


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 2015

ANNUAL MEETING and CONCERT Sunday, January 18, 2015 - 2 PM - Berkeley Community Theatre

NORCAL CONCERT and MEMBERS ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 18, 2015
2 PM

Please note the starting time. This allows time for NorCal's very important Annual Meeting — which is required by law. **Your attendance is needed to provide a quorum in order to elect Board Members and to conduct any other business that may be brought forward.**

Moreover, your participation in the business decisions is necessary to keep NorCal the vital and functioning Chapter we all love.

According to NorCal TOS' By-Laws if the number of nominees received is equal to the positions to be filled, the nominees are considered elected.

Thus this year's nominees, **Roy Powlan** and **Gordon Pratt** are new Board Members, with **Warren Lubich** returning for a second term. They will join the continuing Board Members **Ted Hubbard, Tom Madsen, Tom Mathiesen, Gary Tuck, Neal Wood and Art Woodworth.**

Roy is new to the Board, but is often part of the Crew. Both Gordon and Warren have served on the Board before, and Gordon is presently the Program Chairman.

Before the business meeting we will have our own **Gordon Pratt** as our artist. Gordon is well known to NorCal Members

through his playing of **Kevin King's** delightful *3 Manual Wurlitzer* at the *Grand Lake Theatre*. He has played there for about 10 years, now alternating with **Warren Lubich** on Fridays and on Saturdays with **Bob Richert**. Or you may have heard him when he filled in at the *Pizza Joynt* while it was still open.

Gordon's background is interesting. He was coached by **Eddie Glockenspiel** (AKA **Bill Langford**) before going into the Service being trained to drive Tanks. While in Viet Nam he volunteered to serve in the Chaplin's core and played for services.

After the war he studied with **Richard Purvis** for two years while working in the semiconductor industry for 25+ years.

He has been a hardworking member of NorCal since before he went into the Service and presently serves as our Program Chairman.

A Word of warning. The BCT may be cold, so wear something warm.



COMING UP Stage Door Social

2 PM, Sunday, February 22nd.

Included will be the slide show by **Virgil Howard** about the *Toledo Paramount Organ's* rebirth and how it came to be the NorCal BCT instrument.



This is an interesting bit history and is enjoyable to watch.

FLASH! Although it still in not clear when we can have a planned concert season, there probably will be more *Stage Door Concerts* for members amd their guests. Best of all, **Richard Hills** has been scheduled for a concert on June 21st. Stay tuned for further details!

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	VICE CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER/ MEMBERSHIP	EDITOR	PROGRAM	PUBLISHER
Judson H. Owens	Thomas P. Madsen	Arthur Woodworth	Neal R. Wood	Janice La Fetra	Gordon A. Pratt	Frank La Fetra
1730 Virginia St.	2424 McGee Avenue.	600 Coventry Road	523 Corbett Avenue	32500 Cristo Rey Dr #521F	PO Box 275	32500 Cristo Rey Dr #521F
Berkeley, CA 94703	Berkeley, CA 94703	Kensington, CA 94707	San Francisco, CA 94114	Cupertino, CA 95014	San Lorenzo, CA 94580	Cupertino, CA 95014
510/848-8714	510/229-9855	510/524-7452	415/861-7082	650/968-2091	510/504-4780	650/968-2091
jud.owens@gmail.com	tmadsen@berkeley.edu	awoodworth@bigfoot.com	nealwood@pacbell.net	jan@lafetra.com	aznme2@webtv.net	frank@lafetra.com

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.

NEEDED!!!

A new Editor and Publisher for the Windsheet!!!

Jan & Frank La Fetra are retiring after several years, and replacements need to be found as soon as possible. If you are interested in helping, please contact **Neal Wood** or the **La Fetras**, or see them at the Annual Meeting.

With a new Board starting, and the many challenges facing NorCal, it is imperative that the Windsheet is in good hands.

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 25th
- February 15th
- March 29th
- April 19th

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.

DONATIONS

NorCal thanks,

Mr. Bert Atwood

Mr. & Mrs. Alan R. Schoenstein

Mr. Neal Wood

Mr. Art Woodworth

For their generous donations to NorCal.

EDITOR'S



I have been Editor now for 5½ years, and Frank has been the Publisher for several additional years, and it is time for us to 'let go' and give others the chance to head the Windsheet. It is a wonderful opportunity to be an active member of NorCal and really know what is going on.

If you have a background in writing and/or publishing we would enjoy talking to you about what is involved. The NorCal Board will make the actual decisions, but we can provide background.

The time commitment is not great, but neither is it trivial, and if you can come to the Board Meetings it will save many emails and phone calls.

In going through my files I found a few pictures that are of interest. Some were not as good as I wanted, and I planned to retake them, but with time running out I have decided to print them on the next page.

JAN

Hot Pipe Podcast News

Steve Ashley has notified us that from now on, Hot Pipes must produce an income. It is a big job to produce the hour-long podcasts and the half-hour broadcasts. Taking into account the 'back-office' work, Each show can take several days to program, research and script. He writes:

"I cannot continue to spend the enormous amounts of time and effort required without an income.

The subscription cost is a very reasonable sum, and payments are recurring until cancelled by you. Basically, monthly subscriptions cost 3.00 euros per month (\$3.20 to \$3.75, depending on exchange rates) or three month subscriptions at 7.50 euros.

