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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  
March 2014



**SCOTT HARRISON (left) and MARK PAGE (right)**  
**NORCAL Stage Door CONCERT** — Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> — 2:30 PM  
(Use the Stage Door Entrance)

This month's concert is a 'Double Treat' with two superb performers from Australia who have a great, but slightly different approach to concertizing. This is a concert all will enjoy.

**Scott Harrison**, playing our Wurlitzer, is known to NorCal members by his two solo appearances at the Grand Lake Theatre (2002 and 2006) as well as his BCT concert in 2009 when he appeared with **Mark Page** at the piano.

**Scott** began performing Theatre Organs as the *City Organist* in Moorabbin (now Kingston), and later presided over TOSA's beautiful 3/15 Dendy Wurlitzer (both are Australian venues). He has performed all



## EDITOR'S NOTES

I've attended many Theatre Organ Concerts over the years, and one delightful incident sticks in my mind. It occurred during the **Scott Harrison** and **Mark Page** concert here at the BCT in 2009.

Half way through their varied and

over Australia, New Zealand, England and the United States.

Since **Scott** met **Mark** around 2006 the two 'Aussies' have concertized together and are now a well known organ-piano duet that is especially popular here in the US.

**Mark** is actually a dental officer in the Royal Australian Navy, who has not limited his interest to piano, but also studied classical guitar and plays the bagpipes with the *Australia Highlanders Pipe Band*.

Together the interplay of the organ and piano is quite effective in their hands. Both artists will play solo numbers and well as several duets.

interesting program, **Scott** announced his next piece as *Highland Cathedral*, a well known Scottish piece. Shortly after the full throated organ notes began the unmistakable sound of a bagpipe was heard

(continued on Page 3)

## CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE

Greetings to all. If you were in attendance at our last concert, February 16 at the Berkeley Community Theatre, featuring **Walt Strony** at our majestic, 4 manual 40+ rank *Wurlitzer I* I trust you enjoyed either the 'up close stage seating' or the 'back view' of the console seating from the audience'.

The view from the audience was of sorts, blinding from the music rack lights and those stage lights focused on Walt. However the emotions and experiences of the music one absorbs from the audience is unmatched anywhere else in the theater.

I mention audience seating because the Berkeley Community Theater is once again open to the public for use. Nor-Cal Theater Organ Society can again produce public concerts if we choose, and in addition to the stage door concerts, enjoy the organ from the audience as the theater was designed. This has been a long time coming.

I am taking a personal privilege of sorts here to state that I have only twice in my association with the Berkeley Community Theater (as manager for 30 plus years 1976 to 2006 and to the present), of sitting/enjoying a concert in the audience. The first such occasion was in July of 1991 with the opening concert of the *ATOS Convention* featuring **Tom Hazelton** premiering our *4/20 Publix I* from the *Toledo Paramount*. The second occasion was on February 16, 2014. Of the 100's of concerts, performances and activities to grace the stage of the Berkeley Community Theater of which I have witnessed, this last has been the most relaxing. The first was one of the most rewarding. A feat which most said could not be achieved.

(continued on Page 3)

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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.

## “THAT STRONGY MAGIC”

Concert review at BCT, Feb. 16, 2014

NorCal members were delighted to host that master of theatre organ artistry, **Walter Strongy**. Mr. Strongy’s command of registration, arranging and musicianship is brilliantly displayed when paired with our world class instrument at the BCT. Walt’s quick wit and charming personality, when combined with his musicianship, always provides for a 1<sup>st</sup> class performance.

In his opening number, *From This Moment On*, Walt displays his ability to ‘get the show rolling’, and in the bridge, we heard what that gorgeous *Harmonic Flute* sounds like.

The next selection was a medley from the musical *Calamity Jane*. Starting with *Secret Love*. Followed by the novelty tune *Dead Wood Stage*. Both which were sung by **Doris Day** in the film version.

