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 42nd 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)

Second half:
Crown Imperial March
— William Walton (1937)
You Raise Me Up
— Rolf Løvland (2002)

42nd 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

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

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’.

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.

Page Two Windsheet August 2010
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 status on Saturdays, some time. Just be sure to check the NorCal answering machine on Friday evening for the work party status.

---

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 13th, less than three weeks before her 108th 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 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

---

**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.

---

**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 Wurlizer 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
PICNIC AT THE ATWOOD’S
Kelseyville (Clear Lake) Sunday, September 26th
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 21st
**Warren Lubich** at the Grand Lake Theatre
3200 Grand Ave., Oakland
9 AM Doors open–9:30 AM Concert begins

**Sierra Chapter**
Sunday, August 22nd
PotLuck/Open Console
at Wendell Jacob’s in Davis
1 to 4 PM

Check Sierra website near the date for details
www.sierrachapterATOS.org

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

**OTHER CHAPTERS**
(Worth checking if in their area)

Los Angeles TOS - www.latos.org
Orange County - www.octos.org
San Diego - www.tosad.org
Santa Barbara - 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 13th.

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

**Open Consoles at the BCT:**
- Sunday, August 15th
- Sunday, September 12th
- Sunday, October 17th
- Sunday, November 28th

See Page Three for more details

**NorCal and Sierra Chapters**
Sunday, September 26th
Picnic at the Atwoods
11:30 AM ‘till Dusk

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**NorCal THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY, Inc.**

*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.

Page Four
Windsheet
August 2010