


OCTOBER 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



Jerry Nagano in Concert

Sunday, October 20

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

Jerry Nagano was born and raised in the Los Angeles area where he began his musical training at age ten. From the very beginning the movies played a major role in his musical life. After attending a silent movie accompanied by the theater pipe organ, Jerry took an interest in the organ. After instruction on electronic organ for a period, he had a chance to study with organist Gaylord Carter, the very person who played for that silent film years before.

During his college years, Jerry was the organist at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, playing their famed Reginald Foort/BBC Möller pipe organ. Friendships were made which led to instruction with Carter, Gordon Kibbee, and much later with the late Tom Hazleton.

For ten years Jerry was the featured artist at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo, home of the “Wurlitzer in the Pizza Parlor” concept. Since the Pizza Joynt days, Jerry has played at the Stanford Theater in Palo Alto, where classic Hollywood films are screened nightly with intermissions performed on the Mighty Wurlitzer. Jerry has also played at the Oakland Paramount Theatre and currently plays at the California Theatre in San Jose, playing not only the 4-manual auditorium Wurlitzer but the fabulous 2/10 Style 216 Wurlitzer in the California’s lobby. Patrons of the San Jose Opera and Symphony Silicon Valley regularly dance their way to their seats to the rhythmic beat of the Wurlitzer organ. In 2017 Jerry was named Theatre Organist of the Year by the American Theatre Organ Society.

Aside from his busy musical life, during the day, Jerry is a Computer Systems Engineer for Stanford University.

DAVID GRAY CONCERT & NORCAL ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 12, 2020

2:00 PM, Berkeley Community Theatre, Berkeley

Enter through Stage Door at 1930 Allston Way

Save the date! Please note the earlier starting time. This will be a great concert by an artist from “over the pond.”

CHAIRMAN’S WIND LINE

The NorCal Board Members have asked me to inform the members what we know about renovations which the Berkeley Unified School District is planning for the Berkeley Community Theatre and adjacent school building. We were first notified by the District in September 2018. I have resisted passing on information because the scope and budget for the project have not been finalized. The original estimated budget for renovations to the BCT auditorium, stage, adjacent classroom wing and little theatre was \$106,364,560. At the present time, only about \$60 million has been raised by bond issues.

The purpose of the renovations are to provide increased access for the physically challenged, redesigned classroom spaces, enlarged theatre scene shop and a seismically retrofitted theatre stage building. Renovations to the BCT auditorium and little theatre will be in a later phase pending approval of additional

bond issues. Final architectural drawings for the first phase are to be completed in November of this year.

The good news, for us, is that the troublesome little elevator, which travels from stage level to the auditorium floor, is to be replaced with a ramp. The bad news is that in order to prepare for Shotcreting the stage walls, by the end of June, 2020, we will have to remove and store the 32-foot Diaphones from the back stage wall. Art Woodworth, Neal Wood, and Ted Hubbard will be attending a meeting with the architects November 13th to determine if the 16-foot and 8-foot tibia plenas, 16-foot viola diapasons (presently under installation), marimba, and piano from the speaker shelf just under the stage proscenium arch, 32 feet above the stage, will also have to be removed. We will have to remove and store the consoles for the two years that the renovation will take. Speaking for myself, any younger help for the organ crew will be appreciated!

NorCal Chapter was a charter member of ATOS (originally called the American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts) in 1955. The Berkeley Wurlitzer first played in 1991. From 1955 to 1991 we held concerts in local theatres, pizza restaurants, and home installations. We hope to return to these venues (minus the pizza restaurants) while the BCT is closed for renovation.

In March, I wrote that Wichita, Kansas was scheduled to host the ATOS Annual Convention in 2021. We now hear that it will be held in Detroit.



NOMINATIONS FOR NOR-CAL OFFICERS

According to the NorCal Theatre Organ Society Bylaws, "The Board of Directors shall consist of no fewer than five (5) Active Members. The term of office for each Director shall be three (3) years, but each Director shall serve until a successor has been elected and qualified. No Director may serve more than two (2) successive three-year terms unless an interval elapses."

"Nominations for the office of Director may be made by Active Members of the Society, with the consent of the nominee and his or her agreement to serve if elected. Such nominations shall be submitted in writing, including each Nominee's consent and agreement, to the Nominating Chairperson not later than November 10, signed by no fewer than two (2) Active Members. Nominations shall close on November 15..."

