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# The WINDSHEET



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

www.norcaltos.org  
August 2010



## Warren Lubich Grand Lake Theatre 3200 Grand Ave. Oakland (Corner of Grand and Lake Park Avenues) Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> Doors open at 9 AM—Concert at 9:30

One of the benefits of belonging to NorCal is that in addition to the great artists that come from around the world to play at the BCT, we have a number of outstanding artists who are Chapter Members.

**Warren Lubich** is one of the best, both as an artist and as an active Chapter member. Newcomers may well recognize his friendly face from the **FIRST TIMERS ARE 4 FREE** table which he often runs. To them especially, this concert will be a great treat.

Warren began his formal music education at age seven with four years of classical piano followed by two years of pop arranging and harmony. Upon graduation from college he became involved with the *Avenue Theatre* in San Francisco and its Wurlitzer.

After honing his skills on pipe organs, he was named staff organist at the 'Avenue' and performed the Friday night 'solo spots' until the theatre ceased operation in 1984. In 1978, Warren also became staff organist for *Pizza and Pipes, Inc.* performing first at the Daly City location and then in Redwood City until they ceased operation in 2001.

Warren has done a lot of concerts around the world, performing 27 overseas concerts in England, Australia and New Zealand between 1980 and 2003 as well as several silent movie programs at the *Egyptian Theatre* in Boise, Idaho.

He joined the staff at the *Grand Lake Theatre* in 1993, and was added to the organ staff of the *Castro Theatre* in San Francisco in 2000; he continues to play weekly at both venues.

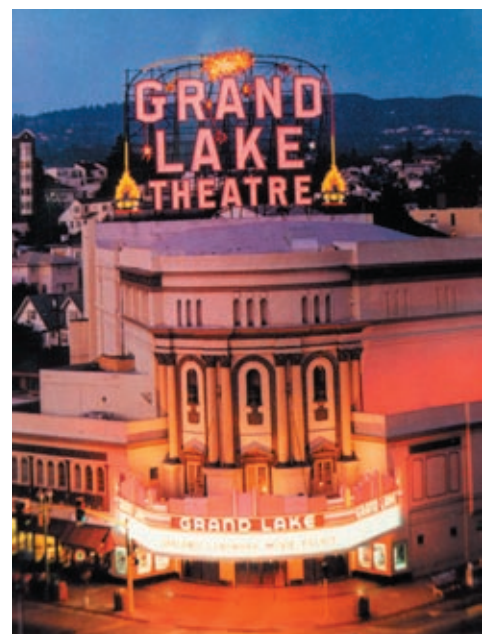
Recently he has made several guest

appearances at the *Golden State Theatre* in Monterey, CA. And as many of our members know, Warren has four CD's to his credit.

Outside his musical life, Warren enjoyed a thirty-six year career as a Staff Research Associate at the University of California's School of Medicine in San Francisco in the fields of osteoporosis and hyper/hypoparathyroidism with the Department of Medicine and brain tumor research with the Department of Neurosurgery. His hobbies include gardening and his collection of vintage automobiles

### \*\* NOTE \*\*

*Parking meters are enforced on Saturdays, but there is a limited amount of unmetered parking across the street and around the block.*



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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.*

## WALT STRONY AT BCT

### MAY 2, 2010

— Review by Don Ravey

Coming from Las Vegas, **Walt Strony** is always a good bet for presenting an enjoyable organ concert. We nearly didn't have the pleasure this time, though, because he injured his ankle a week or so earlier and has only been able to return to organ playing the past few days [before this concert - *Pub*]. We're grateful that he has mostly recovered, although he said his ankle is still black and blue.

Walt is one of this country's finest organists, with a broad repertoire. His technical skills are near perfection and his musical sensibilities are impressive. He authored *Theatre Organ Registration* and is considered one of the real authorities on the subject. All this is evident in a Walt Strony concert, and this concert was no exception.

