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# The WINDSHEET



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

www.theatreorgans.com/norcal  
February 2009

**RON RESEIGH  
PLAYS AT BERKELEY  
COMMUNITY THEATRE  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15  
2:30 PM**



## FROM ATOS PRESIDENT KEN DOUBLE

**R**on Reseigh last played a concert on NorCal's Wurlitzer in May of 2006 and we are eagerly awaiting his return visit.

Ron's interest in theatre organ was sparked by his father, **Gary Reseigh**, playing at the *Roaring 20's Pizza* in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ron began his organ studies as a pre-teen and was soon playing overtures and intermissions at the *Redford Theatre* in Detroit.

After entering and winning various competitions for young organists, he won first prize in the Young Organist Competition at the 1998 ATOS National Convention in San Francisco.

Now in his mid 20's, Ron has become one of the most popular concert artists on the national theatre organ circuit. He has participated in pipe organ conventions and concerts in England, Canada and all across the United States.

Ron has been the featured organist at Milwaukee's *Organ Piper* for the past 6 years. He enjoys performing music of yesterday and today, often including music by composers such as **Scott Joplin** and **John Williams!**

**G**reetings all in NorCal,  
I have just finished reading *The Windsheet* and I wish to commend the leadership and the membership of one of our strongest ATOS chapters for the tremendous support of the **ATOS Summer Youth Camp**. NorCal's proposal to match individual donations up to \$1500 is more than simply generous. It is proactive, creative and demonstrates a tremendous level of support for one of the most successful programs ATOS has instituted in many years.

Whatever the final level of support, please know that your chapter will have helped several young men and women experience

the teaching of theatre organ playing at the hands of the best in our field, an opportunity surely to have gone by the wayside without your program.

As I travel the country and visit with ATOS chapters, there is nothing that creates a 'buzz' of excitement at a greater level than when I speak of the success of the SYC. Clearly our membership gets excited to know there are many more young potential artists out there than any of us figured when the camp got started three years ago. *Thirty different youngsters have now had the experience over the two-full years of the camp*, and we expect another new  
*(continued on Page Three)*

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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.

## NorCal CONCERT, ANNUAL MEETING, and No Host DINNER

Those who attended the annual membership business meeting, which is required in our ByLaws, were treated to a fine concert by our member 'PW' Bowen. Then we heard the customary reports from our officers; three new directors, **Elbert Dawson III**, **Judson Owens** (who was unable to be present) and **Tom Mathiesen**, were introduced; a well-deserved Honorary membership was presented to **Chris Nichols**; and a lively discussion was held on how we might be able to attract larger audiences to our concerts and members to our organization. Following all of this, about 20+ of our group repaired to *Henry's Restaurant* in the nearby *Durant Hotel* for food and beverage.

In his opening remarks, 'PW' described his selections as being "something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue." Indeed, the variety of stylings made for a very enjoyable program. Opening with *Oh, What A Beautiful Morning* as the console rose from the pit, he progressed from *Mine* to *Bahia* and *Moonglow* (the theme from *Picnic* - 1934). Then **Ferde Grofé's** *On The Trail* from the *Grand Canyon Suite* followed by a contrasting **Beatles** tune, *Let It Be* and **Henry Mancini's** *Walk On The Wild Side*. Changing pace to a lesser known song by **Burl Ives**, *On The Front Porch With You*, 'PW' then played a **Burt Bacharach** song made famous by **The Carpenters**, *Close To You*, and then finished the first half with a Sicilian *Tarantella*. After a short intermission, 'PW' returned, bringing up the lift with the beautiful *No Other Love Have I* (AKA *Beneath The Southern Cross*) from **Richard Rodgers' Victory At Sea**. A plaintive lullaby, *Sweet and Low, Winds of the Western Sea* came next, leading into another **Richard Rodgers** standard from *South Pacific*, *Bali Hai*. Then *Like Young* by **André Previn**, making good use of the piano. 'PW' then challenged the audience to recognize a piece that he played as a rousing Viennese waltz—but it was really the hymn *We're Marching To Zion*. Turning 360 degrees, he presented his version of *Memories* from the musical *Cats* by **Andrew Lloyd Weber**, then finished a very enjoyable concert with *What Now, My Love* by **Gilbert Bécaud**, with an accompaniment patterned after **Ravel's Bolero**.

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:

**Sunday, February 22, 2009**

**Sunday, March 22, 2009**

**Sunday, April 26, 2009**

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.

## S F SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

The San Francisco Silent Film Festival is pleased to announce the lineup for our **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Event**, which will take place at the *Castro Theatre*, on **Saturday, February 14, 2009 – Valentine's Day!** With four programs ranging from the romantic to the horrific, this Winter Event will be our biggest and most diverse yet! We hope to see you on Valentine's Day, 2009!

