N orCal 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.*

**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**.*

**NEW MEMBER**

John D. Whitmore, Santa Clara, CA

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**NEW MEMBER**

John D. Whitmore, Santa Clara, CA
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
marry 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-
expiadocious (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 Frideric
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)

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 Visitors Bureau and KVPT public Television.

—Tom DeLay
Nathan Avakian Concert at Fair Oaks

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 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, Cumania. 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

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

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.

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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, 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)

CONSOLE POSTERS

Remember the stunning photo quality 24 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

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 Christoph Bull at the organ.
Oakland East Bay Symphony, Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland
oebs.org/page/march 19-21.htm

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NorCal Theatre Organ Society
4/42 Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra
Berkeley Community Theater

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.