That said, I must admit that I didn't enjoy his program selections quite as much as I often do at our concerts. I'm a classical music lover, but found his *Come, Sweet Death*, *Liebesfreud* and *Lover, Come Back To Me* rather too heavy for my personal taste. I also thought his *Land of the Pharaohs* and *You Raise Me Up* were tedious. Your mileage may vary.

On the other hand, his **Cole Porter**, **Fats Waller** and **ZeZ Confrey** offerings, especially his wonderful *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* medley, were as bright and interesting as they could possibly be. I also enjoyed the old war horse march, *Burning of Rome* and my introduction to the *Crown Imperial* march, written for and premiered at the coronation of King George VI of England in 1937. Walt's arrangement of **Stevie Wonder's** *You Are the Sunshine of My Life* was delightful. Also the bright latin rhythms and his use of xylophones in **ZeZ Confrey's** *Walse Mirage* made a brilliant tune even more alive.

Our new (this season) video projection system provided a rare opportunity to see the swift and accurate movements of the artist's hands as he made the most of our four manuals, some 364 stop tabs and 70 combination action pistons, not to mention the pull-out slides on either side! Thanks to **Frank La Fetra** for engineering and operating the projection system!

#### PLAYLIST

*Up console:*

- From This Moment On**  
— Cole Porter (1951)

*First half:*

- I've Got A Feelin' I'm Fallin'**  
— *Fats Waller & Harry Link* (1929)  
**You Are The Sunshine Of My Life**  
— *Stevie Wonder* (1973)  
**Liebesfreud**  
— *Fritz Kreisler* (1911)  
**Come, Sweet Death**  
— *J. S. Bach* (1736)  
**Burning of Rome** March  
— *E. T. Paull* (1903)  
**Land of the Pharaohs** from the 1955 film  
— *Kay McAbee, arr.*  
*Intermission*

*Second half:*

- Crown Imperial** March  
— *William Walton* (1937)  
**You Raise Me Up**  
— *Rolf Løvland* (2002)  
**Walse Mirage**  
— *ZeZ Confrey* (1927)  
**Lover, Come Back To Me**  
from *The New Moon*  
— *Sigmund Romberg* (1928)  
**Miserlou**  
— *Greek folk song*  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Street** medley:  
— *Harry Warren*  
**42<sup>nd</sup> Street Theme, Shadow Waltz, We're In The Money, Lullabye of Broadway, Shuffle Off To Buffalo**

### ATOS YOUTH CAMP

We achieved our goal of \$2500 donated funds for the Summer Youth Camp! With the \$2500 matching fund approved by the board, we contributed \$5000 to the camp. Contributors include:

- Chevron Matching fund**  
**Kevan Lesch**  
**Bill Schlotter**  
**Neal Wood**

### DONATIONS

- Mr. Robert J. Wilcox**  
**Mr. John R. Coleman**

### NEW MEMBERS

- Mr. Bill Theobald**  
of Berkeley, CA  
**Mr. and Mrs. Max D. Hartdegen**  
(Gladys L.) of San Jose,, CA  
**Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Richardson**  
(Chante) of Martinez, CA  
**Mr. and Mrs. William A. Teismann**  
(Trudy) of San Francisco, CA

## 🎵 A FINAL NOTE 🎵

(Also see Editor's Notes on Page Three)

**Rosa Rio**

June 2, 1902 - May 13, 2010

**Frank Bindt**

October 15, 1916 - July 12, 2010

**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, August 15**  
**Sunday September 12**  
**Sunday October 17**  
**Sunday November 28**

Open Consoles are informal and our genial host, **Chris Nichols**, ensures that every 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.

### 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 Calendar Events online. Be sure to visit it!

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

### Elbert Dawson in ATOS' TO

Thanks goes to NorCal Member **Elbert Dawson** for getting our NorCal news into the May/June *Theatre Oregon Magazine's* 'Chapter Notes Section'.

## CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



The NorCal Concert season is over for 2009-2010. And what a grand finale provided by Walt Strony! I don't know if you were aware, Walt was in pain during the whole concert with a sprained right ankle. Ouch. He really wanted to do an encore, but his ankle said no.