There are two payment systems available: PayPal and Memberful. For details go to Steve's website:

<http://hotpipes.eu/subscribe.html>

Unless a major benefactor (or benefactors) come forward to support Hot Pipes, or we win a BIG sum on the lottery (!), this subscription requirement will remain: the show will NOT revert to free in the future."

Steve Ashley

All's Well That Ends Well

Bill Schlotter spent some time in the hospital after feeling dizzy while at Mission Dolores to record their Christmas choir program.

The cause seemed to be an unbalance of his medications, and it took quite some time to get everything back to normal.

Fortunately, **Chris Nichols** and **Neal Wood**, among other visitors found Bill cheerful and feeling well. By the time you read this he should be home with a clean bill of health.

THE BCT IS OK!

Some have asked if the BCT or our organ suffered any damage due to the heavy rain and/or the recent civil unrest in the nearby streets.

The only casualty was that the December 6th Board Meeting was cancelled to ensure safety of anyone traveling to the meeting. The Board meeting was rescheduled for December 27th.



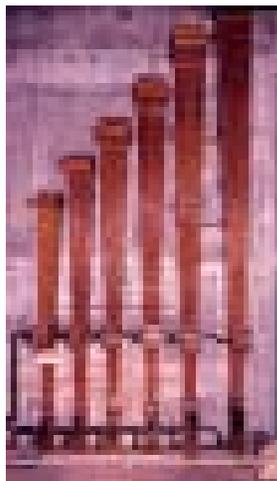
Don Siefert (left) and **Art Woodworth** (in back on right) are loading the pipe box.

Ever wonder where all the stuff on the stage is stored after a meeting? It is loaded into a pipe box, and then hauled up toward the stage grid by cables, and then carefully swung to the mezanine at the side. The whole thing is quite an operation to watch.



Don Siefert steadies the pipe box as it starts up..

The pipe box nears the mezanine.



The 32' Wood Diaphone Set. The six pipes each play two notes by opening a trap door at the top.



Bill Schlotter at work on a pipe



Kevin King, and **Tom Madsen** work on unpacking pipes.



Ted Hubbard at work cleaning a pipe

UPCOMING EVENTS

NorCal Open Console

Sundays

Jan. 25, Feb. 15, March 29, April 19

Sunday, February 22nd

2 PM

Stage Door Social for NorCal members

(See article on page 1)

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. (415) 621-6120

CastroTheatre.com

Stanford Theatre, 3/21 Wurlitzer,

221 University Ave., Palo Alto, CA.

The organ is played before and between

films with Dick Taylor, David Hegarty or

Jerry Nagano. (650) 324-3700

Stanfordtheatre.org

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

Paramount Theatre, 4/26 Wurlitzer, 2025

Broadway, Oakland, CA. Public tours on

the first and third Saturdays of the month

at 10 AM. (510) 465-6400

www.paramounttheatre.com

Visalia Fox Theatre, 4/22 Wurlitzer,

300 W Main St., Visalia, CA.

(559) 625-1FOX (1369)

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

CHAIRMAN'S WINDLINE

Jud Owens



Dear NorCal TOS members. This will be my last Windline as your chairman. Having had the privilege and honor of serving the membership, I have recently been reminiscing of years past.

Nearly 30 years ago this January the "FAB FOUR" as I fondly refer to us (**Rudy Frey, Bill Schlotter, Lowell Wendell** and myself) traveled to Olmsted Falls, Ohio with excitement to evaluate, pack up and just gloat over the generous gift of **Gary Brookins**. The gift being the 20 rank *Publix #1 Toledo Paramount Wurlitzer* which is the foundation of our present 42 rank theatre organ. The ornate four-manual console, which is seldom used or viewed, will always be the "one" in which all of my heart felt emotions are tied to. (I am also very fond of the *Center Theater Console*, thank you Rudy).

It was the beginning for me of my desire to house a magnificent Wurlitzer theater organ within the confines of the Berkeley Community Theater. A dream come true with the help of many.

As our members come and go, for many reasons, I wish to thank each of you for your individual and collective support. I want to acknowledge the Board Members who give their time unselfishly to maintain this organization, especially **Neal Wood** for his support and leadership and **Art Woodworth** for keeping us legal. The Saturday work party crew of many [persons] requires recognition as well: **Chris Nichols** specifically for his devotion to maintaining the 'heart and brain' of our Wurlitzer as well as his wit and providing the 'sweet treats' for all. **Bill Schlotter** for his leadership in producing concerts and the backbone of our maintenance crew.

I want to thank both **Jan** and **Frank La Fetra** for their long and devoted support of and to NorCal. Both Jan and Frank have decided to 'retire' from their respective posts as Editor and Publisher. I thank them both for putting up with me and my late 'Windlines'.

In closing, I wish each of you a great New Year, filled with joy, prosperity, health and above all, wonderful theater organ music! Happiness, success and excitement as well.

As always,
Jud

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 have a copy of the free Adobe Acrobat Reader.

We also have an up-to-date Calendar of Events online, and under the Recordings page the CDs we **have available**.

Be sure to visit our website!

norcaltos.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> , 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.