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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  
 October 2014



Bill Lankford & Paul



Paul Quarino at Gigi



## REVIEW of Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>

### PAUL QUARINO played 'GIGI' for NorCal's PICNIC at the ATWOOD'S

A small but very convivial crowd gathered at Bert and Ann Atwood's lovely home overlooking Clear Lake. Paul Quarino presented a very nice concert featuring varied selections and beautiful harmonies. Between numbers, he brought us up to date with his activities, travels, and concertizing. Paul's playing combined with Bert's GW4 Allen organ ("Gigi") filled the room with the many sounds of a mighty Wurlitzer. There was plenty of time before and after Paul's concert for conversation and open console. It was a very pleasant day weather wise - about 70 degrees instead of the usual hot temperatures. A rain shower came across the lake in the late afternoon presenting us with a full rainbow. *Thanks for a great afternoon Bert and Paul!*

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

Chairman **Jud Owens** has appointed the following Active Members\* to the Nominating Committee to find qualified candidates to run for the Nor Cal Board:  
*Charles Hagstrom* ————— 707-644-5749  
*Roy Powlan* ————— 925-254-0236  
*Gordon Pratt* ————— 510-504-4780  
 (\*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 15<sup>th</sup>, 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:

- Elbert Dawson** (Not eligible for re-election)
- Judson Owens** (Not eligible for re-election)
- and
- Warren Lubich** (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 1<sup>st</sup>. If the number of names match the number of vacancies, an election is not required. If there are more nominees than vacancies, the Secretary prepare and sends out ballots before December 15<sup>th</sup>. Ballots, when needed, are counted at the Annual Members' Meeting in January, 2015.

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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CHAIRMAN	VICE CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER/ MEMBERSHIP	EDITOR	PROGRAM	PUBLISHER
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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.*

## BCT History

All NorCal members know **Jud Owens**, our Chairman, and many remember his work as the BCT's Theatre manager, but not as many know the history of the BCT and Jud's involvement of getting our organ here. Here, mostly in Jud's words, is a brief history on the BCT and his involvement with it.

-- Jan La Fetra

The name, **Berkeley High School Community Theater** was the focus of one board of education member in 1937. His dream was to have a theater in which the High School could both house the graduating classes, including their families, and create a facility which would bring world class performances to the citizens of **Berkeley**. Hence the inclusion of the "community" in its name.

But it was not until June 5<sup>th</sup> 1950 that the Berkeley High School Community Theater was dedicated with a weeklong celebration. During the dedication week, every notable politician, socialite and person of interest was involved. Senators, Assembly Members, The Governor, Mayor, City Council Members, State, County and City Superintendents, Board of Education Members, and Business leaders watched as the students of the school district performed.

The Theater building was dedicated to 'Art, Music and Dance' and over the years many performers have graced the stage of the Community Theater encompassing all aspects of the arts.

To name a few, *ABT* (American Ballet Theater), *The London Royal Ballet*, *San Francisco Opera*, *Alvin Ailey Dance Theater*, *Frank Sinatra*, *Liberace*, *Metallica* and the *San Francisco Symphony* (CD and Video), *Bette Midler*, *Elton John*, *Journey*, *The Who*, *Sting*, *Bruce Springsteen*, *Jimmy Hendrix*, *The Doors*, *U2*, *Led Zeppelin*, *Pink Floyd*, *The Grateful Dead*, *Billy Joel*, *Brittney Spears*, *Kiss*, *Aerosmith*, *Lenny Kravitz*, *Dave Mathews Band*, *Tom Jones*, *Tool*, *Primus*, *Hootie and The Blowfish*, *Red Hot Chili Peppers*, *The Boston Symphony*, *Oscar Peterson*, *Virgil Fox*, *Ray Charles*, *Queen*, *Lecture Series* (now at the Paramount in Oakland), *Westley Clark*, *Neil Armstrong*, *Lily Tomlin*, *Bill O'Reilly*, *Madeleine Albright*, *Ken Burns*, *Mike Wallace*.....and more recently, silent movies accompanied by the BCT's *Mighty Wurlitzer Theater Organ*.

The rich and all inclusive performances of the arts did at times include the students. Jud arranged for students to attend lectures,

meet and question the person giving the lecture and he arranged for Jacket reporters to attend performances and write reviews. Jud arranged for dance class students to attend Master Classes when Dance Companies were performing and for Jazz band, Orchestra and Choir students to attend performances and/or sit in during rehearsals. The theater also employed a core group of student stagehands (averaging 18 students), whom Jud trained, who worked every event in both theaters.