*Winter Event Lineup:*

**Buster Keaton's Our Hospitality** (1923)

**The Kiss of Mary Pickford** (1927)

– **Philip Carli** at the console

**F.W. Murnau's Sunrise** (1927)

**Paul Leni's The Cat & the Canary** (1927)

– **Dennis James** at the console

For ticketing and other information about the Winter Event, please visit their web site:

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

## FINAL NOTES

**George Armanini**

**George Albert "Buzz" Armanini**, Pharm D, born September 15, 1939 in San Jose, died peacefully January 6<sup>th</sup> at his Mountain View home. Buzz owned the Sunnyvale Clinic Pharmacy for 40 years. He was a member of the American Theatre Organ Society.

**Robert Mayer**

In a message from **Kathy Mayer**. Her father **Robert Mayer** of Oakland, CA passed away on January 26<sup>th</sup>. He was a member of both NorCal TOS and National. Kathy put *NorCal TOS* in the obituary for donations.

## NEW MEMBER

We welcome new members:  
**Rev. Earl L & Darleen Langguth**  
from Penn Valley, CA

## NorCal BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Every NorCal member is entitled to request copies of the Minutes of meetings of the NorCal Board of Directors, which meets 6 times a year.

Requests should be sent to the Secretary, whose email address and telephone number are published at the bottom of Page One of every issue of the Windsheet.

## NorCal WEBSITE

We 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 it!

[TheatreOrgans.com/norcal](http://TheatreOrgans.com/norcal)

(Ken Double continued from Page One)  
crop to enjoy the experience of this year's camp in the Phoenix, AZ area, with the most appropriate addition of **Martin Ellis** heading up the staff.

On behalf of the ATOS Board of Directors and staff, and with gratitude on behalf of the entire membership, I say *Thank you* and congratulations to the Board and membership of NorCal for instituting this matching grant program for the SYC. It is hoped that this program idea might 'catch on' with other ATOS chapters, demonstrating once again NorCal's leadership position as one of ATOS' truly outstanding local chapters.

My best to you all in 2009.

Sincerely,  
Ken Double, President and CEO  
ATOS

## CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE

First of all, I want to thank all of the folks who attended our Annual meeting. It is one of the Board's chances to have a dialog with the members of NorCal. We appreciate all the suggestions and comments that were communicated. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite anyone who would like to attend our bi-monthly board meetings. The next board meeting is on February 11, in the Scene Shop or on stage at the BCT.

There was one important item that we did not discuss at the Annual Board Meeting, since we ran out of time.

It is important for organizations such as ours to help provide assistance to those future organists that will otherwise not be able to attend the ATOS Summer Youth Camp. The youth camp is a chance to pass on the musical knowledge of artists such as **Jonas Nordwall** and **Jelani Eddington**. NorCal is doing its part by offering to match up to \$1500 in contributions by our members to this scholarship fund. We will all benefit from the talents of these future performers.

NorCal will also be hosting an ATOS Summer Senior Camp in June 2009, for those who are no longer youths (sigh), and we have volunteered to host the ATOS Summer Youth Camp for 2010.

*Neal*



## EDITOR'S RAVINGS

With a respectful nod to **Carol Zerbo**, President of *Sierra Chapter ATOS*, I'm going to quote a paragraph from this month's *The Organ Spiel*:

"And, speaking of attending, one of our own was called upon, on very short notice, to play for about 700 fifth and sixth graders at Grant Union High School. **Joyce Clifford** played the organ for about 30 minutes before a presentation by **Michael Morgan**, conductor of the Sacramento Symphony. Maestro Morgan brought a couple of his orchestra musicians along to demonstrate their instruments in a sort of *show and tell* program. Guess what – the kids were mesmerized by the organ! Morgan wisely asked Joyce to remain for the question-answer period and she fielded some very good questions about how that music box full of air worked and what it takes to play one."

Carol goes on to point out that this was a perfect example of "getting the message out to the younger generation." It should be obvious to all of us that we are fighting a losing battle with nature if we neglect to pay attention to the demographics of our membership and our audiences. The competition for the ears, minds, and hearts of young people is impressive. But who among us would hesitate to say with conviction that comparing the rich experience of a live pipe organ concert with the no-doubt exciting and certainly loud exposure to a hip hop or other modern 'musical' event could result in anything short of an appreciation of what **real** music holds in store for their young ears?

I know that in the past many overtures have been made to Berkeley High School and other schools, offering to cooperate with their musical programs, and that these have usually been met with apathy. But I propose that we renew efforts to find *just one or two* music teachers who will find merit in discussing an introduction to pipe organ music—not limited to theatre styling—as a valuable tile in the mosaic of their music education program. If we can succeed in integrating *one class period* into *one school*, we will lay the groundwork for expansion and open the world of pipe organ music to some young people.

