
The WINDSHEET



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

www.norcaltos.org
February 2010



DONNA PARKER in NorCal Concert at the BCT Sunday February 14, 2010 — 2:30 PM

NorCal is privileged to have Portland's lovely **Donna Parker** as our guest artist this month.

Her resume is impressive. Donna started early, playing the organ at age four, and making her 1st recording at age fifteen. She has studied with many well known theatre organists, and is a member of the *Trio con Brio* with **Jonas Nordwall** and **Martin Ellis**.

A very versatile player, Donna is at home at theatres, pizza joints, churches and even sports arenas.

She was named ATOS Organist of the Year in 1996 and she has an active concert schedule not only across the US, but also in Europe, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand.

She is on the ATOS Board of Directors, and takes a special interest in youth programs.

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.

LADIES NIGHT!

Actually, it is an afternoon treat for all of us. But as it is rare to have such a talented female artist like Donna Parker this is the perfect time to talk to ladies who might not yet be in love with Theatre Organ. While we do not have any 'give-a-ways' for ladies, First Timers are always Free.

DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Bert Atwood

(and for Matching Funds Received)
Bank of America
F.M. Global Foundation

A tip from Donna Parker

—via Chris Nichols

There is an interesting project going on in Portland. The Youth Silent Film Festival will be a chance for filmmakers under the age of 20 to create a modern version of silent film (3 minutes) and see it on the big screen with supplied live organ accompaniment, and win cash prizes!

The festival is designed to foster creation and celebration of silent film and to raise awareness for and appreciation of the artistry of live film music. It will be held June 6-9, 2010 at the Hollywood Theatre in Portland. For more information go to:

<http://www.makesilentfilm.com>

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

There have been requests to publish a NorCal Membership Roster so NorCal members could more easily contact each other. Many members would like to be more social and such a roster would help.

Any member could 'opt out' and there would be a legal notice that the information is **RESTRICTED TO NORCAL MEMBERS AND TO BE USED ONLY FOR NORCAL PURPOSES.**

What do YOU think? Let any Board Member know your thoughts as they discuss this possibility.

NEW MEMBER

John D. Whitmore, Santa Clara, CA

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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.



DON FEELY AT BCT

January 24, 2010

—by Don Ravey

Many of us were not familiar with **Don Feely**, who hasn't played regularly on the theatre organ circuit for awhile. Don lives near Portland, Oregon and was one of the staff organists at the Portland Organ Grinder pizza restaurant for more than ten years, but is now a music, band and choir teacher, as well as being involved with drama productions in the Portland area. After college, he toured across the country for two years as a music director for the *Miss Teen America* pageants, arranging and conducting music for pageants.

Don was certainly at home, playing NorCal's 41-rank Wurlitzer. His program was refreshing, and I heard several comments from audience members who expressed the opinion that if all our concerts had the variety and spread of music that Don presented, we might attract more young people to our favorite music genre. His registrations were particularly well chosen, in my opinion. I heard several combinations that I couldn't identify and don't think I've heard before from our instrument.

As can be seen from the playlist below, the range of music went from Disney movies to the classics, Sousa marches to ragtime, 1950's nostalgia to gospel.

Our console video projector made it especially interesting for me (I play at an amateur level), to observe his finger substitution and other playing techniques.

Just a few of the delightful tonal combinations that I took note of were the use of just the untremmed *Harmonic Flute* on the *Solo* manual in his sensitive rendition of the theme from the movie *Schindler's List*, and the convincing orchestral arrangement of **Elgar's** *Enigma Variations*, and his two handed *open chording* on the Bombarde (the 3rd manual from the bottom) during the **Rodgers & Hart** tune, *You Are Too Beautiful*. All of these reflected a true musical understanding, beyond simply playing the right notes.

I thoroughly enjoyed Don Feely's concert for NorCal's 2010 Annual Meeting.

PLAYLIST

Up console:

Anything Goes – *Cole Porter*

First half:

Colors of the Wind from Disney's Pocahontas – *Alan Menken & Stephen Schwartz*

1950's Medley:

Banana Boat Song ("Day-O!"), Unchained Melody, Why Do Fools Fall In Love, I Can't Help Falling in Love With You, Mr. Sandman

Under the Double Eagle

march by *Joseph Wagner*

Nimrod from The Enigma Variations

– *Edward Elgar*

Reindeer Rag (1914) – *Joseph Lamb*

John Williams Medley:

E.T. theme, Schindler's List theme, Raiders March

INTERMISSION

Second half:

Up console:

That's A Plenty – *Jimmy & Marian McPartland*

You Are Too Beautiful – *Richard Rodgers*

Disney films Medley:

