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# The WINDSHEET



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

BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE  
Allston Way betw'n Milvia St & MLK, Jr Way

www.norcaltos.org  
September 2012



## DAVID HEGARTY plays 'GIGI' for NorCal's PICNIC at the ATWOOD'S Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> 11 AM to about 6 PM, 9350 Konocti Bay Rd, Kelseyville, CA

Once again Bert and Ann Atwood will host a NorCal picnic at their lovely home on Clear Lake. Anyone who has attended past picnics here will know how special this invitation is. Sierra Chapter members are especially welcome to join us there.

David Hegarty will give a one-hour concert on Bert's delightful GW-IV Allen Organ, 'Gigi'. Since 'Gigi' also will be available for Open Console, expect to hear wonderful music throughout the day.

The house was designed with an organ in mind, and is worth the trip to see what the Atwood's have done.

Please bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy on their deck above Clear Lake. Ann and Bert will provide condiments and cold soft drinks, wine and beer, and will have a BBQ set up for those who wish to cook. **Please, no smoking in the house.**

Come any time after 11 AM, and stay until late afternoon - but realize that you need to leave by 6 PM in order to avoid driving after dark. The trip is about 2 1/2 hours from San Francisco/Oakland or Sacramento.

Please email or call Bert no later than Thursday, September 27<sup>th</sup> if you plan to attend and include how many will be coming with you. They will then send you a map and directions by US mail.

*For those without email, call the Atwood's well in advance and they will send the information by regular mail.*

Contact information is:  
atwoody@mchsi.com  
or 707-277-7208



— La Fetra photos

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 23-7415947 || State Charitable Trust No. CT 45966 || State Organization Number D-0726636

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*When emailing, include ATOS or NorCal in the subject line. Otherwise, if you are unknown to the recipient's computer, its SPAM filter may divert your mail.*

**CONCERT REVIEW**  
**WARREN LUBICH**  
 at the  
**GRAND LAKE THEATER**  
**August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

— Don Ravey

Our own NorCal member **Warren Lubich**, who is also one of the staff organists at the *Grand Lake*, delighted the substantial audience of NorCal members who arose early to enjoy a short concert, followed by open console on the lively Wurlitzer. Through the generosity of **Allen Michaan**, owner of the *Grand Lake Theater*, we get such an opportunity from time to time.

For those who may not know it, this organ is owned and maintained by our own NorCal member and past President, **Kevin King**, accounting for its fine condition and lush sound.

Warren played a varied selection of popular tunes from the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His style was appropriate to each number, registered to take full advantage of the lovely voices of the Wurlitzer, including tuned percussions.

Following his short concert, the console was given over to several NorCal members who played 3 tunes each. As one of those fortunate members, I can attest to the fun of playing such a fine instrument.

**PLAYLIST**

**Old Ironsides March** (1904):

— *W. H. S. Pearce*

**Cuban Love Song** (1945)

— *Herbert Stothart*

**Butterflies In The Rain** (~1930)

— *Montague Ewing*

**Who ?** (1925)

— *Jerome Kern*

**If I Had A Million Dollars** (1934)

— *Matt Malneck*

**Dumbell** (1922)

— *ZeZ Confrey*

**Stardust** (1927)

— *Hoagy Carmichael*

**Hello Frisco, Hello**

(from the movie *Hello Frisco, Hello*, 1943)

— *Harry Warren*

**Venezuela**

— *Pablo Herrero and José Luis Armentero*

**Indian Summer** (1919)

— *Victor Herbert*

**Every Day Is Ladies Day For Me**

(from the musical *Red Mill*, 1906)

— *Victor Herbert*

🎵 *FINAL NOTES* 🎵

**Robert 'Bob' Coffin**

September 4, 1947 - August 24, 2012

Bob was a former member of NorCal and worked on wind trunks and rebuilt regulators that went into the new additions for the BCT organ. Many will remember him as Staff Organist at *Ye Olde Pizza Joynt* from 1996 to 2000.

**Ralph Wolf**

December 6, 1918 - August, 22 2012

Well known as a concert artist, Wolf collaborated with many performers over his long career, including piano/organ duets with **Stan Kann**. He worked with the Walt Disney Company as rehearsal pianist for the original *Mickey Mouse Club* in the 1950s.

**Carlo Curley**

August 24, 1953 - August 11, 2012

Often called the "Pavarotti of the organ", because of his phenomenal keyboard technique, Curley entertained throughout the world. He had studied under both **Virgil Fox** and **Sir George Thalben-Ball**, two of the most prestigious organists of their day. But Curley, developed and maintained a style of his own that was heavy on showmanship.

He is also credited as the 'catalyst' for the restoration of the Melbourne's famous *Town Hall Organ*.

**NorCal BOARD MINUTES**

Organ Crew Chief Bill Schlotter said that, over the summer the main focus was updating our inventory of crated organ pipes and other items. Inventorying of the items on the stage balcony is now essentially complete.

