

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
 June 2012



CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE



Well, we'd normally be closing out our regular concert season in May, but with that said, at this point we are hopeful to resume normal operations for the 2012-2013 school year!

In recent discussions with **Al Wilright**, *Operations Director for the Berkeley Unified School District*, I was told that it's very likely that the auditorium will be "released" for public use sometime before school starts in the fall. During the summer, contractors will be doing the final stage of the renovation project, which includes safety railing around the pit, and that is an item that is important to our activities. Hopefully, we'll get the 'all-clear' early enough to schedule a concert in November. In the meantime, we just have to wait and see. Keep your fingers crossed!

In light of our desire to be a good 'tenant', the organ crew under the able leadership of **Bill Schlotter**, has been busy taking inventory of all of the 'extra' ranks and miscellany that have accumulated over the years. Once the inventory is complete, we'll try to list the items for sale, in an attempt to clear the fly-gallery walkways of NorCal items. This is particularly important in light of recent news (below) regarding the issue of a *Technical Theatre Manager* position.

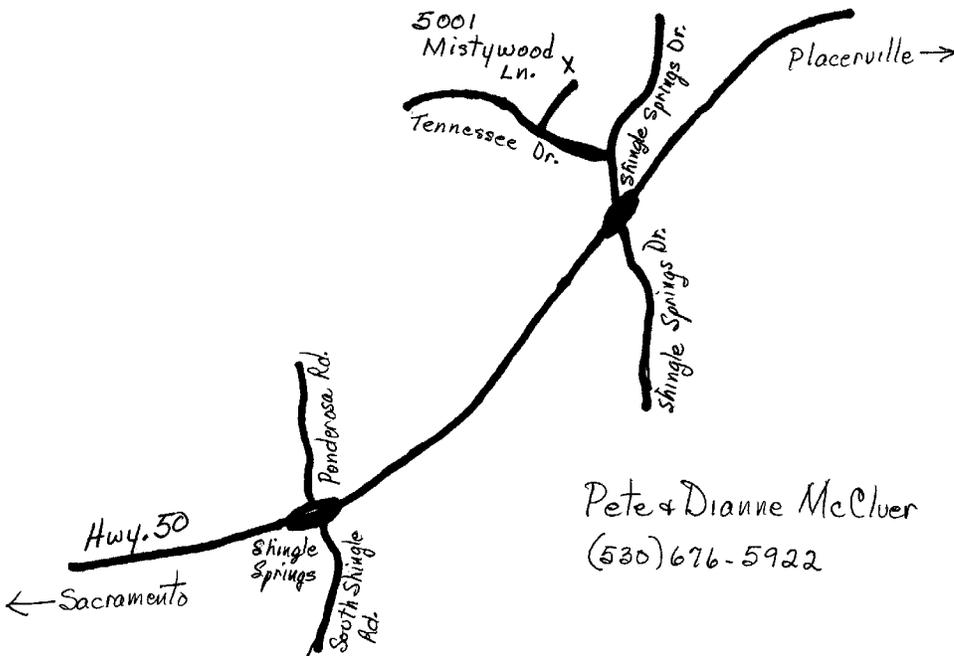
According to **NorCal member** and **BUSD parent Nicolie Bolster**, the District released the following: *(This in via Facebook)*
(continued on Page Four)

Concert at Pete McClure's at NOON, SATURDAY, June 16th

If you have ever been to a picnic/concert at **Pete McClure's** you already know what a treat is in store for the one on **June 16th**, sponsored by **Sierra Chapter**. Pete's now completed 3/19 *Wurlitzer* will be available for Open Console after a Potluck Lunch at Noon.

Everyone bring a main dish **AND** either, a salad or dessert. Please also bring your own plate and eating utensils.. For directions go to:

www.sierrachapterATOS.org



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.

SCOTTY'S CASTLE ORGAN CONCERT

In Death Valley National Park

The **Scotty's Castle Organ Concert** is sponsored by the *Death Valley Natural History Association* and the **National Park Service**. The concert is held annually within the Upper Music Room of Scotty's Castle in Death Valley National Park. This year's concert dates are June 22-23, 2012, featuring accomplished Theatre organist, **Christian Elliott**. Proceeds for this event help fund the annual maintenance and tuning of the Scotty's Castle Organ and its associated instruments including: 1121 pipes, a grand piano, glockenspiel, xylophone, chimes, orchestra bells, sleigh bells, bird calls and an assortment of drums and cymbals.

The **Welte-Mignon theater pipe organ** located in Scotty's Castle's Upper Music Room was purchased to accompany silent films. It is estimated that \$50,000 was spent by the Johnsons to purchase the organ and have it delivered and installed in 1928 - just in time for film sound synchronization to be perfected and become the new standard for talking films in the 1930's.

This unique concert venue is available one weekend each year, after the organ maintenance work has been completed and during the curatorial maintenance of the historic house itself. This work must be completed each year to assist in preserving the entire collection housed at Scotty's Castle. The timing is also crucial to ensure that the Upper Music Room space is open for concert seating.

There are only 40 seats for each concert and performances usually sell out well in advance. This year we are offering two performances each night. The Concert times are 5:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. both Friday and Saturday, June 22 & 23.

The ticket price is \$40 per person. All proceeds benefit the Scotty's Castle Theatre Organ and Chimes Tower Maintenance Fund.

Death Valley Natural History Association (DVNHA) is a non-profit partner of Death Valley National Park dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of the natural and cultural history of the Death Valley region. In addition to providing free literature and support for other programs, DVNHA sponsors the Organ Concert at Scotty's Castle located at the northern end of Death Valley National Park each year.

