
The WINDSHEET



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

BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE
Allston Way betw'n Milvia St & MLK, Jr Way

www.norcaltos.org
January 2011

Please note the 2 PM starting time. This allows time for NorCal's very important Annual Meeting, which is **required** by law. Your attendance is needed to *provide a quorum in order to elect* Board Members and to conduct any other business that may be brought forward. Nominations for the Board are **Fay Cooley, Tom Madsen, and Neal Wood**.

Your participation in the business decisions is necessary to keep NorCal TOS the vital and functioning Chapter we all love.

Before the business meeting we will have **David Hegarty** as our artist. To call David a talented Theatre Organ Artist would be missing half the story. Yes, he is a talented Theatre Organ artist as attested by his many fans at the **Castro Theatre**. David has been playing at the Castro since 1978, well BEFORE the **Taylor Family** installed the wonderful all Wurlitzer organ.

David also plays regularly at the **Stanford Theatre**, and does a Pops Concert at the **Palace of the Legion of Honor** the first weekend of every month. At the Legion of Honor, he plays the **Spreckles Memorial 4/63 Skinner organ** (which includes a full array of percussions normally found only on theatre organs.) Film music and light orchestral pieces are among his offerings.

However, he is also an accomplished Classical Organist, and a fluent arranger, with an emphasis on Church Hymns.

One of his specialties is the orientation of Classical organists to the idiosyncrasies of the theatre organ, including its registrational and stylistic differences.

While he is well known locally, his resume includes the **Kennedy Center** in Washington, D.C., the **Crystal Cathedral, Davies Symphony Hall**, and for **Prudential Lines South American Cruises**.

Still more diverse is the CD he and **Kenrick Mervine** of Denver, CO produced. Called **Phantastic!**, it is 'Symphonic Impressions for Two Organs and Virtual Orchestra'. In other words, he and Kenrick perform at two Allen Organs – one classical and the other a theatre style organ; or one Allen and one pipe organ.



David Hegarty
at California Theatre lobby
2/10 Wurlitzer - La Fetra photo

DAVID HEGARTY NorCal CONCERT + Members Annual Meeting Sunday, January 23rd, 2011 at 2:00 PM

Finally, David is a composer and arranger, working with **Lorenz Publishing Company** and other well known publishing companies.

This concert will be one of a kind, and should not to be missed.

[Note from Chris Nichols: Stephan Brittain (who has the Avenue Theatre organ) posted on Facebook a YouTube clip **David Hegarty's 25 Years at the Castro Organ**. YouTube address is: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWg43kys_8M&feature=player_embedded

Dinner after the Concert

While there is no formal plan for dinner after **David Hegarty's** concert, a number of NorCal members do plan to go to **Café Venezia** for dinner, and any members who wish to be part of that group should talk to **Frank** or **Jan La Fetra** before the concert, at the intermission, or at the Annual Meeting.

This will be a social event, so do plan to bring your spouse or a friend. Frank has made a tentative reservation after a discussion of this at the last Board meeting. It will help him and **Café Venezia** to have a better early head count. **Café Venezia** serves excellent Italian food at reasonable prices for the quality and is located at 1799 University Ave, Berkeley. FREE parking next door, More info at: www.caffevenezia.com

NorCal Theatre Organ Society (NorCal TOS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Federal Employer Identification Number 23-7415947 State Charitable Trust No. CT 45966 State Organization Number D-0726636 NT20S M12

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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.

Members of Nor-Cal were treated to a triple-star concert performed by the very gifted **Mark Herman** as he commanded the *NORCAL Berkeley Community Theatre Wurlitzer* on Sunday, November 7th, 2010.

Many concert reviews are hard to wade through with their endless clever descriptions of how the Tibias “flowed like a spring rain upon the subjects seated out there in the dark.” Really, it is impossible to impart and really share the sonic experience of having attended a live concert because the transfer of information from sonic to visual leaves out many important elements of the concert experience. In an effort to present a review that is in keeping with the popular Green Movement, we shall attempt to conserve valued pine trees by listing all of the twenty-four stellar offerings by **Mark**, with poignant observations and not a play by play description of **Mark**’s racing about the two consoles.

Following **Bill Schlotter**’s greeting **Mark**’s zesty “riser tune” was “LOVE”, from the creative minds of **Blaine** and **Martin**, who also wrote *Meet Me In St. Louis*.

YOUR’RE BLASÈ was a tune **Mark** first heard on an early **Buddy Cole** recording. His phrasing provided the ‘vocalist’ with time to breathe, indicating his respect for the lyrics. The registration featured the beautiful Tromba voice, which reminded the listeners of **George Wright**’s use of the Style D Trumpet on his *Pasadena studio organ*.

HONEYBUN is from **Rodgers** and **Hammerstein**’s masterpiece *South Pacific*, **Mark** moved to the elegant Toledo console. This upbeat version proved to be a perfect ‘buzzy sound’ piece, punctuated with bites from the brass and it was not a copy of the famed **Wright** recording.

