


JULY 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



RICHARD HILLS IN CONCERT

Sunday, July 7 2019

2:30 PM, Berkeley Community Theatre, Berkeley
Enter through Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way

Editor's Note: I couldn't resist copying this delightful write-up from the Cinema Organ Society website They are at <http://www.cinemaorgans.org.uk>. Don't let Mr. Hills' classical qualifications worry you - you will hearing him play great theatre organ arrangements on our Mighty Wurlitzer!

Richard Hills is one of the very few musicians truly to have bridged and mastered the divide between the world of the classical organ and that of the theatre organ. Having commenced classical organ studies under William Whitehead at Rochester Cathedral, he became Organ Scholar at Exeter College Oxford, studying with David Sanger. Further organ scholarships followed at Portsmouth Cathedral, where he studied with Rosemary Field and at Westminster Abbey.

He now pursues a freelance career and is Organist at St Mary's, Bourne Street, London. His career in the theatre organ world has been equally prestigious. He has numerous prizes and awards to his credit, both in this country and in the USA, where he was named 'Organist of the Year' in 2010 by the American

Theatre Organ Society. He has appeared many times on national and international TV and Radio, including solo appearances on programmes as diverse as Radio 3 Choral Evensong and Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night', and has several recording credits. His most recent solo recording was made on the magnificent dual-purpose Compton organ of Southampton's Guildhall.

When not on the bench Richard serves as Musical Advisor to the Cinema Organ Society and maintains a practical interest in organ building.

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.

SIMON GLEDHILL CONCERT IN GRASS VALLEY ON JUNE 23

Peace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley will present Simon Gledhill at the Allen STR4 Organ at Peace Lutheran Church, 828 West Main Street, Grass Valley on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 4:00 pm. There will be a wine and cheese reception after the concert. This will be a benefit for the church's organ fund. Admission free with donation to organ fund.

JONAS NORDWALL CONCERT REVIEW

On Sunday, March 24th, NorCal featured one of our longtime favorites, Jonas Nordwall, in concert. Jonas is a master at our console having played several concerts and having made several recordings here over the years at Berkeley. The concert began with "This Could Be the Start of Something Big" which was an appropriate theme for the entire program that day. We can always count on a most varied program from Jonas. His musical expertise

covers all styles of music. He is comfortable with all genres, from the well-known standards, jazz stylings, as well as both light and heavy classical material. As the concert progressed we heard a medley including: "Sugartime", "Around the World in 80 Days", and "Rag Mop." Later we visited the red light district during a sultry "The Birth of the Blues."



Jonas Nordwall

Another great medley included three by Nacio Herb Brown: "Doll Dance", "Temptation", and "American Bolero." As a contrast, in the second half, we were offered: "Scherzo" by Ellsasser, and "The Emperor's Fanfare" by Soler. Selections from the iconic "My Fair Lady" followed next. Towards the end of the concert Jonas really "tested" the abilities of our Wurlitzer when he played "La Belle Helene" Overture by Offenbach. Warm, appreciative applause at the end brought Jonas back for an encore of "Valencia." As always, Jonas provided the widest variety of musical selections performed with flawless technique. A big thank you to Jonas for sharing these musical gifts with us!

-Kevin King

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!

-Ed.

Jonas' Play List

1. "This Could Be the Start of Something Big"
2. "El Condor Pasa"
3. Medley
 - a. "Sugartime"
 - b. "Around the World in 80 Days"
 - c. "Ragmop"
4. "The Bells of Saint Anne of de Beaupre" from *Saint Lawrence Sketches* by Alexander Russell
5. "Birth of the Blues"
6. Medley
 - a. "Playground of My Mind"
 - b. "The Rose"

- c. "Sir Duke"
7. "Fanfare"
8. Medley - three by Nacio Herb Brown:
 - a. "Doll Dance"
 - b. "Temptation"
 - c. "American Bolero"

INTERMISSION

1. "Scherzo" - music by Handel arranged by Richard Ellsasser
 - a. "The Emperor's Fanfare" from *Concerto No. 6* by Soler
2. Medley from *My Fair Lady*
 - a. "I Could Have Danced All Night"
 - b. "Wouldn't It Be Lovely?"
 - c. "Embassy Waltz"
 - d. "Get Me to the Church On Time"
3. Medley
 - a. "Memory" (from *Cats*)
 - b. "La Belle Helene" Overture by Offenbach

ENCORE

"Valencia"

CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

At our Saturday May 11th organ crew work party at the Berkeley Community Theatre, we had several distinguished visitors: LATOS Secretary, Mark Herman, who was 2018 Convention Chairman; Orange County Chapter President, David Marsh; and former ATOS Young Organist Heath Wooster, from Melbourne, Australia, now an Advertising Executive attending a Google sales conference at Moscone Center in San Francisco. The NorCal organ crew was treated to some great music by our visitors. Kevin King and Gordon Pratt gave the visitors a good demonstration and orientation to the Center Theatre Console. Work parties are not always just elbow-grease, there are fringe benefits! It's always enjoyable to visit with members of other chapters. The appreciation shown for our Wurlitzer organ by people who know and understand theatre pipe organs is a tribute to the work of our theatre organ crew.

This July 7th NorCal will be privileged to present Richard Hills in concert at Berkeley. He will be coming to us directly from his appearance at Shea's Buffalo Theatre where he will have performed on its original Style 285 Wurlitzer for this year's ATOS Annual Convention. This is your opportunity to hear a premier convention artist on our premier Wurlitzer!

I realize parking can be difficult around the Berkeley Community Theatre. Did you know that parking is free in BART parking lots on weekends? If I'm not carrying tools etc. I often take BART to Berkeley for our Saturday organ crew work parties. The Downtown Berkeley BART station on Shattuck Avenue between Center Street and Allston Way is convenient to the Berkeley Community Theatre. I park at the San Bruno BART garage. Those of us over 65 years of age can use a "Clipper Card" for most all Bay Area transportation systems. The card greatly discounts the fares. For info, see: <https://www.clippercard.com>.

Finally, an all too common sad note in the theatre pipe organ world. We learned before Easter, that the roof over the solo chamber of the Golden State Theatre in Monterey leaked water into the solo chamber of the theatre's 3-manual Wurlitzer. This unfortunate incident will necessitate a complete rebuild of the solo chamber.

“CHORD”ially,



STUDENT-PARENT VISITORS

On Saturday May 18th a group of Berkeley High School students and parents visited BCT. Kevin King demonstrated our organ for them accompanying a video showing each individual pipe or percussion as he played it. Just as challenging as accompanying a silent movie! A lot of work went into preparing for this event and thanks to all involved! Several of the students tried the organ that day and two came back the following day to join us at open console.



NORCAL AT WORK RAIN OR SHINE



The next pipes to be installed at BCT will be the twelve pipes of the 16-foot octave of the Viola Diapason. While the pipes are in generally good condition, they need cleaning and a coat of clear

lacquer. Rudy Frey and Chuck Hagstrom have been doing this work and on Saturday, May 18th, they did not let the rain keep from their appointed rounds!

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 2, July 14, August 11, September 22

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

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.

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-theatre/>

California Theatre, Pittsburg - 3/10 Robert Morton. 351 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg. The 3-manual console is now playing.



On Thursday, June 30 Dave Moreno will play in the house followed by the feature film: "Tucker: The Man and His Dream." Did you know that this film includes location shots in Oakland and San Francisco?

<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 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.

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
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 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.

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