
The WINDSHEET



Newsletter of the NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY BERKELEY COMMUNITY THEATRE www.norcaltos.org
PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625 510/644-2707 Allston Way betw'n Milvia St & MLK, Jr Way
May 2012

Review of POPS IRONSTONE CONCERT BRETT VALLIANT at Ironstone Vineyards April 14, 2012

The storms of the past few days were over and we were greeted at the winery by rows of tubs bursting with all sorts of tulips in full bloom. After a fine buffet dinner, **Dave Saur** introduced our artist of the day, **Brett Valliant**. Brett opened with a medley consisting of *My Sin* (closely following the **Crawford** arrangement), *Anything Goes*, and *From This Moment On*. Brett told us that he was from an unmusical family but his parents were into classic rock and roll. From that era he played *Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow*?

Next was an up-tempo medley of *Smile, Darn Ya, Smile, Just Around the corner*, and *June Night*. By now we knew that Brett had full control of the 3-manual, 15 rank *Robert Morton theatre pipe organ* from *Sacramento's Alhambra Theatre*. His varied registrations were appropriate to each piece of music and pleasure to our ears.

A sultry *Black Moonlight* was followed by a crisp, very English sounding *Pomp and Circumstance No. 1* by **Elgar**. Also quite English, was *Autumn Concerto*. This piece was the basis for the American popular song *And That Reminds Me of You*, recorded by **Della Reese**. Brett followed that with the theme from the film *ET*.

Brett said that when he played in a large pizza parlor 'somewhere in the southwest', he was advised that there would be a large number of snow birds in the audience and that they loved polkas. He then played *Clarinet Polka*. Brett closed the first half with the *Toccata from Widor's Fifth Organ Symphony*. As with *Pomp and Circumstance*, his untremmed registrations were appropriate and brought out the music.

Brett began the second half with *Pietro's Return*. A number of theatre organists have played this lively 6/8 march, originally composed for the accordion. (**Everett Nurse** played it in the film about the *San Francisco Fox*.) Brett then played *O Sole Mio* as a duet between the organ and the 9-foot concert grand piano. This was followed by *In My Life*.



Brett Valliant at Ironstone Vineyards

Next was *Chicago* with jazzy variations including riffs on the post horn. Changing the mood, Brett explained that he plays at a church whose organ includes some Wurlitzer pipe work. He played variations on *Amazing Grace* intermixed with *Joyful, Joyful* and *I'll Fly Away*. In honor of the centennial of the loss of the **Titanic**, he played the theme from the motion picture of that name.

Living things up was *I'll Take an Option on You*. This **Ralph Rainger** novelty song was the radio theme song of Bay Area organist **Richard Purvis**. (Writer's note: Mr. Purvis played the *Chapel of the Chimes Wurlitzer* on radio station KRE under the pseudonym of **Donald Irving** as "It just wouldn't do for the organist at Grace Cathedral to play that sort of music.") *Achtun Los (Ready, Go)* was a fast polka written by an Austrian accordionist.

Brett concluded this most enjoyable concert with *We'll Meet Again*. As an encore, he played *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*.

-Art Woodworth.

DONATIONS

NorCal Thanks:

A generous **matching gift** to **Bert Atwood's** gift from FM Global,

Mr. Chris Nichols

Mr. Edward Millington Stout. III

Mr. Curtis M. Wood

NEW MEMBERS

NorCal Welcomes:

Mr. & Mrs. Carle E. McFarland (Doris),
Santa Rosa, CA

Heather Yager, Oakland, CA

NorCal Theatre Organ Society (NorCal TOS) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.
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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.

♪ A FINAL NOTE ♪

ROD DAGGETT

March 18, 2012

Rod Daggett was a long time member of ATOS, and a Charter Member of Sierra Chapter who passed away at 96.

BOB HAENGGI

October 25, 1939 - March 9, 2012

Bob Haenggi was a active member of NorCal for many years, often playing Open Console, before leaving Pacifica a few years ago for the Palm Springs area where he became active in the San Diego ATOS Chapter.

