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

...during his college years, Jerry Nagano ...

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 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!
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 finger-ging 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’T’ 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’T’ Wisp (Scherzo-Toccata) |
| — 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 |

* [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”.”]

**Donaiones**

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Douglass  
Mr. Curt Hoppins  
Mr. Robert Sanders  

Thank You For Your Generosity

**A FINAL NOTE**

Robert Stabile  
(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.

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**Review of Concert February 20, 2011 at the BCT**

**DAVID PECKHAM**  
— Don Ravey

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I t’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 one day outing.

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.

### 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

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**Chairman’s Windline**

**Editors**

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March 2011

** Windsheet **

Page Three
UPCOMING EVENTS

NorCal presents –

**JERRY NAGANO**

BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE

**Sunday, March 13, 2011 2:30 PM**

Friday, March 18th – 7:30 PM

Harmony Wynelands in Lodi, CA

Dave Moreno at the pipe organ

special guest host & vintage vocalist:

Rebecca Kane

Tickets: $12 – (209) 369-4184

Friday, April 8, 2011 - 8 PM

Ollhone 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 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

NORCAL WEBSITE

We now have copies of the current and recent past Windsheets on our website—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