
The WINDSHEET



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

www.norcaltos.org
September 2010



Entrance to Bert and Ann Atwood's home on Konocti Bay at Clearlake.
Remember this photo, it will tell you when you have arrived.



Bert and Ann's Allen custom GW-4 console that controls real expression shutters and many percussion instruments. It will be available for all to play.

It's Picnic Time for NorCal & Sierra Chapters With The Atwoods at Kelseyville (Clearlake) on Sunday, September 26th from 11:30 AM until Dusk

The long anticipated NorCal Picnic at Bert and Ann Atwood's lovely home on Clear Lake is almost here. Anyone who attended the last one will tell you this is an event not to be missed. Back then I suggested to Bert he write an article about building the home, and I am delighted that he finally did. So here in Bert's own words [see Page Three] is a description of this wonderful house and organ. →

Please phone or email the Atwoods so they will know how many to expect. Their email is atwoody@mchsi.com and their phone number is 707/277-7208. They will provide directions to their home.

Picnic details:

Driving—figure about 2 ½ hours from Bay Area.
Bring your own food—but a BBQ will be available, along with condiments, extra →

soft drinks, and utensils, etc.
No smoking in the house and alcohol in moderation—
Open console all day—Allen GW-4 with real percussions, swell chambers, and WurliTzer® swell shutters.
Weather is usually quite nice at this time of year—

ANNOUNCING NorCal's 2010-2011 Season Events

- November 7, 2010—Mark Herman
 - January 23, 2011—Annual Meeting, Artist TBA
 - February 20, 2011—David Peckham
 - March 13, 2011—Jerry Nagano
 - May 1, 2011—Jonas Nordwall
- norcaltos.org

FINAL NOTES

Floyd E. Werle
NorCal member who was a composer and arranger—May 1929 - July 19, 2010
Garrett Shanklin
Cecil Whitmore

NEW MEMBER
Warren E. Anderson, San Francisco

DONATIONS
Frank Harshbarger, Jr
Carol Zerbo
—Thank you—

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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.

WARREN LUBICH at the GRAND LAKE THEATER

—by Don Ravey

Other than the fact that I am not used to getting up so early on a Saturday morning, I thoroughly enjoyed the informal concert at the Grand Lake Theater in Oakland on August 21st.

Warren is the senior staff organist at the theater and thus was at home on the bench of the 3/18 Wurlitzer. The audience was small, probably less than 50, but I saw **Carol Zerbo** and others from the far-off interior of the state. Warren presented a program that included a few familiar pieces and a lot of repertoire unfamiliar to me, but I enjoyed them all.

I'm afraid that I missed the name of the lovely Peruvian waltz that Warren played in the second half.

Following the concert **Gordon Pratt**, our Program Chairman, invited members to take a turn at the console.

PLAYLIST

Up Console—

March from **Iron Man II**
- Robert Sherman

First Half—

Jean from *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*
(1969)
- Rod McKuen

I'll Build A Stairway To Paradise (1922)
- George Gershwin

Cuban Love Song (1931)

- Jimmy McHugh, Dorothy Fields

L'amour, Toujours, L'amour (1949)
- Rudolf Friml

I've Got A Feeling I'm Falling (1929)
- Fats Waller

Pooh's Lullabee

- Richard & Robert Sherman

I'm Beginning To See The Light (1944)

- Duke Ellington, Harry James

If I Had A Million Dollars (1991)

- Steven Page & Ed Robertson

Capitol March (1850)

- Emma F. Myers

Intermission—

My Canary Has Circles Under His Eyes
(1931)

- Jack Golden

Rose Marie Medley:

Totem Tom Tom, Rose Marie,

Indian Love Call

- Rudolf Friml

Fidgety Feet (1926)

- George Gershwin

A Peruvian Waltz

?

An Alligator Named Daisy (1955)

?

Bells Across The Meadows (1921)

- Albert Ketèlby

Get Out And Get Under The Moon

(1928) - Larry Shay

Begin The Beguine (1935)

- Cole Porter

We Just Couldn't Say Goodbye (1932)

- Harry Woods

All Of Me (1931)

- Gerald Marks

Just A Gigolo (1932)

- Leonello Casucci

Step To The Rear (1967)

from the Musical *How Now Dow Jones*

- Elmer Bernstein

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, 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.

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



It's Nominating Committee time again. Each year, the Chairman of the board forms an independent committee to nominate chapter members to fill vacancies on the board. The nominating committee is composed of three or more members who are not currently on the board. If anyone is interested in serving on the nominating committee this year, please give me a call.

Remember that huge wood harp that was rolled onto the stage at our last annual meeting? It finally has a home on the piano balcony at the top of the proscenium. To get it onto the balcony, it was carefully disassembled, hauled up to the stage balcony and reassembled. Hopefully, by the end of September, it will be playing. Not many organs can boast of two wood harps.



—photo by William Coale, Ph.D.

Our concert season begins on November 7th, this year. We are proud to have **Mark Herman** as our featured artist to begin the concert series. We have a wonderful lineup of performers, this season. More about that in this issue.

