Our November 1st Concert will again feature Australians — Scott Harrison and Mark Page playing both Organ and Piano. These performers are well known in Australia and becoming increasingly popular here in the US.

Scott Harrison began performing on Theatre Organs in 1987, when he was appointed ‘City Organist’ for the City of Moorabbin (now Kingston) on the city’s magnificent 4/21 Wurlitzer. He also presided over TOSA’s prize 3/15 Dendy Wurlitzer.

Scott has toured not only his native Australia, but New Zealand, England and the USA. He studied in the States under Father James Miller in Fenton, Michigan, so is well acquainted with our country.

Mark Page was actually born in England, but Australia has been his home since childhood. While the piano is Mark’s main interest in music, he studied classical guitar and plays the bagpipes with the Australia Highlanders Pipe Band. Mark’s full time profession is as a Dental Officer with the Royal Australian Navy.

Since teaming up together, Scott and Mark have recorded a CD titled ‘Kingston Keys’.

This unusual combination of talented artists is sure to be a highlight of our Concert Year.

A FINAL NOTE

Dennis Fertitta
(1948 - September 23, 2009)

Dennis Fertitta passed away on September 23rd. He was riding his motorcycle when he was hit by a car.

Dennis was an ardent supporter of NorCal and a student of David Hagarty.

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges donations from:

Mr. John W. Elliott
Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Gardner
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Parker
Ms. Carol S. Zerbo

John Giacchi Concert
September 20, 2009

Review — Don Ravey

After enjoying the young Australian lawyer’s first concert at Berkeley Community Theatre since almost exactly seven years ago, I can’t imagine why we haven’t had John Giacchi back sooner. His command of the Wurlitzer, his varied repertoire and his stage personality are among the best.

Although I was late to arrive, I heard most of his rousing up-console number, All’s Fair In Love And War; a Joan Blondell and Dick Powell number. For the first item on his program, John played a wonderful orchestral transcription of Tchaikovsky’s Waltz of the Flowers with what I thought was perfect expression and tempo, somehow producing all the contrapuntal parts that are so familiar to us all.

That was followed by an old Perry Como hit, Black Moonlight, that John learned by

George Wright Memorial Concert

This year’s Annual Concert – the 12th one memorializing the great George Wright, will be held Sunday, November 15th at 2 PM at Grant Union High School 1400 Grand Ave, Sacramento where Wright was a student.

Many NorCal members attend these concerts, and with Chris Gorsuch as the artist it would be a good time for more to start. [Maybe NorCal could arrange a bus for next year—Pub.] see Upcoming Events on Page 4 for details.

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listening to George Wright’s rendition. It was very bluesy and melodiouus.

We were then treated to a Sidney Torch composition, On A Spring Note, which was new to me, and was something of a knuckle buster.

To round out the first half of his concert, John put together a half dozen songs in a medley from the 1947 movie, Good News. It included several Buddy DeSylva songs like The Best Things In Life Are Free and Varsity Drag. I couldn’t recognize all of them, but I noted John’s great talent for blending from the end of one tune into the beginning of the next, which is called a segue.

After the intermission, John presented an interesting song called Serenade For A Wealthy Widow, whose title he didn’t fully explain to us.

Then we enjoyed a fine treatment of Waltz In Swing Time, written by Jerome Kern, Robert Bennett and Hal Borne especially for Fred Astaire, for the 1936 movie, Swing Time. This is the movie which introduced such other Kern classics as Pick Yourself Up, The Way You Look Tonight, and A Fine Romance. As John remarked about the waltz, it was easy to visualize Astaire and Rogers dancing to this clever mix of waltz and swing rhythms.

In a major change of mood, we then heard our thoroughly theatre style Wurlitzer perform an Edward Elgar transcription, with gradual crescendos and decrescendos, mostly hand-registered by John. Even though he pointedly used tremulants, the music would have been appropriate for any concert hall or cathedral.

A short, snappy number from the 1920’s called Dainty Miss by Bernard Barnes picked up the tempo.

To finish a wonderful concert, John gave us a powerful orchestral rendering of Richard Rodgers’ Victory At Sea Symphonic Scenario that employed effects such as the surf machine and other effects John created with his adroit fingers. Victory at Sea was written as background music for a documentary TV series of the same name about naval warfare during World War II, which was originally shown by NBC in 26 half-hour segments on Sunday afternoons, from Fall 1952 through Spring 1953. The score identifies passages in the music as Song Of The High Seas (main theme), Submarines In A Calm Sea, Beneath The Southern Cross (the tango that became popular as No Other Love Have I), Theme Of Growing And Building, Fiddlin’ Off Watch, The Sunny Pacific Islands, The Approaching Enemy, The Attack, Death And Debris and the Hymn of Victory.