Zipadee Doo Dah (from *Song of the South*, 1946), **Supercalifragilistic-expialidocious** (from *Mary Poppins*, 1964), **Bare Necessities** (from *The Jungle Book*, 1967), several songs from *Aladdin*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *The Little Mermaid*, and **When You Wish Upon A Star** (from *Pinocchio*, 1940)

Solomon Oratorio – *George Friderick Handel*

La Isla Bonita (the beautiful island) – *Madonna*

Patriotic Medley:

America the Beautiful, It's A Grand Old Flag, My Country 'Tis Of Thee, Shenandoah, The Battle Hymn of the Republic, Stars and Stripes Forever

Encore:

How Majestic Is Your Name
Michael Smith (Gospel)

ORGAN RALLY

in Hanford, California

Sunday January 31 was the 'Magnificent Pipes of Hanford' first-time Hanford event showcasing its local pipe organs and various imported monkey organs and a nifty style 105 Wurlitzer band organ.

The weather was perfect. A wonderful lunch was catered in the 1924 Civic Auditorium where a local high school jazz band (they were darn good!) alternated with several organs lining the walls of the Civic. Nearly across the street, the group heard the recreated style 216 Wurlitzer theatre organ in the Hanford Fox Theatre, and next door, the 1912 Möller church organ in First Presbyterian Church. It is the second oldest Möller west of the Mississippi River. Upon leaving the Fox Theatre, Civic Auditorium, and Presbyterian church various portable organs were played. The din was a kick.

As people queued up for the lunch, the various organs were played around the central park in Hanford onto which the Fox Theatre, Presbyterian Church and Civic Auditorium face. After lunch, the group of 221 walked to the nearby Episcopal Church of the Savior to hear the original 1910 Murray M. Harris organ. Buses took the group a bit north to the First Christian Reformed Church to hear the powerhouse 3/30 Möller/Estey/Heinz-57 church organ in there. The event closed out about 5:30 PM with a program on the small but powerful 7-rank unit 1927 Wicks organ in First United Methodist Church. After much restoration work, this was the first public event on this organ in 12 years.

This was a great event, and hopefully even more band organs will show for the next rally—there is a good chance there will be another organ rally on April 25, 2010 co-sponsored with the Hanford Vistors Bureau and KVPT public Television.

—Tom DeLay



Nathan Avakian Concert at Fair Oaks

—Bill Coale

Nathan Avakian, 2009 ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition winner, performed at Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse on January 10, 2010. Nathan, from Portland, Oregon, is only 18 and currently studying with **Donna Parker** and **Jonas Nordwall**. He exhibited great talent in both the theatre and classical arenas during this concert for the Sierra ATOS Chapter.

Opening with *Leonard Bernstein's America* from **West Side Story**, Nathan displayed both strong technique and execution of complex rhythmic schemes. *Randy Newman's When She Loved Me* and *Henry Mancini's It Had Better Be Tonight* followed, showing Nathan's comfort with American popular music of different decades. Two 'knuckle-busters' followed, from an earlier era: *George Botsford's Black and White Rag* and *E. T. Paull's descriptive Napoleon's Last Charge*. Both were well-played and full of energy. A beautiful rendition of *Capriccio on the Notes of a Cuckoo* by *Richard Purvis* followed, showing a more sedate and subtle side of the Fair Oaks Wurlitzer. In a move back to pop music, Nathan played *Dave Brubeck's* challenging **Blue Rondo a la Turk**, a beautiful medley from the works of *Henry Mancini* (which included the tunes **Moon River**, **Charade**, and **Baby Elephant Walk**), and *Hoyt Axton's Joy to the World (Jeremiah was a bullfrog...)*.

In a shift back to his Classical training, Nathan next performed a warhorse, *Giacomo Meyerbeer's Coronation March*, mostly off-trem. Another huge contrast in style followed, with **Rock Around the Clock**. This was followed by a pleasant change...a waltz, **Violettes** by *Emile Waldteufel*. Continuing the varied program, Nathan gave a strong performance of *Billy* February 2010

Joel's Root Beer Rag, introduced with Nathan explaining how the piece received its name. Another well-executed quick-tempo piece, *Aram Khachaturian's Sabre Dance* from his ballet **Gayne** followed.

Another nice transition moved us to *George Gershwin's* lush **Embraceable You**, followed by another up-tempo standard, **Cumana**. Then it was off to Broadway for a comprehensive medley from the smash musical **42nd Street**, by *Harry Warren*. Nathan closed his concert with the music from Disney's theme park show extravaganza **Fantasmic** by *Bruce Healey*.