Lastly, for all you computer users, along with our own website (norcaltos.org), did you know that the NorCal Theatre Organ Society is on Facebook? Currently, we have over 350 followers from all over the world. Board member **Bill Coale** is the administrator. Please check it out.

Neal

THE ATWOOD HOME

—by Bert Atwood

“Our Great Room is a multi-purpose room designed to serve as Living Room, Dining Room, and Music Room. The acoustics in the room turned out to be quite nice. You can stand in one corner with your back to the rest of the room, speak in a normal voice, and be heard clearly anywhere in the rest of the room. This was not due to any great sound engineering – but it was based

on a number of ‘Rules of Thumb’.

I give great credit for the acoustics to **George Thompson** who was Editor of the *Theatre Organ Journal* for twenty years starting in the summer of 1961. George lived in the Salinas area as did I and I was privileged to play his Wurlitzer on numerous occasions. This was about 40 years ago and even then I was dreaming about a home on Clear Lake complete with Theatre Organ. George’s Rules of Thumb were:

Make the listening room as big – volume wise – as possible.

Have a cathedral ceiling.

Have a loft.

Do not have all walls parallel to one another.

Although we ended up installing an Allen

GW-4, the house was built for real pipes and thus has real pipe chambers made of 8-inch concrete blocks with all voids filled with concrete grout. The chamber ceilings are one continuous slab of concrete. The upper 10 feet of the chamber walls are finished with ultra fine plaster to reflect sound waves. I added one Rule of Thumb on my own by making the distance from the chambers to the opposite wall 31½ feet (just under the 32 foot wave length of a 16 foot open pipe pedal note). The room is roughly 26 feet wide.

Going back to George’s Rules of Thumb,

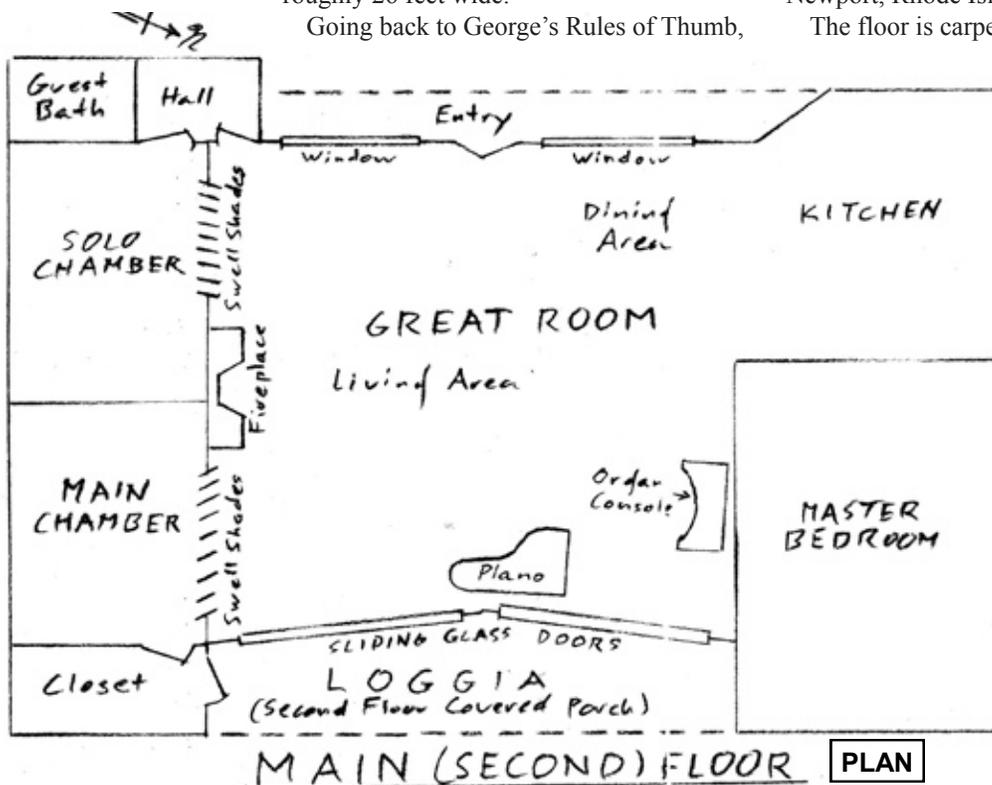
we made the room big by making it multi-purpose *and* by making the eave height 10 feet rather than the standard 8 feet thus increasing the volume 25%. The cathedral ceiling peaks at 19[ft] and there are lofts at both ends of the room which add significant volume to the room. And last but not least, we designed the wall between the Great Room and Loggia to be angled so it isn’t parallel with the opposite (Entry) wall (see sketch). I learned the word ‘Loggia’ visiting the Vanderbilt Mansion is Newport, Rhode Island many years ago.

