


JANUARY 2020

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



David Gray

**David Gray in Concert &
Annual Members' Meeting**

Sunday, January 12, 2020

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

Over the last ten years, David Gray has built his profile to become one of the most active and critically acclaimed theatre organists performing on the international circuit.

David was born in 1990 and raised in Glasgow, Scotland. He developed an interest in music at the age of four. The majority of his musical training and early experience was on the piano, and at the age of 13, he started attending St Mary's specialist music boarding school in Edinburgh. Although his focus was piano, he also studied classical organ for three years. He was admitted to the Royal Academy of Music in London in 2008 on a full scholarship to study piano. He completed his undergraduate degree in 2013 with first class honors and the highest mark in his year for his final recital. In 2015-2016 David was a fellow of the piano department at the Academy.

David's first experience playing a theatre organ was in 2004 on a 3/8 Compton in Glasgow. With the help of Duncan Sinclair from the Scottish Cinema Organ Society, he began to learn to play the instrument. In 2005 he won the ATOS Young Theatre Organist competition in Los Angeles. He has made many appearances in the UK, and was the recipient of the Ian Sutherland Award from the Cinema Organ Society in 2007, and the Dean Herrick Memorial Cup from the ATOS London chapter.

In 2015 he was named ATOS Organist of the Year, and following his debut on the home installation of Dennis Unks, he is due to release two more CD's this season: one on the Adrian Phillips 5/104 Midmer Losh and the other on the Jasper San Filippo 5/80 Wurlitzer.

David travels multiple times each year to perform in the USA and has also performed widely across the UK, Australia, Holland, Switzerland, and Germany. He is a co-patron of the Queensland Theatre Organ Society of Australia and the Canberra Theatre Organ Society of Australia.

David last appeared at Berkeley Community Theatre on July 17, 2016. Quoting from Kevin King's review in the October 2016 *Windsheet*, "Clearly, David Gray sets a very high bar for performance on the theatre organ. Very few musicians in this genre can approach this level of mastery..."

See "More About David" on Page 2

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF
THE NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

The Annual Membership Meeting of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society will be held on Sunday, January 12, 2020 at the Berkeley Community Theatre, 1930 Allston Way, Berkeley, California. The meeting will follow David Gray'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!

MORE ABOUT DAVID

David has undergone detailed training in improvised silent film piano accompaniment, and worked with many of the world's leading musicians in this field, primarily orchestral film scores as composed Neil Brand in London. In this capacity, David has performed and studied at the Pordenone Silent Film Festival in Italy, and will coach silent film accompaniment students this year in England's Dartington Music Festival.

CHAIRMAN'S WIND LINE

Paramount Theatre of the Arts. Tuesday, October 29th, NorCal Treasurer, Ted Hubbard rented a lift gate truck and the organ crew loaded the Oakland Paramount theatre's 5-rank main chest, which NorCal had overhauled, and miscellaneous wind regulator and hardware parts onto the truck. The following day Ted drove the truck to the Paramount Theatre. Ken Crome, of the Crome organ company, from Reno, Nevada arrived with his crew in another truck carrying the restored original Oakland Paramount Wurlitzer "waterfall style" console, and a 16' Bombard, mitered to fit in the organ chamber. The purchase costs of the additions and restoration of the original console were provided by a bequest from our late NorCal crew chief Bill Schlotter. During the slower summer season at the Paramount, it is planned to install the restored components along with a new state of the art computer relay.

Berkeley Community Theatre. Good news! At a meeting November 13th with representatives of the Berkeley Unified School District and their architects, NorCal learned that the piano, marimba, and Tibia Plena pipes presently installed on the "speaker shelf" above the proscenium will not have to be removed because the auditorium side of the firewall will not be shotcreted; nor will the corresponding wall at the main chamber level.

The 32' Diaphones, their blower, and their regulators on the platform on the back stage wall will all have to be removed and, along with both consoles, stored off site during the reconstruction of the auditorium stage house and the adjacent classroom wing. Ted Hubbard (who is a mechanical engineer), after studying the 32' Diaphones during the past couple of organ crew work parties, has agreed to lead a NorCal crew in removing the pipes. The BCT construction drawings and discussions with Berkeley Unified School District indicate that the District anticipates the reinstallation of the pipes on a new back stage balcony after completion of the theatre renovations.



NOMINATIONS FOR NOR-CAL OFFICERS

In accordance with the NorCal Theatre Organ Society Bylaws, a call for nominations for directors of the society was published in the October 2019 issue of the *Windsheet*. The notice advised that there would be two board vacancies for the 3-year term 2020 through 2022.

Per the bylaws, the Nominating committee obtained consent to run letters from Christopher Booras and Rudolph Frey. No other

nominations were received by the close of nominations on November 15, the deadline for nominations

Since there were no more than two nominees for the two vacancies, in accordance with the NorCal Theatre Organ Society Bylaws, it is anticipated that at its December 21, 2019 meeting the board will declare Christopher Booras and Rudolph Frey as being elected to the board for the three year period from 2020 through 2022.

