CONCERT & OPEN CONSOLE at GRAND LAKE THEATRE
Saturday, August 18, 2012 - 9 AM

Warren Lubich will play the first NorCal concert that our Chapter has been able to put on for quite some time. With things looking up for use of the BCT (see below) it is time for our members to get back into the swing of our own concerts.

Not only will Warren play a short program, an Open Console will follow, giving members a chance to play Kevin King’s Better Than Ever 3/18 Wurlitzer organ.

Warren is well known to NorCal members both for his activities as a member, but also for his talent at the keyboard. As a staff organist at the Grand Lake he knows how to bring the very best out of this wonderful organ. Warren’s concerts are always a delightful event, so plan to get up early as the 9 AM opening is necessary for the theatre to open for its regular Saturday movie program.
Ron Downer was a charter member of NorCal. While he didn’t work on the organ crew, he made significant donations of parts to the club’s Wurlitzer installation in the Berkeley Community Theater, and was always available to offer advice.

He is survived by his wife Alexis, a sister in Redding and a nephew out of state.

Ron will be buried at sea by Neptune Services in August. There will not be a public service.

— Rudy Frey

Remembering Jon Johnston — Jon was a well known and respected pipe organ technician, tuner, voicer, and finisher.

He apprenticed to the brilliant Paul Schoenstein where he learned skills that he would exhibit throughout his life. Jon was also an accomplished theatre organist who shied away from public playing but wowed all who were lucky enough to hear him play. He had the rare gift of ‘perfect pitch’ which gave him amazing tuning skills.

He had a wild sense of humor that often caught you off-guard in moments and situations where you dared not laugh out loud. For nearly 20 years Jon cared for and tuned the Avenue Wurlitzer. Visiting artists would comment on the tight tuning and finishing for which Jon was largely responsible.

Jon was a great teacher who shared his extensive knowledge with everyone who sought it. Those of us in NorCal who knew Jon for 50 years will miss his humor, talent, and kindness.

— Al Sefl

NORCAL WEBSITE

We 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 of Events online, and under the Recordings page is Jonas Nordwall’s newest CD. Be sure to visit our website!

norcaltos.org

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.

This & That

Mesa, AZ Organ Pipe Pizza celebrates 40th Birthday

After decades of silence, the Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall organ plays again.
School’s out, and lots of things are happening at BCT. From looking at the organ crew’s report (a new feature for the Windsheet to help keep our membership informed regarding the great things our talented organ crew is working on), you’ll notice that we’re doing some ‘Spring Cleaning’ of sorts.

Over time, we’ve accumulated many ranks of pipes and other organ components, and we really need to get them organized, and get what we don’t need into hands of others who can put them to good use. The crew has done a super job in the inventory process!

We also want to minimize the amount of storage space that we’re utilizing in the BCT, in light of looking forward to building a strong relationship with the new theatre management, as well as the school district itself.

My recent discussions with Al Wilright, Operations/Facility Manager, indicated that the ‘follow-on’ project for BCT, which includes handrails and safety curbing in the auditorium, should be completed sometime this summer, which would then allow for the ‘release’ of the Berkeley Community Theatre to public use. That would be tremendous news, and allow NorCal to once again plan for a concert season. Keep those fingers crossed!

On another note, Berkeley High School has received funding through donations to hire a technical manager to support the theatre. The position will be filled beginning with the 2012-13 school year. This is welcome news for NorCal and hopefully will allow our scheduled concert seasons to continue.

Because part of the funding for the stage manager position will come from Federal Perkins Vocational Education funds, the position will involve teaching this course to BHS Students in addition to the management duties.

In other happenings, it was wonderful to see a good turnout of NorCal and Sierra Chapter members at the national ATOS convention held in Los Angeles. This was my first opportunity to hear all of those great instruments (with the exception of Old Town Music Hall, where I performed last year). That, on top of seeing the amazing automobile collection at San Sylmar, and a fantastic day at Universal Studios (no, that wasn’t on the convention docket), made for a fantastic week. Even better was the chance to meet and chat with theatre organ aficionados from all over, including the two chaperones of the Rye Academy students from the UK. In my mind, the convention was absolutely terrific, and I’m also looking forward to another great one next year in Atlanta. Hope to see you there!

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

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.

BITS FROM THE ATOS CONVENTION

You can read all about the Convention in Theatre Organ Magazine but here are some ‘tidbits’ of interest.

Mark Herman was named Organist of the Year. Mark first appeared at the ATOS Convention that NorCal sponsored in 2003 in Oakland. He has been a frequent guest artist for NorCal and we hope to hear him often in the future.

Stephen Kucera was named Organ Student of the Year and we look forward to hearing this talented young man in the future.

FUTURE ATOS CONVENTIONS

2013 Convention — Atlanta
2014 Convention — Indianapolis
2015 Convention — Salt Lake City
UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Annual Technical Experience
August 5-9, 2012
Marriott Courtyard, 770 Copperfield Dr., Norman, OK 73072, (405) 701-8900
ATOS is offering the 3rd annual Technical Experience for participants 18 years of age and older. This will be a technical learning session with hands-on experience. Tuition for the camp is $300. Space is limited to 18 attendees.

Allen Miller is the primary instructor with teaching assistance from Clark Wilson, Don Phipps and other guests.

The 2012 Technical Experience takes place at the American Organ Institute shop at the University of Oklahoma.

The official hotel is the Marriott Courtyard. Mention ATOS for a special rate of $79/day.

http://www.atos.org/node/994

NORCAL PRESENTS – Open Console at BCT
Sundays
August 12, Sept. 9
(See Page Three)
norcaltos.org

Dennis James accompanies these silent films playing locally --

July 20, Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto
Rudolph Valentino in Son of the Sheik.

August 3, Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto
Lillian Gish in D. W. Griffith's Way Down East.

August 17, Stanford Theatre, Palo Alto
Lillian Gish in MGM’s The Wind.

OTHER VENUES

[Editor’s note: Check websites for details of programs.]


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.
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

ORGAN CREW REPORT

Even though the concert season is still in limbo, the organ crew headed by Bill Schlottter, still meets every Saturday to maintain the NorCal Wurlitzer. Along with the usual maintenance, this summer the crew has embarked on a project that has been long overdue; that is to inventory the many organ parts that have been donated over the years.

Every crate of organ pipes and parts were counted, sorted, and their condition noted. Parts destined for the completion of the NorCal Wurlitzer (yes, there are still more pipes to add) will be stored in the upper relay room, and the rest will be sold to individuals or donated to other chapters for their organs. Bill Coale is working with ATOS to establish a national pipe organ parts registry so that chapters can coordinate the exchange of material. The good news is that we have already sold several ranks of pipes, and there are some more impending sales.

You are always invited to come and see the organ crew in action on Saturdays from 10:00am to 5:00pm. Because we are not always sure the theatre will be available to work on the organ, call the NorCal answering machine at (510) 644-2707 for status prior to leaving home for your visit on Saturday.