


JANUARY 2023

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society
www.norcaltos.org (510) 644-2707
P. O. Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

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

YOUR 2023 NORCAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Your NorCal Board of Directors met on-line on Saturday, January 14.

Chairman Rudy Frey completed his second consecutive three-year term December 31 so he is termed out for at least one year. Per our by-laws Rudy will continue on the board in 2023 as an ex-officio member. We thank him for his two terms (six years) of dedicated service!

During the meeting we welcomed Ted Hubbard back to the board. He had to sit out during 2022 as he had termed out at the end of 2021. But he continued his book-keeping services as an appointed Financial Secretary.

We then held the election of officers. The results are:

- Chairman – Chris Booras
Vice Chairman – Judson Owena
Treasurer – Ted Hubbard
Secretary – Art Woodworth

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS’S WIND LINE

Light at the End of the Tunnel!

For more than the last 2 of the recent 6 years that I have been a member of the NorCal Board, we have been unable to hold concerts at the Berkeley

Community Theatre due to the reconstruction of the theatre and the adjacent high school building. Just before Christmas, the contractor called us to bring back some of the electrical hardware for reinstallation in the basement blower room. This provided us with an opportunity to judge the progress of the reconstruction.

The building structure is complete! Numerous subcontractors are at work installing interior doors, painting, and doing other interior finishing work. The wooden stage floor has yet to be reinstalled, but it appears that the building will be completed within a couple of weeks or months. The end of the reconstruction is in sight!

Our immediate task will be to thoroughly clean and prepare the blower room for the reinstallation of the two 20 HP blowers, at least one of which is absolutely necessary to play the organ.

The reinstallation of the 32’ Diaphones will take more time but they are not necessary to play the rest of the organ.

Rudy

NEWS FROM THE OAKLAND PARAMOUNT THEATRE OF THE ARTS.

Story and photos by Kevin King.

Some of the NorCal organ crew members have been busy lately helping out at the Oakland Paramount Theatre with the upgrade of their Wurlitzer pipe

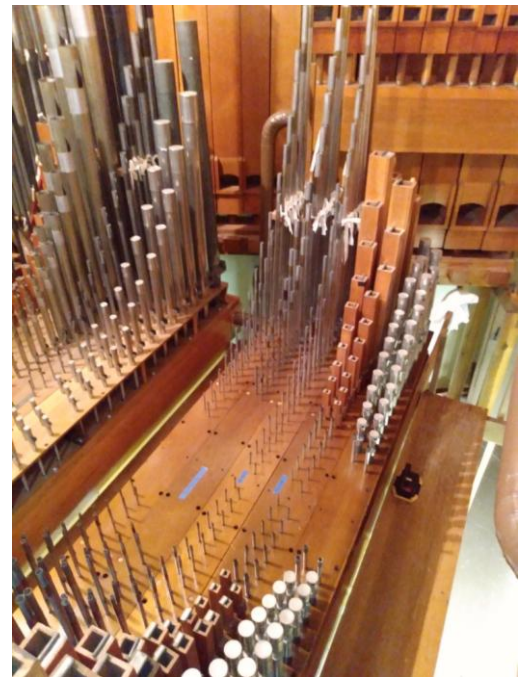
organ. Several years ago, there was water damage to one of the five rank pipe chests in the Main Chamber due to a roof leak. The NorCal organ crew removed the chest from the Paramount some time back, and brought it to our workshop in Berkeley to be re-built. Recently, the restored chest was returned to the Main Chamber at the Oakland Paramount.



In September, organ crew members Neal Wood and Kevin King reinstalled the regulators and wind lines for the repaired five rank chest. In November, with assistance from Chris Nichols and Chris Booras, the five ranks of pipes, stored in the Paramount basement, were put back into the chest, and are once again playing after being silent for many, many years.



During the months of August and September, organ technician Steve Hansen was busy at the Paramount installing the rebuilt original console and the new Uniflex relay system. The rebuilding and return of the Paramount's original Wurlitzer console and the upgraded relay system were made possible by a generous donation by the late Bill Schlotter of NorCal.



On November 29th, the new relay and console were presented to the public for the first time. Kevin King played an hour of preshow music for the audience attending the Speaker Series hosted at the Paramount. There is still some console and relay work to be finished, but the glorious Oakland

Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer is sounding and functioning better than it has in decades. Paramount Theatre manager, Jason Blackwell, is very supportive and enthusiastic about the organ project, and plans are being put into place for the continued “care and feeding” of the Wurlitzer.



CLOSING CORD

David Sauer was a member of both Sierra and NorCal Chapters of ATOS. A Sacramento resident, he was a regular at NorCal’s open console sessions at Berkeley Community Theatre, coming and going via Amtrak. He played “Oldies but Goodies” with great traditional theatre organ styling. David was a broadcast engineer for KOVR Channel 13 in Sacramento. He was a life member of the Society of Broadcast Engineers. His obituary says his headstone includes his call sign K6QFS.

Robert Clampitt of Walnut Creek.

OTHER VENUES

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. Organ again playing but no organ events currently scheduled.

www.paramounttheatre.com

Stanford Theatre - 3/21 Wurlitzer. 221 University Avenue, Palo Alto. Closed for heating system repairs. Check website. stanfordtheatre.org

California Theatre, San Jose (Fox Theatre) - 4/21 Wurlitzer & 2/10 Wurlitzer. Schedule unknown. <http://sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/california-theatre>

California Theatre, Pittsburg - 3/10 Robert Morton. 351 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg. Schedule unknown.

<http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com>

Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner. Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays at 4:00 pm.

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

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 contact our Membership Chair Neal Wood at:

woodshed523@icloud.com

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

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 per year for a full voting membership plus six issues per year of *Theatre Organ Magazine*.

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 quarterly or 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 above.

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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