
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
March 2011



NORCAL CONCERT at the BCT **JERRY NAGANO** Sunday, March 13, 2011, 2:30 PM (DST) **NOTE: Daylight Savings started last night**

with Gaylord Carter, Gordon Kibbee, and much later with the late Tom Hazleton.

For ten years he was the featured artist at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo, home of the 'Wurlitzer in the Pizza Parlor' concept. Since the Pizza Joynt days, Jerry has played at the Stanford Theater in Palo Alto where Classic Hollywood is screened nightly with intermissions performed on the Mighty Wurlitzer. Recent additions include duties at the Oakland Paramount and the California Theatre in San Jose, playing not only the 4 manual auditorium organ but the fabulous 2/10 Style 216 Wurlitzer in the California's lobby. Patrons of the San Jose Opera, and Symphony Silicon Valley regularly dance their way to their seats to the rhythmic beat of the Wurlitzer organ.

"Whether you're one of my regulars from the Pizza Joynt days, a movie fan from one of the Bay Area theatres, or someone who knew me Long Long Ago, in a Galaxy Far Far Away when I was first starting out, I hope to see you on the 13th in Berkeley."
-Jerry Nagano

Although this month's Artist, **Jerry Nagano**, is so well known and well liked in the Bay Area, it may come as a surprise that this is only his 2nd official turn at our BCT Wurlitzer. Not that he hasn't played for NorCal before - he has several times starting in May 1990 at the **Castro Theatre**, followed by NorCal events at such venues as the **Ye Olde Pizza Joynt**, and **Stanford Theatre**. However, as a long time NorCal member, Jerry is well acquainted with our Mighty Wurlitzer.

In Jerry's own words he is:

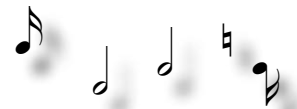
"...designed in Japan, Assembled in America

Jerry Nagano was born and raised in the Los Angeles area where he began his musical training at age ten. From the very beginning the movies played a major role in his musical life. It was because of attending a silent movie show accompanied by the Theater Pipe Organ that Jerry took an interest in the organ. After instruction on electronic organ for a period, he had a chance to study with organist **Gaylord Carter**, the very person who played for that silent film years before.

During his college years, Jerry was also the organist at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium playing their famed **Reginald Foort/BBC Möller** Pipe organ. Friendships were made which led to instruction

Although Jerry is a popular concert artist, he is equally well known for his ability to accompany Silent Films, and is often in demand in this role. (For a chance to see him accompany a Silent Film, he will play for **Buster Keaton's 'Seven Chances'** April 8th at **Ohlone College**. See note under Upcoming Events.)

It is with real pleasure that we welcome such a talented friend as our Artist this month!



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When emailing, include ATOS or NorCal in the subject line. Otherwise, if you are unknown to the recipient's computer, its SPAM filter may divert your mail.

DAVID PECKHAM

— Don Ravey



David Peckham, “the wizard of Elmira,” according to **Bill Schlotter**, provided us with a memorable concert. To begin with, his artistry, at least after what I thought was a slightly stumbling opener, matches the very best I’ve heard. His registrations were varied and exploited our Wurlitzer’s grand array of tonal possibilities. His deft fingering of some unusually tough passages was superb. His pedal work was impressive. His selections were eclectic, from pops and jazz to classical and liturgical.

Besides the familiar melodies heard in many theatre organ concerts, we heard a knuckle-buster classical piece called *Will O’ The Wisp*, followed by a nostalgic movie tune from *The Wizard Of Oz*, and then *Fantasy On Nursery Rhymes*, which quoted *3 Blind Mice*; *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*; *Yankee Doodle*; and *Pop Goes The Weasel*. Then the soft harmonies of a lovely **Richard Purvis** work. And, who knew that **George Shearing*** wrote a whole book of sacred hymns? Then we heard a medley of movie themes celebrating the life of **Mark Twain**, composed by **Bill Perry**, who also produced the series of film specials for PBS. As the first half drew to a close, David played an Australian song with the intriguing title of *Run, Rabbit, Run*, complete with a surprise “shot” ringing out from the front row of the auditorium, right on cue! (It turned out, the extra musician was David’s lovely wife.)

