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## FEBRUARY 2025

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society

[www.norcaltos.org](http://www.norcaltos.org)

P. O. Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Berkeley Community Theatre

1930 Allston Way, Between Milvia St. &

Martin Luther King Way

### NORCAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2025



Organ crew member Wayne Joseph took the photo.

Art Woodworth served two 3-year terms as Secretary and was ineligible, according to the bylaws, to serve another consecutive term. Thank you Art!

### THE WIND IS ON!



Also on January 25<sup>th</sup>, we completed the installation of the blowers in the basement blower room and turned each of them on. In our October Windsheet, we stated that we expected to have the blowers operational by the end of the month.

For the first time in over four years, the NorCal Board of Directors met at the Berkeley Community Theatre on January 25<sup>th</sup> and elected officers for 2025. During the COVID pandemic and the reconstruction of the stage house and the adjacent high school building, the board met every two months using Internet conferencing hosted by Kevin King or Chris Booras.

Pictured above, from left to right are: Program Manager Gordon Pratt, Treasurer Ted Hubbard, Chris Nichols, our computer relay programmer, Neal Wood, Membership Chairman, NorCal Chairman Chris Booras, Kevin King, who tunes the organ and leads our chamber work, Vice-Chairman Judson Owens, and Secretary Rudy Frey.

However, the majority of the weekends since then, the theatre has not been available for us to work. It has been over four years since there has been wind on the organ and there was a lot of dust and humidity created in the process of rebuilding the stage house. There were assorted ciphers primarily in the center chamber, and as yet unsurveyed dead notes through out the organ, but the crew is excited to have the wind on and to be able to work on correcting problems on a “live” organ. You passed the test if you noticed that the inlet ducts were not yet installed on the blowers when the picture was taken.

The new Uniflex 4000 computer uses Cat-5 cable instead of “flat ribbon” cable, so the new cable had to be routed from the relay room at chamber level down to the new computer cabinet at stage level, and to the two console connection locations on the orchestra elevator. This was accomplished some months ago. Chris Nichols brought over the new Uniflex computer (which was donated to Nor-Cal by Bill Schlotter) on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Also, on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ted Hubbard re-installed the wiring which enables the blowers to be turned on and off from the computer cabinet at stage level or from the main chambers. There will be numerous times when Kevin is tuning or setting pressures, that he will want the wind to be on or off, and it is a long way down to the blower room!

#### ABOUT NORCAL

#### THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

NorCal Theatre Organ Society is a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). “ATOS is dedicated to promoting the tradition of the theatre pipe organ and public understanding and

of the instrument and its’ music, and shall aid in any way possible, the preservation of theatre organs through their rehabilitation and by fostering the arts of paying, building, voicing, and maintenance.” If you would like to join us, please contact our

Membership Chairman, Neal Wood.

[woodshed523@icloud.com](mailto:woodshed523@icloud.com)

P.O. Box 625

Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Normally Nor-Cal dues are \$20. per year. However, if you join now, they will not be due until we return to having member meetings or concerts.

For \$70 (special rate of \$25 for students younger than 24) you can join National ATOS for a year, with a full voting membership plus six bi-monthly issues per year of the *Theatre Organ Journal*.

#### HOW OFTEN DO WE PUBLISH THE WINDSHEET?

Until we return to a regular concert series, we will publish as copy accumulates.

#### GET YOUR WINDSHEET BY E-MAIL!

**Would you like to receive your copy of the Windsheet by email? It will be in color; it will be wrinkle and tear-free; it will arrive sooner; and you will save NorCal the cost of postage and envelopes! If so, please contact our Membership Chair, Neal Wood at the address shown below.**

#### OTHER VENUES

**Grand Lake Theatre – 3/17 Wurlitzer.** 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by Gordon Pratt (Fridays) and Bob Reichert (Saturdays). (510) 452-3556. [www.renaissanceitalto.com](http://www.renaissanceitalto.com)

**Oakland Paramount Theatre – 4/26 Wurlitzer** 2025 Broadway, Oakland. The organ is playable. But no events with the organ are currently scheduled. [www.paramounttheatre.com](http://www.paramounttheatre.com)

**Stanford Movie Theatre - 3/21 Wurlitzer.** 221 University Avenue, Palo Alto. Open Thursday through Sunday. [stanfordtheatre.org](http://stanfordtheatre.org)

**California Theatre, San Jose (Fox Theatre) - 4/21 Wurlitzer & 2/10 Wurlitzer.**

<https://sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/california-theatre>

Friday March 21, 7 PM, Cinequest presents the 1922 German silent film "Nosferatu" accompanied by Dennis James. Admission \$14.  
(408) 792-4542

**California Theatre, Pittsburg - 3/10 Robert Morton.** 351 Railroad Ave., Pittsburg.

<http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com>

**Oroville State Theatre – 3/16 Wurlitzer (former Towe Auto Museum organ).** 1489 Myers Street, Oroville, (530) 538-2470.

<https://www.oroVILLEstatetheatre.com>

**Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner.** Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays at 4pm

<https://www.famsf.org/events/organ-concert>

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## **NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CONTACTS**

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