Possibly the medley of all medleys, was a **Gershwin** medley, comprised of eight unforgettable songs. And showing off several of the unique voices in our organ. Namely the haunting *Clarinet*, brassy *Trumpet*, lush *string section*, and that buzzy and unmistakable *Krumet*, and *metal bar harp* in *I Got Rhythm*. This medley also displayed several styles and tempos; march, jazz, blues and 40’s swing. Next was *Brazil*, showing Walt’s technical flair for Latin numbers by introducing the *marimba* and *tambourine*.

### INTERMISSION

Walt opened the second half with a bouncy dance band tune, *Celery Stalks At Midnight*. One of those songs everyone recognizes, but no one knows the name. Written by **Will Bradley**, a trombonist and bandleader who played with the **Glen Miller Air Force Band** and then went on to play with the **Tonight Show Band** during the (Johnny) **Carson** era.

Next up was *My Funny Valentine*, a hauntingly romantic, melancholic song. Walt started this number with a bluesy *Tromba* and segued into a waltz showing off the string section. He even worked in a *calliope* sound that blended beautifully. And of course, an **Ellington** medley. Another example of the swing and jazz eras written by the ‘**Duke**’.

And the last selection, *Victory At Sea*, a phenomenal orchestral piece written by **Richard Rodgers** and **Robert Russell Bennett**. This is one of the ultimate performance pieces that displays the versatility and wide range of tonal qualities of the BCT organ. A collection

of approximately a dozen themes used to provide background for the changing moods in the TV series by the same name. Airing in 1952-1953 and later condensed into a movie in 1954. Lasting approximately 16 minutes in length, Mr. Strongy’s artistry and endurance is fully displayed with this grand piece of work.

And for his encore, Walt chose the beautiful Irish traditional folk song, *Oh Danny Boy* with lyrics written by **Frederick Weatherly** in 1910. Originally the song had a different melody, which was collected from a musician in **Limerady, Ireland** in the mid 19th century. In 1913 it was suggested by the lyricist’s sister-in-law that he substitute the melody from *Londonderry Air*. Thus creating the song we now are familiar with as *Oh Danny Boy*.

—Tom Mathiesen

## DONATIONS

NorCal TOS Thanks—

**Chris Nichols**

**Bert Atwood**

(Matched by FM Global Foundation)

**Edward Millington Stout III**

Rocklin, CA

## NEW MEMBERS

NorCal TOS Welcomes—

**Bob Pinello**

Vallejo, CA

## FINAL CHORDS

**Jack Townsend**

February 1, 2014

OCTOS Member and long-time curator  
of the

**Plummer Auditorium** Wurlitzer

## NEXT BCT CONCERT

**Nathan Avakian**

Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>

The program starts at 2:30 PM and it will probably still be necessary to use the Stage Door. Price is \$15 for members and their guests.

## 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**

April 6,

May 18, and

June 1 (12 noon to 4:00 PM)

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.

### 2014 ATOS

## Summer Youth Adventure Scholarship Fund

It is not too late to donate to 2014 ATOS Summer Youth Adventure Scholarship Fund.

Each summer this very important program helps young organ enthusiasts develop and refine their playing skills for the theatre organ.

The NorCal board has again agreed to **match** up to \$2500 donations from our members. You can send your tax deductible donation payable to NorCal TOS, PO Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701.

## NORCAL WEBSITE

[norcaltos.org](http://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 YouTube videos.  
<http://norcaltos.org/galleries.html>

## 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**.

**(Editor's Notes continued from Page 1)**  
from the back of the auditorium, and got louder as Mark, dressed in full Scottish regalia came marching down the left-hand aisle!

I can't promise they will do this again, but I certainly hope so.

As you read **Jud Owen's** *Chairman's Windline* please remember Jud's key role in enabling NorCal to build our organ in the BCT. While organ chambers had been built no organ had ever been installed, with the passing years there was little expectation that would ever happen.