Nathan Avakian is clearly a rising star in the theatre organ world. He is showing wonderful promise under the tutelage of two respected teachers. Perhaps just as important, he has great stage presence, a warm personality, and a self-deprecating humility that endears him to his audience. His creative and varied concert programming assures that the audience will walk out having heard at least one selection that resonated with them. We'll be seeing lots more of Nathan in the years to come, and wish him well as he continues to grow musically. To hear some of Nathan's Fair Oaks selections, please visit the Sierra Chapter's YouTube page at:

<http://www.youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS>

**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

**Sundays, February 21, March 21,
April 11, and, May 23**

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.

Windsheet

**CHAIRMAN'S
WINDLINE**



Happy New Year! I want to thank all of our members and guests who braved the cold and rainy January day to attend our Annual meeting. Don Feely gave a fine performance. Check out Don Ravey's review.

There are a couple of items I would like to bring to your attention. Last year, NorCal matched \$1500 with contributions by our members for a total of \$3000 for the sole purpose to help fund the ATOS youth camp. This project is probably the most important beneficial way to perpetuate the theatre pipe organ and the music it brings. This year we are raising the match to \$2500. I hope you will consider participating in this fund. There will be more information in the next issue of the *Windsheet*.

This year, Ironstone Pops, (formerly Morton Madness), has almost sold out. NorCal purchased all the remaining 'drive yourself' tickets for our members. This is a one-concert event with a buffet lunch at Ironstone Winery, Murphy's, CA. If you are interested in attending, I suggest you *contact me as soon as possible*. (My ADDRESS, PHONE, AND EMAIL are at bottom of Page One.) Tickets are \$39.00. There are also seats available on the bus from Sacramento to Murphy's. Contact Sierra chapter for bus ticket availability:

SierraChapterATOS.org Neal

NORCAL WEBSITE

We now have copies of the current and recent past *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 Events Calendar online. Be sure to visit it!

NorCalTOS.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 11th at 8:00 PM
Oliver Latry will play a *Dedicatory Concert* on the new organ at the *Cathedral of Christ the Light*, 2021 Harrison St., Oakland.

The Concert is free, but tickets are required
 Call 510-496-7280 (Church's Gift Shop) for tickets. Only two tickets per caller.
 Cathedral Website:

ctlcathedral.org



Friday, February 19th

Bob Hope Theatre Stockton

6:30 PM, Organ Concert – **Tom Thompson**
 7 PM, Classic Film *Shadow of a Doubt*
BobHopeTheatre.com

Saturday, February 20th, 8 PM
Max Raabe & Palast Orchester (a
 1920's style big band from Germany)
Paramount Theatre,
 2025 Broadway, Oakland

www.sfbjazz.org/concerts/2010/spring/artists/raabe.php

Open Consoles at BCT

Sundays, February. 21st,

March 21st,

April 11th,

May 23rd



March 19th, 8 PM and March 21st, 2 PM
 Silent film **Buster Keaton's** *The General*
 followed by **Saint-Saëns** *Third Symphony*
 (*Organ*) with **Cristoph Bull** at the organ.
Oakland East Bay Symphony, Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland
oobs.org/page/march_19-21.htm

Friday, March 19th, 7:30 PM
The King of Kings with **Walt Strony**
 Sierra Chapter ATOS Silent Film at
 California Automobile Museum, 2200
 Front St., Sacramento.
sierrachapterATOS.org

Saturday, April 17th, 12 noon
Martin Ellis
Ironstone Pops Concert
 (old Morton Madness)
 Kautz Ironstone Winery, Murphys, CA
 (See Chairman's Windline on Page 3)



EDITOR'S
 Jan La Fetra



There are many interesting 'bits and pieces' in this month's edition so carefully check out the *Upcoming Events* column on this page.

Both **Chris Nichols** and **Tom DeLay** have heard **Olivier Latry** play and say he is very good. Check out the Dedicatory Concert under *Upcoming Events*.

Also, please consider **Neal Wood's** request regarding the *ATOS Youth Camp* (Chairman's Windline).

Please get back to any Board Member with your thoughts about a possible Membership Roster.



CONSOLE POSTERS

Remember the stunning photo quality R₂₄ x 36-inch full-color posters that were in the lobby a while back? There are still a few available, and still at \$20, including sales tax and protective mailing tube.

These posters of our *Center Theater Console* includes a listing of all 42 ranks that can be played from it. They are beautiful to look at and are suitable for framing or mounting.

To order one make your check for \$20 payable to NorCal Theatre Organ Society (Note Poster Order on the check) and mail to :

NorCal Theatre Organ Society
 P.O. Box 625
 Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

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.