
The WINDSHEET



Newsletter of the NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625 510/644-2707
www.theatreorgans.com/norcal
October 2008

JONAS NORDWALL at BCT SUNDAY November, 2nd, 2008 at 2:30 PM



To open NorCal's 2008/2009 concert season, we are delighted to present one of our favorite artists, **Jonas Nordwall**.

Most readers of this newsletter will be quite familiar with Jonas, but for the benefit of any newcomers who haven't had the pleasure of attending his concerts, here is some background.

Jonas Nordwall is a native of Portland, Oregon. He learned to play the accordion when he was only four-years-old, and at the age of 16, Jonas performed for **King Gustav**

Adolf during a tour of Sweden. Jonas studied piano, organ, and orchestration with **Arthur Hitchcock** and graduated from the University of Portland in 1970 with a Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance. Additional organ studies were with **Frederick Geoghegan, Richard Ellsasser, and Richard Purvis**.

Jonas has been the organist at Portland's First United Methodist Church since 1971. He currently holds the title, Artistic Director of Music and Organist. He is the organist
(continued on Page Three)

ELECTION for BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As if we didn't have enough elections to be concerned with these days, it is time for NorCal's members to choose directors for the vacant or soon-to-be-vacant seats on the NorCal Board of Directors.

Our Board of Directors consists of **nine** members, three of whom are elected each year for a term of three years. A Director may be re-elected *one time* without a gap of at least one term.

In accordance with our By-laws, the Chairman appoints a **Nominating Committee**, who propose a slate of candidates for election to the board, after assuring that those nominated are willing to serve in that capacity. In addition, any **Active NorCal member** (full member, *i.e.*, NorCal TOS *plus* ATOS) may nominate other Active NorCal members. Such nominations must be submitted *to the nominating committee in writing* and **must include the nominee's consent** to serve if elected. Also the nomination *must include the signatures of at least two Active Members besides that of the nominee*. **The nomination must be submitted to the Nominating Committee not later than November 10.**

To submit a nomination, contact **Kevan Lesch, (650) 367-0786**.
kevan1955@hotmail.com

Special thanks to Kevan and the other two committee members, **P-W Bowen** and **Bill Schlotter**.

Nominations close on November 15.
The names of all qualified nominees
(continued on Page Three)

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 23-741594-7 State Charitable Trust No. CT 45966 State Organization Number D-072 6636 NT20S M12

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

**CHAIRMAN'S
WINDLINE**



Summer is winding down and Concert Season is soon to begin. I hope you have your calendars marked for the **Jonas Nordwall** concert on November 2nd.

FLASH! We have just confirmed the bookings of the artists for the 2008-2009 concert season. Following Jonas Nordwall's season opener on November 2nd, we are pleased to announce that our February 15, 2009 concert artist will be the popular **Ron Reseigh**, then on March 15th, another favorite, **Jim Riggs**, and on May 3rd our season will conclude with **Lew Williams**. NorCal continues to present the very top tier artists of the theatre organ.

The picnic at **Bert Atwood's** beautiful home was a huge success. Thank you, Bert and Ann for hosting this wonderful event! The weather was just perfect. The overflow audience from the living room could enjoy the organ music from Bert's waterfront deck.

Bert's *Allen GW4* french provincial organ, (A.K.A. *Gigi*) is unique in that the percussions, piano, toy counter, and expression shades are real theatre organ instruments, and not electronic. So I guess you could say that the Allen is partially powered by wind.

Looking forward to seeing you all, at the future NorCal events.

Neal

**ARRIVEDERCI,
BELLA ROMA**

Marking the end of an era, the venerable *Bella Roma* pizza parlor cum pipe organ in Martinez, CA has closed. Since moving from their former location, also in Martinez, about a year ago, there has been speculation about whether they would re-install the organ, and in the interim an electronic organ has been playing a limited schedule. But now the restaurant is closing permanently and the pipe organ (never re-installed) apparently will be sold.

