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# 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  
January 2013

## NORCAL CONCERT AND MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING Sunday, January 13, 2013 — 2 PM



Please be aware that the starting time is 2 PM (rather than our usual concert time of 2:30) and that this is a Membership meeting with no admission fee. (Guests accompanying a member are encouraged.)

The earlier start time allows for NorCal's very important Annual Meeting which is **required** by law to maintain our 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. **Please plan on attending - your participation is needed in order to provide**

a quorum to assure voting in the business decisions necessary to keep NorCal the vital and functioning Chapter we all love.

Moreover this is a chance to meet, talk, and discuss issues with our new Board Members, **Gary Tuck, Don Ravey, & Art Woodworth**. (Art is starting his second term), and **Gary and Don** are replacing **Bill Coale** (who chose not to run for a second term), and **Gordon Pratt** (who has completed his second term.) Because there were only as many nominees as vacancies our By Laws declare the nominees to be elected.

**B**efore the business meeting, we have a real treat as **P.W. Bowen** will be our concert artist. P.W. is well known to us both as a Chapter Member and as an Artist playing for NorCal, and at Grace Baptist Church in San Jose. His music is a delightful listening experience and his active hand registrations interesting.

**A**fter the business meeting some members are planning to eat at Brennan's Hof Brau at 720 University Avenue in Berkeley. No reservations are needed there and members are welcome to join the group.

### SOME BITS FROM ATOS

- **A Change in membership renewal procedures** - Renewal forms will be mailed with your Journal, and not in a separate mailing as before.

- **For the fourth year ATOS** is holding a *Technical Experience* at the

University of Oklahoma in Norman, OK on August 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>.

- **The First opportunity to sign up for the 2013 ATOS Convention in Atlanta, Georgia** will be arriving in the next

Theatre Organ Magazine. This promises to be one of the best Conventions ever.

[For more details, refer to your current and/or upcoming 'Theatre Organ' magazine, or go to ATOS.com.]

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 William L. Coale 11740 San Pablo Av Apt 306 El Cerrito, CA 94530 510/778-9117 wmcoale@comcast.net	VICE CHAIRMAN Judson H. Owens 1730 Virginia St. Berkeley, CA 94703 510/848-8714 jud.owens@gmail.com	SECRETARY Arthur Woodworth 600 Coventry Road Kensington, CA 94707 510/524-7452 awoodworth@bigfoot.com	TREASURER/ MEMBERSHIP Neal R. Wood 523 Corbett Avenue San Francisco, CA 94114 415/861-7082 nealwood@pacbell.net	EDITOR Janice La Fetra 32500 Cristo Rey Dr #521F Cupertino, CA 95014 650/968-2091 jan@lafetra.com	PROGRAM Gordon A. Pratt PO Box 275 San Lorenzo, CA 94580 510/504-4780 aznme2@webtv.net	PUBLISHER Frank La Fetra 32500 Cristo Rey Dr #521F Cupertino, CA 95014 650/968-2091 frank@lafetra.com
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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.

## GOOD NEWS!

**A**lthough we still don't have any idea when the BCT will be open for a regular concert season, it has been decided to have a schedule of activities for NorCal members and their guests to keep our Chapter active.

Part of this decision came about because NorCal's *Stage Door Social* last November 4<sup>th</sup> was quite a success. At that event, members enjoyed the chance to get together, something that has been sorely missed during the absence of regular concerts.

In addition, the members saw the progress made at the BCT and were treated to a slide show of the Toledo Theater, former home of our organ and console.

**T**herefore it was decided to hold not only the usual Open Consoles, and more Stage Door Socials, but **even more important, to again have true concerts with well known Artists.** But because the BCT is not yet open to the public, the concerts will be held on the stage (with the console at the stage lip and facing the audience sitting on the stage. **Bill Schlotter** tells us it sounds very good that way.)

Because we will have to pay the artists, there will be an admission fee to the concerts, and NorCal members are encouraged to bring guests.

### So mark your calendars for the following events in 2013:

- Sunday, January 6** - Open Console
- Saturday, January 12** - Sierra, Hunter Hall, **Ken Double**
- Sunday, January 13** - **P.W. Bowen** Concert & Annual Meeting
- Sunday, February 10** - Open Console
- Sunday, February 17** - Stage Door Social and Concert
- Sunday, March 3** - Open Console
- Sunday, March 17** - Stage Door Social and Concert
- Saturday, April 13** - Ironstone Pops (with the Sierra Chapter & Ironstone Winery) Artist: TBD
- Sunday, June 16** - Stage Door Concert
- Sunday, November 3** - Stage Door Concert and/or Open Console
- Sunday, November 10** - 16<sup>th</sup> George Wright Memorial Concert (Sierra Chapter & Grant Union High School Alumni) Artist: TBD

## ♪ A FINAL NOTE ♪

**Jack O'Neill**

June 23, 1923 - December 13, 2012

**F**or those of you that didn't know Jack, he was the box office ticket man up through the mid 2000s. But that is just the tip of the iceberg.