From the opening of the theater through the early 1970's, the high school performed all of their major performances in the Community Theater including the Fall and Spring Musicals and Plays, Orchestra, Choir and Dance performances and many other school functions. The Little Theater was used primarily for smaller functions such as the senior play. In later years, about 1972 through the present, most of those performances moved to the Little Theater.

In addition, The theater played a role of housing many *Board of Education and City Council* meetings during the 60's and 70's. Large numbers of the public attending such meetings required the use of the theater. In addition, *Rock and Roll events*, some political performances and activism, *Free Speech movements* by students on the Theater steps were the norm.

When opened, the Community Theater was the largest most modern theater West of the Rockies. No expense was spared. The highest standard of quality was demanded during its construction. Every major performer and performing arts company wanted to perform in the theater. The Community Theater was the *Crème de la crème* of theaters. No theater was better equipped. Acoustically superior, aesthetically pleasing and operationally and functionally ahead of its time; it was the envy of theater operators and owners.

However, by 1978 when Jud became the manager of the theater complex, twenty-six years of continual use had taken its toll. Working with students over two summers, the classroom section was restored with improvements and upgrading the facility was done on a minimal budget. By polishing, painting, wall and floor repair, HVAC cleaning, seat repairs, finding and repainting the original color scheme, repairing light fixtures and lettering on the rooms and informational signs, including the lobby areas and exhibit halls gave the facility the face lift needed to restore the high standard. This resulted in an increase in booking giving

additional revenue for the High School and the school district. During Jud's tenure, the average number of events per year was 120 including school functions.

During this time Jud worked with the NorCal Members to reconstruct and install a World Class Wurlitzer Organ in the empty organ chambers above the stage. This organ is now the second largest in the USA, and presents the best artists from around the world.

Asked what he considers the most significant event held at the BCT, Jud said *The Performing Arts Company of The Peoples Republic Of China*. After **President Nixon** opened relations with *China* The Community Theater was one of two theaters in the United States in which this Performing Arts Company performed. The other venue was the *Kennedy Center* in New York. Quite a coup for the School District and was *Very prestigious*.

Jud held various titles throughout his career with the **Berkely United School District**, all of which included managing the Community Theater. For over thirty years he was responsible for the logistics of the graduation of BHS at the *UC Greek Theater*. As General Services Manager for the BUSD, he supervised the operation of the Theater complex, the Reprographics Division, the Property Management department, the Custodial and Maintenance department at the High School, Liaison to the City of Berkeley and the University of California and was a project manager during the construction of the administration/library/food court/gym and pool buildings in addition to assignments from the Superintendent. A very rewarding career which all started in the Community Theater as one of the high school's student stagehands.

Jud not only maintained a high standard for himself, but also expected the same from the students he worked with and supervised. Jud says it was "like working at Disneyland every day"; "Solving the challenges presented by students, the high school and district staff and the public is what drove me." The outcome always had to benefit the students. We could never forget that we, the staff of BUSD were here for the students".

After Jud left, the theater unfortunately was neglected and the dream and guide for which the theater was built, was forgotten. The difference now, in his opinion, is the lack of interest from the administration The intent of the facility seems to be it is nothing more than a 'high school' theater.

**OPEN  
CONSOLE**  
Hosted by  
Chris Nichols



## News from Steve Ashley

Regarding Hot Pipes

The show this week is devoted to **Reginald Dixon** on the occasion of the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. It's a mixture of re-issued tracks and some that have been taken directly from shellac and cleaned up.

This, Hot Pipes 142 will be the last free show — after much deliberation, I've decided to take the programme back to subscription-only. Basically, as I state on my website, it's a full-time job that *HAS* to provide some income if I am to continue it.

I'm keeping the subscription amount to an extremely affordable 2.50 euros per month. If the demand is there, I will consider taking Hot Pipes back to weekly editions.

I do hope to count on your continued support for this very popular podcast.

Anyone who has donated voluntarily this year will be contacted with an alternative method of downloading shows; you will not be expected to subscribe immediately.