GERRE HANCOCK

February 21, 1934 – January 21, 2012

Gerre was a nationally known recitalist, choir director, teacher, and composer of both organ and choral works.

Art Woodworth's Review of WENDELL JACOB'S OPEN HOUSE, February 26th

On Sunday, February 26, a friendly crowd of NorCal and Sierra Chapter members got together for a very enjoyable afternoon at the home of **Wendell Jacobs** in Davis. Last month's Windsheet has a great photo of the room and tells about the various musical instruments there. Many of those present got a chance or two to play the 3-manual, 12-rank Möller lobby organ from the San Francisco Fox Theatre, which is the cornerstone of Wendell's wonderful collection.

Because of its tonal design (for playing background music for patrons awaiting entrance to the auditorium), one can stroll through the chambers without need for ear protection. It is not at all intimidating to play (at least compared to the four-manual consoles at BCT). Among the NorCal members playing were **P. W. Bowen, Craig Browning, Kevin King, Tom Mathiesen, Gordon Pratt, Don Siefert**, and your correspondent. I may have missed some others.

There were some clouds up in the sky but it was warm and cheerful inside. Tables were set up in the back of the room so those of us who brought our lunch could have an indoor picnic without missing any of the music.

EDITOR'S



I hope you heard **Brett Valliant's** delightful concert at the **Ironstone Vineyards**.

This fine young artist has a talent for many things musical, including the popular music loved by fans of theatre organs, as well as for scoring and accompanying many silent films, especially the dramatic ones. Brett's style has been called "exciting, refreshing, unorthodox, and astonishing."

His brief demonstration of the organ was one of the best I have ever heard, and especially appropriate to the many audience members who hadn't heard a Theatre Organ before.

On another subject, we all have our share of bad days, but few of us can take it in stride and actually get a laugh out of it. **P.W. Bowen** had such a time at **Wendell Jacobs' Open House**, and sent the following note:

"Concerning the grand ending at Jacobs' home, I was having one last go at it, doing, I believe, *Largo from Xerxes*, building to a grand finish, hit the #10 button for full organ, grabbed a handful of keys ... and ... the organ blew a fuse. [This] Was not the dramatic ending I was working for. It made a squeaky little noise in the wrong key (I think the strings were the only thing left playing) and **Dave M.** had to come replace the fuse so I could finish it. Drat!

"That is such a let down when you are building and building ... and building ... Sigh-h-h-h!"

Thank You P.W. for a good laugh!

JAN

2012 ATOS Youth Camp

Helping Young Artists get started is essential to keeping Pipe Organ Music playing, so our NorCal Board once again agreed that NorCal would match NorCal member donations up to an aggregate total of \$2,500 toward donation to the ATOS fund to financially assist young people to attend the youth camp.

Now it is up to members to help this excellent cause by making donations. Send your check to Treasurer Neal Wood in any amount and be part of this important effort to help young Pipe Organ artists get started.

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 have a copy of the *free* Adobe Acrobat Reader.

We also have an up-to-date Calendar Events online. Be sure to visit it!

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

www.norcaltos.org

A Reminder from Jeremy Wance

The Pipedreams program on Public Radio has some wonderful organ music, including a program entitled '**Virgil Fox: The Centenary**' on April 30th..

You can listen on-demand at the *Pipedreams* website: <http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/listings/2012/1210/> or tune in to your local radio station. There is, however, some bonus material that is only available on the web.

[Ed. Notes: This came in too late to fully check, but the web site looks interesting.]

St Peter's Chapel, Walnut Avenue, (Mare Island) Vallejo, Sunday, May 6th

The Chapel is now a museum with over 20-Tiffany-stained-glass windows. **Dr. Cyril Deaconoff** of S' John's Presbyterian Church, San Francisco will give an organ concert on the 2-manual Wicks, circa the early 30's at S' Peter's Chapel at **3:00PM**. Tickets are \$15 at the *Vallejo Naval Historical Museum*, Vallejo (707)643-0077 or at the door. The theme of Dr. Deaconoff's program will be: *Gently Swinging the Classics—Classical & Popular Music for Organ*. That sounds like fun.