In addition, the crew has just completed installing vertical earthquake restraint tie-down cables to tie the manual chests to the bearers. Another 32-Foot Diaphone pull-down cable has failed, but the new 7x21 aircraft cable will pass over small diameter pulleys while the cable now used will not. (See Graphic on Page 4) Several dead notes have been found which the Crew is working on.

Regarding the theater building, work has started on making cuts in the new curbs in front of the orchestra pit to allow wheel-

**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

**SUNDAYS**

October 14<sup>th</sup>,  
 November 18<sup>th</sup>,  
 December 16<sup>th</sup>

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, **Chris Nichols**, ensures that every NorCal member feels comfortable. Chris 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 that the theatre is available. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

chair access to the orchestra lift. The mirror wall has been removed and some work is being done on the roof, but there is still no schedule to open the building for public events.

Bill noted that BUSD is looking for a stage-craft-vocational-teacher who would also be the theater's technical director. While a stagehands' union member is preferred, the salary offered will probably be too low to attract a union member.

Every NorCal member is entitled to request a copy of the Minutes of meetings of the NorCal Board of Directors, which meets 6 times a year. Send requests to the Secretary; his email address and telephone number is published at the bottom of Page One.

## CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE

Bill Coale



Just where did the summer go? It's amazing that the school year is starting up once again, and for the third year since my retirement as a school superintendent, I can sleep in (unless **Ed Stout** and **Dick Taylor** have other plans for me)!

There have been some positive developments in the situation at the Berkeley Community Theatre. On the bright side, roofers have been at work to help ensure the facility has a solid cap, and new orchestra-pit railings are being worked on. According to BUSD facilities manager **Al Wilright**, the work continues on the ADA (*Americans with Disabilities Act*) renovations, and he still does not have a release date for the auditorium. In addition, we've just been given the 'green light' to hold a members-only 'Stage Door Social' event on the stage, so stay tuned for more on that as arrangements are finalized!

Let's keep those fingers crossed that we'll hear great news soon regarding our ability to have public concerts in the BCT!

It was wonderful to see a respectable turnout from NorCal at this year's ATOS national convention in Los Angeles. For me, it was especially thrilling, because it was my first opportunity to hear each of those organs live. LA transplant **Jerry Nagano** represented his current home very nicely, and great programs were enjoyed by an enthusiastic contingent of organ aficionados from all over the United States and abroad. As an educator, it was great to meet the 'Rye kids' (from the *Rye Academy*, where theatre organ training is part of the curriculum, taking advantage of their 2-manual Wurlitzer). Their sponsor, **Richard Moore** and teacher, well known British theatre organist **Michael Wooldridge**, were a delight to talk to. I hope to visit them at the *Rye Academy* next year. Young people are the future of theatre organ, and the movers and shakers at the *Rye Academy* are to be commended for their efforts. The UK was also proudly represented in the Young Organist (non)-Competition, where three talented youngsters displayed their considerable musical talents.

It was also great to hear member and NorCal board member **Warren Lubich** at the Grand Lake Wurlitzer.

Due to my playing a concert at Fair Oaks for the Sierra Chapter, I was unable to attend **David Hegarty's** playing during the Castro Theatre's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. It's been some 30 years that the amazing Castro Wurlitzer has been delighting audiences at the theatre!

During a recent trip back to my home state of Michigan, I was able to hear **Dave Moreno** perform on the first theatre organ that I ever played (a 3 manual Barton "Butterfield Special") in Flint, Michigan. I was also fortunate to get some bench time in on the amazing 4/36 Wurlitzer in the *Detroit Fox Theatre*. Fun!

I also had the pleasure of attending **Ed Stout's** recent presentation for the national convention of the Music Box Society International. I also met up with **Stephen Brittain**, who lives in Florida and is the current owner/caretaker of the (former) Avenue Wurlitzer, which sits gracefully in Steve's beautiful living room. I visited him last year, and playing the organ was a real treat! He's also a gracious host!

Bill M

### 2013 Convention in Atlanta

Included in the ATOS registration packet in LA was information about the 2013 ATOS convention to be held July 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 in Atlanta, Georgia. It looks to be a spectacular convention.

I attended the regional convention held there over the Memorial Day weekend in 2004; I had not been to The Fox before. The theatre itself is amazing as is the organ. The convention next year looks like a fantastic one. Keep the dates free and start saving for the trip now.

- Chris Nichols

## DONATIONS

NorCal thanks,

Ms. Carol Zerbo

For her generous donation to NorCalTOS and her support for Theatre Organs.

## EDITOR'S



August has been one of those months where there is lots of news to pass on.

Most has been upbeat: Sierra Chapter's *Hot August Pipes* featuring our own **Bill Coale**; learning that we will be able to have a Stage Door Social in the BCT; that restoration work at the BCT is going well; and that discussions with the Berkeley School District regarding public concerts continue.

