The WINDSHEET

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

BEKLEY COMMUNITY THEATRE www.norcaltos.org
Allston Way betw’n Milvia St & MLK, Jr Way
June 2011

‘PW’ PAUL-WESLEY BOWEN
June 12, 2011 — 2 PM — Grace Baptist Church
484 E. San Fernando St. (at 10th) San Jose

NorCal members are invited to hear and see the newly installed 16’ Double Diapasons in Grace Baptist Church’s 3/13 Robert Morton Organ. Our own ‘PW’ Bowen will play for us Sunday, June 12th starting at 2 PM. His concert will be followed by an Open Console period, so come prepared to play if you wish to.

‘PW’ as he likes to be called, is well known for his active hand registrations and the variety of styles in his playing. His programs are always enjoyable and well received, so we hope many NorCal members will come to San Jose to hear him.

A native Californian, ‘PW’ spent many years in Minnesota with the Dutch organ manufacturing firm, Eminent Organ Company. He is equally at home with both Theatre Organs and Classical Organs as those of you who have heard him at both the BCT and Grace Baptist Church in the past will testify.

The installation of the Double Diapasons is the just the start of a program to have the organ playing as it was originally in San Jose’s Liberty Theatre. The plan is to have 20 ranks and all its percussion and traps playing in the next four years. It will be interesting to follow the progress of this undertaking.

IMPELLING CLOSURE OF BCT

As many of you know, the BCT will be closed for upgrading to American Disability Act (ADA) standards and for major rewiring to the building, starting in late June and lasting to late November — or even later.

That means planning for the 2011-2012 Season is extremely difficult and your Board is working on several ideas. If you have suggestions, contact Chairman Bill Coale or Program Chair Gordon Pratt. (Their contact information is at the bottom of Page 1.)

It is expected that ALL access will be denied, at least at times, so Work Parties and Open Console events probably will not be possible after the scheduled June 19th Open Console.

Future Windsheets will keep you informed of the progress, but for more details and date of any Work Party or Open Console able to be held, watch our NorCal Website or check with the NorCal voice mail, (510) 644-2707.

norcaltos.org
We are always privileged to enjoy a Jonas Nordwall concert. This was at least his seventh concert for us (probably more, my records go back only to 1998) and his work has always drawn raves. His Christmas music CD, recorded on our Wurlitzer, was just released. He is a master of all styles of organ music, from the liturgical to the classical, to the pops and standards, to show tunes and novelty pieces.

Jonas began his visit with us by saying that theatre pipe organs need not be limited to playing the genre of music used to accompany silent films, and that his concert would include more modern compositions, as well as some from long ago. He certainly did that, as you may see from the dates in the playlist below.

After a boisterous Hey, Look Me Over rendition to bring the console up from the orchestra pit, Jonas presented a real knuckle buster novelty tune by the famed accordionist, Charles Magnante, then slowed down the pace (perhaps so the keys could cool off!) with the familiar Skaters’ Waltz by Waldteufel. Then a Richard Purvis arrangement of some hymns, known as Gwalchmai, which I had to ask Jonas later to explain—it’s the name of a Welsh town. This was followed by some Hoagy Carmichael, which Jonas played in the style of the late Don Simmons, the long-time resident organist at the Portland Skating Rink. Then a cowboy song from a 1948 Roy Rogers movie, a French cantique by Gabriel Fauré, an old standard Dixieland blues number, and even Charles-Marie Widor, before Intermission.

The second half began with an absolutely dazzling transcription of Aram Khatchaturian’s famous Sabre Dance, then the tempo slowed as we heard two love themes written by Maurice Jarre, the first from the movie Doctor Zhivago, the second from Lawrence of Arabia.

Then an up-to-date version of the song made popular by Barry Manilow, I Write the Songs, written by former member of the Beach Boys, Bruce Johnston. Next an exotic standard by Duke Ellington, Caravan. Also a lovely song I wasn’t familiar with, The Rose, as sung by Bette Midler, and finally a shortened version of Percy Faith’s Swedish Rhapsody, based on folk tunes by Hugo Altven (fitting for someone named Jonas Nordwall to play!).

A standing ovation brought Jonas back to play a well known Latin number, the name of which I can’t remember. Even after asking Jonas!