John was brought back for an encore by a delighted audience. Starting off quite solemnly, it took a few bars before most of us recognized that he was playing Australia’s unofficial national anthem, Waltzing Matilda. It didn’t stay solemn for very long, though, giving way to the energetic pace that one associates with the land down under. Wikipedia reveals that the song is a folk tune for which words were written in 1887, and the song even has its own museum, the Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton, Queensland! Just when we thought he was finished, John segued into Never On Sunday, which drew many laughs.

I feel sure we won’t have to wait another seven years to hear John play our Wurlitzer again. Of course, those of you who bought one of his CDs or who will do so, may enjoy his talented approach to theatre organ music whenever they wish.

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, November 8**
- **Sunday, December 6**
- **Sunday, January 10**

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 (510) 644-2707 on that Sunday morning to confirm that the theatre is available. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way. If you would like an emailed reminder, email Chris your name and email to: theatreorgans.com/norcal/emailus.asp

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**CHAIRMAN’S WINDLINE**

It is NorCal concert season once again. I hope you had a chance to catch the season opener. John Giacchi gave us a wonderful performance. I especially enjoyed his rendition of Victory at Sea. It was unfortunate that the theatre’s public address system died once again. For those of us that couldn’t hear the artist comments, you can check out Don Ravey’s review herein for all the song titles. By the way, Bill Schlotter found the problem with the PA system and it is now fixed, fingers crossed. Thanks, Bill.

It is also Nominating Committee season again. Kevan Lesch has graciously volunteered to chair the committee. He will be working with Bill Schlotter and Warren Lubich to seek out nominees.

Following is an excerpt of the section of the By-Laws pertaining to the nomination process:

Members may suggest in writing to the Nominating Committee the names of Active Members for consideration. [Chair Kevan Lesch’s address is: Kevan Lesch, PO Box 4520, San Mateo CA, 94404-0520–Rea].

Nominations for the office of Director may be made by Active Members of the Society, *[active] means a member of both NorCal and ATOS*, with the consent of the Nominee and his or her agreement to serve, if elected. Such nominations shall be submitted in writing, including each Nominee’s consent and agreement, to the Nominating Committee no later than November 10, signed by no fewer than two (2) Active Members. Nominations shall close on November 15. No later than December 1, the Nominating Committee Chairman shall submit the names of all nominees to the Chairman and to the Secretary. If, after the close of nominations, the number of people nominated and qualified for the Board is not more than the number of Directors to be elected, the Board may declare, for the record, that those nominated and qualified to be elected have been elected in accordance with this section. No later than December 15, if there are a greater number of nominees than positions to be filled, the Secretary will prepare ballots listing the names of all Nominees...

(The By-Laws go on to discuss the balloting process and the voting process by the members, Balloting is required if there are a greater number of nominees for the number of positions to be filled. Currently, there is only one position available.)

So much for business. I’m looking forward to our next Concert November 1st. I think you will enjoy this grand piano and organ performance by Scott Harrison and Mark Page. Neat!
This was a real nice clambake,  
We’re mighty glad we came.  
The vittles we et  
Were good, you bet,  
The company was the same.  
Our hearts are warm, our bellies are full,  
And we are feeling prime.  
This was a real nice clambake,  
And we all had a real good time

This verse from Rodgers & Hammerstein’s Carousel captures the spirit of our picnic at Gay & Ron Bingaman’s house August 23rd.

About 40 people came, including a number from Sierra Chapter as well as some of Gay & Ron’s friends.

The Bingaman’s house made a perfect setting with Gay’s beautifully designed interior, the many porches overlooking the beautiful valley, and, of course, Ron’s wonderful organ.

Quite a few of the guests played the organ, and the rest of us enjoyed listening to the music. Although technically a ‘bring-your-own-food’ picnic, Ron and Gay supplied soft drinks and snacks, and others shared extra food.

Several of us made the trek down to the water-driven power house. Some rode the tractor down, while I joined the walkers.

