s original Ruth Band Organ was just returned from Ohio where it was refurbished and an given an amazing new façade. Word is that The Ruth should be tuned up and playing in time for the Clam Chowder Festival in February 2009. The web says that the festival is Saturday, February 21, 2009. More info at:

www.beachboardwalk.com/clamchowder

Our intrepid Bill Schlotter has already lined up an exciting concert schedule for next year! It’s going to be a great pleasure to welcome back John Giacchi, from Australia, on September 20, 2009. John’s last appearance in Berkeley was in 2002.

On a different note (you’ll pardon the expression), how many of you were aware that one of the most extensive collections of popular and light-classical sheet music in the country is located right here in Oakland? The Paramount Theatre Music Library (Jean Cunningham, Librarian) consists of ten distinct collections, with a total of approximately 100,000 entries dating from the 1850s to 1980. The major source of early music is the Walter J. Rudolph Library collected by Rudolph during his fifty years as a vaudeville orchestra leader in San Francisco. You can learn more details about this library and contact information for the Librarian at the web site:

people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~mkduggan/paramount.html

**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.