But when I returned from intermission, I couldn’t imagine why there was both a podium and a set of tympani sharing the stage with the Center Theatre console. Following a melodic and rhythmic piece by former Bay Area musician **Lyn Larsen**, and an enjoyable ‘swingin’ blues” number David learned from a *German* band, the mystery was revealed—David’s wife joined him to play the tympani part and our own NorCal Board Chairman, **Bill Coale**, appeared at the podium to narrate the story of *Peter And The Wolf*, by **Sergei Prokofiev**! The score calls for a few passages where the organist must use both feet and *three* hands, which

was accomplished by his wife playing the upper register of the *Bombarde* manual while standing at David’s right side. **Frank La Fetra**’s keyboard projection system displayed the performance as seen from directly above the console, and it was quite unique to see **3** hands at work!

From what I have been able to research, such a performance of *Peter And The Wolf* on a pipe organ has only been given by one other organist, **Jelani Eddington**, in 2005.

As I said at the beginning of this review, this was a memorable concert.

PLAYLIST

Up console:

It’s De-lovely

— Cole Porter (1936)

First half:

Cheek To Cheek

— Irving Berlin (1935)

Will O’ The Wisp (Scherzo-Toccatina)

— Gordon Balch Nevin

If I Only Had A Brain

(from *The Wizard Of Oz*, 1937)

— Harold Arlen

Fantasy On Nursery Rhymes

— Robert Elmore (1956)

Earth Carol (from *St. Francis Suite*)

— Richard Purvis (1954)

I Love Thee, My Lord

— George Shearing*

(based on early American hymn tunes)

Isn’t It Romantic

— Richard Rodgers (1959)

Medley of PBS movie themes celebrating

Mark Twain

— Bill Perry (~1980)

Run, Rabbit, Run (Australian)

— Noel Gay (1939)

Intermission

Second half:

Jet Stream

— Ashley Miller

Sorrento

— Lyn Larsen

(a *German* “Swingin’ Blues”)

?

Peter And The Wolf

— Sergei Prokofiev(1936)

Orpheum March

?

Encore:

Give Me The Simple Life

— Rube Bloom (1945)

* [Editor’s note: **George Shearing** died last month, and in the Feb. 26th *Wall Street Journal* ‘Letters to the Editor’ a friend (Gene Dow) wrote “His Bach performances grew from “adequate for a jazz musician” to “excellent by any standard”.]

DONATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Douglass

Mr. Curt Hoppins

Mr. Robert Sanders

Thank You For Your Generosity



Robert Stable

(Best known as **Hokum W. Jeebs**)

NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Marian Bush, Santa Clara

William Chiks, San Francisco

Donald Daly, Alameda

Tom DeLay, Salinas

Yvonne & James Donnelley, Berkeley

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Douglass, Orinda

David Facio, Alameda

Gerald Finton, Petaluma

Randy Fischer, San Francisco

Max Gonzales, San Francisco

Michael Gumbmann, Albany

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Houston, Pleasant Hill

Steve Lamanna, Mill Valley

Dr. Richard Leeds, Albany

Sidney Putnam, Berkeley



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

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



It's hard to believe that it's almost March, and we're already midway through the NorCal concert season after a wonderful concert by **David Peckham**. I was honored to be a small part of that event by narrating his excellent rendering of *Peter and the Wolf!*

In regard to the concert, special thanks to our organ/stage crew for an 11th hour clean-up of the inner lobby, where a dry chemical fire extinguisher had been discharged, only to be discovered on Sunday morning. In spite of a thick layer of dust on the floor, our NorCal crew "swabbed the deck" so the theatre lobby would be presentable to our concert-goers...great work! In addition to that surprise, we spent all day Saturday without any heat in the building. Fortunately, we were able to contact a school official and get heat in the building for the Sunday concert. Unfortunately, the massive BCT warms up very, very slowly, and we apologize to those in the audience who were bothered by the lower than desirable temperature in the house. We appreciate your understanding, and will continue to do all we can to ensure a pleasant and entertaining experience during our events!

While on the topic of the Berkeley Community Theatre, it's probably a good time to mention that we will likely face significant disruption to our activities there during the next year. Two factors will determine how we structure next season's concert season: 1) work on providing handicap seating and restroom facilities, and 2) whether a proposed rewiring project for the theatre comes to fruition. Stay tuned...we'll keep you up to date on future developments on both fronts.

