

# 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  
 August 2013



photos by — Kevin King

**KEVIN KING's Music Room Wurlitzer**

## Informal Open House at Kevin King's Home Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 1 - 5 PM

*(Due to limited seating, NorCal Members Only, please)*

This month NorCal Members will have a very special treat. Most of us have followed the progress as Kevin installed a home organ in his house. Now Kevin will introduce his organ in this informal Open House by talking about the project, playing a brief concert on it, and allowing members to have a 'go' at it in an open console!

Here, in Kevin's own words, is the story of his adventure:

"The whole idea of having a Wurlitzer pipe organ in my home started decades ago, long before I knew it would really be possible. At every opportunity over the years, I studied similar installations, organs in homes, studios, or other smaller environments. I kept mental notes on what I felt

made some successful, and some less so. This all lead to the current design of my studio and installation.

"In November of 2008, I purchased a number of items from the closed Bella Roma Pizza organ. Specifically I acquired the console, the Devtronix relay system, a three rank chest, the Tibia, Vox, and Tuba ranks, some regulators, tremes, plus a few other odds and ends.

"The following year I hired a contractor and showed him designs for the type of building I needed. Construction on the home studio building started in the summer of 2009 and was completed in November that year. The room is 1,125 square feet, measuring 25 feet by 45 feet, with a 16 foot

ceiling. There is also an adjoining blower room.

"When the former Salinas Baptist Church organ (then in storage) was donated to NorCal, I purchased the Wurlitzer components from that collection. That was in February of 2010. The rebuilding of all these items began at that time. In March, 2010, the first pipes (the 16 foot Diaphone) went up in the chamber. The first manual chest went up in November 2010. This was also the point that Curt Wood started helping with the project.

"Work continued at a slower pace when I was teaching during the school year, but the project became "full time" during the next  
*(Kevin King continued on Page Three)*

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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.*

REVIEW  
**JERRY NAGANO**  
 at BCT JUNE 16, 2013

Jerry Nagano is a favorite of just about every NorCalTOS member. His friendly personality was especially suited to the intimate atmosphere of an on-stage audience for this performance.

Jerry's program selections reflected his love for big band swing music, and he has developed a great style for such dance music. It was also obvious that he enjoys composers **Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin, and LeRoy Anderson**. But don't we all?!

I have always appreciated Jerry's theatre styling, and he displayed that talent very prominently on this occasion. Some of the techniques that I took special pleasure in were his very tasteful registrations, which were balanced and very suitable for each number; and I found his left-hand melodies very effective on many of his selections; also Jerry is really adept with registration adjustments, able to add or remove a rank or two with a quick flick of the wrist, somehow without losing a bit of the melody, accompaniment, or tempo—a neat trick!

He also employed a technique I haven't heard before, in *Pure Imagination*: a delayed tremulant on a solo harmonic flute, which produced a beautiful violin-like effect. This was done by using second touch for the tremulant.

Jerry used a reiterated marimba in the accompaniment on second touch to great effect in *La Bikina*, a *mariachi* piece. It was like having another musician just for the percussion.

**PLAYLIST**

**Married I Can Always Get**  
 (from Manhattan Tower, 1946)

— *Gordon Jenkins*

**Spring Is Here** (1938)

— *Richard Rodgers*

**La Bikina** (1997)

— *Rubén Fuentes*

**Dance Medley:**

**East of the Sun And West of the Moon**  
 (1934) — *Brooks Bowman*

**My Heart Stood Still**  
 (1927) — *Richard Rodgers*

**There's A Small Hotel**  
 (1934) — *Richard Rodgers*

**The Toy Trumpet** (1938)  
 — *Raymond Scott*

**What A Difference A Day Made** (1934)

— *Stanley Adams & Maria Grever*

**Ain't Misbehavin'** (1929)

— *Fats Waller & Harry Brooks*

**Little Girl Blue** (1935)

— *Richard Rodgers*

**Fred Astaire Medley:**

**Flying Down To Rio**

(1933) — *Vincent Youmans*

**Dancing In The Dark**

(1931) — *Arthur Schwartz*

**I Guess I'll Have To Change My Plan**

(1929) — *Arthur Schwartz*

**The Continental**

(1938) — *Con Conrad*

**Change Partners (and Dance)**

(1937) — *Irving Berlin*

**Let's Face the Music and Dance**

(1935) — *Irving Berlin*

**INTERMISSION**

**The Deadwood Stage**

(from Calamity Jane, 1953)