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



Although it's been a bit frustrating not having full access to the *Berkeley Community Theatre*, we're encouraged by the results of a meeting held with Berkeley Unified School District administrator **Al Willright**. Former NorCal chairman **Neal Wood** and I spent an hour with Al, discussing the status of the construction project, as well as other issues of mutual interest to **NorCal** and **BUSD**. Al indicated strong support for NorCal, and plans to provide access and training for NorCal on the new theater lighting system and will set us up for two cordless microphones along with a mixer. Al will provide keys as needed, saying he would like to see the theater get used. In addition, he indicated that if all goes as planned, the BCT should be released for general use sometime after the end of the school year in June. I plan to meet again with Al prior to our next NorCal board meeting, and will provide updates to the membership via the *Windsheet*.

Even though we haven't been able to hold concerts, the organ crew under the able leadership of **Bill Schlotter** has been very active, undertaking the huge task of making a full inventory of all donated organ components currently stored at BCT. This will help us develop a plan of action to make these items available to other individuals or groups who may have a use for them. We're also trying to schedule some off-site events, and thanks go to **Gordon Pratt** for his efforts. Many of you were able to attend the recent enjoyable event at the home of **Wendell Jacob**.

Thanks are also due to our Treasurer/Membership guru **Neal Wood** for getting our tax forms filed in an efficient and accurate fashion. In order to maintain our fiscal integrity, a small committee will examine last year's financial statements to ensure that our procedures and accuracy are top-notch. We'll report the results of that financial review in a later *Windsheet*.

Bill A

6th Annual Poorman's Organ Convention

Saturday & Sunday, May 5 & 6, 2012
6th Annual Poorman's Organ Convention

Spohn Granada

616 Kentucky St, Bakersfield, CA

Come and visit with other pipe organ people. Play the 4/24 Robert Morton.

Let us know if you would like to play a movie on the big screen. We have hundreds of silent movies and several formats of projection, carbon arc 35mm, DVD, VHS, Video, carbon arc 16mm, magic lantern. Bring your own movie to play, we can get it on the big screen.

Bring a sleeping bag and crash in the theatre for a real adventure.

Close to Basque and fast food Restaurants, Close to Motels. Soft Drinks, Hard Drinks and Snack Bar Food are available.

Play any kind of music you please, original theatre organ, classical, religious, rock, pop, marches, waltzes. I don't care what you play as long as you play. Even if you don't play come listen to those that do.

The artists for this convention are you the attendees.

Help us keep the theatre pipe organ alive.

Call **Jim Spohn** with questions.

(661) 326-1308

www.theatreorgans.com/spohngranada

[Ed Note: **Chris Nichols** alerted us to: <http://youtube.com/UkVVLrKx6u4> which he believes is the same video as used last year, with this year's dates.]

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:

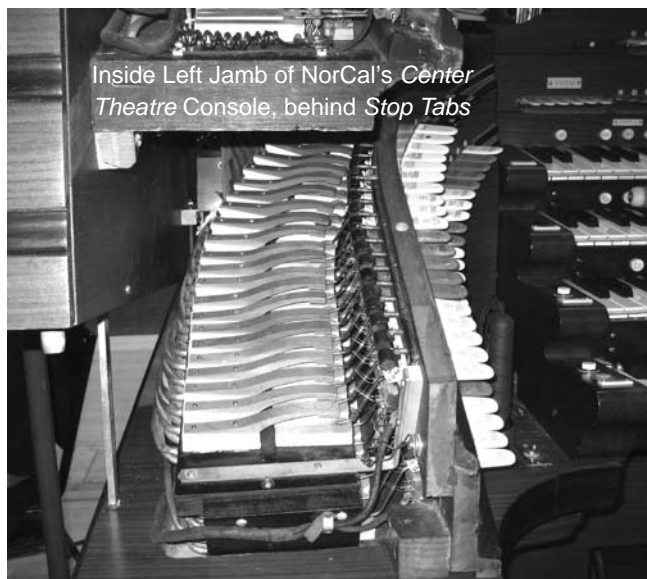
Sundays
May 27, June 17, July 22

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 in rotation at the console.