ON A LITTLE STREET IN SINGAPORE This arrangement was truly inspired by **George Wright**’s performance on his nightly radio show in the early 1960s. One of **George**’s favorite combinations for ‘eastern flavor’ was the use of the 16’ Clarinet and 2’ 15th off the VDO, without tremulants. It is just great some of the legendary combinations are still being passed

down from generation to generation in new and inventive offerings.

JULE STYNE Medley—the great Broadway composer who gave us *Funny Girl* and *Gypsy*. Included were —

SOME PEOPLE was a somewhat shortened version of that offered on **Mark**’s new CD with a beautifully crafted transition into —

SATURDAY IS THE LONELIEST NIGHT OF THE WEEK, where you could clearly hear **Frank Sinatra** stomping out his cigarette to the beat of **Riddle**’s orchestra.

PEOPLE seemed to capture even **Barbara Streisand**’s profile, where her distinctive phrasing was under **Mark**’s fingers.

EVERTHINGS COMING UP ROSES allowed the Mighty Wurlitzer to nearly equal **Ethel Merman**’s ‘brass’.

IKNOW WHY by **Harry Warren** afforded **Mark** to use lighter and more transparent registrations, which reach the patrons with refreshing clarity.

POWERHOUSE by **Raymond Scott** seemed to depict a herd of elephants trying to imitate **Fred Astaire**, but sweet.

IGOTITBAD AND THATAIN’T GOOD with music by **Duke Ellington** and lyrics by **Paul Francis Webster** nearly took the listener back to the Cotton Club as **Mark** captured the spirit of the smoke filled room.

PETITE WALTZ with music by **Joe Heyne** and lyrics by **Edward Ellington** and **Phyllis Claire** required articulate manipulation of the unit orchestra.

VANNESSA followed the social chit-chat during the brief intermission.

With one’s eyes closed it was not hard to feel the members were seated in Radio City, with the gifted **Ashley Miller** at the grand organ.

LITTLE GIRL BLUE proved to open the emotional floodgates for some guests. **Mark** knew this was a favorite of some old organ tuner.

DARKTOWN STRUTTER’S BALL was composed by **Sheldon Brooks** and was first recorded in 1917 by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. It is not easy to capture the effect of the five-piece band with a forty-plus rank Wurlitzer.

IDREAM TOO MUCH by **Rogers & Hart** was played with a pure and uncomplicated arrangement that must have had **Jim Roseveare** smiling from his special box seat in the Echo.

GERSHWIN Medley — **Mark** announced Gershwin was “my all time favorite composer.” Well, he is in good company as **George Wright** often said his three favorite composers were **George Gershwin**, **Cole Porter** and **Jerome Kern**. **Mark**’s well-crafted medley would have pleased the late Mr. Wright. Included were —

OF THEE I SING — COULD YOU USE ME? — SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME — LADY BE GOOD — I GOT RHYTHM

I COVER THE WATERFRONT was expressively played with great feeling.

ROLLER COASTER was the closing theme for the popular TV show, ‘What’s My Line?’ and it was the closing number for this most exciting concert. Clearly the deft Mr. Herman must have forewarned the Wurlitzer that it had to get moving during this delightful finger-buster.

WHEN THE SAINTS COME MARCHING IN was **Mark**’s encore; it was clear he had been listening to some of the old **Larry Vannucci** recordings made at the Lost Weekend by this one of a kind musician.



POPS CONCERT AT IRONSTONE

The *Sierra and NorCal chapters* and *Ironstone Vineyards* present a buffet lunch and concert at *Ironstone Vineyards* in Murphys. The concert will feature **Chris Gorsuch** at the *Mighty Morton* formerly in the Sacramento *Alhambra Theater*. Tickets go on sale January 1 and cost \$39. Last year's event sold out early, so don't wait until the last minute to get your tickets.

This is the second year where a single concert will be performed instead of two venues many miles apart. Reaction last year was positive about this change which cuts so much travel time and makes a pleasant one day outing.

Tickets can be ordered through **Neal Wood** at 415-861-7082 or by email at: nealwood@pacbell.net

NEW MEMBER

We welcome:

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bradshaw (Chris)
Gilroy, 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, and under the Recordings page is the new CD by **Jonas Nordwall**. Be sure to visit our website!

norcaltos.org

DONATIONS

Thank you to:

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Parker
Chris Nichols
Mr. and Mrs. Alan R. Schoenstein

NOTICE

No one should come in the Stage Door except the Stage Crew or others with business there.

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



Happy New Year. I hope you will be able to fulfill all your New Year's resolutions. One of mine is to start practicing on the organ. That's a holdover from last year.

There has been some progress on the status of the BCT. The lawsuit against the school has been settled and the school board is moving forward to implement ADA requirements to bring the theatre into compliance. In the meantime, the theatre is still off limits to the general public and will remain so until late 2011 when construction is completed. Thankfully, the school administration has allowed NorCal members to attend our concerts as chapter events. We look forward to the day when all of this is settled, and we can open our concerts to the general public.