But Jud was managing the BCT and he wanted an organ, and at the time NorCal was looking for a place to install one. What a happy coincidence that turned out to be!

Finally, a big thank you goes to **Tom Mathiesen** for stepping in to do the Concert Review when sadly **Don Ravey** — ~~Vern Fisher~~ — fell ill. Don is a hard act to follow, and Tom is the one to do it.

**(Chairman's Windline continued from Page 1)**

The Berkeley Unified School District has chosen a person to replace the Facilities Manager at the High School who resigned in February. Additionally, they have also hired a person to oversee the operation of the theater. With these two positions filled, it is hopeful more efficient communication between Nor Cal and the school district will result.

At our Board meeting of February, your officers were elected as follows:

**Chairman; Judson H. Owens**  
**Vice Chairman; Thomas P. Madsen**  
**Secretary; Arthur Woodworth**  
**Treasurer; Neal R. Wood**  
**Directors; Elbert Dawson,**  
**Ted Hubbard** (replacing Don Ravey),  
**Warren Lubich,**  
**Tom Mathiesen,**  
**Don Ravey\*, and**  
**Gary Tuck**

\* **Don Ravey** submitted a letter of resignation for health reasons.

**Ted Hubbard** was voted by the Board to replace Don.

In addition, the **Editor, Janice La Fetra;** Program Chair, **Gordon A. Pratt;** and Publisher, **Frank La Fetra** will continue in those capacities.

Please keep Don in your thoughts and prayers. I will truly miss Don's quick humor when addressing the Chair, and the other members of the Board, his wit  
March 2014

regarding his overall support of Nor-Cal, and most of all just you, Don.

We, the Board, are here to serve you, Nor-Cal TOS members, to fulfill the ATOS Charter and abide by our By-laws. If you have any questions, concerns or want to give your opinion, please contact me or anyone of the Board members either through email or phone.

You are always welcome at our regular 'work party sessions' usually every Saturday from approximately 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM (depending upon the theater's schedule). Please call 510-644-2707 the preceding Friday for confirmation.

All the Best — *Jud*



## GOLDEN STATE THEATER IN ESCROW

**Eric Lochtefeld** said he and his wife, Lori, knew they wanted to buy the *Golden State Theatre* by the time they walked in a few hundred feet — from the Alvarado Street sidewalk just outside the front doors to the edge of the stage inside.

"We just fell in love with it instantly," **Lochtefeld** said Monday, as the couple buying the downtown Monterey landmark sat in the middle of the front row of the 1,000-seat theater.

Successful owners of the historic Fox Theater in Redwood City since 2010, the **Lochtefelds** moved fast when they decided to buy the Golden State, which **Warren Dewey** put on the market several years ago.

Their initial visit was just two weeks ago, after the couple had scouted other theaters from San Francisco to San Diego.

They put in their first offer three days later, **Lochtefeld** said.

On Tuesday, they brought their entire 14-member staff to Monterey to see the

Windsheet

new performing arts venue and treated the staff to lunch in a neighboring sushi restaurant — one of five-retail shops in the Golden State property.

The future of the theater has been a Monterey political football the past year, as two members of the Monterey City Council — **Nancy Selfridge** and **Libby Downey** — sought to raise community support and fought for council votes. They wanted the city to play a leading role in buying the Golden State to ensure its future as a performing arts venue.

**Lochtefeld** said he spoke to both councilwomen. While they expressed some disappointment, he said his message was: "You are going to get what you wanted — an amazing performing arts building."

Though escrow on the property isn't scheduled to close until Aug. 30, the **Lochtefelds** will take over the theater's lease April 1 and open their shows in mid-May with a *National Geographic* series. They hope to bring many of the same events to Monterey and Redwood City. Several other shows are in the works, they said.

The Monterey theater will mark its 88<sup>th</sup> anniversary Aug. 6, and **Lochtefeld** said, "We would be remiss not to throw a party that night."