The organ was installed by NorCal member **Curt Wood**, of Martinez, in 1972. It was a 'parts' organ, with console and ranks from various sources. The organ had been installed in two different residences prior to its installation in the *Bella Roma*.

After the fateful fire at *Ye Olde Pizza Joynt* in Hayward in 2003, and the closing of *Angelino's* in San Jose last year, *Bella Roma* was the last surviving 'pizza and pipes' style venue on the West Coast (as far as we know).

House organists included the late **David Reese**, **Kevin King**, and **Dave Moreno**.

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges generous donations from:

- Robert Durbin** of San Rafael
- Mr. & Mrs. James Parker** of Santa Rosa
- FM Global [Insurance]**

NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome new members **Byron Baldwin** and **Matt Vietenhans** of Antioch, CA

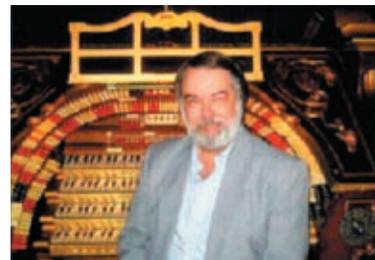
A FINAL NOTE



Stan Kann, the legendary organist for the St. Louis Fox Theatre and beloved entertainment icon died on September 29, 2008 at St. Louis University Hospital from complications during a heart cauterization. He was 83.

He began 'playing the window sill' at the age of 4 while listening to the radio and was at the organ console by the time he reached 14. Stan went on to major in organ at Washington University, St. Louis and was inducted in the ATOS Hall of Fame in 1999.

[Stan, we will miss you — your music, humor, and vacuum cleaners — *publ!*]



Dan Bellomy talented organist died on August 29th at age 57 in Winchester [MA]. (Boston Globe, August 31)

FIRST TIMERS ARE 4 FREE

Remember: first time concert goers are admitted free, so bring your friends and neighbors who have never experienced the power and drama of a Theatre Pipe Organ concert.



Photos at Picnic at Atwood Residence by Neal Wood and Frank La Fetra



EDITOR'S RAVINGS

Several weeks ago I spent five days in San Diego, attending my old Navy ship's reunion (USS Electra, AKA-4) and re-visiting my old haunts, having spent the first 30 years of my life in that city. The reunion was great, but our ranks are inevitably thinning, since the ship was decommissioned in 1955, so there are **no** crew members under the age of 70, and most are considerably older. We had four World War II veterans at the reunion, however. In case anyone might be curious, I have posted photos at the ship's web site, usselectra.org.

My reason for mentioning this is that there is an interesting contrast between our ship's reunions and NorCal. We are both aging organizations, but in the case of the ship, there is no alternative. There is no pool from which to draw new participants. This is certainly not the case for NorCal.

Music is universal. People of all ages, all social and economic circumstances, can and do find pleasure in listening to good music. The only reason that we aren't attracting new audiences (and members) is that we aren't trying hard enough! When I say "we," I include every one of us.

Stop and think: Have you invited someone you know to a NorCal concert? How recently? Indeed, have you described to a friend or relative how much you enjoyed the last concert you attended? Your friends who decide to sample our music will surely thank you for introducing them to it. And their first concert will not cost them or you a penny! What a bargain! Please try it!

SOMETHING NEW !

Live video on a 10-foot wide screen of the keyboards on our four-manual console. This will allow the audience to see the Artist's finger gymnastics as they make their wonderful music.

(Nordwall continued from Page One)

for the *Oregon Symphony Orchestra* and has made several recordings with the orchestra.

Jonas was also Senior Staff Organist for ten years at the *Organ Grinder* pizza restaurant in Portland.

An organist equally skilled in both classical and popular music, Jonas has presented concerts all over the world and has produced over 25 highly acclaimed recordings.

The American Theatre Organ Society named him Organist of the Year in 1987. He has been a frequent performer at ATOS conventions and at regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

He has appeared on television programs in both the United States and Australia, and his recordings are often heard on *Pipe Dreams*, a syndicated PBS radio program.