This summer there is going to be a lot of upgrade activity at the Berkeley Community Theatre. The public address system is being replaced with a state of the art sound system, with remote audio panels, monitor speakers, and microphones. For us, that means we can retire the NorCal concert megaphone. There was a concern that the Wurlitzer piano would have to be moved, but fortunately the PA system installers came up with a plan to keep the piano in place.

In addition, the house and stage lighting systems were to be upgraded, but now postponed.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. If you get a chance, drop in on a work party on Saturdays, some time. Just be sure to check the NorCal answering machine on Friday evening for the work party status.

Neal

## EDITOR'S Jan La Fetra



During the summer the Organ World lost two important people – **Rosa Rio** and **Frank Bindt**.

**Rosa Rio**, one of Theatre Organ's longest lasting legends died May 13<sup>th</sup>, less than three weeks before her 108<sup>th</sup> birthday, and less than one year after her final performance.

Known for her charm, energy and great sense of humor, during her long life she was part of every aspect of Theatre Organ music.

She started piano lessons at age 8, later attending Oberlin College Conservatory. Her parents approved thinking this would lead to a career of Church Music and teaching children piano. But Rosa had other ideas and transferred to the Eastman

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School of Music to study silent-film accompaniment. Adopting the name **Rosa Rio**, (which was short enough to fit on any marquee) she played in silent-picture houses showing stars like **Chaplin**, **Keaton**, and **Mary Pickford** when they were 'First Runs'. When the silent-film era ended, Rosa moved to radio where she was staff organist for NBC for 22 years. During this time she played for many popular shows including *The Shadow* as well as dozens of 'Soap Operas' and 'Radio Dramas'.

She even had her own radio show, *Rosa Rio Rhythms* which was broadcast throughout the USA and to the troops overseas during WW II. So even if her name doesn't 'ring a bell' with you, or you never attended one of her concerts, unless you are quite young you undoubtedly heard her play at some point.

Later, after she and her husband of 67 years, Bill Yeoman, moved to Florida she again played for silent-films, often at the lavish Tampa Theater in Florida.

She is survived by her husband, three grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and countless numbers of fans.

**Frank Bindt** was one of the founders of ATOS (known then as ATOE) and a long time member of NorCal. During his long life he had many activities, including helping **George Wright** record numbers at the *Grant Union High School* in Sacramento. He was Technical Director at KGO-TV for many years. His life will be featured in the September/October 2010 issue of *Theatre Organ Magazine*.

## JONAS NORDWALL

### New BCT CD

After two years of work, **Jonas Nordwall** has produced a new CD on the NorCal Wurlitzer. Titled *A Unit Orchestra Christmas*, it will be available at our next concert as well as the NorCal website,

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

## 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.

Windsheet

## ATOS CONVENTION IN SEATTLE

(The 2010 Convention will be fully covered in a future *Theatre Organ Magazine*, but below are some of Faye Cooley's comments.)

The **PSTOS** treated us royally, starting with an 'Organ Crawl-Seattle Style'. Later their club organ at **Haller Lake Community Center** was played by **Clark Wilson** for a **Buster Keaton** film.

At **Kenyon Hall** we had a program of singing and playing, both organ and piano. There were six performers, including **Andy Crow** and **Peter Mintun**.

Wednesday took us to **Everett** to hear **Nathan Avakian**, the 2009 Young Organist winner. His ability to play all kinds of music was outstanding.

Next **Lew Williams** played at the **Mt. Baker Theatre** in **Bellingham**.

Thursday was in Portland at the Oaks Park Skating Ring. The console for this 4/18 Wurlitzer is on the floor, but the organ itself hangs from the ceiling [completely unenclosed-*Pub*]. Because of flooding, the floor floats on top of the water when this happens, and the floor rose to 1' below the organ pipes in 2006!

**Donna Parker** played at the **Cleveland High School**, then it was off to the **First United Methodist Church** to hear **Jonas Nordwall**, who had **Tony Fenelon** come up and play the piano with the organ.