Jack, who grew up in the Fresno area, moved to the Bay Area when he enlisted in the Navy during World War II. During his Navy career he interfaced with the Army Rail Road Division which eventually led to his railroad career.

After his stint in the military, he worked for the Union Pacific Railroad, and was involved in re-railing their tracks in Wyoming and Colorado after their heavy usage during the war. Eventually Jack became an Engineer for the Yreka Western Railway.

**H**is next career was Manager of the Oakland Army Terminal Railway where he eventually retired in the mid 1990s. During that time he volunteered some of the idle tracks at the terminal to store the Pacific Locomotive Association's steam locomotives and rolling equipment until the Association found a new home in Niles Canyon, which is now the Niles Canyon Railway Museum.

**L**ike the rest of us, Jack was hooked on Theatre organ music. As a member of NorCal, he filled many roles. His passion was recording many of the NorCal concerts and distributing them on cassette tapes (remember cassette tapes?). He also volunteered on the work crew and helped renovate the original swell shades. He purchased the Solo String and Solo-String-Celeste ranks for the organ. There is a brass plaque in his honor next those ranks in the chambers. But one of his major contributions was the Membership Chairman and Treasurer roles that he performed for many years. That included running the box office, CD Sales, and managing the sales table at the concerts. For all his efforts he was voted an Honorary Life Member of NorCal by the Board.

**W**e will miss Jack, his big grin, his friendship, his contribution, and his enthusiasm for the music and the theatre organ.

—**Bill Schlotter** and **Neal Wood**

**EDITOR'S**



**T**wo different kinds of thanks are on the top of my mind this month.

First, to recognize all that **Jack O'Neill** brought to NorCal over more years than most of us can count. His contributions were acknowledged some years ago with an Honorary Life Membership in NorCal.

At every concert I still expect to see him in his Hawaiian shirt with his friendly face and easy manner standing at the ticket booth or smoking a cigarette.

Jack had been a great help in all things organ, and was NorCal's Membership Chairman and Treasurer for many years. His long absence due to illness means some of you will not remember him. But the rest of us will never forget him.

Another, but happier thanks goes to our outgoing Chairman, **Bill Coale**. He came along at a very opportune time to help NorCal, and his ability and energy was just what we needed.

While **Bill (Coale)** will still be around (Thank Goodness!), his busy schedule in organ work, concertizing and activities with Sierra Club caused him to decline serving a second term on our NorCal Board.

We wish him the best in his many endeavors and hope to see him at our events.

**JAN**

## NorCal BOARD NOTES

**NOTE:** *Board Meetings in 2013 will be held on the Second Saturday of even numbered months at 1 PM back stage at the BCT. Members are welcome to attend. (This is a change from Wednesday night Board meetings and hopefully will attract more members to participate in the Board.)*

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

Happy Holidays!



As 2012 draws to a close, so does my tenure on the **NorCal Board**. Due to various new commitments and exciting challenges, I simply don't have the time necessary to give to NorCal. In spite of that, I'm looking forward to the time when we can once again have public concerts in the BCT! Hopefully that time will come VERY soon!!

In that I'll be out of state on the day of our annual meeting, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their hard work during the past year. **Art Woodworth** has done a stellar job as secretary, and somehow miraculously keeps detailed notes of the goings-on at our board meetings. **Neal Wood** has done an outstanding job in handling two very large and important roles: treasurer AND membership chair (each of which would fell a lesser man!). Thanks also to VP **Jud Owens** for filling in for me on the occasions when I was unable to attend! Thanks also to **Don Ravey** and **Bill Theobald** for shaking the bushes to find nominees for the open board positions...a yeoman's task! Program chair **Gordon Pratt** had a challenging year without having BCT at our disposal, and board members **Tom Madsen**, **Warren Lubich**, **Elbert Dawson**, and **Fay Cooley** played an important role in running NorCal as well. A big thank you also goes out to the dynamic duo of **Jan** and **Frank La Fetra**, who tirelessly create these wonderful Windsheets for us all!

Thanks also to our gracious open console host **Chris Nichols**, and organ crew chief **Bill Schlotter**. Wishing you all a wonderful 2013...

*Bill A*

## 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. Be sure to visit our website!  
norcaltos.org

## An Invitation from Robert Harris

I am somewhat of a shut in with COPD; I don't get out much at all. I've attended as many concerts as I can and have followed the doings of the chapter.

I have a 3-manual Allen GW 319 with the Allen Ensemble, Korg module, and Smart recorder voiced for the house by **Walt Strony**. The console is customized with lots of gold accents and is pretty nice.

It has been concertized on by **Simon Gledhill** and several others.

It's a marvelous instrument that is not getting near the use it should have. It is very easy to play and sounds great. If anyone from the chapter might be interested in checking it out, I'm retired and have lots of time.

Sincerely,

Robert Harris

[Gssltt@aol.com](mailto:Gssltt@aol.com)

## DONATIONS

Thank you

**Bert and Ann Atwood**

**Chris Nichols**

**Bill Schlotter**

**Art Woodworth**

## An Interesting Opportunity!

The *15<sup>th</sup> Annual George Wright Memorial Concert* last November with artist **Martin Ellis** was its usual outstanding success, with about 15 NorCal members in attendance.