As of December 31, 2019, Director Kevin King will have completed two 3-year terms as Director so will be termed out. At that time Current Chairman Rudy Frey will have completed his first 3-year term so will be eligible to run for a second term. Therefore there will be two vacancies Nominations should be mailed to:

Charles Hagstrom, Nominating Committee Chair
NorCal Theatre Organ Society
P. O. Box 625
Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Nominating Chairman Chuck Hagstrom may be contacted by either leaving a message on the NorCal answering machine at 510-644-2707 or by sending Mr. Hagstrom an email at sahcchas@comcast.net

If there are no more than two nominees, the NorCal Board of Directors will declare them elected at its December meeting. If there are three or more nominees, then the Secretary will mail a ballot to each Active Member by December 15.

RICHARD HILLS CONCERT



Richard Hills

NorCal's concert on Sunday, July 7 at Berkeley Community Theater featured the UK's Richard Hills. Richard made full use of the NorCal Wurlitzer's resources in playing an exciting and nicely balanced program.

Richard's Play List

1. Hooray for Hollywood
2. L'Amour-Toujours- L'Amour
3. *Medley from Snow White*
 - With a Smile and a Song
 - Whistle While You Work
 - Some Day My Prince Will Come
 - Heigh Ho
 - I'm Wishing
 - One Song
 - With a Smile and a Song
4. Canyon Caballero
5. Twilight Time
6. *Medley from Finian's Rainbow*
 - When I'm Not Near the girl I Love
 - Look to the Rainbow
 - Old Devil Moon
 - That Great Come and Get it Day
 - How Are Things in Gloccamorra?
 - Look to the Rainbow

7. March of the Bowmen

INTERMISSION

1. Sounds of Wonder (by Lyn Larsen)
2. *Medley from The Desert Song*
 - The Song of the Brass key
 - The Desert Song
 - The Riff song
 - One alone
 - It
 - French Military Marching song
 - One Alone
3. *Medley from My Fair Lady*
 - I Could Have Danced All Night
 - Wouldn't It Be Lovely?
 - Embassy Waltz
 - Get Me to the Church On Time
3. The shooting Star (by Sidney Torch)
4. The Holy City
5. *Tribute to Jeanett MacDonald and Nelson Eddy*
 - Paramount on Parade
 - San Francisco
 - At the Balalaika
 - Isn't It Romantic?
 - Merry Widow Waltz
 - Indian Love Call
 - You Made Me Love You
 - Beyond the Blue Horizon
 - Rosemarie

ENCORE

Twelfth Street Rag

MARK HERMAN CONCERT

Mark, Rosie, Kevin, & Kevin's Wurlitzer

On Sunday, July 28, NorCal members and their guests enjoyed hearing Mark Herman at Kevin King's backyard studio in Walnut Creek. While it was a relaxed afternoon, Mark played a top-notch

concert of solos and medleys as can be seen from his play list. Thanks for inviting us, Kevin!

Mark's Play List

1. Hallelujah Chorus (Handel)/Hallelujah
2. Midnight in Mayfair
3. Someone to Watch Over Me
4. *Medley by Jerome Kern:*
 - A Fine Romance
 - Pick Yourself Up
 - Smoke Gets in Your Eyes
 - The Song is You
 - Bojangles of Harlem
 - Waltz in Swingtime
 - All the Things You are
5. Runner (by Mark Herman)
6. Come the wild, Wild Weather (Noel Coward's last)
7. Japanese Sandman
8. *Song's whose titles begin with "I Love You"*
 - I Love a Piano
 - I Love You
 - I Love Paris
 - I Love To Hear You Singing
9. Jarvis (by Mark Herman)
10. Requests – partial list, not necessarily in order played:
 - Music from Mary Poppins
 - Ghost Riders in the Sky
 - Theme from Superman
 - Putting on the Ritz
 - Star Wars
 - 42nd Street
 - Rhapsody in Blue
 - I'm Through with Love
 - My Silent Love
 - Satin Doll



Entrance to Kevin's Studio

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:

October 13, November 17, December 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.

OTHER VENUES

George Wright Tribute Concert. Sunday November 10, 2:00 pm, Grant Union High School, 1400 Grand Avenue, Sacramento. Donnie Rankin will play the concert on the organ where legendary organist George Wright got his start. Advance \$12, General \$15, Students FREE. Box Office opens at 1:00 p.m.

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. <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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