Windsheet

If *you*, as a parent or grandparent or through any contacts you may have with a local school music department, could just pique someone's interest enough to agree to have someone participate in a discussion of the potential to expose school children to the beauty of pipe organ music, ***please take on the responsibility of doing so and informing us of your action.*** Thank you for your valuable support!

## FOR SALE

Dear Theatre Organ Friends,  
My **Allen Renaissance GW-319** theatre organ is for sale. It is a wonderful instrument and was meticulously voiced by **Lyn Larsen** and **Chris Gorsuch** for a concert in August 1999 that featured Mr. **Larsen** and **Tom Hazleton** in a duo concert at Trinity Church, Spring Valley. The voicing has not been changed since that concert and includes many nuances and refinements not usually found on a digital instrument.

The organ has seven channels and speakers, four for the main division, two for the solo division and one subwoofer. The subwoofer is a finished cabinet, the other six (large cabinets with 15" woofers) are unfinished.

Covers for the console, bench and music rack are included. A large organ dolly constructed by **Bob Knight** is also included.

I have not set a price since I am not familiar with what a used instrument of this type sells for - I only know what it listed for new and what I paid for it. If you are interested, please contact me via e-mail reply or phone me at **760/746-7469** or **858/829-4105** and maybe we can work out a deal. If you are interested in hearing or playing the organ, I live in **Escondido, CA**.

Thank you,  
**Jeff Johnson** - President, Theatre Organ Society of San Diego

## DONATION

We have received a Matching Grant from **FM Global** to the generous donation from:

**Bert Atwood** of Kelseyville, CA

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, February 8, 2009** — *Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, Fair Oaks, CA* (just North of Sacramento) **Sierra Chapter Concert at 2:00 p.m.** — *The Gospel According to Paul* — **Paul Quarino**  
More info is at:

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

**Saturday, February 14, 2009** — **S.F. Silent Film Festival – Annual Winter Event**

(see article in this issue on Page Two)

More information is at:

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

NorCal presents:



**Friday, February 27 and March 6, 2009** — *California Theatre*, San Jose, California (silent film event sponsored by *The Stanford Theatre Foundation*)

**Feb 27 at 7:00 PM**—Dennis James plays—**D. W. Griffith's *The Birth of a Nation***

More info and tickets at:

[cinequest.org/event\\_view.php?eid=560](http://cinequest.org/event_view.php?eid=560)

**Mar 6 at 7:00 PM**—Dennis James plays—**D. W. Griffith's *Intolerance***

More info and tickets at:

[cinequest.org/event\\_view.php?eid=561](http://cinequest.org/event_view.php?eid=561)

NorCal presents:



**Friday, April 17th, 2009, 6:30 PM** — *Bob Hope Theatre, Stockton, CA* — **Classic Silent Film, *Safety First*** (Harold Lloyd) with **Jim Riggs** on the *Robert Morton* More info and tickets at: [bobhopetheatre.com](http://bobhopetheatre.com)

**Saturday, April 18, 2009** — **MORTON MADNESS XV** — **Mark Herman** at *NorCal TOS/Sierra Chapter Special Event* 1:00 PM—Harmony Wynelands, Lodi ~ Ironstone Vineyards, Murphys—Two concerts plus a buffet dinner—\$50 General Admission. **Tickets/Info on Winery & Driving/ Buffet Menu** at: [SierraChapterATOS.org](http://SierraChapterATOS.org) **OR** contact **Neal Wood** (address & phone on Page One) **Ticket orders must be Post-marked by April 10<sup>th</sup>.**

NorCal presents:



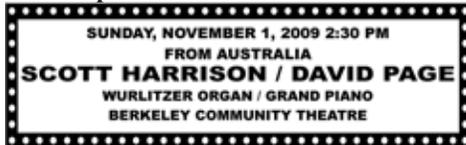
**Sunday, June 14, 2009** — 1:30 PM **Members' free Concert** at *Grace Baptist Church, 484 E San Fernando St, San Jose*

**Sunday, August 23, 2009** — **Members' Picnic** at the *Grass Valley* home of **Ron Bingaman**. More details later.

NorCal presents:



NorCal presents:



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 nights at 8:00 PM, four times each year.

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

## OTHER CHAPTERS

**Sierra Chapter**, Sacramento, CA

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

**Mount Shasta Chapter TOS**

Contact **Al Schoenstein**

([Dschoen940@aol.com](mailto:Dschoen940@aol.com))

## 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 94611-1621

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.