

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
 October 2012



It's Party Time



COME TO THE NORCAL STAGE DOOR SOCIAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH Anytime between 1 and 5 PM at the BCT

- SEE — the remodeled BCT
- WATCH — a great Slide Show, starts about 2 PM
- LISTEN — to play back of Concerts
- BUY — CDs, Donated Records, and a Large, Color Console Poster
- ENJOY — Refreshments while you visit•
- VISIT — NorCal Friends

The slide show is about the Toledo Paramount Organ The slides are from **Virgil Howard**, the last organist at the Toledo Paramount.



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.



David Hegarty at GIGI, Bert Atwood's Allen GW-4

NorCal TOS Picnic at Bert and Ann Atwood's overlooking Konocti Bay on Clearlake



Two Radio/TV Themes
The Love Nest (BURNS & ALLEN)
 (music **Louis Hirsch**; lyrics **Otto Harbach**)
You (ART LINKLETTER'S HOUSE PARTY)
 (music **Walter Donaldson**; lyrics **Harold Adamson**)

Three Songs by **George Gershwin**
S' Wonderful
He Loves and She Loves
Someone to Watch over Me

Music by **Bronislaw Kaper**
San Francisco
 ♪♪

The picnic at **Bert & Ann Atwood's** on September 30th was wonderful! *Gigi*, Bert's *GW-IV Allen Organ*, was better than ever, showing off the ongoing loving care and increased capabilities shown by Bert and his crew of **Bert Robinson, Bill Schlotter, Chris Nichols, Elbert Dawson, Neil Wood** and **Tom DeLay**.

After and during an informal Open Console, the 30 or so people there continued to listen, have their picnic lunch, and enjoy conversations.

For the concert itself, **David Hegarty** was obviously familiar with *Gigi* and together they gave a concert the audience will long remember.

Open console continued after the concert, with many people playing. **Bill Langford**, well known retired theatre organ artist par excellence lives nearby. He ultimately played an outstanding set. Unfortunately most of the audience missed this as he did not start until 5 PM. [See **Art Woodworth's** note on this.]

The weather was perfect, as was the setting on *Clear Lake*, and the warm hospitality shown by the Atwood's put a finishing touch on a perfect day. Thank you, Bert & Ann!

David Hegarty's Playlist

Selections from *Gigi* (**Lerner and Loewe**)
Gigi
The Night They Invented Champagne
Thank Heaven For Little Girls

Three Songs by **Irving Berlin**
Say It with Music
Always
Top Hat, White Tie and Tails

Music by **Albert W. Ketelbey**
In a Monastery Garden

Selections from *Love Me Tonight*
Rogers & Hammerstein
Isn't It Romantic
Mimi
Lover

Three Movie Themes by **Erich Korngold**
Devotion
Escape Me Never: Love for Love
Kings Row

Music by **Jerome Kern**
How'd You Like to Spoon with Me
All the Things You Are
I Won't Dance
Long Ago and Far Away
You Couldn't be Cuter
The Song Is You

Music by **Victor Young**
Around the World (arr. John Gart)
Scherzo (John Gart)

Songs of Paris
Paris Oui! Oui! (**David Rose**)
La Vie en Rose (**R.S Louiguy**)
Mademoiselle de Paree (**Paul Durand**)

Art Woodworth's Notes on Bill Langford
Bill Langford (he let his age slip – 84) played delightfully after most of the attendees had left. Robert (Woodworth) and I are so-o-o glad we hung around for this. Bill started on one manual, eventually two, then he started hand registering, and finally used three manuals. He played from about 5:30 to 7:00 PM. It was not long before he got into the old swing. He played dozens of great numbers, including the best *Old Man River* I think I have ever heard – not strident or preachy. A long and very thoughtful *Evergreen*. Some of *Warsaw Concerto*. (He was using the grand piano as well as the Allen by now.) The *Full Moon and Empty Arms* theme from either **Rachmaninoff's** 1st or 2nd piano concerto (whichever).

This was about the time the moon came up over the lake.



A wonderful set. We all paid rapt attention. (David appeared to be paying very close attention.) A second truly magic hour and a half a music on the same day!

AND THANK YOU, BERT AND ANN!!

— Art Woodworth

October 2012

**SIERRA Chapter Atos and
GRANT UNION HS Alums
Present**

**the 15th Annual George Wright
Memorial Concert**

**Martin Ellis at the Mighty Wurlitzer
Grant Union High School
1400 Grand Avenue, Sacramento, CA**
Sunday, November 11, 2012 at 2 PM
General \$12, Grant Alumni/Sierra Chapter
\$10, Students FREE
Box Office opens at 1:00 p.m.

This annual concert, sponsored jointly by *Grant Alumni* and *Sierra Chapter* has become one of the Bay Area's premier events.

It honors the legendary Theatre Organist **George Wright**, who attended Grant Union High School and got his start there.

The concert is also well known for the excellent artists who are featured each year. This year, **Martin Ellis**, follows in that tradition.

Ellis was the winner of the first *ATOS Young Organists Competition* in 1986 and was a featured artist in the *1987 ATOS Convention*.

From there his career has taken off; and he is well known throughout the world for his abilities on Theatre Organs, as well as on Classical Organs. He is featured in symphony concerts; and has maintained his playing in churches, as he has moved about the country. Moreover, he was the Senior Staff Pianist/Organist for the *Indianapolis Children's Choir*; a touring organization with more than 2,000 children.