PLAYLIST

UP CONSOLE:

Hey, Look Me Over from Wildcat (1960)
— Cy Coleman

FIRST HALF:

Flying Saucers
— Charles Magnante (1956)
Skaters Waltz
— Emil Waldteufel (1882)
Gwalchmai
— George Thalben-Ball
(arr. by Richard Purvis)
Up A Lazy River
— Hoagy Carmichael (1931)
A Gay Ranchero
— J. Espinosa (1948)
Cantique de Jean Racine
(The Song of Jean Racine)
— Gabriel Fauré
South
— P. Barbarin, R. Bauduc, P. Boutelje
If I Had You
— Shapiro, Campbell, & Connely (1928)
Allegro with Variations
from Symphony No. 3 for Organ
— Charles-Marie Widor (1879)

INTERMISSION

UP CONSOLE:

Sabre Dance
— Aram Khatchaturian (1954)

SECOND HALF:

Love themes medley:
Dr. Zhivago (1965)
Lawrence of Arabia (1990)
— Maurice Jarre
I Write the Songs
— Bruce Johnston (1975)
Caravan
— Duke Ellington (1937)
The Rose
— Amanda McBroom (1977)
Swedish Rhapsody
— Percy Faith (1954)
(based on folk themes by Hugo Altven)

I suspect many of you did not know who Darius Gangei was or how much he has done for NorCal until Bill Schlottor presented Darius with his award at Intermission. Do note the article on page Three - Darius is one of a kind, and will be sorely missed. But he has a great future ahead of him and we wish him well.

We also wish Dr. Richard Ice well after his fall that injured a leg as he was leaving after the concert.

But kudos go to the NorCal members who quietly, competently, and appropriately came to his aid. Some stayed with him, others called 911, crew members had the stage door open for the ambulance, and guided the paramedics around the obstacles on the stage and lowered the lift so the gurney could easily reach Dr. Ice.

Fortunately, Dr. Ice was not in a lot of pain and was able to direct the people helping him, and gave us the location of his car so that, at his request, a couple of NorCal members were able to drive his car home and explain the circumstances.

Although he required an operation, he is doing well and will be home about the time you read this. We continue to wish him the very best.

[A FINAL NOTE]

William Simmons Swain
1923 - February 25, 2011
He collected, digitally restored and retouched many old photos of The San Francisco Fox Theater. A portion of the photo collection is on display at the Whitcomb Hotel in San Francisco.

No one should come in the Stage Door except the Stage Crew or others with business there.

historographics.com/fox/swain
DARIUS GANGEI

Darius Gangei has been Student Stage Manager for Berkeley Community Theatre and the adjacent Little Theatre for the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 school years after working his way up to that position during the previous two years.

He has been an invaluable help to NorCal during concert set-up the day before the concert, and both during and after the concert on the concert date. We regularly see him at other times when we are performing organ maintenance.

Darius has been diligent, resourceful, and very organized. He organizes and manages student stage crews, always mindful of safety concerns that include vertical ladders, platforms, heavy objects, the fire curtain, stage lighting instruments, and the motorized orchestra lift. He arrives early and is the last to leave.

In the fall, Darius will begin his studies at the California Institute of the Arts, commonly referred to as CalArts, in Valencia (Los Angeles County). While we will miss his assistance and cheerful disposition, we hope to see him when at home as he is a member of NorCal.

CalArts is an interesting institution created by Walt Disney in the early 1960s to be an interdisciplinary ‘CalTech of the arts’. Incorporated in 1961, it is the first degree-granting institution of higher learning in the United States created specifically for students of both the visual and the performing arts.

According to Wikipedia, “CalArts provides a collaborative environment for all sorts of artists. Students are free to develop their own work (over which they retain control and copyright) in a workshop atmosphere, as respected members of a community of artists in which authority is constantly tested and where teaching works through persuasion rather than coercion.”

Looks like quite a place and exactly where Darius belongs! — Art Woodworth

W

ell, it seems to be the time of transitions right now. As a retired school superintendent, I love to see the excitement of students (especially seniors) as the year winds down and leads to a change of pace, at least for a few weeks.

This analogy seems to hold for NorCalTOS as well! We just finished our 2010-2011 concert season with a fine performance by the ever-popular Jonas Nordwall.