The Annual Membership meeting is fast approaching (Jan 23rd). I hope you can attend. We really expect to have the heat on for the concert; but bring some warm clothing, just in case. For the actual meeting, we will again have it on the stage where we have the stage lighting to keep us warm.

If you haven't heard already, tickets are on sale for the *Ironstone Pops Concert* on **April 16th**. The artist will be **Chris Gorsuch**. It was a sold out event last year, and I'm sure it will be sold out quickly, this year. See you all soon.

Neal

🎵 A FINAL NOTE 🎵

Alden Stockebrand

(From John Lauter)

Alden Stockebrand was a long time Chicago area theatre organ supporter who was very involved with CATOE, Windy City Organ Club and ATOS. Alden was a 'transportation specialist' for ATOS conventions. He will be remembered by many NorCal convention attendees for his expertise in moving buses through large cities.

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. Send requests to the Secretary; his email address and telephone number is published at the bottom of Page One.

MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Have you admired the blue membership badges that many NorCal members wear to concerts? They are available for **\$13** shipped to the member's address.

The badges are now totally engraved (no silk screening to rub off). Send your check and exactly how your name is to appear on the badge to:

Bill Schlotter

6203 Elderberry Dr.
Oakland, CA 94611-1621

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

January 16

February 27

March 20

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.

EDITOR'S

 Jan La Fetra



The article below is by **Elbert Dawson**, and I urge members to send me interesting items and events which I use as space is available.

Wendell Jacob's Potluck, Aug. 22, 2010
 (by Elbert Dawson)

Some members of our chapter joined with others from Sierra Chapter and attended the potluck and open console at the home of **Wendell Jacob** in Davis last August 22nd. He has completed the installation of the 3 M/12 R Möller theatre organ that was originally installed in the lobby of the *San Francisco Fox Theatre*.

Wendell has it in a nice music studio building that is detached from his house. This writer last played the organ in 1963 when it was in the theatre and remembers well how distant, dull, and muffled it sounded in the theatre because of small tone openings in the plaster grill and heavy drapes over the grills. In that environment, it had no excitement whatever and was disappointing.

It is now a pleasant surprise to any who heard it in the theatre. It has the requisite brightness now and seems to have about the right power for Wendell's studio. Our members who tried playing it were **Fay Cooley** and **Bill Coale**.

Wendell's studio had a number of electronic organs and some coin-operated automatic musical instruments which this writer cannot name. One of the band organs was extremely loud, compared to the *Möller*, and would blow one out of the studio. The organ chamber was roomy and easy to walk through. The organ did not hurt the ears of this writer even when inside the chamber.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sierra Chapter

Sunday, January 9th at 2 PM
Bill Coale at the Sierra Chapter organ in the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, 7997 California Ave, Fair Oaks, CA. Directions at: SierraChapterATOS.org

Los Angeles TOS

Friday Jan. 14th – Sunday Jan. 16th
Wurlitzer Weekend
 Featuring a silent film; artists **Bob Salisbury**, **Rob Richards**, **Jelani Eddington**; and the *Crazy Rhythm Hot Society Orchestra* with **Randy Woltz** on the Wurlitzer.
 Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society
www.latos.org

Stanford University

Friday, January 14th at 8 PM
 Memorial Church Organ Concert
Dr. Robert Huw Morgan on the *Hupalo & Repasky* [4th Organ] and **Murray Harris organs**.
 For information on this and various other concerts at Stanford go to:
<http://music.stanford.edu/Events/calendar.html>

Paramount Theatre

Friday January 14th at 8 PM
Walt Disney's FANTASIA
 All tickets \$5
 (not organ, but might be of interest)
<http://www.oeps.htm>

Open Consoles BCT Sundays

January 16, February 27, March 20
 (see Page Three) norcaltos.org

Santa Barbara TOS

Saturday, January 22nd at 2 PM
 Arlington Theatre – Admission \$11, children 12 and under free with paid adult.
Harold Lloyd in *Safety Last* plus **Buster Keaton's One Week** with **Scott Foppiano** at the organ.
<http://members.cox.net/sbtos>

NorCal presents—(non-members may join at door)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011 2:00 PM
DAVID HEGARTY
 Annual Membership Meeting & Dinner (no host)
 BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Sierra Chapter

Sunday, February 13th at 2 PM
Ken Double at their chapter organ in the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse.
 (see listing this section for address and directions)

NorCal presents—(non-members may join at door)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2011 2:30 PM
DAVID PECKHAM
 BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2011 2:30 PM
JERRY NAGANO
 BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

Sierra & NorCal Chapters present—
 Saturday, April 16, 2011
Pops Concert at Ironstone (old Morton Madness)
 with **Chris Gorsuch**
Kautz Ironstone Winery - 12:30 PM Buffet Lunch
 (See article Page Three)

NorCal presents—(non-members may join at door)

SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2011 2:30 PM
JONAS NORDWALL
 BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

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.