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JUNE 2018

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



**BRETT VALLIANT IN CONCERT**

Sunday June 24, 2018

2:30 PM, Berkeley Community Theatre, Berkeley

Enter through Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way

See box on Page 2 for ticket info

Brett performs many different genres of music on the instrument he loves. Whether at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona, a mighty Wurlitzer in a theatre, an organ in a concert hall, a majestic church organ on Sunday morning, or a Hammond B-3, Brett is right at home. Critics internationally have defined his performances as “exciting, refreshing, unorthodox, and astonishing.”

Brett will be a featured artist at the 2018 ATOS national convention in southern California where he will play the Wilshire Boulevard Temple 4/64 Kimball.

Brett was inspired by the organ at church when he was just three years old. He soon excelled at the piano, but that early love of the pipe organ propelled him to his position as a full time church musician at the First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, a post he has held since his teen years. While at the church he plays a large and unique Schantz pipe organ and oversees a music department seen by thousands across the mid-west on the church's television programs. Brett studied organ at Wichita State University, and he has been a featured performer on National Public Radio's Pipe Dreams as well as the National Bible

Read “More about Brett” on Page 2



**DAVID GRAY IN CONCERT**

Saturday July 14, 2018

2:00 pm, Hunter Hall

218 California Street, Rio Vista

Tickets \$15.00

*Joint Event with Sierra Chapter*

David Gray will be fresh from playing the El Capitan (nee San Francisco Fox) 4/37 Wurlitzer at the ATOS convention. We understand that he has said he will play an "informal, let's just have some fun" concert but those who have heard him would all agree that his version of "informal" will still have plenty of "wows" from those in attendance.

Hunter Hall features a splendid 3/15 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in a large, fascinating music room. The room contains a remarkable collections of mechanically operated musical instruments as well as an American Fotoplayer and a Hammond B3.

Read “About David Gray Continued” on Page 2

**OPEN HOUSE AT KEVIN KING’S ORGAN STUDIO**  
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 5, 2018**  
12:00 Bring Your Own Lunch and Socialize  
1:00 - Mini-concert by Kevin followed by Open Console  
2851 Creston Road  
Walnut Creek  
Read “Kevin King Open House” on Page 2

## MORE ABOUT BRETT

Broadcasting Network where his imaginative hymn arrangements are heard daily throughout the United States.

At fifteen, Brett played his first Wurlitzer and exhibited a natural talent for the popular music loved by fans of theatre organ. In the world of silent film, Brett is known for scoring and accompanying many films but is best known for dramatic films such as *King Of Kings*, *Phantom Of The Opera*, *The Ten Commandments*, *Broken Blossoms*, *Wings*, and *The Eagle*. He plays annually for several film festivals including the International Film Festival hosted by the American Film Institute, and has been a featured performer at national conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists. He has toured extensively as a solo artist, featured soloist with orchestras, and film accompanist abroad and throughout the United States

Brett has three solo recordings to his credit as well as a number of studio projects with other musicians.

For his innovative approach to musicianship and performance, Brett credits his love and passion for rock 'n' roll, classical, jazz, and popular music. He resides in Wichita with his tiny Chihuahua, Mabel.

### BRETT'S CONCERT WILL BE A "NORCAL MEMBERS ONLY" CONCERT.

**Members' Admission:** \$15.00 on the day of the concert. Members can order tickets in advance of concert day for themselves and their guests from Membership Secretary 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.

## ABOUT DAVID GRAY, CONTINUED

As a young Scottish piano and organ prodigy and student of the London Royal Academy of Music, David had his first opportunity to play a theatre organ (cinema organ over there) at age 13.

Subsequently a local teacher took him under his wing, coaching him in the art of theatre organ. In 2005 David won the international "American Theatre Organ Society Young Organist of the Year" competition in Los Angeles. He has since played concerts throughout the UK, Australia, New Zealand, USA, and Switzerland.

This past June David graduated with honors with Bachelor of Music (Performance) degree at the Royal Academy of Music in London. He is finishing this summer's Australia/New Zealand/USA concert tour with performances in Seattle and Portland.

David was featured organist at the recent ATOS national convention in Atlanta. **Walter Strony** has commented: "As I write this, David Gray just finished playing an amazing piano solo. Today we are witnessing the birth of a new concert artist – one with talent, technique, and a quiet unassuming personality that will win many supporters. In an organ world filled with

mediocrity and in my opinion, too many "formula" players who are not at all original, it's such a joy and privilege to know that the future of the art form is secure."

## KEVIN KING OPEN HOUSE

If you have never visited Kevin's backyard organ studio, you have missed a musical and visual treat! Much of this fine Wurlitzer installation is from the former Bella Roma restaurant in Martinez. Kevin, ably assisted by NorCal member Curt Wood, has added to it and restored every bit of it to factory-fresh condition. Kevin is the tonal director for our Wurlitzer at Berkeley Community Theatre so this is a "must hear" instrument.



Kevin King's Studio

### ATOS NATIONAL CONVENTION Friday June 29 through Tuesday July 3

Pasadena, California

Still time to register!

