


JANUARY 2019

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



**SCOTT HARRISON IN CONCERT
AND NORCAL TOS ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday January 20, 2019**

**2:00 PM, Berkeley Community Theatre, Berkeley
Enter through Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way**

Scott Harrison has have been performing on Theatre Organs since 1987. He has appeared at many of the great theatre organ venues around the world including in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and England.

Scott says his first major gig was as ‘City Organist’ for the then City of Moorabbin (now City of Kingston), Victoria, Australia from 1987 to 1993, presiding over their 4/21 Wurlitzer. During this period he also spent two years presiding over the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (TOSA) Victoria’s 3/15 Dendy Wurlitzer.

Scott’s first overseas theatre organ performance was in 1992 at the Baycourt Theatre, Tauranga, New Zealand. That initial performance was the start of a very successful ongoing association with the Tauranga Theatre Organ Society (TTOS) that is still going strong after more than 20 years! It has included an upgrade program for their Style H 2/10 Wurlitzer.

In 1993 Scott commenced organ studies with the late Father James Miller at his home in Fenton, Michigan. Since then he has enjoyed many return visits to the US, playing instruments in

Northern California as well as Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, Indianapolis, Boston and Wichita.

Some of the highlights of Scott’s regular Australian concerts include the opening celebration concert for the Warragul Wurlitzer along with the re-opening of the refurbished Kingston Wurlitzer in 2005. He was also organist for the special City of Kingston concerts to celebrate the Kingston Wurlitzer’s 80th anniversary (2009), and its 40th anniversary at Kingston City Hall in 2010. In February 2012, Kingston City Council reappointed Scott to the position of City Organist.

Since 1986, he has been a member of TOSA Vic (now Melbourne Theatre Organ) and has been part of the preservation and promotion of these instruments. In 2010, he played the opening concert for TOSA Vic’s 50th Anniversary convention along with project managing the refurbishment of their Dendy Wurlitzer, which reopened as part of the 50th Anniversary celebrations.

Scott has four commercial recordings currently available recorded on Wurlitzers; three at separate venues in Victoria, Australia - the Kingston City Hall and the Dendy Cinema, Brighton, and the fourth comprising music from the three Wurlitzer organs in New Zealand.

Scott says that, “To sum it all up, it’s often said that ‘music makes the world go round’, and I consider myself very lucky to be able to share my music with so many wonderful people all around the world.”

**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 20, 2018 at the Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley, California. The meeting will follow Scott Harrison’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!

BILL SCHLOTTER MEMORIAL CONCERT

A very special NorCal event took place on Sunday, November 18th. It was a celebration to honor the memory of Bill Schlotter; our expert crew chief and dear friend over the years. Bill led our NorCal ship masterfully for several decades. Our navigator for this gathering was long time NorCal friend, the legendary Walt Strony. Throughout the afternoon, many fond memories of Bill were shared by Walt, reflecting on his numerous visits with us at Berkeley. Walt was at the top of his game. As always, his musical arrangements were innovative, captivating, and at times very moving. A special slideshow was presented after intermission, narrated by Rudy Frey. Pictures of Bill leading the organ crew over the years brought back warm memories and a tear or two. Ed Stout and Tom DeLay also shared their thoughts to honor Bill during the program.

Walt opened his concert by blending two pieces; "Another Opening, Another Show", and "Slaughter (Schlotter) on Tenth Avenue". Later, Walt paid tribute to Bill's career as chief engineer on an oil tanker with a beautiful rendition of "My Ship." Other highlights included "In a Chinese Temple Garden" by Albert Ketelby, which painted visions of the far east in our minds. A salute to Leonard Bernstein's 100th Birthday this year included a few of his iconic pieces. The first half concluded with the Overture to *Candide*. After our intermission socializing over refreshments generously provided by members, Walt remounted the bench with a lively "Puttin' on the Ritz." Walt later included a moving arrangement of a Barry Manilow piece "Could it be Magic." No organ concert honoring Bill Schlotter would be complete without one of his very favorite production numbers, the suite from "Victory at Sea" by Richard Rodgers. Walt is known for this number which shows the stunning dynamic range of our Mighty Wurlitzer. This special concert ended with an emotional arrangement of "Amazing Grace." This event was a fitting tribute to a generous man, without whom our beautiful Wurlitzer at BCT would not exist. We miss you Bill!

- *Kevin King*

Editor's Note: As the lights dimmed, we heard Bill's voice welcoming us to "Berkeley's magnificent Community Theatre." The second half of the concert included remembrances of Bill by Rudy Frey (with slide show), Walter Strony, Ed Stout, and Tom De Lay.

