
The WINDSHEET



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

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

www.norcaltos.org
April 2011

JONAS NORDWALL Sunday, May 15, 2011 2:30 PM at the BCT



Ravey photo

Jonas Nordwall is probably the best known and most appreciated Theatre Organist of our time. NorCal has been very fortunate to hear him often. This concert will be his 9th appearance at the BCT, and his 10th before NorCal if you count the 2005 Morton Madness sponsored by Sierra and NorCal TOS.

Moreover, his many appearances at ATOS Conventions and other Chapter's events have made him equally well known throughout the Theatre Organ world.

Most NorCal members are familiar with his background, but for newcomers here is a bit about this talented and versatile man.

He started his musical studies at age four on the accordion and excelled to the point that at age 16 he performed for **King Gustav Adolf of Sweden**.

He began piano and organ studies at age 10 and later studied under such well known

Classical organists as **Richard Ellsasser, Frederick Geoghegan**, and San Francisco's **Richard Purvis**.

After graduating from the *University of Portland*, he was appointed organist for Portland's *First United Methodist Church* and remains there as Director of Music. His ability for Classical Organ Music has led to playing for many Church Conferences and international church gatherings and regional conventions for the *American Guild of Organists*. He is the organist for the *Oregon Symphony Orchestra* and has been soloist for several symphonic concerts, including with the *Symphony Silicon Valley* last fall.

In the 1960's, to change the pace, he began playing theatre pipe organs and later was the Senior Staff Organist for the *Organ Grinder Corporation* and played custom designed Wurlitzer Pipe Organs in their Denver and Portland restaurants.

In recognition of his Theater Organ talents he was named ATOS' *Organist of the Year* in 1987, and plays at many national and regional conventions. He has been actively involved in ATOS' *Youth and Adult Educational Theatre Organ Summer Camp Programs*.

Jonas Nordwall, the late **Tom Hazelton** and **Donna Parker** founded '*Trio Con Brio*' which uses three organs – usually two electronic and one pipe organ. (**Martin Ellis** took Tom Hazelton's spot when he died.)

In addition to all this, Jonas has been a major influence in the design and manufacturing of both pipe and electronic organs. He was with the *Rodgers Organ Company* for over 30 years, and presently is an artist for the *Allen Organ Company*.

NorCal is proud to have this wonderfully talented artist to wind up our 2010-2011 season. ♪

♪ A FINAL NOTE ♪

Raymond Taylor 1921 - 2011

(see Chairman's Windline below)



CHAIRMAN'S
WINDLINE

Well, it looks like spring has finally made it to northern California. I've survived two California winters now, and can't say they're much like what I experienced back in Michigan! At any rate, it's great to see sunny skies and warmer temperatures...just in time for the Ironstone Pops concert! **Chris Gorsuch** presented yet another terrific program. In May we'll hear **Jonas Nordwall** in the final NorCal TOS BCT concert of the 2010-2011 season... where has the time gone?

I had the pleasure of attending my first NorCal TOS Open Console session a couple of weeks ago, and it was a great experience. It was wonderful to see ELEVEN NorCal TOS members in attendance, honing their keyboard skills, and regaling one another with a variety of styles. It was a real treat to see so many actively enjoying the experience. Thanks to **Chris Nichols** for being a superb console host, as well as going the extra mile to bring out the Toledo console so that it could see some action.

(continued on Page Three)

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

CHAIRMAN	VICE CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER	EDITOR	PROGRAM	MEMBERSHIP
William L. Coale	Judson H. Owens	Arthur Woodworth	Frank La Feltra	Janice La Feltra	Gordon A. Pratt	Neal R. Wood
11740 San Pablo Av Apt 306	1730 Virginia St.	600 Coventry Road	3167 Falls Creek Dr.	3167 Falls Creek Dr	PO Box 275	523 Corbett Avenue
El Cerrito.CA 94530	Berkeley, CA 94703	Kensington, CA 94707	San Jose, CA 95135	San Jose, CA 95135	San Lorenzo, CA 94580	San Francisco, CA 94114
510/778-9117	510/848-8714	510/524-7452	408/532-1044	408/532-1044	510/504-4780	415/861-7082
wmcoale@comcast.net	jud.owens@gmail.com	awoodworth@bigfoot.com	frank@lafetra.com	jan@lafetra.com	aznme2@webtv.net	nealwood@pacbell.net

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.

