


JANUARY 2018

Newsletter of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society
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P. O Box 625, Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

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



JANUARY 2018

Rob Richards in Concert

and Annual NorCal Business Meeting

Berkeley Community Theatre

2:00 PM, Sunday January 28

Meeting to follow concert

Enter through Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way

Rob Richards has gained worldwide celebrity as a concert and recording artist, and is the House Organist at Disney's historic El Capitan theatre in Hollywood. In addition to his international concert schedule, he has performed an astonishing Four Thousand performances at the El Capitan since 1999, playing the legendary Wurlitzer pipe organ originally installed in San Francisco's Fox Theatre. His combination of technical facility, showmanship and personality has won him fans across America and around the world. Richards was named 2005 Organist of the Year" by the

American Theatre Organ Society, coinciding with his thirtieth year of concerts and the Society's 50th anniversary.

Variety (the show business magazine) wrote that Richards' performance at the El Capitan Wurlitzer is "a special added treat." Disney legends (Academy award-winning songwriters) the Sherman Brothers proclaimed Richards a "supercalifragilistic talent!" Film critic Leonard Maltin enthused that Rob plays with "musical flair...skill and showmanship." Rob has performed for many of Hollywood's most famous celebrities, and shared the stage at events with Julie Andrews and Elton John! Richards has appeared on numerous national TV programs. The documentary "The Souls of Los Angeles" celebrated him as an Angelino with a very unusual occupation! And in 2005, he appeared on ABC-TV's "The View" playing the El Capitan pipe organ.

In addition to his El Capitan schedule and concert tours, Richards' design expertise has led to numerous collaborations on pipe, digital and combination instruments. As part of his long-term relationship with the Walker Technical Company (builders of state-of-the-art custom digital instruments) he has been involved with instrument design, marketing and public relations, as well as concerts and recordings. More about Rob starting on Page 2...

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

The Annual Membership Meeting of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at the Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley, California. The meeting will follow Rob Richard's concert.

THE NOR-CAL ANNUAL MEETING 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!

And, please see "Very Special Offer" on Page 2!

More about Rob Richards...

The Richards/Walker collaboration includes the creation of Richards' own five-manual digital theatre organ. Richards' original design includes many innovative features, and is the equivalent of 7000 pipes. It is the largest instrument of its kind in the world.

Career highlights include:

- The (2004) 40th Anniversary Mary Poppins Re- premiere, with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke
- A concert appearance with famed pianist Liberace
- Playing the famous Radio City Music Hall organ in New York
- A concert series on the world's largest Wurlitzer pipe organ
- Two years as guest organist at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus
- A special engagement as soloist: Flagstaff (Arizona) Symphony
- Seven international concert tours including England, Japan, Australia & New Zealand
- Designing his own five-manual digital theatre organ

His innovative "FUSION!" presentation integrates computer music technology with the pipe organ. The concept, once controversial among the purists in the organ world, introduces a new kind of music in which Rob is conductor, arranger and performer. This innovative approach to keyboard music (which includes the pipe organ) significantly broadens the possibilities of programming for contemporary audiences.

Richards is also a composer and arranger. His first recorded collection of original music was released in 1993, entitled "Songs in the Key of Love." His writing encompasses virtually every style from academic to pop, silent film scores and music for children's television. He wrote the songs for Kidfit, a children's TV series on physical fitness. In 1996 he completed writing and arranging music for a children's TV show called Uncle Wally's Wacky World (in development). In 2000 he participated in Disney's Wahoo Wagon, a new children's show at the El Capitan theatre. In 2003, Richards wrote theme music for legendary Hollywood puppeteer Bob Baker's Marionette Theatre. In 2006, Richards shared composing responsibilities, writing several themes for a new animated film, "Remember Me." The original story includes an animated character that plays the Mighty Wurlitzer. Richards' new compositions are written in the style of early 1930s jazz. Passionately committed to arts programming for young people, Rob is well known for his concerts which introduce children to the theatre organ. Richards is currently planning the permanent installation of his five-manual digital theatre organ in Hollywood.

COMING ATTRACTION:

Sunday March 4, 2018 at 2:30 pm- *David Wickerham in concert!*

VERY SPECIAL OFFER

NorCal has a very large number of vintage theatre organ records and copies of sheet music that must find a new home very soon. They will all be available to anyone for free at the January Concert and Annual Meeting. First come – first served! The price is right!! Help NorCal clean out our attic!!!

