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JANUARY 2024

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

NORCAL WURLITZER AT BCT - PROGRESS

The two blowers are located in a basement room at stage right. Part of the seismic strengthening work at BCT involved enlarging the foundations under part of the blower room floor. To make way for this work, the NorCal organ crew removed the blowers and windlines to temporary storage at the back of the main floor of the theatre. The contractor was quite helpful in our efforts.

We were able to start work on the organ in the Fall. The original new computer cabinet at stage right has been replaced and a new, fiber-optic cable to the chambers is being installed. There is some work to be done in the pipe chambers before a major re-tuning job.

The NorCal organ crew started re-installing the blowers late in the Fall with the first blower in place on Saturday, December 10. Blower No. 2 was installed on Saturday, January 20.

The blowers still need to be connected to the large wind line leading up to the pipe chambers and the blower motors still need to be connected to both electricity and the stop/start control buttons.

Chris Nichols writes: The gang met for a work session today (Saturday, January 20.). We got the second blower assembled. The 20 HP motor is very heavy. The other parts are moderately awkward to

handle. Aligning the wind line and blower parts was a bit time consuming. Great job, guys!

Many thanks to Chris for taking the following photos Saturday, January 20.



Making certain that we put the blower back in the right place. (L to R): Near Wood, Ted Hubbard, Art Woodworth, Kevin King



*Guiding the motor into the blower shell. The shaft cantilevers some 3 feet from the motor and must be handled with great care.*



*End cover in place, assembly completed. Wayne, Neal, and Ted. All buttoned up!*



*Ted and Neal slide the motor into the blower frame. The 20 HP motor is hanging from a chain hoist mounted on a wooden roll-around frame. The frame was designed and built by the late Bill Schotter. That motor is ?\$@#!!! heavy.*

We had two crews working on on Saturday, January 21st. Chris, Jud, and Ted pulled the new ethernet and microphone wires through the conduit between the upstairs relay room and the control cabinet at stage level. Kevin, Neal, Rudy, and Wayne were at work in the blower room positioning duct work, cleaning the walls, and finishing the bolting up of one of the blowers.

Work scheduled for Saturday, February 3 will be running power lines from the relay room to the stage level cabinet, doing more blower duct work, and continuing cleaning.

## **BOARD ELECTION**

At the December 2 Board meeting it was reported that two written and signed letters of nomination were received. They were for Rudy Frey and Ted Hubbard. On a motion made by Chris Booras and seconded by Kevin King, the two were declared elected for three-year terms for the calendar years 2024 through 2026.

## CLOSING CHORD

*More about the late NorCal Member David Carleton Dillon:* David was featured in an August 19, 1989 article in the San Jose Mercury News, “Wizard of Odds Finds Lotto Goof.” The story reported that the California Lottery commission incorrectly reported the odds of hitting the then 49-number jackpot. David calculated the correct value and reported the discrepancy. The report added “His efforts were simply a mental exercise because he does not play the lottery.”

## 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.renaissancerialto.com](http://www.renaissancerialto.com)

*Paramount Theatre – 4/26 Wurlitzer.* 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Organ again playing but no organ events currently scheduled.

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

*Stanford 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.* 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>

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

<https://www.oroVILLEstatetheatre.com>

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

<https://www.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:

[woodshed523@icloud.com](mailto: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 \$50 you may 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](http://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](mailto:NorcalTOS@outlook.com).

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