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.

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.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday May 2nd, Dennis James plays a double feature, starting at 7:30PM

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer

221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA, (650)324-3700

[7:30] *A Girl in Every Port* & [9:00] *Fig Leaves*

www.stanfordtheatre.org

Thursday May 3rd, Dennis James plays another double feature, starting at 7:30PM

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer

221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA, (650)324-3700

[7:30] *Paid to Love* & [8:55] *Fazail*

www.stanfordtheatre.org

Friday, May 4, 6:30 PM, Stockton Fox Event
On the Waterfront with **Tom Thompson** on the Mighty Morton

\$8/Adults

Bob Hope Theatre, 242 E. Main St.

Stockton CA, 95202, 209-337-HOPE (4673)

ticketoffice@stocktonarena.com

Saturday & Sunday, May 5 & 6, 2012
6th Annual

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(See Article on Page Three)

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Sunday, May 6th, 3PM, S' Peter's Chapel
Mare Island (Vallejo), the theme *Gently Swinging the Classics—Classical & Popular Music for Organ*.

Tickets (707)643-0077 or at the door..

(See Page Two).

Sunday, May 20, 2012 at 2 PM

Friends of the Stockton Fox

Present **Clark Wilson** in concert and accompanying the 1928 Silent Film, *Steamboat Bill, Jr.* with **Buster Keaton**.

Special Admission Price \$15.00

Bob Hope Theatre,

242 E. Main St. Stockton CA, 95202,

(209)337-HOPE [4673]

ticketoffice@stocktonarena.com

NorCal presents —

Open Console at BCT

Sundays 1 to 5 PM

May 27, June 17, July 22

(see Page Two)

www.norcaltos.org

2012 ATOS Annual Convention

Southern California, July 2nd - 8th 2012

This promises to be one of the best Nationals yet and is not far away! Check out the full information at:

www.atos.org

WANT A PIPE ORGAN SHIRT?

Apparently there are some nice Pipe Organ Shirts on ebay according to **John Ledwon** via **Rudy Frey**. To view, follow the link below:

http://www.ebay.com/sch/merchant/idakoos?_nkw=Pipe%20Organ

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At our Annual Meeting **Secretary A Neal Wood** reported that NorCal membership now stands at 206 consisting of 109 Active Members (Nor-Cal and ATOS), 91 Friends (NorCal only), and 6 Honorary Members. The mailing list includes 10 complimentary, 0 'First Timers' and 7 expired memberships. He also reported that we have 431 *Facebook* Members.

OTHER VENUES

[Editor's note: Most venues now have websites so we will no longer take up space here for details of programs too far away to interest most members, but websites will be given. Bay Area and important events will continue to be covered]

Castro Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 429 Castro St. San Francisco, CA. Intermission music played daily by **David Hegarty**, **Warren Lubich**, **Mark Putterbaugh** or **Harry Garland**. (425) 621-6120.

www.castrotheatre.com

Grand Lake Theatre, 3/18 Wurlitzer, 3200 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA. Intermission music: **Warren Lubich** or **Gordon Pratt** (Fridays) & **Kevin King** (Saturdays). (510) 452-3556.

Los Angeles - www.latos.org

Orange County - www.octos.org

Palace of the Legion of Honor, 4/63 E.M. Skinner, Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays from 4:00 to 4:45 PM. Free after museum admission. **David Hegarty** plays an *Organ Pops Concert* on the first full weekend of each month; other artists play classical concerts other weekends. (415) 750-3600.

www.legionofhonor.org

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025 Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10 AM. (510) 465-6400, and the Classic Film Series on many Fridays at 8 PM.

www.paramounttheatre.com

San Diego - www.tossd.org

Santa Barbara - www.sbsos.org

Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 300 W. Main St. Visalia, CA. (559) 625-1FOX (1369)

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.