In addition to closing our season, we also celebrated the talented service performed by our student stage manager Darius Gangei by acknowledging his hard work on our behalf, and presenting him with a plaque in recognition of those efforts.

Darius has been a tremendous asset to NorCalTOS, and he will be sorely missed! His expertise and dedication helped us to improve the BCT as well as ensure that our performances came off without a hitch.

Whether it was doing sound work, lighting work, or floor cleaning (yes...floor cleaning...after we discovered that a fire extinguisher had been discharged in the theatre lobby prior to a concert, only to be discovered just before the program, with little time to react!).

We wish Darius well in his college studies, although it is difficult to see him go!

As the school year comes to a close, we also find ourselves dealing with another transition...caused by two major construction projects that will occur during the next school year in the Berkeley Community Theatre.

ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accommodations require significant work inside the theater, and bids were approved for the complete rewiring of the BCT as well. Given the magnitude of these projects, combined with our prior experience of work completion timelines, provide unique challenges that we must address during the upcoming concert season. I plan to meet soon with school officials to gather additional information, and once we have a better idea of where things stand in terms of construction schedules, the NorCalTOS Board of Directors will have a much better idea of how to proceed with next year’s activities. In light of all this, we may have to drop one or more concerts from the schedule, and/or schedule concerts at different venues.

You can help us by letting us know your feelings about:

1) would you attend NorCal concerts that might be held at different venues?

2) what venues would you like us to investigate using?

3) what types of activities do you enjoy that might be scheduled during the next concert season?

We'd also appreciate any other comments or suggestions that you might have. We appreciate your input!

Here's to the close of one tremendous concert season, with the hopes of making things work well for NorCal TOS during the upcoming concert season!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, June 10th at 6:30 PM
Bob Hope Theatre Stockton
Organ Concert before Bob Hope’s movie ‘The Paleface’.
BobHopeTheatre.com

June 29th to July 5th, 2011
ATOS National convention
Providence, Rhode Island
Read All About It at:
www.atos.org

Sunday, July 24th at 2 PM
Sierra Chapter Silent Film Presentation
Paul Quarino at the Mighty Wurlitzer
Grant Union High School
SierraChapterATOS.org

NorCal Presents—
Open Console at the BCT (see Pg 3)
Sundays – May 22nd, June 19th
norcalatos.org

Sunday, June 12th at 2 PM
‘PW Bowen at Grace Baptist Church’s
3/13 Robert Morton (See Page 1)
484 E. San Fernando St. (at 10th) San Jose, CA
norcalatos.org

Saturday, July 30th at 2 PM
Piano and Pipes Ragtime Trio
Chris & Jack Bradshaw, Piano duo
with Bill Coats, Theatre Organ
Wendell Jacob’s home in Davis, CA
Call his number 530/753-3916 for reservations & directions

Donations accepted jointly for the Sierra Chapter ATOS Scholarship Fund and the
West Coast Ragtime Youth Program

CASTRO THEATRE

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.

Los Angeles - www.latos.org

Orange County - www.octos.org

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025
Broadway, Oakland, CA.
Movie Classics many Fridays at 8 PM
Public tours usually first and third
Saturdays of the month at 10 AM.
check first (510 465-6400) or
www.paramounttheatre.com

San Diego - www.tossd.org

Santa Barbara TOS
http://members.cox.net/sbtos

Sierra - sierrachapteratos.org

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221
University Ave., Palo Alto, CA. The
organ is played before and between films.
(650) 324-3700. stanfordtheatre.org

BITS AND PIECES

Plan on a NorCal Summer Picnic.
At this point no date or place is set,
but your Board recognizes the importance of
having a social event occasionally where we
can get to know each other better.
Some have asked about Jim Riggs,
and we are happy to report that Jim has recovered
well and is back making music. And a tip of
the hat to Tom DeLay for this good news.

DONATIONS

Thank you for your help in furthering our
goals.

Frank & Jan La Fetra
Organ Stop, Inc. (Wayne & Cheryl)

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. Approved copies of the Minutes
are made available on our Website in the Members Lobby, or by sending
a request to the Secretary, whose email address and phone number are
published at the bottom of Page One.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Have you admired the blue membership
badges that many NorCal members wear
to concerts? They are available for $13
shipped 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

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 Wood at (415) 861-7082 <Nealwood@pachell.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.