For full details, please see —  
<http://hotpipes.eu/subscribe.html>

### James A. "Jim" Dunbar

1922 - October 14, 2014

Former member and Chair of NorCal

## DONATIONS

NorCal thanks,

For their generous donations to NorCal

**Mr. John W. Elliott**

**Mr. and Mrs. H. K. McCluer**

## THIS JUST IN

from **JERRY NAGANO**

via **CHRIS NICHOLS**

Stanford University Music Library introduces a new player piano collection to open up a world of musical and cultural highlights from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The University recently acquired the Denis Condon Collection of reproducing pianos and rolls. (The Denis Condon Collection of Reproducing Pianos and Rolls brings to life

historic performances from major composers like George Gershwin, Igor Stravinsky and Camille Saint-Saëns.) This is in addition to their existing collection which includes Aeolian & Duo-Art organ rolls.

They plan to showcase one of the piano concerto rolls in a spring concert in the Bing Concert Hall with the Stanford Symphony Orchestra.

x View the article and video on:

<http://news.stanford.edu/news/2014/october/player-piano-collection-101314.html>

Watch the video [url above] and also read the article below it. Many of you may be familiar with *reproducing* pianos. For those who are not, they didn't just play the notes but also included expression. I've been in people's homes and listened to the likes of Rachmaninoff, Debussy, and Gershwin playing. It can be quite thrilling to stand there and hear a composer playing his own work and you don't have to question the quality of the speakers or microphones. The people I know who have reproducing pianos also have extensive libraries of rolls. The video also mentions that they have a lot of rolls for organs. The Welte and the Aeolian companies had extensive libraries of organ rolls for their organs as did Wurlitzer. If you have never seen (or possibly never heard of) a *vorsetzer*, it is a unit which can be placed in front of a normal piano. It has a roll player inside and small hammers which fit over the piano keys. By using one of these you can turn any piano into a player piano. One is pictured at the piano in the video. The one being used has some of its case removed. They were frequently nice pieces of furniture. More often the player mechanism was built into the piano which would obviate the need for a *vorsetzer*. There were a number of brands of players which required rolls of the same brand to work properly. Some of the most common brands were Duo-Art, Ampico, and Welte-Mignon. Cheaper versions of players just played the notes and did not have expression. The types with expression (reproducing pianos) were often found in better quality pianos.



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 23<sup>rd</sup>

December 7<sup>th</sup>

January 25<sup>th</sup>

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 A backstage door at 1930 Allston Way.

**EDITOR'S**



There is not much for me to write about this month, but do read Jud's long, but informative article. NorCal owes a big debt to Jud, and we miss him as an employee of the BUSD, and feel fortunate that he remains an active member of NorCal, and especially his taking on the Chairmanship this year.

Frank and I weren't around while **Jim and Connie Dunbar** were active in NorCal, and from what we hear, we missed a lot. Jim not only served as Chair, but the Dunbar's hosted many Board meetings at their Los Altos home before a job transfer took them to Austin, TX. Connie died some years ago, and as you will note in *Final Notes*, Jim just passed away.

JAN

## OTHER VENUES

**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) & **Bob Reichert** (Saturdays).  
(510) 452-3556.

**Sunday, November 23, 2:30 PM**  
**Plummer Auditorium, Fullerton**  
**Jack Molemann & Friends**  
**With Old Time Music Fun including a**  
**Sing-A- Long.**  
**Orange County - [www.octos.org](http://www.octos.org)**

**Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer,**  
221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA.  
**Silent Film Schedule**The organ is  
played before and between films with  
**Dick Taylor, David Hegarty** or  
**Jerry Nagano. (650) 324-3700.**  
[StanfordTheatre.org](http://StanfordTheatre.org)

**Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer,**  
300 W Main St., Visalia, CA.  
**(559) 625-1FOX (1369)**  
**Los Angeles TOS**  
**Saturday Silent Film Nights**  
**Concert, Sunday Nov. 9th, 2 PM**  
**Donna Parker**  
**At Trinity Facilities 3902 Kenmor Dr.**  
Spring Valley, CA 91977  
[www.tosddl.webs.com](http://www.tosddl.webs.com)

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

**San Fransico Symphony**  
**Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 3PM**  
**Davies Symphony Hall**  
featurers the well known Canadian artist,  
**Ken Cowan,**  
playing the 8,264-pipe Ruffatti Organ

## NORCAL WEBSITE

We now have copies of the current and re-  
cent past Windsheets on our web site—and  
in color! They are in .pdf format, which re-  
quires that your computer has 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 a list of those available.

Be sure to visit our website!  
[norcaltos.org](http://norcaltos.org)

## 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.

Members who need the password should  
**Neal Wood.** His email and phone number is  
at the bottom of Page One.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### NorCal Open Consoles

Sundays  
**Nov. 23-Dec. 7, Jan. 25**  
(See Page Four)

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 \$50 for National ATOS (\$70 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.