


JANUARY 2021

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society
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P. O. Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Berkeley Community Theatre
1930 Allston Way, Between Milvia Street &
Martin Luther King, Jr. Way

2021 NOR-CAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

NorCal's Bylaws require an annual business meeting but do not state any particular date during the year. Your Board of Directors will set a date for the 2021 Annual Business Meeting once it becomes known when it will be safe for our members to gather together at a meeting. Once that date is set, a meeting announcement will be sent to all NorCal members. One of the agenda items will be approval of the minutes of the January 12, 2020 Annual Business Meeting. The draft minutes of that meeting are attached to this issue of the Windsheet. There will be an opportunity for NorCal Members to offer corrections and revisions during the annual meeting. Also, if you have any comments or corrections to these minutes, you may send an email to our Secretary, Art Woodworth at arthurjwoodworth@gmail.com.

NEXT NORCAL EVENT

Due to the COVID-19 virus, everything in the San Francisco Bay Area is shut down until further notice. Your NorCal Board of Directors will keep you posted as to the next NorCal event via both our website and the next issue of the Windsheet.

NORCAL TOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Due to the pandemic, NorCal Theatre Organ Society will not have access to any venues for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the NorCal Board has decided to extend all current memberships for one year.

BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE CONSTRUCTION

As previously reported in the Windsheet, construction work started Monday, June 15 and is scheduled to finish in August 2022. Your editor, a recently retired structural engineer, has had the opportunity to look over the plans for the construction work. Working downward from the pipe chambers, here is what the drawings show:

Pipe Chambers and Tone Chute: Neither is shown anywhere on the plans. In addition, there is a note reading: "Existing organ pipes and equipment to remain. Protect and seal pipe rooms during construction."



Fire curtain plastic wrapped prior to removal

32-Foot Diaphones: As reported in the April and June Windsheets, NorCal's organ crew has removed them from the building and placed them in temporary storage. They had been installed on the steel balcony along the back of the stage house at 34 feet above stage level. This balcony will be replaced with a wider reinforced concrete balcony. As requested, we provided weight and dimensional information to the architect. The construction drawings show them as installed in their new location on the new balcony. A note on the drawings reads, "Relocated organ pipes, blower and fan. To be reinstalled by organ society." The drawings call for the contractor to cut a hole in the steel grid over the tallest of the six pipes; and direct the contractor to coordinate with NorCal when they cut the hole.

Speaker Shelf: The work there will not affect our pipes and percussions.

Blower Room: Two of the walls will be thickened by 10 inches and a new foundation will be added beneath one of them. This is part of the seismic strengthening. The NorCal crew was permitted to move the contents of the blower room to the back row of the house for storage until completion of construction.



Blower Room with the two 20-HP blowers removed



Blowers in temporary storage at back of house

Auditorium: There will be little work in the auditorium itself except that the handicap elevator and its protrusion into the house (AKA “The Wart”) will be removed. Instead, handicap access to the auditorium will be from the east lobby through the auditorium entrance nearest the stage. This will be an all-new new ADA-compliant ramp into the auditorium which will then split into two paths: one down into the house and the other directly to the side of the stage. This will restore the stage sight lines that had been blocked by the wart.

As reported in the April and June Windsheets, both consoles and the 32-foot diaphones along with their blower

and regulators have been removed from the building and are in secure off-site storage.

CHAIRMAN’S WIND LINE

January greetings in the new year, 2021. This would normally be the month in which we hold our Annual NorCal Membership Meeting, as we did last January 12th. We are experiencing a double handicap this year due to meeting restrictions because of the pandemic, and the lack of accessibility to the Berkeley Community Theatre due to its reconstruction along with the reconstruction of the adjacent Berkeley High School building. Removal of hazardous material from the buildings was begun last June and heavy reconstruction is now well under way. It is scheduled to be completed in time for classes to resume in August 2022. So, we hope to be able to regain access to the theatre in another year and a half in order to get the organ back into operation and up to concert standards of maintenance. Because of the pandemic, by mutual agreement, we were forced to cancel Justin LaVoie’s concert last May 24th.

