


OCTOBER 2016

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society
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

Paul Quarino in Concert

Berkeley Community Theatre
2:30 PM, Sunday October 23

Enter through Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way



Paul at Bert & Ann Atwood's, September 2014

Paul Quarino was organist at Portland's Organ Grinder restaurant from 1974 until it closed in 1996. Since then, he worked for many years for Rodgers Instruments and was organist at Riverside Community Church in Portland. He was recently honored for his 30 years of service to the church. Paul built the pipe organ in the church from parts he had accumulated over the years. Paul has "retired" to Coos Bay Oregon where he is a choirmaster and plays the Wurlitzer pipe organ at Coos Bay's Egyptian Theatre.

From the Coos Bay Egyptian Theatre web site where Paul is on the Board of Directors: There was a time in Paul Quarino's association with the Egyptian Theatre that his co-workers at Hillsboro's Rodgers Instruments thought there must be something or someone pretty special in the Coos Bay Area, given his frequent week-end trips to the South Coast. Little did they realize the reason that drew him then, and has continued to draw him for some 33 years now, is his special relationship with the Egyptian's Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ.

Paul is a master at keeping the 88-year-old instrument, original in its installation, playing and in working order. For 30

plus years Paul has made the trek to Coos Bay after Thanksgiving and before *The Sounds of Christmas* concerts to ensure that the organ is playable and in tune. He has given generously to the Egyptian of his time and expertise. In addition, over the years Paul has presented concerts and silent movie events at the Egyptian, playing the film accompaniments on the Wurlitzer. His devotion and long service to the Egyptian have earned him the *Golden Charioteer* designation.

Born in the Midwest, Paul studied music at the MacPhail College of Music in Minneapolis, and he has a degree in music education from the University of Wisconsin. For many years Paul performed as a Wurlitzer Concert Artist and is fondly remembered by many as the musical director and organist of the former Organ Grinder Restaurant in Portland. Most recently, he retired after 16 years as Musical Product Evaluator at the Rodgers Instruments.



Paul with his buddy, Bill Langford

THIS WILL BE A NORCAL "MEMBERS ONLY" CONCERT.

Members' Admission: \$15.00 on the day of the concert. Members can order their tickets in advance of concert day from Treasurer Neal Wood for \$12.00. (See bottom of last page to contact Neal.)

Concert Special: Join NorCal for \$20.00 and you and your guest will attend the concert as our guest! You will be joining at the "Friend" Level and your year-long membership includes your "partner," if any.

Walter Strony Concert

Grant Union High School, Sacramento

2:00 PM, Sunday November 13

The 18th George Wright Tribute Concert will feature Walt Strony at the console. This is a joint event with Sierra Chapter and the Grant Union Alumni Association. As you may know, this annual event was cancelled last year since the auditorium was in the progress of renovation. Renovation is now complete and we are told that it looks great. Advance tickets are now available by mail order by sending a check payable to Sierra Chapter ATOS and a self addressed stamped envelope to P.O. box 2017, Fair Oaks CA 95628. Advance tickets are \$10. Tickets at the door will be \$12.



David Gray at Ease after the concert (Neal Wood photo)

DAVID GRAY CONCERT JULY 17 – Review by Kevin King

Our last “Stage Door Concert” featured David Gray from London. Everyone I spoke with was riding high with anticipation knowing David would be playing for NorCal. Many of us had heard David play before and could hardly wait to see what he could do with our own Mighty Wurlitzer.

The list of superlatives runs out as one tries to describe this young man’s talent. We sat in awe as David provided a musical event filled with creativity, energy, emotion, and a level of technique rarely seen. David plays all types of music as indicated by the list of selections. The variety kept everyone captivated and eager to hear what he would do next. Featured were pieces ranging from “The Varsity Drag” to Rachmaninoff’s “Prelude Op. 23 No. 2 in Bb” to “Paddlin’ Madelin’ Home” to “The Stripper.” On the more orchestral side we heard a very symphonic John Williams medley, and a jazzy-sultry Duke Ellington medley.

David played both Wurlitzer consoles as well as the Baldwin grand piano. The selection he played on the “Toledo console” was a recreation of George Wright’s version of “Dancing Tambourine.” David had already played the accompaniment track into the organ computer relay; then he played the second track

live along with it. This allowed him to reproduce the effects George Wright did through his use of multi-tracking and sped-up tracks. The thought process and planning required for David to put all this together was impressive.