Throughout the years he has continued his love of Theatre Organs, acting as Staff Organist for various Pizza Parlors, and was invited to become a fourth member of the *Trio con Brio* by **Donna Parker, Tom Hazleton**, and **Jonas Nordwall**. He became a permanent member after Hazleton's death.

Locally, Ellis was last heard at the *2010 Pops Concert at Ironstone Vineyards*.

This is definitely a concert not to be missed!

A FINAL NOTE
Chris Gorsuch
June 18, 1954 - October 17, 2012

From- **Chris Nichols**
The note below was posted to the list. **Chris** was a talented and delightful person. I got to know him some through his work at Berkeley. He was a great artist and a great technician. He also was known for arranging and for his work in electronic relays. He will be missed by so many.

From- **Jelani Eddington**
It is with a heavy heart that I report the passing of our long-time and dear friend and colleague, **Chris Gorsuch**, who, after courageously battling cancer, passed away peacefully in his sleep just before midnight on October 17th. As you all know, Chris earned widespread admiration as a brilliant organist, arranger, and technician. In 2008, he received the honor of the *American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year*.

Those of us who had the great honor of knowing him will always remember his gregarious, fun-loving, outgoing nature and will deeply miss his friendship.

A private memorial service will be held shortly for family and close friends. Chris has asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his name to the Theatre Organ Society of San Diego at the following address: Theatre Organ Society of San Diego (TOSSD)

ATTN: Connie Reardon, President
P.O. Box 712336
Santee, CA 92072

From- **Walt Strony**
RIP - **Chris Gorsuch**, who passed away last night after a short, but courageous battle with cancer. January 18, 1954 - October 17, 2012.

Chris was one of the "good guys" and one of my first colleague/friends in the world of the theatre organ. We both came on the "scene" at about the same time. We happily worked together on several early projects and I will always be indebted to him for his never ending help over the years.

My heart is out to his family and caregivers that were there for him in his difficult final days, especially **Jelani Eddington, Lyn Larsen** and **Russ Peck**. To have such friends that would go to the end of the earth is testimony to what a wonderful man Chris was.

EDITOR'S
Jan La Fetra



Chris Gorsuch was one of the most talented and loved Theatre Organ Artists. He play three concerts at the BCT over the years and was a favorite of NorCal Members with his expressive feeling, particularly shown in Big Band Era music as well as Classical Jazz and music from the 1920 and 1930's.

No greater appreciation can be given a person than that by his fellow artists, so to the left are three short ones I know about.

JAN

NEW MEMBERS

Jordan Zeno Smith
Alameda, CA
Bernice You

[Both were introduced to NorCal by
Michael Tomars]

DONATIONS

NorCalTOS thanks these members.

Mr. John W. Elliott
Mr. Henry L. Hansen
Mr. and Mrs. H. K. McCluer

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**.

BOARD NOMINATIONS

Chairman **Bill Coale** has appointed the following Active Members* to the Nominating Committee to find qualified candidates to run for the NorCal Board:

Don Ravey 650-573-8027

Bill Theobald 510-848-9860

Dick Taylor 650-344-0145

(*Active Members are those with current Memberships to NorCal and ATOS.)

In addition, any Active NorCal member may nominate other Active NorCal members after assuring that they are willing to serve. Such nominations must be submitted to the nominating committee in writing no later than **November 15th**, and must include the nominee's consent to serve, if elected and must include the signatures of at least two active members besides that of the nominee.

Our Board of Directors consists of nine members, three of whom are elected each year for a term of three years. A director may be re-elected one time without a gap of at least one term. Members whose terms are up are:

Bill Coale (eligible for re-election),
Art Woodworth (eligible for re-election),
and **Gordon Pratt** (not eligible for re-election).

In accordance with our By-laws the Nominating committee will propose a slate of candidates for election to the board, after assuring that those nominated are willing to serve in that capacity. The names of all qualified nominees are passed to the Secretary by December 1st. If the number of names match the number of vacancies, an election is not required. If there are more nominees than vacancies, the Secretary prepares and sends out ballots before December 15th. Ballots when needed, are counted at the Annual Member's Meeting.

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 at the bottom of Page One.

Page Four

**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

November 18th, December 9th,
plus a tentative date, **January 13th**

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.

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 latest CD by **Jonas Nordwall**.

Be sure to visit our website!

norcaltos.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2, 2012 7:30 PM

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer,
221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA
The Phantom of the Opera (1925)
Silent film with **Dennis James**
StanfordTheatre.org

NorCal Presents:

November 4, 2012

Stage Door Social 1 - 5 PM
(see Page One)

SierraChapter ATOS presents:

George Wright Memorial Concert
November 11th 2 PM **Martin Ellis**, Grant
Union H S, Sacramento
(see Page Three)

Open Console at BCT

Sundays: November 18, December 9, and
(Tentative date) January 13, 2013
(see Column Left)
norcaltos.org

Los Angeles

Sunday, December 2, 2012 - 2:30 PM
Nathan Avakian on the recently restored
theatre pipe organ in *Santa Monica High
School's Barnum Hall*.
www.latos.org

OTHER VENUES

[Editor's note: For details check the websites listed].

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.**
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.

RenaissanceRialto.com

**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