Besides Martin's inspired playing the concert will be remembered because a CD of **George Wright** playing at the Grant Union High School in 1940 was available. The project to produce this early Wright music CD was spearheaded by the High School Alumni. The original recording was made in 1940 by **Frank Bindt** while Wright was a student at Grant Union High School. Later, **Dick Clay** did the digital transfer from these old 16-inch transcription discs, and the music came out amazingly well.

The CD is a gift from Sierra Chapter in exchange for a minimum donation of \$25 to the George Wright Memorial Theatre Pipe Organ Fund. Donations of \$50 or more are fully tax deductible. Please send your donation to:

Sierra Chapter, ATOS

P.O. Box 2017

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Make checks payable to Sierra Chapter,

ATOS

Windsheet

## 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**

January 6

February 10

March 3

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 theater is available. If there will be Open Console, enter via the backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

## Hot Pipes Podcasts

Stephen Ashley

<[steve@musicnostalgia.com](mailto:steve@musicnostalgia.com)>

Hot Pipes is a weekly one-hour podcast of theatre organ music that is recommended by both **Bill Coale** and **Frank La Fetra**. (Frank is actually a member, and feels it is well worth the small fee.)

Steve's show presents a wide variety of musical and playing styles, researched introductions to the musical selections, and a monthly artist interview show. It is not in competition with ATOS Radio. Being a hosted, downloadable (.mp3) show, it is not necessary for subscribers to be connected to the internet when listening.

Steve features current and no longer available CD releases, along with 78 rpm and LP tracks from the past. He has reprocessed many to remove as much extraneous noise as possible on the 11,000 plus high-quality tracks in his library.

Complete information and playlists can be found at his new website which also has archived shows:

[www.hotpipes.eu](http://www.hotpipes.eu)

## KEN DOUBLE CONCERT

**K**en Double will play Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at the **Hunter Hall** in Rio Vista, CA.

Double is well known throughout the ATOS world both as the President of the Organization, and as a talented organist who does a lot of concertizing.

**Hunter Hall** is at 218 California St., in Rio Vista. Tickets — Sierra Members \$8, General Admission \$10.

For directions go to the Sierra Chapter Website:

[www.sierrachapterATOS.org](http://www.sierrachapterATOS.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sierra Chapter —**

**See announcement directly above.**

**NorCal Presents:**

**Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 2 PM**

Annual Membership Meeting and Concert with **P.W. Bowen** (See Page 1)

**Open Console at BCT** (See Page 3)

**Sundays:**

January 6, February 10, March 3

[norcaltos.org](http://norcaltos.org)

**Fair Oaks Park & Recreation Dept**

**Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> - 7 PM**

**Dave Moreno** plays four silent films.

Doors open at 6 PM, Presale is \$5, Regular is \$7. For details: [sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org)

**Los Angeles, January 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Gene Roberson** in Concert at 3 PM, San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, 320 South Mission Drive, San Gabriel.

Day of Concert \$20; Advance \$15

[www.latos.org](http://www.latos.org)

**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.

## 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](http://CastroTheatre.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](http://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 with a live Mighty Wurlitzer organ serenade at 7:30 PM. Curtain rises at 8:00 PM. Feature film begins at 8:30 PM.

[www.paramounttheatre.com](http://www.paramounttheatre.com)

**San Diego**

**Saturday, January 19, 2013, 2 PM**

**Celebration of Life for Chris Gorsuch**

at Trinity Facilities, 3902 Kenwood Drive, Spring Valley, CA.

**Saturday, February 23, 2013 7 PM**

Concert by **Dennis James** at the Trinity Facilities, 3902 Kenwood Drive, Spring Valley, CA

For further information email:

[TOSSD@cox.net](mailto:TOSSD@cox.net) or call 619-561-9136

<http://www.tossd1.webs.com>

**Santa Barbara**

Sunday, 20 January 2013, at 2 p.m.

**Dennis James**, accompanies The **Buster Keaton** classic short 'Cops' and the feature 'Show People' with **Marion Davies**. Admission \$11; Students or children under 15 with an adult, Free

Arlington Theatre, 1317 State Street, Santa Barbara

[www.sbtos.org](http://www.sbtos.org)

**Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer,**

221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA

The Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ is played before and after the 7:30 show by either **Bill Taylor, David Hegarty** or **Jerry Nagano**. (650) 324-3700.

Silent films usually feature **Dennis James**

[StanfordTheatre.org](http://StanfordTheatre.org)

## An Idea from Chris Nichols

**T**he Pipedreams show for Christmas featured four songs played by **Chris Elliott**, from his Christmas CD

performed on the organ at the Nethercutt collection at Sylmar. Pipedreams is a PBS radio show of organ music. It is predominantly classical, but occasionally they have some theatre organ too. You can listen to the shows on:

<http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/listings/2012/1251/>

Here is a link if you want to buy Chris Elliott's CD.

[http://www.christianelliott.com/Christian\\_Elliott/Recordings.html](http://www.christianelliott.com/Christian_Elliott/Recordings.html)

Chris Nichols

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](mailto: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.