The floor is carpeted but we have no

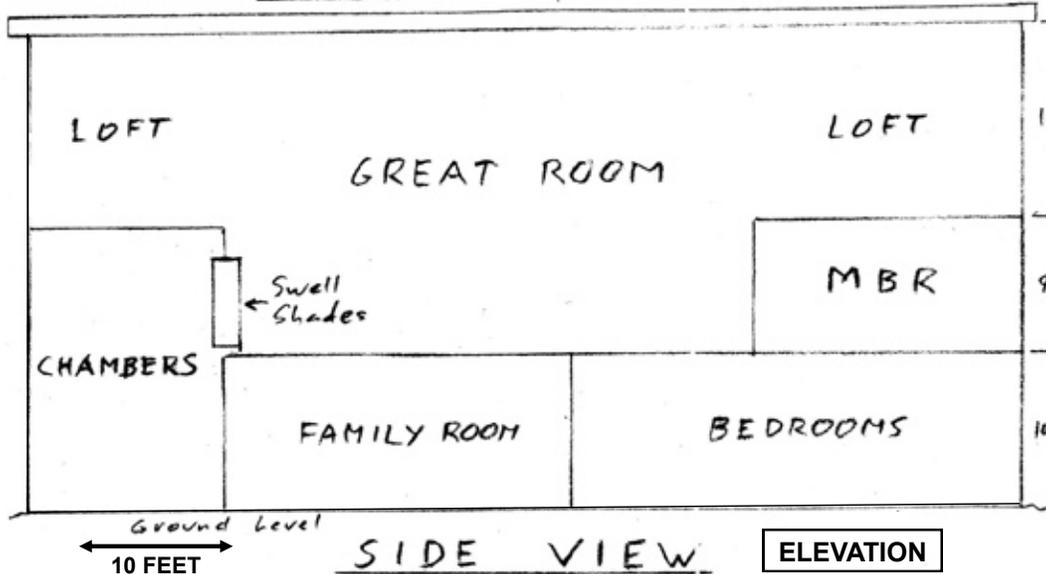
curtains or drapes in the room. I like some of Allen’s Virtual Acoustics added but others – **Kevin King** in particular – don’t think they’re needed.

Many friends and family have contributed to the organ project. Major contributors that are familiar to theatre organ society members include **Bill Schlotter, Chris Nichols, Tom De Lay, Bert Robinson, Elbert Dawson, Wes Cavett, Kevin King, John Nelson, Dwight Beacham, Neal Wood** and my wife Ann. I give many thanks to them and all the other unnamed contributors.

Special thanks also to **Herk Deifenbacher** who helped design and build the house and always encouraged me whenever I questioned my ability to complete the project.”



MAIN (SECOND) FLOOR PLAN



SIDE VIEW ELEVATION

EDITOR'S
Jan La Fetra



This month I would like to share with you a poem **Don Ravey** wrote. I think he touched a feeling all of us have. Thanks, Don.

IT'S THE MUSIC

Even before birth,
the soothing lullaby
permeates the wall of the womb.

Then the off-tune tinkling
of the tin carousel
and the toy piano
create wonderment for us.

In kindergarten,
we learn little tunes
to suit our little bodies.

When we're old enough to date,
we wrap ourselves in the
rhythms of whatever
dance and song style is in vogue.

As adults
we may find our expression
in terms of the classics.

In our dotage,
we harken back to the melodies
we found so satisfying
when we were young.

As we bid farewell,
the dirge escorts us
to our final resting place.

In the end,
it's the music that matters.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NorCal—

Picnic at Bert and Ann Atwood's
September 26th. (See Page One)

Open Console at BCT (see Page Two)
Sunday, October 17th
Sunday, November 28th

Los Angeles TOS—

Christoph Bull will give a concert as part of **LATOS' Oktoberfest** at the *San Gabriel Mission Playhouse* on Sunday, October 3rd at 2:30 PM. Included will be a Laser Light show. For price and other details go to: www.latos.org

Sierra Chapter—

Paul Quarino will play for a Silent Film on October 24th at 6 PM in the California Auto Museum. (Film title not given.)
www.sierrachapteratos.org

Phantom Of The Opera starring **Lon Chaney** with **Dave Moreno** playing. Saturday, October 30 at 7:30 PM. More details:
www.orovillestatetheatre.org

NorCal presents—



The **George Wright Memorial Concert** at *Grant Union High School* is on Sunday, November 14 at 2:00 PM and features **Jonas Nordwall** at the console. More

NorCal at the BCT all in 2011 —

Jan 23 – Annual Meeting, artist TBA
Feb 20—David Peckham
Mar 13—Jerry Nagano
May 1—Jonas Nordwall

NorCal TOS BCT Records

NorCal's just released CD is:
A Unit Orchestra Christmas
with **Jonas Nordwall** playing
19 tracks of Christmas music
on NorCal's 4/41 Wurlitzer
at the Berkeley Community Theatre.

This is available only in CD format and is \$20 post-paid in North America.

The Playlist and more recordings from NorCal's Wurlitzer are on:
norcalatos.org/jams.htm

NorCal Board of Directors 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. Send requests to the Secretary; his email address and telephone number is on Page One.

NorCal TOS 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; it is available at:

adobe.com/reader

There is an up-to-date events calendar online. Also, as mentioned above there is a list of NorCal's recordings, ordering information and other information of interest.

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.