Your NorCal Board of Directors has been continuing to conduct normally scheduled bi-monthly meetings via Zoom, thanks to Internet help from Kevin King. In view of our inability to have concerts, the Board has agreed to extend memberships (suspend dues payments) for 12 months.

Fortunately this year, 2021, we have no directors with expiring terms of office, so we didn’t have to call for nominations last fall. I have asked Windsheet Editor Art Woodworth to publish in this issue the information we would have presented to you had we have been able to hold our Annual Membership Meeting this month.

I talked recently with Sierra Chapter President, Randy Warwick. He mentioned that the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, where their chapter organ is installed, is scheduled for renovation in October, which will make the venue temporarily unavailable for concerts. Perhaps by next fall we’ll all be able to attend Sierra Chapter’s “George Wright Memorial Concert” at Grant Union High in Sacramento. We continue to look forward to the re-installation of the original console and new Uniflex relay at the Oakland Paramount.

For those of us on the Internet, there have been a number of concerts available on line. Chris Nichols has been forwarding information to our members with on line capability. You can search for and follow several links including from:

Mark Herman” [www
boardwalkorgans.org](http://www.boardwalkorgans.org)
spreckelsorgan.org/livestream-concert
Wanamakerorgan.com

Randy

CLOSING CHORD

Since the last issue of the Windsheet, we have lost two members: David Shaw and Gary Tuck

RIP BOB HARTZELL

Copied with permission from the Sierra Chapter's Organ Spiel.



Robert Pollock Hartzell (86) passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loved ones on November 21, 2020. Bob began his university studies at UC Berkeley. He was one of the original "Twinkling Tubas" in the Cal Marching Band. He was co-owner of the Murphy's Historic Hotel in the foothills of California where he led the restoration efforts for the historic property. For 18 years,

Bob served as Executive Director of the California Association of Wine Grape Growers (CAWG) working tirelessly to promote the wines of California, receiving recognition from the United States House of Representatives for his contributions to the wine industry. One of Bob's personal passions was music, and he was an accomplished pianist and organist. In addition to these instruments, he also played the bass fiddle in the Stockton Symphony Orchestra. He was instrumental in the restoration and installation of the theater pipe organ in the Bob Hope Theater in Stockton as well as the theater pipe organ at Ironstone Vineyards. Bob fulfilled his dream of combining agriculture, wine, and pipe organ music.

In 1987 Bob, Dale Mendenhall, Ray Anderson, and Dave Moreno went to see Charlie Davis in Concord, who had a 2/11 Robert Morton theatre organ from the Castro Theatre in San Francisco in his backyard music room. Davis made several changes to the organ including replacement of the original two-manual console with a three-manual console from a theatre in Provo, Utah. Bob purchased the organ, followed by the vineyard property on which he built the complex which would house the organ. Mark Hartzell (Bob's son) drew up the plans for the barn. After it was built, Dave Moreno did the layout and specifications for the organ and was soon installing it with Bob. Tim Rickman did all the wiring and computer installation. Tom Delay worked on the tonal work and extra additions. The culmination of this dream was co-founding Harmony Wynelands with his wife Linda.

OPEN CONSOLE SCHEDULE

Due to the COVID-19 virus there will be no NorCal open console sessions anywhere until further notice.

OTHER VENUES

All of these venues are currently closed to the public due to the COVID-19 virus. LISTED PLAYING TIMES ARE FROM BEFORE THE SHUT DOWN. Their opening dates cannot be known at this time but will likely be announced on their web sites. Please note that the days/hours may change.

