
The WINDSHEET



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

www.norcaltos.org
January 2010

NORCAL CONCERT MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING INFORMAL DINNER JANUARY 24, 2009, 2 PM



Please note that the Concert at the BCT is at 2 PM, not the usual 2:30 PM Concert Time. This is to allow time for the all important Annual Meeting that NorCal is required to have once a year to maintain their non-profit, tax exempt, educational 501(c)(3) status. Your participation in the business decisions of our association is vital and your attendance is needed to provide a quorum in order to conduct any business that may be brought forward.

But before the business meeting, we have a real treat — Don Feely will be our concert artist.

Don began playing the theatre pipe organ while in high school, practicing on a Kimball theatre organ which was at Benson High School in Portland. For two years he performed on the 5/24 Marr & Colton in the *Sherwood Oriental Theatre* and then the Wurlitzer theatre organ that followed. He holds BM and MA degrees in music education from *Lewis & Clark*

College in Portland. As a recitalist, he has performed in Portland for *ATOS*, *AGO* and *OHS* conventions. He was a featured organist at the *Organ Grinder Restaurant* in Portland for over 11 years, performing there on the 4/51 Wurlitzer. Currently he is organist at *St. Andrews Presbyterian Church* in Portland and teaches band and choir at *Ackerman Middle School* in Canby, Oregon. Don and his wife Heidi, along with their four children, are in the process of installing a 3/16 Wurlitzer in their home.

For a number of reasons this year there will not be a 'formal' dinner after the concert. However, many members are planning to go to Brennan's Restaurant at 720 University Avenue in Berkeley for an informal and sociable dinner. Brennan's is a 'buffet style' restaurant where you pay after you go through the line. All NorCal Members are welcome and directions will be available at the concert/meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome:

- Mr. Larry Kukan of San Francisco
- Nicolie A. Bolster-Ott of Berkeley

DONATIONS

NorCal gratefully acknowledges donations from:

- Mr. Chris Nichols
- Mr. Floyd E. Werle
- Mr. Neal Wood
- Mr. Art Woodworth

NorCal BOARD 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 is published at the bottom of Page One of each issue of the Windsheet.

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

CHAIRMAN	VICE CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER	EDITOR Pro Tem	PROGRAM	MEMBERSHIP
Neal R. Wood	Judson H. Owens	Arthur Woodworth	Frank La Fetra	Janice La Fetra	Gordon A. Pratt	Neal R. Wood
523 Corbett Avenue	1730 Virginia St.	600 Coventry Road	3167 Falls Creek Dr.	3167 Falls Creek Dr	15942 Via Cordoba	523 Corbett Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94114	Berkeley, CA 94703	Kensington, CA 94707	San Jose, CA 95135	San Jose, CA 95135	San Lorenzo, CA 94580	San Francisco, CA 94114
415/861-7082	510/848-8714	510/524-7452	408/532-1044	408/532-1044	510/276-8102	415/861-7082
nealwood@pacbell.net	jud.owens@gmail.com	awoodworth@bigfoot.com	frank@lafetra.com	jan@lafetra.com	aznme2@webtv.net	nealwood@pacbell.net

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



Nominating Committee results:

This year, the Nominating Committee's duties were performed by the Committee Chairman **Kevan Lesch**, **Bill Schlotter**, and **Warren Lubich**. Thank you for all your efforts for finding a very suitable candidate. The Board has approved the nomination of **Bill Coale** as a new member to the board. 'Doc' Bill is a recent arrival to the Bay Area, but has been a member of NorCal since the 2008 ATOS Convention. He has a Ph.D in Education Administration (Hence the 'Doc' moniker), and his interests are Theatre Organ (of course), and ragtime music. He has also become a regular member of the NorCal work crew. When you get a chance, please give a welcome Doc Bill. For the computer geeks, check out **Bill Coale** on YouTube.

Bus to Ironstone:

Morton Madness is no more. The good news is the event has evolved into a Pops Concert at the *Ironstone Winery*. Let me explain:

In the past, *Morton Madness* was held at two locations; *Harmony Wynelands* in Lodi, and *Ironstone Winery* in Murphys, CA. To take in both events required a major amount of travel time for the attendees, and a lot of preparation for the artist to put on two events in one day. It was decided by both Sierra and NorCal chapters and the owners of *Ironstone Winery* to host one concert at Ironstone. The concert will be held on Saturday, April 17th, 2010, starting with a buffet lunch at 12:30, followed by a two-hour concert. This year the artist will be **Martin Ellis**.