The design and manufacture of pipe organs and electronic organs has always interested Jonas, and he was associated with the Rodgers Instrument Corporation for over 30 years. Jonas is currently affiliated with the Allen Artists Program.

(Election continued from Page One)

are passed to the Secretary by **December 1**. If there are more nominees than vacancies, the Secretary prepares and sends out ballots before **December 15**. When needed, ballots are counted at the Annual Members Meeting, which will be **Sunday, January 25, 2009**.

There will be two vacancies to fill this year.

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 date is:

Sunday, November 23, 2008

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, **Chris Nichols**, ensures that any NorCal member feels comfortable. He 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.

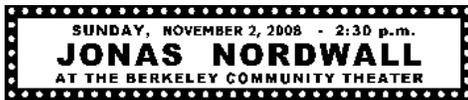
Important: Call the NorCal voice mail at (510) 644-2707 on that Sunday morning to confirm theatre availability. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

ANNUAL MEETING, CONCERT, and (no host) DINNER

A trio of 'goodies' await us on January 25, 2009 — a concert by NorCal Member P-W Bowen; the Annual Business Meeting (required to maintain our tax-exempt status), and a sociable (no host) dinner afterwards at **Herny's Restaurant** in the Durant Hotel. (This is where we have had such good camaraderie the last several years.)

Mark your calendars **NOW**. More information will be in a later issue of the Windsheet.

UPCOMING EVENTS



SUNDAY, November 2, 2008 at 2:30 PM
JONAS NORDWALL opens the
2008-2009 Season at the Berkeley
Community Theatre. (See Page 1)

SUNDAY, November 9, 2008 at 2:00 PM
MARK HERMAN at Grant Union
High School in Sacramento GEORGE
WRIGHT Memorial Concert . Details at:
SierraChapterATOS.org

SUNDAY, January 25, 2009 at 2:00 PM
NorCal TOS Annual Concert, Business
Meeting, and (no host) Dinner. P-W Bowen
in concert at the BCT. (See Page 3)



SUNDAY, February 15, 2009 at 2:30 PM
RON RESEIGH plays NorCal's Second
2008-2009 concert at the BCT.



SUNDAY, March 15, 2009 at 2:30 PM
JIM RIGGS plays NorCal's Third 2008-
2009 concert at the BCT.



SUNDAY, May 3, 2009 at 2:30 PM
LEW WILLIAMS plays NorCal's Last
2008-2009 concert at the BCT.

OTHER VENUES

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.
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 on
other weekends. (415) 750-3600.
LegionOfHonor.org

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025
Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours
on first and third Saturdays of month at
10 AM. (510) 465-6400.

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221
University Ave., Palo Alto, CA. The
organ is played before and between
films. (650) 324-3700.
StanfordTheatre.org

Towe Auto Museum, 3/21 Wurlitzer,
2200 Front St., Sacramento, CA.
Free Sunday concerts with Museum
Admission. Sierra Chapter presents
silent movies on Friday night, four
times each year.

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

OTHER CHAPTERS

Sierra Chapter, Sacramento, CA
SierraChapterATOS.org

Mount Shasta Chapter TOS
Contact Al Schoenstein
Dschoen940@aol.com

NORCAL WEBSITE

We now have copies of the current
and two previous *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. Be sure to visit!

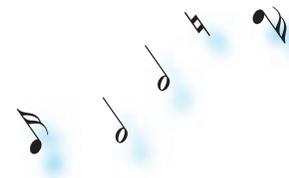
TheatreOrgans.com/norcal/

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Have you admired the blue membership
badges that many NorCal members
wear to concerts? They are available for \$13
shipped prepaid to the member's address.

The badges are now totally engraved (no
silk screening to rub off). Send your check
and exactly how your name is to appear on
the badge to:

Bill Schlotter
6203 Elderberry Dr.
Oakland, CA 94611-162



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> , 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.