One highlight was surely “Jupiter” from “The Planets”; a seven-movement orchestral suite by the English composer Gustav Holst. This piece of music usually requires an entire symphony orchestra. David brought all the grandeur and every nuance forth during this selection. It was almost impossible to believe what we were seeing and hearing produced by a single musician. (And all this at the age of just 25 years old!)

Clearly, David Gray sets a very high bar for performance on the theatre organ. Very few musicians in this genre can approach this level of mastery. We excitedly look forward to the next opportunity to experience an event like this from David Gray.

David’s Play List:

“The Varsity Drag”
 “Dance in the Twilight” - *Eric Coates*
 “Marigold” *Billy Mayerl*
 “Journey Into Melody” - *Robert Farnum*
 “Peanut Polka” - *Robert Farnum*
 “Prelude Opus 23, No. 2” - *Serge Rachmaninoff*
 “The Last Spring” – *Edvard Grieg*
 “Paddlin’ Madelin’ Home”
John Williams Medley:
 “Hook Prelude”
 “Jurassic Park”
 “Schindler’s List”
 “Harry Potter”
 “Catch Me If You Can”
 “Artificial Intelligence”
 “Star Wars”

INTERMISSION

“Youth of Britain” – *Eric Coates*
 “Skye Boat Song” – *Traditional*
 “The Stripper” – *David Rose*
 “Little Girl Blue” – *Richard Rodgers*
 “Will o’ the Wisp” – *ZeZ Confrey*
 “Cherry”
 “Motion Picture Herald March” – *Jim Riggs*

Duke Ellington Medley:

“Take the A Train”
 “Sophisticated Lady”
 “Caravan”
 “Satin Doll”
 “I Got It Bad and that Ain’t Good”
 “I’m Beginning to See the Light”
 “It Don’t Mean a thing if it Don’t Got that Swing”

“Dancing Tambourine” – *Polla*
 “Jupiter” from “The Planets Suite” - *Gustav Holst*

ENCORE

“Stompin’ at the Savoy” – *Goodman/Razaf*

JIM RIGGS INDUCTED INTO ATOS HALL OF FAME

NorCal's own Jim Riggs was inducted into the American Theatre Organ Society's Hall of Fame at their recent national convention. Jim was presented with his plaque during the recent David Gray concert.



David Gray & Jim Riggs (Neal Wood photo)

JERRY NAGANO CONCERT AUGUST 14

Kevin King welcomed NorCal to his back-yard organ studio and its 3-manual Wurlitzer pipe organ. It now stands at 20 ranks of pipes. The weather was sunny and warm but it was cool and comfortable inside. Program Chair Gordon Pratt introduced Jerry, telling of Jerry's many years of playing at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in Hayward and that Jerry is currently on staff at both the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto and the California Theatre in San Jose.



Jerry Nagano at Kevin King's Wurlitzer

- **Jerry's Play List:**

- “Step to the Rear”
- “Moonlight on the Ganges”

- “Look for the Silver Lining”
- “National Emblem march”
- “Me Minus You”
- “Flying Down to Rio”
- “Deep purple”
- “How About You”
- “John Wayne Circus March”

INTERMISSION

- “Dancing Cheek to Cheek”
- “The Things We Did Last Summer”
- “La Bikina”

Medley:

- “Thoroughly Modern Millie”
- “Soon”
- “A Foggy Day in London Town”
- “Liza”
- “More”

- “My Funny Valentine”
- “Comedy Tonight”

Medley from Hello Dolly

ENCORE

- “Roll Out the Barrel”

After intermissions, Jerry said, “This half will be less formal, kind of like playing in a pizza parlor.” Your correspondent did imagine the scent of burning pizza during “Roll Out the Barrel”!

CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

Dear Friends,

The traditional time of year has arrived for the announcement of the NorCal Nominating Committee. This Committee has been charged with generating nominations and accepting those from the membership for vacant seats on the NorCal Board of Directors. With each passing year, the task of finding volunteers willing to serve on the Nominating Committee - let alone the Board of Directors, itself - has become increasingly arduous. Over the years, we have become a small organization of less than 200 members, with a much smaller minority willing and able to actively participate in a leadership role. I believe the time has come for our Bylaws to change to reflect this current reality. To that end, I strongly advocate for a) nominations to be handled by the current Board of Directors in lieu of a separate Nominating Committee b) the elimination of term limits for NorCal Directors, and c) a reduction in the required number of Directors on the Board.