ZACH FRAME CONCERT

Zach played a wonderful concert for NorCal on Sunday November 5th. Thanks to Rudy Frey for the following play list which shows the variety of music we heard during this most enjoyable afternoon:

- "Get Happy" - *Harold Arlen, 1930* (from the movie *Summer Stock, 1950* with Judy Garland)
- "Puttin' On The Ritz" - *Irving Berlin* (from the movie of the same name 1930)
- "Autumn Leaves" - *1945 Joseph Koshma*
- "The Adams Family Theme" (1964) & "The Munsters Theme" - *Vick Mizzy & Jack Marshall*
- *Beatles Medley including: "Yellow Submarine", "Eleanor Rigby," "Yesterday," "Etudes"*
- *Sherman Brothers Medley including: "Zippity Do Dah," plus music from "Mary Poppins," & "Aladdin"*

INTERMISSION

- *Big Band Number*
- *Two Elvis Presley songs: "I Can't Help Falling in Love With You" & "You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog"*
- "Napoleon's Last Charge" - *E. T. Paul, 1910*
- *Medley from "Phantom of the Opera" - Andrew Lloyd Webber, 1986*

ENCORE

- *Malagueña" - Ernesto Lecuona, 1928*

MAJESTIC THEATRE OPEN HOUSE

Bob Reichert opened his Majestic Theatre in historic Benicia to NorCal and Sierra Chapters of ATOS Sunday, November 19. It had been a long time since we had had the opportunity to visit this special place. An historic movie theatre, it houses a 25-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ controlled by two consoles including:

- *Wurlitzer 4-manual console from the Hippodrome Theatre in New York City*
- *Devtronics 4-manual console*

Bob and Kevin King each played several numbers to demonstrate the musical capabilities of the organ and told us of the history of the Majestic Theatre and its Wurlitzer organ. Since the last open house at the Majestic, the Ye Old Pizza Joint accordion and a Wurlitzer 16-Foot Bombard have been added to the organ. We saw Bob's fine collection of historic memorabilia from the San Francisco Fox and a most remarkable three-manual Hammond organ.



Bob Reichert and his 3 consoles at the majestic



Majestic Theatre Lobby



Majestic Theatre Lobby

CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

I want to thank the members of the board and the organ crew for their dedication and work supporting NorCal. Having been off the board for a number of years, your chairman has needed and received a lot of assistance this past year. Organized as a non-

profit charitable trust, NorCal is obligated to file organizational statements and income statements to the state and federal governments. The format of these reports has changed over the years and your capable Directors have kept abreast of the changes and necessary filings

Our Wurlitzer organ, Opus 2006, was originally installed in the Paramount Theatre, in Toledo, Ohio in December, 1928. (The Rosewood console, Opus 2178 was originally installed in Center Theatre in New York City, in August, 1932.) Added ranks and percussions have come from several different instruments, but the basic organ is 90 years old this year in 2018!

The mechanical instrument is remarkably durable. Beginning in 1985, NorCal completely overhauled it before its installation. It has been playing since 1991, 27 years! During these years your organ crew has continued to maintain the organ, replacing parts and upgrading as necessary. The crew's dedication to perfection has generated an enviable reputation for our organ, as a dependable instrument. It is well known throughout ATOS. Because of the reputation of our Wurlitzer, we are able to attract excellent organists to play for us.

Now we need to expand the audience! NorCal presents a premium instrument in a commensurate acoustical setting. In the United States there are few theatre organ venues which can equal the variety of tonal color available at Berkeley. Come and bring a friend to our concerts. Take advantage of the special \$20 concert and membership offer. We need your support to continue traditional theatre pipe organ music.

NORCAL HALL OF FAME

At their October 14, 2017 meeting the NorCal Theatre Organ Society Board of Directors unanimously voted to induct Edward Millington Stout, III to the NorCal Theatre Organ Society Hall of Fame. Ed will be formally inducted at the January 28, 2018 Annual Business meeting. The nomination was by NorCal Vice Chairman Roy Powlan. The following is Roy's letter of nomination:

I would like to formally nominate Edward Millington Stout, III for the 2018 Hall of Fame Award.