NorCal is exploring the possibility of providing bus transportation to the event. We are at the beginning of the investigation. We have to determine the departure location, number of passengers, and the costs involved. You could help us greatly if you could let us know if you would be interested in the bus ride. Please contact the NorCal chapter either via the NorCal answering machine or by the 'Send A Note' option on the website.

Neal

🎵 A FINAL NOTE 🎵

Lorraine Smith

About 1918 - November 11, 2009

Long time members of NorCal remember Lorraine as the gracious lady who hosted our Annual Picnic in 1992 and 1995. She and her deceased husband, Al, built a lovely Chalet style home in 1969 and installed a two manual *Smith Organ* which Lorraine played.

About 10 years ago she moved to Carlsbad, CA to be near her children and grandchildren.

END OF A VENUE

December 6th saw the last concert of DTOS' *Fisher Theatre Organ* in the Senate Theater in Detroit. According to **Chris Nichols** it had a wonderful sound, and had a number of ranks not normally found in a Wurlitzer. The Senate Theater is being sold, and the organ is going into storage, but (thankfully) will not be 'parted out'. We wish DTOS good luck in finding another home for the organ. For details, go to:

<http://www.dtos.org/History.html>

ERRATA

In the last Windsheet **Dave Hegarty's** name was misspelled in the note on **Dennis Fertitta's** death. [It was spelled correctly elsewhere—Pub.]

EDITOR'S COLUMN



Most reading this are ATOS members and thus get ATOS' very professionally done magazine, *Theatre Organ*. The latest issue contains three very different articles of particular interest to NorCal members.

First, under 'Chapter News' on page 55, **Elbert Dawson** has written a very nice summary of our Chapter's recent activities for ATOS members across the country to read. Thanks, Elbert!

Second, on page 26 under 'Professional Perspectives', **Ed Stout** has written a wonderful tribute to the **Taylor Family** and their dedication to all things Theatre Organ, and the Castro Theatre in particular. Ed's wonderful style of writing makes reading his tribute to **Ray, Doris, Bill and Dick** a fun read even if you don't know the Taylors.

Finally, on page 10 under 'News & Notes' is the 'Youth Corner' with comments by **Nathan Avakian**, winner of this year's Young Organist Award. Nathan made some very interesting comments. He was asked (among other things), "What do you think ATOS can do to help promote the theatre organ to the younger audience?" Among his answers were: "ATOS needs to start doing more integration of the organ with other things, such as theatre organ and orchestras, dancing, and theatrics"; "organ enthusiasts are an isolated crowd"; and "to expand the instrument to more people in ways we haven't used the instrument before".

These thoughts are worth considering, and those who have heard Nathan play tell us he is well worth listening to on the organ as well. The first chance most of us will have to hear this up-and-coming artist will be January 10th when he plays for our neighboring Sierra Chapter. Frank and I are planning to attend that concert, and hope to see you there as well.

—Jan La Fetra



**Scott Harrison and
Mark Page
at the BCT November 1, 2009**

Review -- Don Ravey

For the day after Halloween, the BCT stage was appropriately rigged, with red lighting on the gold back drape creating a perfect pumpkin orange and black. The orchestra lift featured both the Center Theatre console and a Baldwin grand piano, as well.

Scott Harrison, who owns a music store in Brisbane, Australia, has played Chapter concerts here in 2002 and 2006, both times at the Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland.

Mark Page, originally from Australia, but currently living in Washington, DC, first met Scott about 4 years ago, when he bought a piano from his store. They have been concertizing as an organ-piano duet ever since.

I enjoyed this concert and especially admired the skills of Mark Page, a hitherto unknown talent to me. His performance of Debussy's *L'isle Joyeux* was impressive. Scott Harrison brought us a varied and interesting program. His registrations were artful, although I felt that at times they overpowered the piano, when the piano carried the melody line. Scott also stylizes some of his repertoire by slightly modifying either the melody or the rhythm in ways that I find less attractive than the original.

On the other hand, the interplay of the two instruments, when the piano wasn't

being dominated by the Wurlitzer, was quite effective. And I absolutely loved his treatment of his final selection from *Phantom of the Opera*, *Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again*.