Grand Lake Theatre - 3/17 Wurlitzer. 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by **Gordon Pratt** (Fridays) and **Bob Reichert** (Saturdays); **Bill Coale** Relief Organist. (510) 452-3556. www.renaissancerialto.com

Paramount Theatre - 4/26 Wurlitzer. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10:00 am, excluding holidays and holiday weekends. No reservations are necessary for these tours. Tours begin promptly at 10:00 am at the Box Office entrance on 21st Street near Broadway. The tour lasts about two hours and provides a full and informative view of the theatre. Cameras are allowed. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Children must be at least 10 years old and adult chaperones are required. Please note that some areas of the tour are not wheelchair accessible. www.paramounttheatre.com

Stanford Theatre - 3/21 Wurlitzer. 221 University Avenue, Palo Alto. See their Silent Film Schedule. The organ is played before and between films by Bill Taylor, David Hegarty, or Jerry Nagano. (650) 324-3700. stanfordtheatre.org

California Theatre, San Jose (Fox Theatre) - 4/21 Wurlitzer & 2/10 Wurlitzer. 345 South First Street. The 2/10 Style 216 Wurlitzer lobby organ is played before all scheduled performance. <http://sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/california-theatre/>

California Theatre, Pittsburg - 3/10 Robert Morton. 351 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg. The 3-manual console is now playing. <http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com/>

Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner. Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Concerts Saturday afternoons at 4:00 pm. See legionofhonor.famsf.org and scroll to "visit/upcoming events."

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 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, email, or write to:

Mr. Neal R. Wood
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Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

JOIN NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Normally NorCal Theatre Organ Society dues are \$20 per year. However, if you join now they will not be due until we return to having member meetings. For an additional \$50 you may also join National ATOS (\$70 total) per year for a full voting membership.

HOW OFTEN DO WE PUBLISH THE WINDSHEET?

We had been publishing whenever NorCal had an event scheduled. During the Corona Virus shutdown we will publish as copy accumulates. If you have anything to contribute, please do so. *Stay safe – hope to see you all soon!*

GET YOUR WINDSHEET BY E-MAIL!

Would you like to receive your copy of the Windsheet by email? It will be in full 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.

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CONTACTS:

Please see the NorCal website at norcaltos.org for current & recent past Windsheets in [.pdf](#) format along with an up-to-date Calendar of Events.

You may reach NorCal directly at NorcalTOS@outlook.com.

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NorCal Theatre Organ Society – DRAFT Minutes of the January 12, 2020 Annual Business Meeting

CALL TO ORDER

The NorCal Theatre Organs Society's 50th Annual Business Meeting was held at the Berkeley Community Theatre, Berkeley, California. **Chairman Rudy Frey** opened the meeting at 4:49 p.m. A show of hands indicated that a quorum of the NorCal membership (25 full memberships) was present.

BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Frey introduced the Directors present:

Rudy Frey, Chairman2020-2022 (2nd term)

Kevin King, Vice Chair....2017-2019 (2nd term)
Retired 12/31/2019

Art Woodworth, Secretary &
Windsheet Editor.....2019-2021 (1st term)

Neal Wood, Membership .2019-2021 (1st term)

Ted Hubbard, Treasurer..2019-2021 (2nd term)

Rudy said that new Director, Chris Booras, was excused. His first term will be for the years 2020-2022.

CHAIRMAN'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Chairman Frey thanked **David Gray** for a wonderful concert, **Gail Frey** for the intermission cookies, **Ted Hubbard** for the video display of the agenda, and **Robert Woodworth** for serving as head usher.

Rudy also thanked the following:

Chris Nichols – Open Console Host, Organ Relay Programmer, and NorCal Webmaster

Neal Wood - Membership Chairman

Gordon Pratt - Program Chairman

Rudy thanked the **NorCal Organ Crew**:

Kevin King – Tuning & Readiness

Mike Abraham

Rudy Frey

Chuck Hagstrom

Ted Hubbard

Chris Nichols

Gordon Pratt

Neal Wood

Art Woodworth

2019 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Secretary Art Woodworth had passed out copies of the minutes of the January 20, 2019 Annual Business Meeting to the members present prior to the start of the meeting. The minutes were approved by the members present on a motion made by Janice Chainey and seconded by Judson Owens.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Ted Hubbard presented the report which he displayed on the screen in PowerPoint.