By the time this issue of the Windsheet is circulated, the Board of Directors will have begun engaging in discussions regarding this proposal. As is required by our Bylaws, any changes to the Bylaws must be approved by a majority of Active Members (current members of both NorCal TOS and ATOS) by a ballot vote in order to take effect. If and when this comes to a vote, I would request your participation and support. My hope is that with the proposed changes, we can make the business end of NorCal less cumbersome and more sustainable into the future.

Sincerely,

Tom Madsen

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Two seats on our nine-member board are up for election this year. One seat is “termed out” and the other is open for re-election for a second term. If the person open for re-election is willing to serve another term, then the nominating committee only needs to come up with one name. **Please consider volunteering to either serve on the committee or to be a candidate.** By the way, it has been many years since we have more candidates than open seats.

Art Woodworth, Editor

NEW MEMBERS

NorCal welcomes the following the following new members:

Mr. Chris Booras, Fremont, CA
 Mr. William Hall, Oakland CA
 Mr. Burt Hermey, Costa Mesa, CA
 Mr. Robert Mead, Burlington NJ
 Mr. Jacques Monier, Torrance CA
 Mr. Don Wilson, Lake Leann MI

OPEN CONSOLE SCHEDULE

Chris Nichols will host open console sessions at Berkeley Community Theatre on the following upcoming Sundays: **October 16th**, **November 20th**, and **December 11th**. These sessions run from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Enter through the stage door at 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley. These events are a very social open house for NorCal members (both players and listeners) 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 see and 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.

PARAMOUNT THEATRE PROJECT

On August 11th and 12th NorCal members Ted Hubbard, Mark Nagel, Chris Nichols, Bill Schlotter, Neal Wood, and Art Woodworth assisted Roger Inkpen and Rick Gray of Newton Pipe Organ Serives in removing the water damaged 5-rank chest from the main chamber of Oakland’s Paramount Theatre of the Arts. The chest, its regulators, and appurtenances were then transported to Berkeley Community theatre where our organ crew is in the process of completely restoring them. This process will include complete disassembly, replacement of all leather parts (gaskets and pneumatics), replacement of valve parts, refinishing, and reassembly. The photos below show the start of this process and give some idea of the number of parts involved in the intricate (and highly reliable) Wurlitzer design.



Mark & Bill discuss the details (Neal Wood photo)



Ted gets down to the details – look at all the parts!
(Neal Wood photo)

A GREAT DAY FOR A MOVE

NorCal Vice Chair Roy Powlan reports:

Longtime and legendary NorCal member Bob Reichert was on the receiving end of the generosity of Dick Taylor and Ed Stout last week when he drove away with a load of Wurlitzer 16' Bombard resonators from the Hayward storage Ed and Dick have maintained for years. These massive resonators, almost two inches thick for the lowest pipe, are reported to be destined for Bob's Wurlitzer in his theatre in Benicia where they will add to an already large instrument containing some extremely fine and rare ranks. Dick and Ed are consolidating their collection of pipe organ components which consists of mostly Wurlitzer parts they have stored for years. Bob reported that he made the trip back to Benicia without incident, despite the misgivings of those who helped load up his classic pickup truck.



Bob Reichert & his Bombard Resonators (Roy Powlan photo)

HOW OFTEN DO WE PUBLISH THE WINDSHEET?

We publish whenever we have an event scheduled rather than on a set schedule.

OTHER VENUES

Grand Lake Theatre - 3/18 Wurlitzer. 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by Warren Lubich or Gordon Pratt (Fridays) & Bob Reichert (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. There is currently no mention of their Movie Classics Series on their web site.

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 **Bill Taylor, David Hegarty**, or **Jerry Nagano**. (650) 324-3700. stanfordtheatre.org

Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner. Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Saturdays and Sundays, 4:00 to 5:00 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.

MEMBERS LOBBY ONLINE

For NorCal members only, there is 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.

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 Neal Wood at 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 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 or 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.

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CONTACTS:

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

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