

\*\*\*\*\*



\*\*\*\*\*

## JANUARY 2016

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society  
[www.norcaltos.org](http://www.norcaltos.org) (510) 644-2707  
P. O Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Berkeley Community Theatre  
1930 Allston Way, Between Milvia Street &  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Way



### Zach Frame in Concert *and* NorCal TOS Annual Business Meeting

**Berkeley Community Theatre**  
**2:00 pm, Sunday January 17**

**Enter through Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way**

NorCal is pleased to welcome Zach Frame to Berkeley Community Theatre!

Zach plays 5 nights a week at Organ Piper Pizza in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He owes his interest in the theatre pipe organ to his parents, and also to a visit to Organ Piper Pizza when he was 5 years old (in 1992). In addition to performing, Zach is a pipe organ technician and maintains the Organ Piper's Mighty Wurlitzer, he also has his own theatre pipe organ which he is in the process of restoring. Zach has a degree in Recording Engineering from McNally Smith College of Music in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He and his wife, Emily, reside in East Troy, Wisconsin, where he is also an active volunteer at the East Troy Railroad Museum.

Organ Piper Pizza has been a Milwaukee area landmark for nearly 40 years, opening in December 1976. The organ has a 3-manual Wurlitzer console and 30 ranks of Wurlitzer and Kimball pipes. Since May 2002, Organ Piper Pizza features the Mighty

Wurlitzer AND The New South Rampart Street Paraders on the first Wednesday of every month.

The **Annual Meeting** will start shortly after the end of Zach's concert. As of the end of 2015, the NorCal Board of Directors consisted of:

- Tom Madsen, Chair
- Roy Powlan, Vice Chair
- Neal Wood, Treasurer
- Art Woodworth, Secretary
- Ted Hubbard
- Kevin King (replaced Tom Mathiesen who had resigned)
- Warren Lubich
- Gordon Pratt
- Gary Tuck (resigned in august, not replaced)

For the year 2016 the board will consist of:

- Tom Madsen
- Roy Powlan
- Neal Wood
- Ted Hubbard
- Kevin King
- Wayne Joseph
- Warren Lubich
- Gordon Pratt
- Mark Nagel

We welcome new board members Wayne Joseph and Mark Nagel!

**THE NOR-CAL ANNUAL MEETIBNG AND CONCERT ARE FREE OF CHARGE FOR NORCAL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS.**

***Special Note: Due to the time of year, expect the theatre to be COLD!***

**MARK HERMAN CONCERT NOVEMBER 8****Play List:**

“Top Hat, White Tie, and Tails” - Irving Berlin

“Poodle in the Park” - S. Wiley

“My Romance” – Richard Rogers

Selections from *Peter Pan* – Jule Styne

“I’m Flying”

“Distant Melody”

“I Won’t Grow Up”

“Never Never Land”

“Two Cigarettes in the Dark” – Lew Pollack

Medley from *Snow White*:

Overture

“Some Day My Prince Will Come”

“One Song”

“Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It’s Off to Work We Go”

“I’m Wishing”

**INTERMISSION**

“Seventy Six Trombones” – Meredith Willson

“Someone to Watch Over Me” – George Gershwin

“Jarvis” – Mark Herman

“Londonderry Air” – Traditional

Selections from *Showboat* – Jerome Kern

“Make Believe”

“Cotton Blossom”

“Life Upon the Wicked Stage”

“Why Do I Love You?”

“Bill”

“Make Believe”

“Can’t Help Lovin’ That Man”

“Old Man River”

ENCORE – “Back Bay Shuffle” – Shaw/Hendricks



Mark Herman & Jim Riggs – Roy Powlan Photo



Mark & Jim with NorCal Organ Crew and Friends  
– Roy Powlan Photo

**Mark Herman Concert Review by Jim Riggs**

Tina and I went to Mark Herman's program at Berkeley Community Theater yesterday and simply had a terrific time. From opening number to closing encore, Mark demonstrated a technical command and attention to musical detail that is in diminishing supply nowadays. His performance was relaxed, ideally suited to the instrument, in total control and made for a thoroughly delightful Sunday afternoon's musicale.

After the obligatory up-tempo opener ("Top Hat, White Tie and Tails"), Mark settled into Music Mode and presented us with a portrait of artist and organ that revealed the myriad capabilities, composed power and exquisite subtleties of both. Rather than review the individual numbers in Mark's program, I'd prefer to give my general impressions of the concert as a fellow musician.

First (and, perhaps, foremost) is Mark's maturing ability to approach arranging from a fully integrated position. All elements contribute to the whole: pedal notes are integral to the harmonic voicing of the left hand and all that relates directly to the melody and secondary notes of the right hand. And, of course, the notes deliberately left out are equally as important as those played. And all of it MOVES and is in sync with the rhythmic and melodic contours of the piece.