— *Sammy Fain & Paul Francis Webster*

**Night And Day** (1932)

— *Cole Porter*

**Tritsh Tratsch Polka** (1858)

— *Johann Strauss*

**They Say That Falling In Love Is**

**Wonderful** (1946)

— *Irving Berlin*

**You Make Me Feel So Young** (1946)

— *Josef Myrow*

**Serenata** (1950)

— *Leroy Anderson*

**Pure Imagination** (1970)

— *Leslie Bricusse & Anthony Newley*

**It Don't Mean A Thing If You Ain't**

**Got That Swing** (1931)

— *Duke Ellington*

**Knightsbridge March**

from *The London Suite* (1933)

— *Eric Coates*

**ENCORE**

**Brassman's Holiday** (1954?)

— *Al Hirt*

— Don Ravey

**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 *Member's Lobby*. If you do not know the password and you are a paid (or honorary) member of NorCal, contact the Membership Secretary, **Neal Wood**.

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**

August 18, September 15

October 13

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 BOARD NOTES**

2013 Board Members are:

**Fay Cooley**

**Don Ravey**

**Elbert Dawson**

**Gary Tuck**

**Warren Lubich**

**Neal Wood**

**Tom Madsen**

**Art Woodworth**

**Judson Owens**

Board Meetings are generally held on the second Saturday of even numbered months at 1 PM back stage at the BCT. Members are welcome to attend.

Every NorCal member is entitled to request copies of the Minutes of meetings of the NorCal Board of Directors. Send requests to the Secretary; his email address and telephone number is published at the bottom of Page One.

The next Board Meeting will be Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 1PM.

**NEW MEMBERS**

NorCalTOS Welcomes:

**George A. Vail**

Foster City, CA

(Kevin King from Page One)

two summers of 2011 and 2012. Somewhere during this period, the organ began playing. Work continues:

“At this writing, the organ has 18 ranks playing. Most percussions, traps, and effects are playing. The final plan is for a total of 21 ranks.

“Just last month on June 9<sup>th</sup>, I switched out the Devtronix relay system for the current Uniflex 3000 system.”

### **D**irections to Kevin King's home: 2851 Creston Road, Walnut Creek

Creston Road is right off of Geary Road. The simplest way is from highway 680. Take the “Treat Blvd.-Geary Road” exit, go west from the freeway up Geary Road for almost one mile to Creston.

You can also get there from highway 24 by taking the Pleasant Hill Road North exit off 24, go north on Pleasant Hill Road over the little hill, stay to the right and it turns into Geary Road. My street is just past the little Palos Verdes shopping center.

## Organ Crew Report

**O**rgan Crew Chief Bill Schlotter reported that the E/F pipe of the 32' Diaphone was found to be 30 cents sharp. The crew disassembled and tightened up the vibrator. The pipe is now 5 cents sharp. He said that at the time of the meeting there were three dead notes to be fixed.

Bill said that the five indicator lamps on the *Center Theatre* console have been replaced by LED's and have been activated. There are white lights for “Piano Pump On” and Diaphone Blower On.” There are red lights for “Transposer On,” “Crescendo On,” and “Outside Traps On.”

Bill said that much of the crew's efforts have continued to be cleaning and checking our many spare magnets (on the order of 1,000 magnets). Those needing coil replacement (as many as 50 percent) are being sent to NorCal Member **Curt Wood** who rewinds the coils with new wire and then reassembles them. We are in position to sell magnets either “as-is” or re-built. Bill said that while many replacement magnets are currently available due to the scrapping of electro-magnetic relays, they will eventually become scarce.