JERRY NAGANO CONCERT



Jerry Nagano with Paul Wesley Bowen

On Sunday, October 20, we had the pleasure of hearing Jerry Nagano in concert at BCT. Jerry has been part of our NorCal group for a long time, so he's like family around here. You can see by his playlist that we enjoyed a wide variety of selections. His opening number was "Home in Pasadena" written by Harry Warren. Fitting, since Jerry spent time in that area as resident organist at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium. He recorded the large Möller organ installed there. A medley from "Fiddler on the Roof" (a pizza-organ classic) brought back memories of hearing Jerry at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt during his tenure there. Throughout the concert, we were reminded of how Jerry knows exactly how to put together the perfect arrangement. His music is never "over played" or unnecessarily complex; yet always contains that little extra thought and creativity to make each number his own. His encore, "Chattanooga Choo Choo" (not a favorite of this reviewer - *just kidding*) brought a fun, energetic end to the day. Thanks Jerry, and we will see you soon.

-Kevin King

Jerry's Play List

- Home in Pasadena
- Sukiyaki
- El Cumbanchero
- The Phantom Regiment
- Breezin' Along With the Breeze
- The Toy Trumpet
- Beyond the Reef

- Applause
- Medley from “Fiddler on the Roof”

INTERMISSION

- C’est Magnifique
- My First Love Song
- Washington Post march
- It All Depends on You
- Hi Lily, Hi Lo
- Fifth Avenue
- I Only Have Eyes For You
- Saint Louis Blues
- Knightsbridge March

ENCORE

- Chattanooga Choo Choo

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 19 | April 19 |
| February 16 | May 17 |
| March 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.

CLOSING CHORD**Charlie Balogh**

From Lew Williams’ Facebook page:

A few words might be in order here concerning the loss yesterday of the ingenious and irreplaceable Charlie Balogh, my colleague at Organ Stop Pizza. Two weeks ago on Tuesday, November 5th, Charlie was playing his regular evening shift when suddenly he felt dizzy, and his hands began to shake. He was unable to finish the night and went home.

During Charlie's illness, both Brett Valliant and Glenn Taller came to fill in at OSP, and they, along with Ken Double, will continue to help complete the playing schedule throughout the month of December. Plans have been made for a permanent replacement as of January 2020, but I will wait for the OSP administration to make that announcement when they see fit to do so.

We have all lost a fine musician and a good colleague.



We are advised that David Balogh, Charlie’s brother, wrote on a GoFundMe page that aims to raise money to cover medical expenses. The fund has a goal of \$75,000.

www.gofundme.com/ff/charlie-balogh

See “Organ Stop Pizza customers remember organist Charlie Balogh”:

www.azcentral.com/story/entertainment/people/2019/11/25/organ-stop-pizza-mesa-customers-remember-organist-charlie-balogh/4298678002/

Rob Lindquist

Born in Albany, California, on August 8, 1949, Robert Frank Lindquist, Jr. lived most of his life in Livermore. After graduating from Granada High School, class of 1967, he attended University of Washington earning his degree in Microbiology. Upon graduation Rob joined the Navy serving as a navigator aboard the USS Gridley (DLG-21) and later as Operations Officer for Destroyer Squadron 13 out of San Diego. There he met and married Jo Anne Sheehan on March 12, 1977 in San Diego.

In 1977 Rob joined the photo staff of Alameda Newspaper Group where he worked for the next 31 years, first as a photographer and then as Director of Photography; and finally Managing Editor of Editorial Technology. A compassionate and calm newsroom leader, he was a colleague, friend, boss, and mentor to many Bay Area journalists.

In 2010 Rob bought and ran the J. Nelson & Company Allen Organ dealership. He spent his time selling, fixing, and installing organs in homes, churches, and theaters around northern California. Organ music was a lifelong passion of his and for the last 10 years he was able to make it his third profession. A talented and passionate musician, Rob was the church organist at St. Michael in Livermore for nearly 20 years.

Rob was also a selfless and dedicated father to Travis and Shannon and loyal husband of 42 years to Jo Anne. His curiosity, cleverness, and eagerness to fix any problem large or small will always be remembered, but more so his sharp intellect, cheery humor, and gentle demeanor.

Rob is preceded in death by his parents Robert Lindquist, Sr and Marilyn Lindquist. He is survived by his wife Jo Anne, daughter Shannon, son Travis, daughter-in-law Heather, grand-

children Beatrice, Charles, and John, and sisters Carol (Mark Stoker and Laura (Colm Keenan) Lindquist, and several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial was November 20 and burial will be at St. Michael Cemetery. In lieu of flowers Rob has requested donations be made to either of these charities:

Fr. Poon Endowment Fund for Catholic Education payable to:
St. Michael School, 345 Church St., Livermore, CA 94550

Shepherd's Gate: 1660 Portola Ave., Livermore, CA 94551

Bob Castle

Bob was the Denver Paramount Theatre House Organist. NorCal Member and Denver resident Gary Miller tells us that Bob played his own celebration of life at the Paramount thanks to the Uniflex sequencer. Gary says that Bob once visited BCT and played our mighty Wurlitzer.

OTHER VENUES

Grand Lake Theatre - 3/17 Wurlitzer. 3200 Grand Avenue, Oakland. Intermission music played by **Gordon Pratt** (Fridays) and **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 is 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 play-ing. <http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com/>

Palace of the Legion of Honor - 4/63 E. M. Skinner. Lincoln Park, San Francisco Presidio. Concerts Saturday afternoons at 4:00 pm.

See legionofhonor.famsf.org and scroll to "visit/up-coming events."

MEMBERS LOBBY ON LINE

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, email, or write to:**

Mr. Neal R. Wood
NorCal TOS Membership Chair
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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 monthly.

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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