**Chris Gorsuch** did a great job at the **St. Columban Church** in **Yelm**, especially when there was a very loud cipher. Next was the **Washington Centre** in **Olympia** with **Simon Gledhill**. This was my only disappointment as it was too loud and boisterous for one sitting.

The final day started at the **Calvary Christian Assembly Church** in **Seattle** with **Scott Foppiano**. Afterwards we had lunch at **Bastyr University** where **Jelani Eddington** played the **Allen Digital 'Lyn Larsen' Model**.

The Convention ended with dinner and a concert by **Jim Riggs** back at the **Paramount**.

The Encore was a program by **Walt Strony** in **Maple Valley**, then on to **Gig Harbor** with **Richard Hills**. As a final treat, he played an organ/piano duet with **Simon Gledhill**.

**PSTOS** put on a truly wonderful event!

— Faye Cooley

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## 2010-2011 BCT Concert Dates

*Mark your calendars now!* Artists will be announced later. All are on Sundays:

**November 7, 2010**

**January 23, 2011 – Annual Meeting**

**February 13, 2011**

**March 13, 2011**

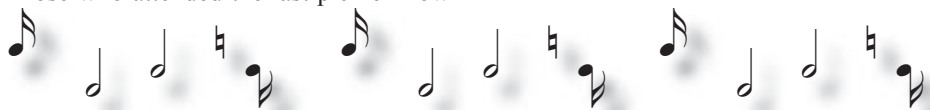
**May 1, 2011**

## PICNIC AT THE ATWOOD'S Kelseyville (Clear Lake) Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> 11:30 AM to Dusk

**Bert and Ann Atwood** once again are hosting a picnic at their lovely home on Clear Lake and have invited both NorCal and Sierra Chapter members to attend.

Bert's Allen GW-4 organ will be available for anyone wishing to play. Recent upgrades to the expression shades were installed and tonal improvements made by **Tom DeLay**, **Chris Nichols**, **Bill Schlotter**, and **Neal Wood**.

Those who attended the last picnic know



what a treat is in store for all of us. So mark the date and figure about a 2½ hour drive from the Berkeley area.

Bert and Ann built the house with the organ in mind, and Bert has written a wonderful description about planning and building the house and organ, which will be featured in the next Windsheet, along with full details of the picnic and driving instructions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NORCAL presents —

Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>

**Warren Lubich** at the *Grand Lake Theatre*

3200 Grand Ave., Oakland

9 AM Doors open—9:30 AM Concert begins

### Sierra Chapter

Sunday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>

PotLuck/Open Console

at **Wendell Jacob's** in Davis

1 to 4 PM

Check Sierra website near the date for details

[www.sierrachapterATOS.org](http://www.sierrachapterATOS.org)

### Open Consoles at the BCT:

Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup>

Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>

See Page Three for more details

### NORCAL and Sierra Chapters

Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

**Picnic at the Atwoods**

11:30 AM 'till Dusk

## OTHER CHAPTERS

*(Worth checking if in their area)*

Los Angeles TOS - [www.latos.org](http://www.latos.org)

Orange County - [www.octos.org](http://www.octos.org)

San Diego - [www.tossd.org](http://www.tossd.org)

Santa Barbara -

[www.members.cox.net/sbtos](http://www.members.cox.net/sbtos)

## Sierra Chapter Picnics

We hope some NorCal members were able to attend Sierra Chapter's Picnic and Open Console at **Pete & Dianne McCluer's** home on June 13<sup>th</sup>.

While NorCal Members were invited, we did not get notice in time to have it in the last Windsheet. However, many NorCal members are also Sierra Chapter members and may have spread the word.

But Sierra has another Pot Luck/Open Console to which NorCal is invited: Sunday, August 22, 1 to 4 PM at the home of **Wendell Jacob** in Davis, CA. (see Upcoming Events to the left)

## FOR SALE

Gary Miller has 17 Jelani Eddington CD's that he would like to sell at \$15.00 each. All are in mint condition - he just does not listen to them. For titles people can email Gary at: [gary8718@yahoo.com](mailto:gary8718@yahoo.com)

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.