Review of Jerry Nagano's Concert on March 13, 2011

Don Ravey

It has been too long since I enjoyed **Jerry Nagano's** keyboard artistry at the former *Ye Olde Pizza Joynt* in San Leandro. This was a reminder to me that I must get down to San Jose to hear Jerry (playing the lobby organ prior to symphony and opera performances at the *California Theater*), or at least Palo Alto (pre-film showings at the *Stanford Theater*), [he is] one of the exceptional theatre organists who plays local venues, in addition to making concert tours.

First and foremost, Jerry is a consummate musician with a strong sense of rhythm and blending of tonal effects, and with much experience from his pizza parlor days that enables him to be comfortable, relaxed, and spontaneous with the audience, which served him well when his microphone battery seemed to be running low, requiring an unplanned stage appearance of **Bill Schlotter** to lend technical assistance. Also, his experience scoring silent films gives his arrangements a dramatic touch that makes his performances especially enjoyable.

Jerry explained that much of his concert would be what might be classified as *program music*, which Jerry defined as music that is intended to convey some specific imagery to the listener. I wanted to find an accurate definition of the genre for this review, so I consulted Wikipedia and found this rather startling description of *program music*: "*The paradigm example is Hector Berlioz's **Symphonie fantastique**, which relates a drug-induced series of morbid fantasies concerning the unrequited love of a sensitive poet involving murder, execution, and the torments of Hell.*" Well, Jerry didn't offer anything quite that explicit, but he did provide a number of lovely tunes from *The Wizard of Oz* and such others as *The Girlfriend of the Whirling Dervish*, *On the Road*

to *Mandalay*, *Chattanooga Choo Choo*, and, dare I say, *Red Hot Mama*, that meet the definition.

Having mentioned the medley of tunes from *The Wizard of Oz*, it must be said that Jerry played not just the several very popular songs that were introduced in that film, but much of the themes and *segues* such as the Kansas cyclone and the ending dream sequence. It was almost like watching the film (which I did in its premiere run).

Jerry obviously has a penchant for the compositions of **Harry Warren** and played a great medley of 7 of his songs, plus a couple of others scattered throughout his program. **Harry Warren** is also a favorite of mine, having written so many memorable songs in the 1930's and 1940's, including the outstanding score for Broadway's **42nd Street**. Indeed, you may find this website devoted to **Harry Warren** interesting:

<http://www.harrywarrenmusic.com>

PLAYLIST

Up console:

Keep Your Sunny Side Up

— Ray Henderson, Lew Brown,
Buddy DeSylva (1929)

First half:

The Girlfriend of the Whirling Dervish

— Harry Warren (1938)

Dream

— Johnny Mercer (1944)

Oxford Street

(from *London Again Suite*)

— Eric Coates (1936)

Red Hot Mama

— Gilbert Wells, Bud Cooper
& Fred Rose (1924)

Brassman's Holiday

— Al Hirt (1954)

My Funny Valentine
— Richard Rodgers (1937)
On the Road to Mandalay
— Oley Speaks (1907)
Harry Warren medley:
— **Young And Healthy**
— **I Only Have Eyes For You**
— **September In The Rain**
There'll Never Be Another You
— **You're Getting To Be
A Habit With Me**
— **Shadow Waltz**
— **Home In Pasadena**

Intermission

Up console:

Theme from **The Magnificent Seven**

— Elmer Bernstein (1960)

George Gershwin medley:

— **Embraceable You**

— **But Not For Me**

— **I Got Rhythm**

Holiday For Strings

— David Rose (1943)

Where Or When

— Richard Rodgers (1937)

Medley from *The Wizard of Oz*

— Harold Arlen (1938)

— **Over the Rainbow**

— Cyclone

— **Come Out, Wherever You Are**

— **Ding-Dong! The Witch Is Dead**

— **Follow the Yellow Brick Road**

— **If I Only Had A Brain**

— **The Gates of Oz**

— (Hee-Yup!)