To make reservations or to make a direct donation please call the Death Valley Natural History Association at [\(800\)478-8564 ext 10](tel:(800)478-8564). For information about Scotty's Castle, visit the Death Valley National Park website www.nps.gov/deva. Christian Elliott's Biography is at http://www.christianelliott.com/Christian_Elliott/About_Me.html

[Sorry, I've not been able to find any suitable pictures of the organ — Publ.]

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



Join Sierra Chapter Members and Take the Train to the ATOS Convention!

This year's ATOS convention in Los Angeles features not only an impressive array of great artists and pipe organs, but also a 4th of July Fireworks Spectacular at the *Hollywood Bowl with the LA Philharmonic Orchestra* and special guest **Barry Manilow**. If you have never been to an ATOS convention, this is the one you must attend!

And you can join Sierra Chapter members in taking the **Amtrak Coast Starlight** for a fabulous trip to Los Angeles. What a great way to start the week at the **2012 ATOS Convention**.

The view of the Pacific Ocean from the train on Sunday afternoon will be spectacular. Your meals are served on real China in the Parlor Car.

Anyone else want to go? The train leaves Sacramento at 6:35 a.m. and two hours later from the Bay Area. Price is comparable to air fare, but see **Dave Sauer** for complete details.

Dave Sauer

sauer@comcast.net

[For some great photos of the Coast Starlight train go to Sierra Chapter's website www.sierrachapterATOS.org.]

An Excellent Pipedreams Episode

Tom De Lay sent this link to the May 14, 2012 episode of the Pipedreams program. The entire show is available for streaming. It is an all theatre organ program. Various artists and instruments are included.

<http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/listings/2012/1220/>



Paramount Theatre's Summer Movie Classic Series Starts in 2 Weeks!

Return to Hollywood's Golden Era in America's finest Art Deco movie palace. Movie Classic Night features 35mm film prints, a newsreel, cartoon, previews, and fabulous prizes in the Paramount's own game of chance "DecOWin". Live organ serenade on the Mighty Wurlitzer begins at 7:30 PM! Movies start at 8:00 PM. Come dressed as your favorite character!

Friday, June 8 ~ STAND BY ME

Friday, June 29 ~ THE BLUES
BROTHERS

Friday, July 13 ~ APOLLO 13

Friday, August 3 ~ GHOSTBUSTERS

Friday, August 17 ~ CLOSE
ENCOUNTERS OF THE 3RD KIND

Friday, September 7 ~ AMERICAN
WEREWOLF IN LONDON

Friday, September 28 ~ THE
BREAKFAST CLUB

Tickets are ONLY \$5.00 and you may purchase them at the *Paramount Theatre Box Office*, ticketmaster.com or call (800)745-3000. (There is no Service Charge for tickets purchased at the Box Office.)

Day of show, Box Office opens at 6 p.m., doors open at 7 p.m.

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. A few donations have already come in, and we encourage you to 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.

FOR SALE

I am in possession of the 1922 Fox Orpheum theater Möller organ that was in the original theater in Oakland. If you know anyone who might have an interested in it, I need to find a good home for it. Asking price is \$4,500 or best offer and it is located in Fresno, CA. It is listed on: <http://sfbay.craigslist.org/eb/msg/3015614383.html>

David Owens, owens@ipacific.com

x x x

Lowery Ebony 300-500, like new condition for sale, perhaps to someone wanting to upgrade? Asking 2k.

Bob Werkheiser, San Francisco, CA
415 215-3789

bobwerk@sbcglobal.net

x x x

3/13 Robert Morton Theater Pipe Organ
Contact: C. G. Soley at 601.433.3311 or
csoley@bellsouth.net

[Ed Note: No details were included, but 8 pictures were of the console were sent. To see the pictures contact C. G. Soley.]

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**.

**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

June 17, July 22, August 12

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 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!

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.

(Chairman's Windline continued from PageOne)

"Just announced: the largest donation in the history of Berkeley schools is \$250,000 from three members of the comedy music and video group *The Lonely Island*, **Andy Samberg**, **Akiva Schaffer** and **Jorm Taccone**, who have been friends since *Willard High School*. **Nicolie Bolster** adds: The angels did fly to our beloved theater! Thanks for *The Lonely Island* guys designating **BUSD** to receive the *Doritos*' donation. The decision was publicly announced by **Supt. Bill Huyett** on Friday that part of the funds are being used to again fund having a *Technical Theater Manager* for the BCT. So, it looks like some positive changes may well be on the way.

Well, I'm off to attend my first-ever *Wanamaker Organ Day* in Philadelphia, and I can hardly wait! I Hope to see everyone at **Pete and Diane McCluer's!**

Bill M

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, June 10th—

Stockton Fox Presents —
GIANT

A 1956 **American drama film**, directed by **George Stevens**, the film stars **Elizabeth Taylor**, **Rock Hudson** and **James Dean** with **Dave Moreno**
Playing the *Music of 1956*
on the Robert Morton
6:30 PM - \$8/Adults

Saturday, June 16th — Picnic at Pete McClure's (see article page 1)

NorCal presents —
Open Console at the BCT

Sundays
June 17, July 22, August 12
(See Article on Page Three)
norcaltos.org

OTHER VENUES

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

Castro Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer, 429 Castro St. SF, 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
Bob Ralston will perform a concert and show on the *4 Manual/32 Rank Wurlitzer at the Founders Center in Los Angeles* September 30, 2012 at 2:30 PM.

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.sbtos.org

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer, 221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA. The organ is played before and between films. (650) 324-3700.
www.StanfordTheatre.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.