Walter's Play List

Medley: Excerpts from "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" combined with "Another Opening, Another Show"

"Donkey Serenade"

"My Ship"

"Rialto Ripples"

"In a Chinese Temple Garden"

Medley from "Showboat":

"Can't Help Lovin' that Man"

"Old Man River"

A salute to Leonard Bernstein's 100th Birthday this year:

"Tonight"

"America"

"Spring Will Come Again"

"There's a Place for Us"

Overture to "*Candide*"

INTERMISSION

"Puttin' on the Ritz"

"Could it be Magic"

Suite from "Victory at Sea"

ENCORES

Improvisation by Walter utilizing every rank of the BCT organ and dedicated to Bill

"Amazing Grace"



Walter Strony

CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

Season's Greetings! Our congratulations to Structural Engineer Art Woodworth on his retirement from AN West, December 21st, at only 84 years of age! Art continues as Windsheet Editor which he has been since 2015. (Your Chairman will be 80 in 2019.) Yes, we have room for new young members!

Neil Wood has been Membership Chairman since 2007. He would like to retire from his position within six months. Neil currently maintains our membership information on Microsoft based files. We are seeking a new Membership Chairman. Neil will be happy to assist in the transfer of information, whatever the file system. Neil's contact information is on the last page of this copy of the Windsheet.

We understand that Ken Crome is nearing the completion of the overhaul of the Oakland Paramount's original console. We are looking forward with eager anticipation to it's return and re-installation in the Paramount, along with the re-installation of the five rank main chest overhauled by NorCal, the addition of the (16 foot) Bombard, and the installation of a modern computer

relay. All of these repairs and additions were undertaken and underwritten by the late Bill Schlotter.

Since Bill's passing our organ maintenance crew and concert stage crew have continued the responsibilities in these two specialties, and have continued to support our programs, for which we are extremely grateful!

Belated Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes in the New Year! "CHORD"ially,



NEW MEMBERS

Mary Elmerson, San Francisco

Chris Kenward, San Jose, CA

Thomas Sebo, Carmichael

Zachary Wilson, Berkeley

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:

January 13	February 17	March 17
April 14	May 19	June 23

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.

MOELLER MADE A "WOODY" WAGON!

There was an item of interest to pipe organ fans hidden in an article in the December 9 issues of the Bay Area News Group newspapers. The weekly "Auto Aficionados" column was about a collector's 1938 International Harvester three-door, eight-passenger woody wagon. "It started out as a D-2 model pickup cab and chassis and was then sent to Moeller Co. in Hagerstown, Maryland, a pipe organ manufacturer, which made the wooden body. The National Park Service commissioned nine or ten woodies, all ending up in either Yellowstone or Yosemite Park. This one was used at the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite to take passengers back and forth to the train station." The article continues to say that each wagon body was built of seven kinds of wood!

CLOSING CHORD

Richard Clay. The theater organ world lost another one of its pioneers when Dick Clay died peacefully at home in Santa Clara, California, at about 9:00 am on December 7. Dick was born in Dearborn, Michigan on May 1, 1936. Dick was probably best

known worldwide from the theatre organ CD's he produced. His passion was audio and video recording. He was Program Chairman for our NorCal ATOS chapter and many ATOS Conventions held in the San Francisco Bay Area. No doubt, many of you have your own fond recollections of Dick's many interests and accomplishments. I hope you will share those thoughts with your friends who have known Dick.

- Dave Schutt



Dick Clay

OTHER VENUES

Grand Lake Theatre - 3/17 Wurlitzer. 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by Gordon Pratt (Fridays) & Bob Reichert (Saturdays). (510) 452-3556.

www.renaissancerialto.com

Paramount Theatre - 4/26 Wurlitzer. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Public tours on first and third Saturdays of the month at 10:00 am. **Friday December 28: "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory."** Doors open at 3:00, Curtain at 3:30, Feature Film at 4:00. (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) - 4/21 Wurlitzer. 345 South First Street. The 2/10 Style 216 Wurlitzer lobby organ played before all scheduled performance.

<http://sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/california-theater/>

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

<http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com/>

Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner. Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Concerts reinstated.

See 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 to enter the lobby. Members who need the password should contact Neal Wood. His e-mail and phone number are at the bottom of this 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.

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
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 a list of organ parts available.
- You may reach NorCal at NorcalTOS@outlook.com.

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