Ron’s hydro-power plant supplies almost all of the electricity he uses – and then some. The men especially enjoyed Ron’s explanation of how it worked, and why his water is measured by the ‘Miners’ Inch’.

On the way back up the hill I got to feed the Bingaman’s four llamas, and found them both bigger and friendlier than I had expected. And I learned the llama called ‘Dolly’ last month is really named ‘Dalai Llama’ – a colorful and fitting name.

A big vote of thanks is due Ron and Gay for their hospitality!

— Jan La Fetra
UPCOMING EVENTS

Sierra Chapter
Friday, October 23rd 8 PM
Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde (1920)
Paul Quario at the Organ
California Auto Museum, 2200 Front St,
Sacramento
sierrachapterATOS.org

Los Angeles TOS
Sunday, October 25th 2:30 PM
Phantom of the Opera (1924)
Russ Peck at the Organ
San Gabriel Mission Playhouse,
320 Mission Bl, San Gabriel
latos.org

NorCal presents—
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2010 2:30 PM
WALT STRONY
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Sierra Chapter
Sunday, November 15, 2009—2:30 PM
12th Annual George Wright Memorial Concert
Chris Gorsuch, Artist
Grant Union High School, 1400 Grand,
Sacramento
$10 General Admission, Students under 21 free.
For advance sales and/or directions go to:
sierrachapterATOS.org

NEXT YEAR (2010)

Sierra Chapter
Sunday, January 10th 2010—2PM
Nathan Avakian ATOS’s Young Artist of 2009
Fair Oaks Community Center
7997 California Av, Fairoaks, Sacramento
sierrachapterATOS.org

NorCal Chapter
Sunday, January 24, 2010
Concert at 2 PM - BCT
artist TBA
Annual Business Meeting follows

NorCal presents—
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010 2:30 PM
DONNA PARKER
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

NorCal presents—
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010 2:30 PM
CHRIS GORSUCH
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Sierra and NorCal Chapters
Saturday, April 17, 2010
Morton Madness
Kautz Ironstone Winery, Murphys, CA
artist TBA
Midday Concert & Buffet Lunch

NorCal presents—
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009 2:30 PM
FROM AMERICA
SCOTT HARRISON / MARK PAGE
WURLITZER ORGAN / GRAND PIANO
BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

OTHER VENUES

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

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

StanfordTheatre.org

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

NEW MEMBERS
We welcome:
Janet Mullin of Walnut Creek.
Gary L. Youngs of Santa Clara

EDITOR’s NOTES

One of the joys of being a long time lover of Theatre Organs is watching bright young performers grow into mature and wonderful artists.

John Giacchi, whom NorCal just heard, is a case in point. We first met him at the ATOS Convention in 1997, where he played at the Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, Ind. While planning an extended trip to Australia’s TOSA Convention for April, 1999 we wrote a number of people, including John, for ideas of what to see on our trip, and especially any Theatre Organs that might be playing.

Australians are a friendly folk, and most wrote back with ideas. John’s note was especially gracious and we were glad to meet him again and hear him play at the TOSA Convention. Frank and I both remarked at the time that this was truly an artist to watch, and those of you attending his concert will certainly agree he has more than lived up to our expectations.

ATOS’s Young Artist of the year, Nathan Avakian of Oregon will be the artist at Sierra Chapter’s January 10th concert. While I can’t confirm it at this point, I am told that he is a student of Donna Parker’s and has been coached by Jonas Nordwall. In any case, this is a young artist worth watching.

(See Upcoming Events)

A tip when traveling—Check the local Organ Societies to see if there are any programs you want to hear while there. You can find out about Chapter Events at www.ATOS.org and clicking on ‘Find a Local Chapter’.

I try to provide information on other chapter’s events, but sometimes there isn’t room in the Windsheet or the dates don’t fit with our print schedule. Sometimes I just goof – and have to admit that was the case, in missing Local Chapter’. I hope some of you got the word and went.

FOR SALE

Two Allen MDS-17 3-manual Theatre Organs owned by member Dennis Fertitta (see Page 1)). Prices at $20,000 for the larger & $18,000 for the smaller, or best offer. Go to: barton.theatreorgans.com/AdSearch_1.ASP?%5BType%5D=Sell
(Within Internet Explorer, select Edit, then Find on THIS PAGE, type Reno in the Find Box, then click Next; The Reno items will be ‘highlighted.’)

Contact Damien Fertitta at (775)287-4988 for more details.

Page Four
October/November 2009

Windsheet