Ed Stout has been one of the most central characters in the world of theatre organ for some sixty years not only in the Bay Area but throughout the country. Some NorCal members may not be familiar with the extremely interesting personal history of Ed Stout but his life's work has kept theatre organ alive since the great days of the movie picture palaces on Market Street in San Francisco. His efforts in restoring and maintaining such great instruments as the Paramount and the Fox are legendary. His personal friendships with other equally great personalities such as George Wright and Tom Hazelton, just to name two of the dozens of great people Ed has known, are legendary and are a

source of some of the most entertaining stories and give life to names of the past.



Ed's technical skills and knowledge of both Wurlitzer organs and classical Skinner organs have no parallel. He was the caretaker/technician at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco for decades and has worked with most of the greatest organists for all those decades. Ed has also been a mentor to countless young organists, many of whom have gone on to very great careers. In this regard our first Hall of Fame award recipient, Jim Riggs, joins me in nominating Mr. Stout.

Ed's contributions to the history and viability of theatre organ continue to the present with his intermittent series of articles in the ATOS Journal and his dedication, along with Dick Taylor, in restoring for future generations the New York Paramount studio Wurlitzer in his home city of Rocklin. I have known many people of exemplary achievement and Ed is at the top of my list for his generosity, knowledge in his chosen field, and his ability to transmit his love of theatre organ to others. It has been my privilege to know Ed for some 45 years and it is my privilege to nominate him for our 2018 Hall of Fame Award. Ed turns 83 this month and is due this recognition from those who have been the beneficiaries of his life work both directly and indirectly. That is, all of us who appreciate theatre organ.

-Roy Powlan, Vice Chairman

IN MEMORY

Rose Crome, Reno Nevada. Rose passed on at the end of November, 2017.

From Steve Hansen: It's with a heavy heart that I am informing the many friends of pipe organ builder Ken Crome, that Ken's wife Rosemarie Crome died last night after a battle with cancer. She was at home, pain free, and surrounded by her family, daughters Gina, Katie, and her husband Ken. She was a major supporting factor in what Crome Organ Co has contributed to the Theatre Pipe Organ community over the years, and will be greatly missed by those who knew and loved her. The family appreciates the outpouring of love and condolences expressed by their many friends.

From Chris Nichols: Although I was not a close friend of Rose I had met her on a number of occasions. She was always very nice to me and was very enjoyable to be around. My deepest condolences to Ken and his family.

OPEN CONSOLE SCHEDULE

Chris Nichols will host open console sessions at Berkeley Community Theatre on the following Sundays:

January 14, February 18, March 18, April 8.

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.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

NorCal welcomes the following the following new members:

- Iris Prada, San Bruno
- Alexis Downer, San Francisco
- Timothy Peer, San Jose
- Robert Woodworth, Kensington

PARAMOUNT THEATRE PROJECT

The NorCal organ crew is continuing restoration of the water damaged 5-rank chest from the main chamber of Oakland's Paramount Theatre of the Arts. Reassembly is under way. By the time you read this the crew will probably be doing the final check out and air-testing. If you would like to see the "innards" of a Wurlitzer chest and/or would like to get involved in chest restoration (no experience necessary - we will teach you how), please join our work parties which take place most Saturdays from 10 to 5. Be sure to call the NorCal answering machine at (510) 644-2707 to make certain that the work party is still on for that day.



Market Street, San Francisco in the day...

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 - 3/17 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.
Classic Movie Night Friday January 26: "Driving Miss Daisy" on Friday January 26. Organ prelude at 7:30, film at 8:00.
 Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10:00 am. (510) 465-6400. 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

California Theatre, San Jose (Fox Theatre) - 3/10 Wurlitzer. 345 South First Street. Style 216 Wurlitzer lobby organ played before all scheduled performance-

California Theatre, Pittsburg - 3/10 Robert Morton. 351 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg. Temporary 2-manual console. Played before selected shows, usually by Dave Moreno.

Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner. Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Concerts discontinued until at least February 2018.

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 e-mail and phone number are at the bottom of the last page..

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.

ABOUT NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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 to:

Mr. Neal R. Wood
 NorCal TOS Membership Chair
 (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.

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 at the address shown below.

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CONTACTS:

Please see the NorCal website at norcaltos.org for current & recent past Windsheets in [.pdf](#) format, an up-to-date Calendar of Events, and list of the CD's available.

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