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MARCH 2019

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



**JONAS NORDWALL IN CONCERT**

**Sunday, March 24 2019**

**2:30 PM, Berkeley Community Theatre, Berkeley**

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

This will be a return visit by one of one of NorCal's favorite artists, Mr. Jonas Nordwall from Portland, Oregon. We last heard Jonas in a great concert in June of 2017. We can always count on Jonas to offer a program filled with the widest variety of musical selections - anything from complex classical offerings, to traditional standards, and to (shall we say?) "runway music."

Jonas has performed in North America, Japan, Europe, and China and has made eight concert tours to Australia. His overseas concert venues have included the famous concert organ in Sydney's Town Hall and he was named an adjudicator and guest recitalist for the Swiss International Organ Competition in Geneva. Jonas has performed numerous programs on the world famous Speckles outdoor pipe organ in San Diego's Balboa Park.

Jonas has over 30 highly acclaimed recordings on a variety of labels. His recordings are frequently heard on the syndicated radio

show, "Pipedreams". Notable national television appearances include the "Today Show" and "Good Morning Australia."

Jonas' first musical studies began at age four on the accordion. Besides Portland teachers Joe Parente and Eileen Hagen, he tutored with Charles Magnante and Anthony Galla-Rini, two of the twentieth century's most famous accordionists. His studies expanded to piano and organ at age 10 and, in 1970, he graduated with a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Portland. His piano, organ and orchestration studies were with Arthur Hitchcock, a former staff pianist and organist for 20th Century Fox Studios. Nordwall's additional classical organ studies were with Richard Ellsasser, Canada's Frederick Geoghegan, and Richard Purvis, of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral.

Appointed in 1971, Nordwall is the organist for Portland's First United Methodist Church and assumed the Director of Music position in 1990. There he oversees one of the finest music ministries in the United States. He has played for United Methodist Church General Conferences, other international church gatherings, the American Choral Directors Association conventions, and regional conventions for the American Guild of Organists.

As organist for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Jonas was a soloist for several concerts and has recorded with the orchestra. He has also appeared with the Vancouver, B.C. Symphony Orchestra, Portland Festival and Chamber Orchestras, Vancouver, *(Continued on Page2)*

**THIS 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.

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

Washington, Symphony Orchestra, the Peter Britt and Cascade Music Festivals. Several years ago he was the featured soloist with the Silicon Valley Symphony (former San Jose Symphony).

Beginning in the mid-1960's, Nordwall was one of few organists professionally playing theatre pipe organs. He was the organist for Howard Vollum Estate (co- founder of Tektronix) and later was the Senior Staff Organist for the Organ Grinder Corporation, performing in both Portland and Denver, Colorado on custom designed Wurlitzer theatre pipe organs in lavish restaurant settings. Since 1966 he has been a featured artist for many American Theater Organ Society national and regional conventions. In 1987 he was named the societies' "Organist of the Year." He is the principle coordinator for the ATOS Youth and Adult Educational Theater organ Summer Camp Programs. In addition to his performing career, Nordwall has been a major influence in the latter 20th century design and manufacturing of both pipe and electronic organs. He was with the Rodgers Organ Company for over 30 years and is presently an artist for the Allen Organ Company.

## SCOTT HARRISON CONCERT



Scott played his concert on NorCal's Toledo Ohio Console

NorCal had the pleasure of a return concert visit by Scott Harrison on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Scott comes to us all the way from Australia so it was not a surprise that we heard a bit of "Waltzing Matilda" during his opening selection. Scott's concert featured a wide variety of music, both old and familiar, as well as some more modern selections carefully chosen for the organ. His first medley featured the timeless music from "The Sound of Music" with classic melodies such as "Edelweiss," "Climb Every Mountain," and of course the title song. That was followed by an easy, swinging version of "Moonglow." Later on, Scott treated us to a solo of "Wind Beneath My Wings" on the grand piano. Then he played the song "The Rose" as a duet with himself; featuring a track that he recorded for playback on the organ computer relay while he played live at the piano. The first half closed with a lively "Makin' Whoopie."

Intermission offered a few minutes to relax, catch up with NorCal friends, and enjoy delicious home-made baked goods created by member Gail Frey. Her intermission treats are now legendary

Scott opened the second half of the concert with a medley from the 1970s rock-opera "Jesus Christ, Superstar." Other notable offerings from the second half included "Send In the Clowns," "Sentimental Journey," and "Londonderry Air." Scott finished the concert with selections from "The Phantom of the Opera."

After appreciative audience applause, Scott returned for an encore of "I Am Australian" and "Saint Louis Blues." It was a pleasure to welcome back Scott Harrison to play for us again. It's a shame that he lives half a world away.

*Kevin King*

### Scott's Play List

1. "Waltzing Matilda"
2. "What a Wonderful World"
3. Sound of Music medley
  - a. "The Sound of Music"
  - b. "Edelweiss"
  - c. "Climb Every Mountain"
4. "Moonglow"
5. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"
6. Piano solo: "Wind Beneath My Wings"
7. Piano plus organ: "The Rose"
8. Selections from Les Miserables":
  - a. "I Dreamed a Dream"
  - b. "Bring Him Home"
9. "Makin' Whoopie"

### INTERMISSION

1. Selections from "Jesus Christ, Superstar"
  - a. "Superstar"
  - b. "I Don't Know How to Love Him"
  - c. "King Herod's Song"
2. "Send In the Clowns"
3. "Sentimental Journey"
4. "The Holy City"
5. "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow"
6. "Londonderry Air"
7. Selections from "The Phantom of the Opera"
  - a. "The Phantom of the Opera"
  - b. "All I Ask of You"
  - c. "Music of the Night"

### ENCORES

"I Am Australian"  
"Saint Louis Blues"

### CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

I'm happy to announce the NorCal Officers elected at the Board meeting February 16<sup>th</sup>: Chairman Rudy Frey, Vice Chairman Kevin King, Secretary Art Woodworth, and Treasurer

Ted Hubbard. Several of your organ crew members are already looking forward to attending the ATOS Convention in Rochester, and the surrounding Western New York area, June 30<sup>th</sup> to July 5th. For those people interested, I have just learned that the ATOS Convention in 2020 has been changed from Atlanta to Indianapolis, because of the on going extensive refurbishment of the Moller console at the Atlantic Fox theatre, one of the principal venues of the convention. Wichita, Kansas and Oklahoma University, where the Theatre Organ Archives are stored, are scheduled to host the ATOS Convention in 2021.

“CHORD”ially,



## NEW MEMBERS

Grant Somerville, Seaside CA.

## 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:

**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.

## OTHER VENUES

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

[www.renaissancerialto.com](http://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, excluding holidays and holiday weekends.

No reservations are necessary for these tours. Tours begin promptly at 10:00 am at the Box Office entrance on 21st Street near Broadway. The tour lasts about two hours and provides a full and informative view of the Theatre. Cameras are allowed. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Children must be at least 10 years old and adult chaperones are required. Please note that some areas of the tour are not wheelchair accessible.

No classic films are currently scheduled.

[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) - 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-theatre/>

**California Theatre, Pittsburg - 3/10 Robert Morton.** 351 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg. We are told the 3-manual console. Is now playing. 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, Saturdays only. See [legionofhonor.famsf.org](http://legionofhonor.famsf.org) and scroll to visit/upcoming events.

## 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](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.

## HOW OFTEN DO WE PUBLISH THE WINDSHEET?

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

**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 directly at [NorcalTOS@outlook.com](mailto:NorcalTOS@outlook.com).

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