Visit the ATOS web site

See Chairman's Windline on next page

### DAVID GRAY PIANO CONCERT

Saturday July 7, 2018

Il Templo Di Musica at the Trabucco Ranch, Grass Valley

Time to be announced - see note below

14328 Barr Ranch Road

Sierra Chapter Event

Important note top of next page

**Info received from Sierra Chapter:** Sierra Chapter and Chapter Member Bill Trabucco will host David in a piano concert on a superb 1940 Mason & Hamlin grand at Bill's concert hall outside of Grass Valley. The hall comfortably holds about 100. Bill has a local invitation list of almost 300 in primarily in the Auburn and Grass Valley area but nowhere near that many will

typically show at his events so we would also invite NorCal as well as Sierra members willing to make the trip. Bill has a policy of cash donations at his hall with all donations going to the artist. (Bill's hall also has 15 rank hybrid "American classic spec" pipe organ.)

**Note:** Final details were not available at press time for this issue of the Windsheet. Full information will be available shortly from Sierra Chapter at [www.sierrachapteratos.org](http://www.sierrachapteratos.org). This information will include the **time of day** and the all-important **driving directions**. The ranch is some distance to the west of Grass Valley and the route involves a number of turns - allow yourself plenty of driving time!

## DAVID WICKERHAM CONCERT

On March 4 we had the pleasure of hearing Dave Wickerham in concert on our 4/41 Wurlitzer. Dave presented an amazing variety of music - gospel to jazz, ballads to marches, ragtime and more. Every piece showed off NorCal's Wurlitzer at its best.



Dave Wickerham

### Dave's Play List:

- *Vincent Youmans* Medley:  
"Come On, Get Happy" & "I Want to Be Happy"
- Temptation Rag - *Lodge*
- Stardust - *Hoagy Carmichael*
- *Irving Berlin* Medley:  
"Alexander's Ragtime Band," "What'll I Do?," "Cheek to Cheek," "Always," "Puttin' the Ritz," "The Silly Song"
- "All Well My Soul"
- "Lullaby of Birdland" - *George Shearing*
- Theme from "The Elephant Man" *John Morris*
- "Colonel Bogey March" - *Alford*

INTERMISSION

- "I'm Beginning to See the Light" - *Duke Ellington*

- A Tribute to George Gershwin:  
Excerpt from "Rhapsody in blue," "I Got Rhythm," "Summertime," "Fascinating Rhythm," "Liza," "Our Love is Here to Stay," "Swanee," "Strike Up the Band."
  - "Love is Blue" - *Blackburn & Pop*
  - "In the Garden" - *Miles*
  - "Teddy Bears' Picnic" - *Bratton & Kennedy*
  - "Puff, the Magic Dragon" - *Yarrow*
  - *Patriotic Medley:*  
"Battle Hymn of the Republic" & "When Johnny Comes Marching Home"
- ENCORE
- "The Parrot" & "I Love Lucy"

## CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

At our Annual NorCal meeting, the past January 28<sup>th</sup>, I displayed a copy of *Theatre Organ* magazine, published by the American Theatre Organ Society, and suggested that any NorCal members who didn't belong to our national organization would benefit from ATOS membership, by receiving a subscription to the magazine and the eligibility to attend the Annual ATOS Convention which will feature programs on 14 organs from June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 3<sup>rd</sup>, in the greater Los Angeles area. Three are being presented for the first time: the Wilshire Boulevard Temple 4/64 Kimball, the Whittier High School 4/24 Wurlitzer (formerly installed in the Redwood City pizza restaurant), and the Nathan Barr Studio 3/19 Wurlitzer. For those NorCal members who belong to ATOS, this current column will be redundant. It is admittedly written for those members who haven't yet joined ATOS.

The May/June issue of *Theatre Organ* is spectacular. It includes 13 pages with color pictures the proscenium of Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood on the cover, and a timeline about several major theatres and organ installations around the country. The former San Francisco Fox Theatre Wurlitzer, now 37 ranks, (minus the original Musette which we have in our Berkeley Wurlitzer), is installed in the El Capitan theatre. The organ will be featured during the convention.

Anyone can obtain information about ATOS from [ATOS.org](http://ATOS.org). If you haven't already seen the site, take a look. It contains information about the Convention, ATOS Chapters, the location of theatre organs and more. By the way, our own excellent NorCal website, [www.norcaltos.org](http://www.norcaltos.org) maintained by our Web Master, Chris Nichols, contains a wealth of information about our Chapter, and it has links to Sierra Chapter and ATOS.



## OPEN CONSOLE SCHEDULE

Chris Nichols will host open console sessions at Berkeley Community Theatre on the following Sundays from 1:00 to 5:00 pm:

*June 10, July 8, August 12*

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.

## CLOSING CHORD

Long time NorCal member Peggie Jean Simlness. She attended our concerts and played at open console sessions along with her dear companion, Verl Gale, who passed away several years ago.

## 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. 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 **Bill Taylor, David Hegarty, or Jerry Nagano**. (650) 324-3700. [stanfordtheatre.org](http://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 reinstated. See [legionofhonor.famsf.org](http://legionofhonor.famsf.org) and scroll to visit/upcoming events.

## HOW OFTEN DO WE PUBLISH THE WINDSHEET?

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

## 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: [woodshed523@icloud.com](mailto:woodshed523@icloud.com).

## 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 [woodshed523@icloud.com](mailto:woodshed523@icloud.com)  
 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](http://norcaltos.org) for current & recent past Windsheets in [.pdf](#) format, an up-to-date Calendar of Events, and a list of organ parts available.
- You may reach NorCal at [NorcalTOS@outlook.com](mailto:NorcalTOS@outlook.com).

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