Bill reported that we recently sold a 16-foot Tuba to a NorCal member and an 8-foot Kimball Orchestral Oboe to a non-member.

August 2013

## Color from the 2013 Convention!

— Art Woodworth

**T**he Pre-Glow on Monday was in Chattanooga, Tennessee for two concerts; **Jonas** at the *Tivoli* and **Walter** in the *Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium* at ‘Rock City.’ Rock City is perched atop a 500-foot high cliff overlooking seven states, a magnificent view.

The first two days of the convention consisted of four concerts at the *Atlanta Fox*. The Fox is a stunning atmospheric theatre with an Arabian Knights theme. **Richard Hill**'s opener set a high standard for what was to come. That evening **Clark Wilson** accompanied *Spite Marriage* with **Buster Keaton**. **Jelani Eddington** played Wednesday afternoon and **Tony Fenelon** played that evening.

On Thursday we all travelled to hear *Big Bertha* at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham. The organ's specification is rather like ours at BCT – a Publix Special (4/20) greatly augmented following a design by the late **Tom Hazleton**. **David Gray** and **Mark Herman** played there.

Friday was in Marietta (northwest of Atlanta) for the *Young Artists*' competition and **Lance Luce** in the afternoon. The organ is a well installed and nicely finished GW-4 Allen. That evening **Dwight Thomas** played at Stephenson High School where there seemed to be some problem with the relay at first but things came together for a very nice concert. The weather was cloudy all week with occasional showers and a few downpours while we on the buses, but when we left the high school auditorium, it was raining hard.

The Afterglow took us to southwest Georgia. First was to Fitzgerald for **Nathan Avakian** of the *Grand Theatre*. Nathan played some newer music for us with some generally not objectionable (to this writer) electronic “enhancements.” He also showed five two-minute films made by Portland, Oregon young film makers that was accompanied by film scores written by Nathan. Each score had a different theme and each film followed that theme.

After a buffet dinner at Southwest Georgia University, we went on to Americus to hear **Ron Rhode** play in the restored *Rylander Theatre*.

(Convention continued on Page four)

EDITOR'S



One of the disadvantages of not having regular concerts is it is so easy to lose touch with other members. People move, or move on, and you may not notice at first. Then it is too late to say ‘Good By’. So when we learned that **Vivian** and **Leon Fletcher** were moving up to Lodi to be near one of their daughters I wanted to use this column to say ‘Farewell’ and ‘Best Wishes’, not only to the Fletchers, but others who have quietly left our active membership.

Vivian and Leon were among the first NorCal Members Frank and I got to know well. Vivian was a big help in hospitality, and Leon wrote some very interesting, and different columns for the Windsheet. We will miss them.

(In the future if you know of other members leaving our active ranks, I would be happy to mention that fact in this column.)

Last month I gave **Don Ravey** credit as being our Webmaster. But actually, it is **Chris Nichols**. Don helps out and has done considerable work under Chris' direction, and both deserve kudos for making the website so great. Do check it out as new things are added all the time.

**Kevin King's** Video Tour of our BCT Wurlitzer has had 10,000 view in less than a year. If you weren't one of them, take a look. ([www.norcaltos.org](http://www.norcaltos.org) then go to Photo & Video Galleries/See Inside Our Wurlitzer on You Tube)

JAN

## NORCAL WEBSITE

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

Copies of the current and recent past *Windsheets* are on our web site—and **in color!** The .pdf format requires that your computer has a copy of the *free* Adobe Acrobat Reader. And there is an up-to-date Calendar of Events online, a ‘Parts for Sale’ list’, and the ‘*Photos and Videos Galleries*’, Plus there are links to the YouTube videos.