On the bright side, in addition to the great programs we've already presented this season, we look forward to hearing our own **Jerry Nagano** this month, and finishing out our concert season with **Jonas Nordwall** in May.

Finally, thanks again to the NorCal board for selecting me as your chairman for the upcoming year. Your leadership team is

comprised of a wonderfully talented group of individuals, and I appreciate their necessary help and support as we work closely and energetically in the proud NorCal Theatre Organ Society tradition.

Bill F

Pops Concert at Ironstone Saturday, April 16th at 12:30 PM

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*. Tickets 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 very positive about this change which cuts so much travel time and makes a pleasant one day outing.

Tickets can be ordered through **Neal Wood**, 415-861-7082 or by email at:

nealwood@pacbell.net

MEMBERS LOBBY ONLINE

For NorCal members only, there is now a link on our website home page, near the bottom, to the new Members Lobby. A password is required in order to view any of the Members Lobby. If you do not know the password and you are a paid (or honorary) member of NorCal, contact the Membership Secretary, **Neal Wood**.

Sierra Chapter

There is some difficult news regarding Sierra Chapter's **Dale Mendenhall Memorial Theatre Pipe Organ**.

On February 2, 2011 the California Vehicle Foundation Board of Directors voted unanimously to terminate the Theatre Organ Agreement with Sierra Chapter.

The organ must be removed from the Museum before September 2, 2011, and Sierra Chapter is planning to install it at another location. We wish them well.

Watch their website for more information.

sierrachapterATOS.org

EDITOR'S

Jan La Fetra



Ever wonder what the schedule is for the Windsheet? Some Chapters have monthly newsletters, some quarterly, or others, like NorCal publish a Windsheet on an 'as needed' basis.

This has not always been the case and has changed several times over the years.

Presently, we feel that between our *Yearly Concert Notices*, the *Website*, and the fact that upcoming concerts are always listed under 'Upcoming Events' members are given good advance notice of our concerts. Thus we try to publish the Windsheet about two weeks before a BCT Concert or other special NorCal event, both as a reminder and to entice you with longer notes as what to expect from the event.

Sounds simple, but it doesn't always work out so nicely. First of all, since NorCal is an all volunteer organization, getting all the material together can be tight at times. And while artists are lined up about a year in advance (all the time the school will allow us), last minute changes happen. Artists need to change dates due to injury, conflicts, and even weather.

The High School has first call on the use of the BCT, and sometimes things are scheduled there after our dates are announced. Also, construction/repairs to the building, either interfere with planned concerts, or prevent long range commitments being made.

Need up-to-the-minute information? Go to our website at norcaltos.org and expect a Windsheet shortly before an event.

On another note, when traveling, I suggest you check for TOS Chapters at your destination. There is a lot of activity in the Theatre Organ world and you might find a concert or silent film you want to see. This is especially true of Southern California where there are several active Chapters.

JAN

**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

March 27 (Changed from 20th)

April 10

May 22

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.

ATOS Theatre Organ Radio

Like to hear Theatre Organ music at home? Are you aware that ATOS Theatre Organ Radio plays vintage theatre organ recordings and selections from today's top recording artists? If not, check out their website.

atos.org/radio

UPCOMING EVENTS

NorCal presents –



norcaltos.org

Friday, March 18th -- 7:30 PM

Harmony Wynelands in Lodi, CA
silent films starring **Harry Langdon**
Dave Moreno at the pipe organ
special guest host & vintage vocalist:
Rebecca Kane

Tickets: \$12 – (209) 369-4184

Friday, April 8, 2011 - 8 PM

Olhone College (Fremont Campus)
Jerry Nagano

Plays for **Buster Keaton's** silent film
Seven Chances
Jackson Theatre (in the Smith Center)
43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA
510/659-6000

General Admission \$15 - Seniors &
Students \$12 - Under 12 \$10

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Pops Concert at Ironstone

(old Morton Madness)

Chris Gorsuch

Kautz Ironstone Winery
12:30 PM Buffet Lunch
(See article page Three)

NorCal presents –



norcaltos.org

June 10, 2011

Bob Hope Theatre

42 East Main St. Stockton, CA

Classic Film Series

Tom Thompson on the *Mighty Morton*

6:30 PM

Classic Films at 7 PM

\$8 – Adults; \$4 – Youth (12 or younger)
209/337-4673

Check website for film dates

www.bobhopetheatre.com

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

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

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.

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.