We were treated to several presumably Aussie musical numbers (even though some were not written by Australians), including the soaring musical theme from a 1982 movie starring Kirk Douglas, *The Man From Snowy River*.

An unexpected highlight was when Scott announced that he would play a Scottish piece called *Highland Cathedral*. As it began, we heard the definitely-not-dominated sounds of a bagpipe and turned around to see Mark in full Scottish regalia, marching down the left-hand aisle from the rear of the theatre, playing a bagpipe with consummate skill! Finishing up on the stage, he went on to play the traditional *Scotland the Brave* with Scott accompanying him at the console.

Scott Harrison has released several CDs, one with Mark Page.

PLAYLIST

Unless noted otherwise, selections were played as organ-piano duets:

- ¹ Piano solo, Mark Page
- ² Organ solo, Scott Harrison
- ³ Organ-bagpipes duet

Up console:

Raiders March – John Williams

First half:

Rodgers & Hammerstein Medley:

Do Re Mi and **My Favorite Things** from

Sound of Music, **Carousel Waltz** from

Carousel, **Bali Hai** from *South Pacific*,

Oh, What A Beautiful Mornin' from

Oklahoma, **It Might As Well Be Spring**
from *State Fair*

Memory from *Cats* – Sir Andrew Lloyd
Webber

**An Der Schöne Blauen Donau (On the
Beautiful Blue Danube)** – Johann Strauss II

Play A Simple Melody – Irving Berlin

George Gershwin Medley:

**Swanee¹, I've Got Rhythm¹,
Summertime²**

Sentimental Journey² – Les Brown, Bud
Green and Benjamin Homer

Highland Cathedral³ – Ulrich Roever
and Michael Korb

Scotland the Brave³ – traditional
Intermission

Second half:

Up console:

Liberty Bell March – John Philip Sousa

Black Sheep – John Rutter

Singin' In The Rain – Arthur Freed and
Nacio Herb Brown

L'isle Joyeux¹ – Claude Debussy

Londonderry Air¹ – traditional

St. Louis Blues² – W. C. Handy

Selections from Phantom of the Opera²
– Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber:

**Phantom theme, All I Ask Of You,
Music Of The Night, Wishing You Were
Somehow Here Again**

Selections from Snowy River – Bruce
Rowland

Encore:

The Vatican Rag – Tom Lehrer

An Unsolicited Review!

“Organs are not dead - reviving the classic instrument at Berkeley's Community Theatre” was the title of a nice review by Cristina Deptula, who attended our November Concert. Christina is a member of Gordon Pratt's Church Thanks, Gordon & Cristina. To see the review:

synchchaos.com/?p=1252#

**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, January 10

Sunday, February 11

Sunday, March 21

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, Chris Nichols, ensures that any NorCal member feels comfortable. Chris 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 that the theatre is available. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NorCal Events

Open Console BCT
Sundays – Jan. 10, Feb. 21, March 21
(see Page 3)



No Host dinner afterwards at Brennans,
720 University Ave, Berkeley



Pops Concert at Ironstone
(Formerly Morton Madness)

April 17, 2010

Martin Ellis

Hosted by Ironstone Winery
and Sierra & NorCal Chapters
(see Page 2)

SierraChapterATOS.org



Other Chapter's Events

Sierra Chapter

Nathan Avakian

Sunday, January 10th, 2 PM

Fair Oaks Clubhouse

7997 California Ave., Sacramento

(See Editor's Column on Page 2)

sierrachapterATOS.org

Los Angeles TOS

Wurlitzer Weekend, January 15 – 17

1-888-528-6722 latos.org

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**. (415) 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 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.

Stanford Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA. The organ is played before and between films. (650) 324-3700

StanfordTheatre.org

NORCAL WEBSITE

Through the efforts of **Don Ravey**, NorCal now has their own website independent of ATOS. Calls to the old web address are automatically re-directed to the new address below.

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.

There is also an up-to-date Events Calendar online. Be sure to visit it!

norcaltos.org

BETHARDS' OPEN HOUSE

Hopefully many NorCal members were able to attend **Jack Bethards'** Open House held at the *Schoenstein* Facility in Benicia on Sunday, December 6th. (Unfortunately, notice wasn't received in time for the last Windsheet.)

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Have you admired the blue membership badges that many NorCal members wear to concerts? They are available for **\$13** shipped 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> , 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.