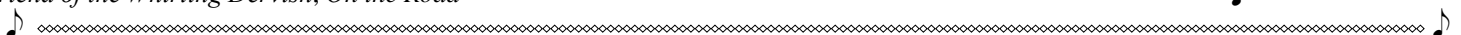
— **Merry Old Land of Oz**

— **Dream Sequence (back to Kansas)**

Encore:

Chattanooga Choo Choo

— Harry Warren (1941)



We Welcome

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Greg Aubell, Waterville, OH

Mr. Pat Borella, Alamo, CA

Mr. Gordon Browning, Paradise, CA

Mrs. Magdalena R. Dominguez,

Menlo Park, CA

Ms. Mary Henningson, Hayward, CA

Mr. Robert Nicholson, Concord, CA

Mr. Cliff Smith, Campbell, CA

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Thomas (Barbara),

San Anselmo, CA

DONATIONS

Thank You

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Douglass

Mr. Curt Hoppins

Mr. Roger Inkpen

Mr. Robert Sanders

NOTICE

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

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

(Chairman from Page One)

On a sad note, we acknowledge the passing of longtime NorCal TOS member and supporter **Ray Taylor**. Ray passed away on April 7 at the age of 90. His accomplishments are legendary, and I was honored to have met him, and played his Hammond organ for his 90th birthday. Ray first introduced himself to me after attending a concert I presented for the ECHO home organ club, and I immediately appreciated his grace and wit. I regret not having the opportunity to have gotten to know him better, but I'm sure to hear more stories as I work beside his son Dick. A NorCal member since 1957, and longtime board member, Ray's contributions to our organization are numerous and significant. Due to space limitations and printing deadlines for this issue, we'll wait until later so that we can give Ray the recognition he so richly deserves. I invite other NorCal members to share their stories, and we can compile them for a proper remembrance of Ray. Please send them along to either editor **Jan LaFetra** or myself. If you need to find e-mail addresses, check out the NorCal TOS website, and perhaps visit our new Members Lobby. Thanks to **Don Ravey** for his hard work on creating this resource for our membership! Speaking of membership, a big thank-you to **Neal Wood** for compiling our NorCal TOS Membership Directory! Members who 'opted in' will receive their own personal printed copy of the directory.

Finally, we will have an interesting year ahead, given the potential of not one, but two major construction projects at the Berkeley Community Theatre. Rest assured that we will keep you posted as soon as we have a better handle on how the next concert season will shape up. Thanks for your continuing patience and support of our great organization!

Bill A

FOR SALE

Rodgers 340 \$10,000 or best offer
Harold Soderstrom
1530 Fairview Ave., Brentwood, CA
94513-5306 dpc 30
Home Phone: 510-724-5254 (Assisted
Living home) or Cell Phone: 707-331-6298

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**. (See below)

AND A NEW FEATURE

Don Ravey just announced the launch of another feature of the *Members Lobby* that can be entered on our website, with the Members password: Members can now opt-in (or opt-out, if they have previously opted in) for having their names, phone numbers and email addresses searchable in our online directory, simply by entering their name and address, as it is recorded in our membership database. They will receive an email with a confirmation link, which must be used to finalize their choice (as a precaution against someone else making such a change in their name). Members will also be able to update their email address and their phone number in the same manner. Any other changes, such as address, must be made by contacting the Membership Chairman, **Neal Wood**. To accomplish any of these changes, all a member needs to do is log into our *Members Lobby* with the Members password, choose Membership Directory Lookup, and then click on Edit.



I am sure every NorCal member was delighted when **Bill Schlotter** presented **Rudy Frey** the *Honorary Membership Award* at our *Annual Business Meeting*.

He joins a select group of Honorees including six that are still with us:

Kevin King, Chris Nichols, Jack O'Neill, Judson Owens, and Bill Schlotter.

Earlier, **Bob Gilbert** had been so honored, and perhaps **Gaylord Carter** and a few others. (I have not yet been able to track this down.)

I told Rudy I wanted to write about him, but Rudy said he would rather I express his gratitude about being so recognized, than talk about his accomplishments, and referred me to the letter of thanks he sent (the then) Chairman, **Neal Wood**. Typically Rudy! So here is that letter. (followed by my brief bio of Rudy.)

JAN

"Dear Neal,

I'd like to thank you and NORCAL for making me an Honorary Member of the society. No one was more surprised than me when **Bill Schlotter** began his citation, on stage, at Berkeley, at the Membership Concert and Meeting January 23rd. A number of people have worked and are working hard and long to make NORCAL what it is today; the presenter of one of the largest, if not the largest Chapter owned theatre organ in ATOS, in one of the finest and most appropriate venues, the Berkeley Community Theatre.

Please express my appreciation, to the Board of Directors, and **Bill Schlotter**, for bestowing this honor on me. It is sincerely appreciated. The framed document is now hanging on the wall in my den with a dozen assorted pictures of organs of the Bay Area and other locations.