This is how a unit organ wants to be played. Being a "thick" instrument by nature, it requires economy in all things: distillation of a piece's melody, harmony and foundation down to its essence (with minimal or zero note doubling), registrations that support the arrangement's musical statement without that egocentric "Listen to me NOW!" quality that is so very distracting and, then, not allowing the self (the organist) to get in the way of either the organ and/or the music, letting both speak for themselves. It's a delicate and highly subjective thing to achieve and Mark accomplished it with a reassuring "sitting back in the saddle" (a Mike Coup quote) type of console demeanor that put the entire audience at ease.

Mark's selections highlighted the BCT organ's remarkable ability to blend, registrationally speaking. He wisely chose not to include too many hard-driving selections---a difficult choice when confronted with such vast, meticulously regulated and fully operational resources. Rather, the majority of the program consisted of pieces set squarely in the middle of the

tempo/volume scale, leaving plenty of room on either side for the quiet and the bombastic, the reflective and the pulse-quickening, making those variations that much more effective and dramatic.

From his own comments (and as evidenced by the highly musical results) Mark takes his inspiration largely from orchestral sources, rather than from the output of other organists. This serves him very well and will continue to do so in the years to come because the result is theatre organ music that is light, playful, ever-changing and full of inventiveness. Mark has always been "one to watch," but as he enters this relatively new "musical cask-aging" period I expect to hear him become even more his own man; taking that which his instructors and mentors gave him and further making it his own, carving out a unique stylistic niche--- something this art form needs badly.

It was a completely enjoyable afternoon, featuring a highly capable and delightfully creative artist playing one of the world's superlative theatre organs. (BTW, much credit to the BCT crew for accepting no less than the best.) Bravo BCT! Bravo Mark!

### HUNTER HALL EVENT OCTOBER 17

Saturday October 17 was a great day at Hunter Hall in sleepy Rio Vista. The day started out with some rain and stayed cool. We had about 45 at The Hall, mostly AMICA members with a good showing by NorCal ATOS. Some came from afar as Santa Cruz. (I didn't know that had a saint for that! (A Dave Kelsey line.))

We started with background music provided by a well restored Welte grand piano with a great selection of fox trot and ragtime rolls. As the day's MC I, then introduced The Hall and the instruments; and described the decor and especially the Wurlitzer. We then played three recordings on the organ via the new Uniflex relay (thank you Chris). This was followed by an abbreviated presentation of the Wurlitzer factory newsreel (no gardens or goldfish). We then presented Dave Moreno accompanying Laurel and Hardy's "Habeas Corpus" a Halloween comedy. The crowd enjoyed it. We then opened up the organ for open console and had a few good organists take the bench. Dave played a lot more and showed off the unique sounds of the Wurlitzer. Did you know that the Wurlitzer has a typewriter effect? Even Geoff played! I gave a few thin people chamber tours. We ended the day at about 8:30.

The entire meeting was fueled by a very successful pot luck that featured two types of fried chicken, lots of enchiladas, salads, cheese, crackers, cold cuts and more cakes, cookies, candy and fruit salad than anyone could eat. All this washed down by iced soft drinks, bottles of water and many bottles of wine. It was joyous and beautiful day filled with music and good friends.

*-Roy Powlan*

### NEW MEMBERS

NorCal welcomes the following who recently joined:

Mr. Chris Booras, Fremont  
 Mr. Don Van Creveld, Redwood City  
 Mr. Jared DiBartolomeo, Pleasant Hill  
 Mr. Ken Eaton, South San Francisco  
 Mr. Jerrel Ellison  
 Mr. Stephen Franaszek, Kensington  
 Mr. Steve Lamina, San Rafael

Mr. Robert Lindquist, Livermore  
 Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Luscher, Union City  
 Ms. Ann L. Mariposa, Oakland  
 Ms. Linda J. MacVey, Oakland  
 Mr. John Plut, Daly City  
 Mr. Jaime Recarens, Nevada City  
 Mr. Gary Schneider, Alameda  
 Mr. Robert L. Thomas / Mr. Frederick Hodges, Hayward  
 Mr. Vernon P. Bickel, Clearlake

### CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

Seasons' Greetings and happy holidays! It seems hard to believe the year is already over. We started our fall concert season with our old friend (relatively speaking) Mark Herman (a wonderful concert, I might add), and will begin the new year with newcomer Zach Frame at the Annual Business Meeting this month.

Weekly organ work parties on Saturdays and frequent open consoles on Sunday afternoons continue at BCT – if you've never been, why not make it your New Year's resolution to stop on by?

In local organ news, progress continues on the Robert Morton at the California Theatre in Pittsburg, thanks to Tom LaFleur, Dave Moreno, and others – I can't wait to see the final results. Speaking of Robert Morton, the rare Morton pit organ in Hunter Hall (home of Geoff Hansen and friends) is now starting to make music, again thanks to Dave.

Last month, I had the pleasure of joining Sierra Chapter for their Christmas party at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse. Good company, mighty Wurlitzer music, and fresh, free-range chickens – what else could one ask for?