<u>Status of Accounts</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Bank of America		
Checking	\$67,363	\$33,918
Savings @ 0.4%	14,534	14,538
Capital One		
Business Savings	1,156	\$1,160
CD 2022 @ 0.7%	32,986	33,197
CD 2020 @ 0.9%	35,392	35,683
CD 2024 @ 0.9%	38,690	39,008
US Treas. @ 1.45%	0	20,000
Total Cash	\$190,121	\$177,504

<u>Income</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Donations	\$2,125.00	\$3,065.03
Dues	\$3,307.40	2,768.79
Ticket Sales	\$3,105.50	2,882.99
Inventory Sales	\$1,507.00	125.00
Miscellaneous	\$56.69	0.00
Total Income	\$10,301.59	\$8,832.72

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Artist	\$8,254.66	\$7,600.00
Printing/Mailing	\$787.99	966.25
Operations	\$1,117.72	12,283.78
Miscellaneous	\$120.57	100.00
Total Expenses	\$10,480.94	\$20,950.03
Bottom Line	(\$179.35)	(\$12,117.31)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Membership Secretary Neal Wood reported that Nor-Cal membership now stands at 151 as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Active</u>	<u>Friend</u>	<u>Honorary</u>
2019	82	62	7
2018	82	80	7
2017	78	76	7

2016	79	84	8
2015	87	68	6
2014	88	74	5
2013	109	64	5
2012	110	91	6
2011	127	84	6
2010	125	51	5

Neal listed the seven living NorCal Honorary Members who are:

Rudy Frey	Chris Nichols
Frank La Fetra	Judson Owens
Jan La Fetra	Art Woodworth
Kevin King	

Neal reminded us of the loss of Honorary Member William O. Schlotter, Jr. during the year.

Neal also reported that there are two NorCal Hall of Fame Members:

Jim Riggs	Ed Stout
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Neal said we now have 521 Face Book members.

PROGRAM CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Program Chairman Gordon Pratt reported that the next NorCal concert will be on Sunday May 24 at 2:30 pm at BCT. It will feature Justin LaVoie.

Gordon also announced the next five open console dates, all Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm:

January 19, February 16, March 8,
April 19, and May 17.

There was a discussion of possible venues during the two years of construction work affecting BCT.

ORGAN CREW CHIEF'S REPORT

Paramount Theatre of the Arts Wurlitzer. It was reported that during the year the NorCal crew completed rebuilding the Oakland Paramount's water-damaged five-rank main chamber chest. The NorCal crew returned it to the theatre on October 30. The restored original Oakland Paramount console, as restored by Crome Organ Company, was also delivered to the theatre that day. It was pointed out that the funding for the Paramount Theatre project was provided by the late NorCal Member, **William O. Schlotter, Jr.**

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Berkeley Community Theatre: NorCal has been advised that the last day of access before start of construction will be Friday, June 12. Some portions of the NorCal Wurlitzer will have to be temporarily removed to allow access to the seismic strengthening work, particularly the 32-foot diaphones and their blower, winding, and regulators.

Rudy Frey and **Ted Hubbard** discussed NorCal's recent meeting at BCT with BUSD staff and their architectural team. Rudy noted that they were very impressed by the NorCal organ.

QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

Ed Stout announced that **Dick Taylor** is retiring after 60 years of installing and maintaining pipe organs. Rudy Fry noted that Dick did some of the initial tonal finishing at BCT.

Ted Hubbard thanked **Garry Youngs, John Whitmore,** and **Joe Peterson** for their help in improving the alternative to the house PA system, greatly improving the sound.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Frey asked if there was any other new business, or if there were any more questions or comments from the membership. There were none.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by **Dick Taylor** and seconded by **Kevin King**. The motion carried and **Chairman Frey** adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur J. Woodworth

Arthur J. Woodworth, Secretary