Once they get their 'sea legs' in Monterey, he said, "There should be 10 to 12 events a month — every Friday and Saturday night — at the Golden State."

*Bill Schlotter and Chris Nichols will be attending the event below, and they suggest others consider it as well.*

## Announcing The TRINITY HARD HAT Concert Series

Sunday, May 4, 2014, 5 p.m.  
**Historic Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**RE-OPENS for a Special Concert**  
**to benefit the *Building Retrofit Fund*.**

Featuring Organists—  
**Benjamin Bachmann**  
**Jerome Lenk**  
**David Hatt**  
**Robert Gurney**

They will play the **1924 four-manual E.M. Skinner organ** in the acoustical jewel for which it was built.

Also, the **Ragazzi Continuo** male vocal ensemble will appear as guest artists.

The Church is located at 1668 Bush St. (at Gough St.), San Francisco 94109

Page Three

## Hot Pipes #124

from **Steve Ashley**

This is an all-transcription, broadcast and 78-rpm show featuring **Don Baker, Buddy Cole, Quentin Maclean, Dick Leibert, Dudley Beavan, George Wright, Dudley Savage, Everett Nourse, Eddie Dunstedter, Bryan Rodwell, Larry Vannucci, Tom Hazleton.**

My thanks to those listeners who made this show possible with their donations of recordings.

For playlist see: [www.hotpipes.eu](http://www.hotpipes.eu), or listen directly at: [www.hotpipes.podbean.com](http://www.hotpipes.podbean.com)

### ALSO

The new show is up on Podbean; it's a selection of young and 'other' current artists, with a variety of music from the last 100 years or so.

Enjoy! [www.hotpipes.eu](http://www.hotpipes.eu) and [www.facebook.com/groups/hotpipes/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/hotpipes/)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for the following events in 2014

### April 2014 — Ironstone Winery

(details TBA)

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

### Sierra Chapter —

Wednesday, April 2, 2014, 8 PM

**Cameron Carpenter**

At the *Rodgers digital organ*

**Mondavi Center** on the UC Davis Campus for tickets phone (530) 754-4448

### Sunday, April 13, 2 PM — **Walt Strony**

will accompany

***The King of Kings***

at **Grant Union High School**

1400 Grand Ave, Sacramento, CA

Tickets — General \$12 – Students FREE

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

### Sunday April 4 — 8:30 PM

**Jerry Nagano**

playing for the silent film

*The Freshman* starring

**Harold Lloyd**

on a customized **Rodgers 33E**

*Ohlone College, Jackson Theater*

43600 Mission Blvd. Fremont, CA

### Open Console at BCT — Sundays

April 6

May 18

June 1 (12 noon to 4:00 PM)

### Sunday May 4 —

Trinity Hard Hat Concert Series

(See Prior Page)

### Sunday June 22 — 2:30 PM

**Nathan Avakian**

at the BCT (see Page 2)

## 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)

### 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.

<http://www.renaissancerialto.com>

### Los Angeles -

#### Sunday April 13 at 2:30 PM

**Mark Herman** and vocalist

**Anthony Snitker**

*The American Songbook Rediscovered*

(*The Golden Age of American Songwriting*)

At the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse

Admission \$20, under 18 free

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

The Mighty Wurlitzer is played before the Feature film begins at 8:00 PM.

For upcoming films, click on 'Movie Classics' at: [paramounttheatre.com](http://paramounttheatre.com)

### Orange County —

#### Sunday April 6, at 2:30 PM

**Jonathon Ortloft**

and

#### Sunday June 15, at 2:30 PM

**Dean Mora**

(Both at Plummer Auditorium)

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

### San Diego

Saturday April 12 at 7 PM

**Dennis James** accompanying the 1921 film

*Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* starring

**Rudolph Valentino**

also

Sunday May 4 at 2 PM

**Rosemary Bailey**

Both at **Trinity Facilities** • 3902 Kenwood

Drive • Spring Valley, CA 91977

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

### 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)

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

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.