And while not an official NorCal project, NorCal Crew Chief Bill Schlotter and Vice Chairman Roy Powlan, in conjunction with the Oakland Paramount Theatre of the Arts, have taken the first steps to enable the acquisition of the original Paramount Wurlitzer console and its return to the Theatre. This is an exciting development indeed, and we wish them great success in the coming year!

Best wishes for 2016,

**Tom Madsen**

### CLOSING CHORD

We are sad to have to report that former NorCal Board Member Fay Cooley recently lost her husband, Richard.

### OPEN CONSOLE SCHEDULE

Chris Nichols will host open console sessions at Berkeley Community Theatre on **January 10<sup>th</sup>** and **February 14<sup>th</sup>**, both Sundays. These sessions run from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Enter through the stage door at 1930 Alston Way, Berkeley. They are a very social open house for NorCal members and their guests. Most of those playing are amateurs but some are definitely professionals. Chamber tours are available. Here is a chance for you to play (and/or hear up close) one of the best (and biggest) Wurlitzers in the world! Please be sure to call the NorCal answering machine the day of the event at 510-644-2707 to make certain that the event is still on.

**COMING NORCAL EVENTS**

Sunday, April 3, 2:30 pm: Concert Artist TBA at Berkeley Community Theatre

**OTHER COMING EVENTS**

Blue Barn at Harmony Wynelands Vineyard, 9291 East Harney Lane, Lodi

July 3-8 (Sunday through Friday), ATOS National Convention, Cleveland, Ohio

**CLASSIFIED**

Allen organ for sale. Older classical style instrument 'fixed' by John Nelson with a Leslie speaker so it can play theater style as well as classical. Main speakers are internal. Contact Fay Cooley at [coolfay@sbcglobal.net](mailto:coolfay@sbcglobal.net).

**CLOSING CHORD**

We are sad to have to report that NorCal member and former NorCal board member Fay Cooley lost her husband, Dick, in August.

**OTHER VENUES**

**Grand Lake Theatre - 3/18 Wurlitzer.** 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by Warren Lubich or Gordon Pratt (Fridays) & Bob Reichart (Saturdays). (510) 452-3556.

**Paramount Theatre - 4/26 Wurlitzer.** 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10:00 am. (510) 465-6400. [www.paramounttheatre.com](http://www.paramounttheatre.com)

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

**Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner.** Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays, 4:00 to 4:00 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.

**Visalia Fox Theatre - 4/22 Wurlitzer.** 300 West Main Street, Visalia. (599) 625-1369.

**NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CONTACTS:**

Chairman: Tom Madsen  
2424 McGee Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94703  
(510) 229-9855  
[tmadsen2014@gmail.com](mailto:tmadsen2014@gmail.com)

Vice Chairman: Roy Powlan  
3 Crestview Drive  
Orinda, CA 94563  
Cell (925) 254-0236  
[rkpinorinda@earthlink.net](mailto:rkpinorinda@earthlink.net)

Treasurer: Neal Wood  
523 Corbett Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94114  
(415) 861-7082  
[nealwood@pacbell.net](mailto:nealwood@pacbell.net)

Secretary: Art Woodworth  
600 Coventry Road  
Kensington, CA 94707  
(510) 524-7452  
[awoodworth@anwest.com](mailto:awoodworth@anwest.com)

Windsheet Editor: Art Woodworth  
600 Coventry Road  
Kensington, CA 94707  
(510) 524-7452  
[awoodworth@anwest.com](mailto:awoodworth@anwest.com)

**NorCal Web Site.** Current & recent past Windsheets in [.pdf](#) format, up-to-date Calendar of Events on line, and list the CD's available: [norcaltos.org](http://norcaltos.org)

**MEMBERS LOBBY ONLINE**

For NorCal members only, there is now a link near the bottom of our website home page to take you to our "Members' Lobby." A password is required in order to view any of the Members' Lobby. Members who need the password should contact Neal Wood. His email and phone number are at the bottom of the last page.

**GET YOUR WINDSHEET BY E-MAIL!**

**Would you like to receive your copy of the Windsheet by email? It will be in full color; it will be wrinkle and tear-free; it will arrive sooner; and you will save NorCal the cost of postage and envelopes. If so, please contact our Membership Chair, Neal Wood [nealwood@pacbell.net](mailto:nealwood@pacbell.net).**

**NORCAL RECORDINGS FOR SALE**

See the NorCal web site for recordings of our Wurlitzer. They will all be on sale at our next concert or may be ordered from our Treasurer, Neal Wood at [nealwood@pacbell.net](mailto:nealwood@pacbell.net).

NorCal Theatre Organ Society is a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). 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 or 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 or [nealwood@pacbell.net](mailto:nealwood@pacbell.net)  
P.O. Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Dues are \$20 for NorCal TOS only. For an additional \$50 you may also join National ATOS (\$70 total) per year for full voting memberships in both NorCal and ATOS as well as your subscription to *Theatre Organ* magazine, the six times a year glossy journal of ATOS. Spouse and children living at home may be included in both NorCal and ATOS memberships. We hope you will join us to help preserve and enjoy these great instruments.