In spite of the BCT being closed, NorCal has been active. **Warren Lubich's** concert at the *Grand Lake Theatre* brought us together; and the regular 'Stage Crew Work Days' and the regular 'Open Consoles' have added to the summer scene at the BCT.

Even better, there is much to look forward to - the picnic at **Bert and Ann Atwood's** on September 30<sup>th</sup>; the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual **George Wright** Memorial Concert in Sacramento on November 11<sup>th</sup>; and hopefully an upcoming Stage Door Social.

If you haven't been to the Atwood's home before, you are in for a very special treat. The house itself is worth the trip, as is the setting on *Clear Lake*, but best of all is the wonderful hospitality offered by Bert and Ann.

Look forward to Bert's story of building the house around 'Gigi', complete with drawings and a tour where Ann's decorating touch is shown as well as the organ chambers. Everyone has a good time, and with ongoing Open Console after **David Hegarty's** concert there is always lots of wonderful music. Do plan to be there.

But August brought some sad notes as you will see in 'Final Chords'. **Bob Coffin** will be missed by NorCal members, and both **Ralph Wolf** and **Carlo Curley** were well known throughout the organ world.

JAN

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NorCal is Planning a Stage Door Social

Information to come, watch our website.  
norcaltos.org

### Open Console

Sundays

October 14<sup>th</sup>, November 18<sup>th</sup>, December 16<sup>th</sup>

(See Page Two)

### Grant Alumni/Sierra Chapter (Special Event)

### The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual George Wright Memorial Concert

Sunday November 11, 2012 at 2:00 p.m. with **Martin Ellis** at the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Tickets: General \$12

sierrachapteratos.org

## OTHER VENUES

[Editor's note: Most venues now have websites so we will no longer take up space here for details of programs too far away to interest most members, but websites will be given. Bay Area and important events will continue to be covered]

**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**

**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 other weekends. (415) 750-3600.

LegionOfHonor.org

**Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer,** 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10 AM. (510) 465-6400, and the last of the Classic Film Series, *The Breakfast Club* on Friday, September 28 at 8 PM. Tickets are \$5.

[www.paramounttheatre.com](http://www.paramounttheatre.com)

**San Diego - www.tossd.org**

**Santa Barbara - www.sbtos.org**

**Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer,** 221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA.

### Silent Film Schedule

**Dennis James** at the Wurlitzer

**Friday, Sept 21 - 7:30 PM**

**The Cat and the Canary** (1927)

**Friday, Oct 12 - 7:30 PM**

**Foolish Wives** (1922)

**Friday, Nov 2 - 7:30 PM**

**The Phantom of the Opera** (1925) 7:30

The organ is played before and between other films. (650) 324-3700.

[stanfordtheatre.org](http://stanfordtheatre.org)

**Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer,** 300 W Main St., Visalia, CA. (559) 625-1FOX (1369)

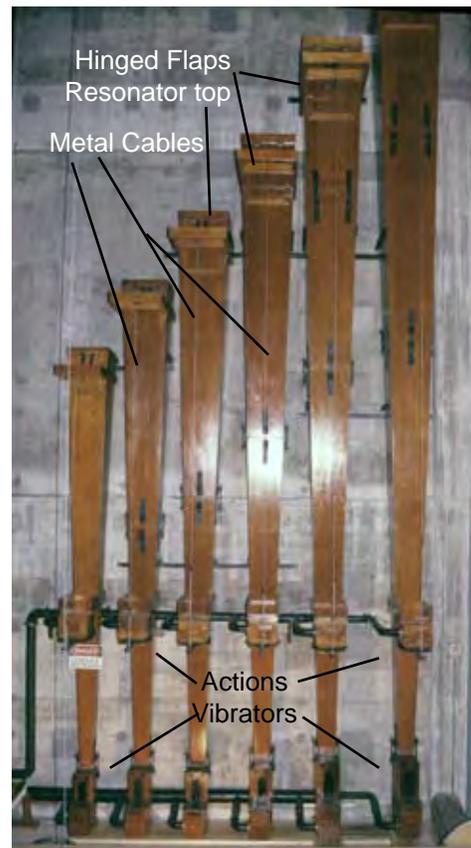
## NORCAL WEBSITE

We now have copies of the current and recent past 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, and under the Recordings page is the new CD by **Jonas Nordwall.**

Be sure to visit our website!

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



B/A# A/G# G/F# F/E D#/D C#/C  
32' Diaphone - each pipe plays 2 notes (trap door closed/open). Action pulls metal cable to open hinged flap above & change note. Bottom of picture is 35' from stage. Lowest note is ~35' long w/ note forming 'vibrator'. Top of resonator goes through stage grid ~ 70' from stage.

## MEMBERS LOBBY

### ONLINE

For NorCal members only, there is now a link on our website home page, near the bottom, to the new Members Lobby. A password is required in order to view any of the Members Lobby.

If you do not know the password and you are a paid (or honorary) member of NorCal, contact the Membership Secretary, **Neal Wood.** His email and phone number is at the bottom of Page One.

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](mailto: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.