Cordially,

Rudy"

A Bit About Rudy Frey

Rudy Frey's middle name isn't Wurlitzer, but it should be. He was born in Buffalo, New York about 20 miles from the closed Wurlitzer plant, in 1939, just about the time the Berkeley Community Theatre was started.

Local theatres in Buffalo originally had organs, but they were either silent or removed., so Rudy didn't get to hear one until he was 16 and his parents took him to New York City's 4/58 Wurlitzer in *Radio City Music Hall*.

He earned a BS degree in Business Administration from the University of Buffalo, (later integrated into the State University of New York).

Next came four years in the Air Force as a flight line aircraft maintenance officer. After his discharge in 1967 he interviewed with United Airlines at National Airport (Washington, D.C.) and was told the only opening was in San Francisco. This gave him a long desired chance to see the Golden

Gate Bridge. (He had visited SF while in the Air Force, and mistook the Bay Bridge for the Golden Gate.)

In the late 1960's when Rudy arrived in the Bay Area, Pizza Parlors were in full swing, and Rudy became a regular.

In 1974 while visiting his parents in Buffalo, they introduced him to **Earl Gilbert**, who had a 6-rank, *Style 165-X Wurlitzer* in his home. Mr. Gilbert urged him to join ATOS, and mentioned that the ATOS Convention was being held in Detroit. So Rudy stopped by on his way back to California, and heard the last half of the Convention. The first concert he heard was **Lyn Larsen** playing the *DTOC Senate Theatre 4/34 Wurlitzer*, and he was so impressed he joined both ATOS and NorCal on the spot.

The next year (1975) the ATOS Convention was in San Francisco, and inspired Rudy to buy *Wurlitzer Opus 1005, a 6 rank Style D-X Wurlitzer*, originally in the *Royal Theatre* on Polk Street. However the organ was in Salt Lake City, so with **Dick Taylor's** help it was moved back to San Francisco. Later, Rudy helped Dick in the installation of the *Wurlitzer* in the *Castro Theatre*.

Judson Owens, the manager of the *Berkeley Community Theatre*, asked NorCal officers if they were interested in installing an organ in the BCT. NorCal was, and Rudy was a major player in locating pipes and consoles in the process. Working for an airline he could fly easily, and made many trips for NorCal. [The whole story is too long for this piece, but is fascinating, so maybe another Windsheet can tell it. —Editor]

Rudy retired from United Airlines in 2003, but has kept up his work with NorCal, including serving (sometimes more than once) as Chairman and Convention Chair, and Editor of the Windsheet.

He even met his future wife, **Gail Richardson**, at a NorCal picnic. **Lorraine Smith** had a 2-manual *Smith theatre organ* in her home, and hosted the 1992 NorCal summer picnic. She invited her friend, Gail to come, and she and Rudy hit it off. Even the courtship had a theatre organ ring to it. as they began meeting midway between their houses for dinner and a movie at the Stanford Theatre. They were married the next year, and Gail has joined Rudy as an active member of NorCal.



**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

**May 22, June 19
July 17, August 14**

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: www.atos.org/radio

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

NorCal presents –



norcaltos.org

Sunday, May 22, 2011 — 7:30 PM
Inaugural Concert
“Piano and Pipes” Ragtime Trio
Chris & Jack Bradshaw, piano duo
with **Bill Coale**, theatre organ
Old Town Music Hall
140 Richmond Street, El Segundo, CA
Tickets \$20. For information and reservations, call OTMH: (310) 322-2592

Open Consoles at the BCT
(see column to left)
May 22, June 19, July 17, and Aug. 14

June 29 - July 5, 2011
ATOS National Convention
Providence, Rhode Island
Read all about it at:
www.atos.org

NorCal meeting—
June 12, 2011 at 1 PM
NorCal member **P.W. Bowen**
Grace Baptist Church 484 E. San Fernando St., San Jose (downtown)
3/13 Robert Morton originally San Jose
Liberty Theater w/ original TO features.
(Save this date—More information in May Windsheet)

Saturday, July 30, 2011 — 2:00 PM
Second Concert
Piano and Pipes Ragtime Trio
as **described** for
May 22, **above**, venue is:
Wendell Jacob's home in Davis, CA
Call (530)753-3916
for reservations and directions
Donations accepted jointly for the
Sierra Chapter ATOS Scholarship Fund
and the
West Coast Ragtime Youth Program

OTHER VENUES

[Editor's note: With most venues having websites it is no longer logical to take up space here for details of programs too far away to interest most members. Bay Area and important events will still be covered as space is available.]