<http://norcaltos.org/galleries.html>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**M**ark your calendars for the following events:

**Sunday, August 11** - Kevin King's Casual Open House *for Members* (See Pg 1)

**Sunday, November 3** - Stage Door Concert and/or Open Console (tbd)

**Sunday, November 10** - 16<sup>th</sup> George Wright Memorial Concert by Sierra Chapter & Grant Union Alumni (details this page last Column, Sierra Chapter)

**Open Console at BCT**

**Sundays: August 18, September 15,**

**October 13** (See Page 2)

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

## OTHER VENUES

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

**NorCal —**

**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)

**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.

[www.renaissancerialto.com](http://www.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](http://LegionOfHonor.org)

## SERVICES AVAILABLE

Electronic Organ/Piano service & repair all makes 510-504-4780. — Gordon Pratt

**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. The Mighty Wurlitzer organ often plays at 7:30 PM. before the Feature film begins at 8:00 PM.

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

The remaining films in the Paramount Movie Classics series are August 9<sup>th</sup> *Godzilla*, and August 23<sup>rd</sup> *North by Northwest*, both at 8 PM. If you've never been to the Paramount, this is a must. You'll see great films in a great Movie Palace and hear a great Wurlitzer pipe organ and all for \$5. :

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

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

221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA

The Summer Film Festival continues on until September 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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

**Los Angeles —** [www.latos.org](http://www.latos.org)

**Orange County —** [www.octos.org](http://www.octos.org)

**San Diego —**

**Saturday, September 14, 2013** at 7 PM

Silent Movie Night with **Russ Peck**

**Sunday, October 6, 2013** at 2 PM

**Ty Woodward Pops Concert**

**Saturday, November 9, 2013** at 7 PM

Silent Movie Night with **Greg Breed**

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

**Santa Barbara —**

**Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** at 4 PM

*The Mark of Zorro* with **Adam Aceto** at the Arlington Theatre, 1317 State Street. A Masquerade Ball will follow for those 21 and over for \$85.

**Sierra Chapter —**

**Sunday, August 11, 2013, 2 PM**

**Christian Elliott** at the Mighty Wurlitzer

*The Mark of Zorro (1920)*

at Grant Union High School

\$10 Admission, Students Free

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

## DONATIONS

NorCalTOS Thanks:

**Louis Nagel**

(Convention continued from Page Three)

The *J. W. Marriott Hotel* was very attractive and comfortable, with a thoroughly obliging staff.

One afternoon the **Jacobs, Bob Suffel, Jan** and I went to *Mary Mac's Tea Room*, a traditional style southern down-home cooking restaurant where the food was delicious - but totally demolished the currently recommended 'Food Pyramid!'

Editor's note—

*There is no Chairman's Windline for this issue. At last report Jud was travelling for business somewhere in the New England region. He said that he would try to have something for this issue. As we go to press, we have received nothing from him.*

## INTERESTING TIDBITS

Here are a few websites that you might be interested in. The URLs are too long and complicated, but I located them by 'Googling' the subject (shown in *bold italics*).

*Fred Hermes 5 Manual Basement Wurlitzer*, 2+ minutes (He gives underground concerts)

*I Love a Piano - Tony DeSare* 5 minutes. He plays 24 pianos located on NYC streets)

Page Four

*The Beck's Edison Bottle* - 4 minutes

The Auckland band *Ghost Wave*. inscribed their new piece into the surface of a Beck's beer bottle and played it on a specially-built device based on Thomas Edison's original cylindrical phonograph.

**John Lauter** has posted audios on *Soundcloud*, including some of **John Seng** at *Mundelein*.

[soundcloud.com/john-lauter](http://soundcloud.com/john-lauter)

Windsheet

**Chris Elliott** plays **Richard Purvis' St. Francis Suite** on *Wanamaker's Organ*.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ek45TvmTVU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Ek45TvmTVU)

**Matías Bombal** is launching a web-based movie review programme, one of the most interesting pointers he lists is at *Grant Union High School*.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lxea0U-oIu4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lxea0U-oIu4)

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