


OCTOBER 2024

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

NORCAL PICNIC AND ANNUAL MEETING AT KEVIN KING'S STUDIO



Kevin's Studio

On Saturday, August 10th the gate opened at 12:00 noon for socializing and picnicking. At 1:00 Chairman Chris Booras opened a brief and well organized annual business meeting. This was followed by Mark Herman's marvelous concert on Kevin's Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ.

After opening with *Put on a Happy Face*, Mark played a group of songs with lyrics by a single composer, Johnny Mercer: *Emily*, *Something's Gotta Give*, *Charade*, *Hooray for Hollywood*, *Moon River*, and *Days of Wine and Roses*. Next was *The Golden Wedding*. Mark said that his arrangement was based on a cut from an early George Wright recording.

A Cole Porter medley included *In the Still of the Night*, *Don't Fence Me In*, and *From This Moment On*. Mark next played variations on *Happy Birthday to You* in honor of two people present. He then played three songs composed by Harry Revelle: *Wake Up and Live*, *Did You Ever See a Dream Walking*, and *I Feel Like a Feather in the Breeze*.

Mark took a number of requests including *In the Mood*, *The Boy Next Door*, *Roller Coaster*, *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*, *Moonglow*, and *Root Beer Rag*. His encore was a medley of songs from "The Wizard of Oz."

KEVIN AND THE TRAIN SONG

Either during the meeting or the concert, someone asked Kevin "How many times did you play the train song at a pizza parlor?" Kevin said he had thought about that over the years and came up with the number 5,700.

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN

Nominations are open for members of the Board of Directors of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society for the term 2025-2027. Directors must be members of both the NorCal Theatre Organ Society and the American Theatre Organ Society. Directors are expected to attend all board meetings unless excused in advance. Board meetings are held on the second Saturday morning of even numbers months plus January and the annual business meeting. Nominations will close November 15. For more information and a copy of a nominating letter,

contact the NorCal Secretary, Art Woodworth whose contact information appears at the end of this copy of the Windsheet.

PROGRESS AT BCT!

The hard working NorCal organ crew had a lot to do since we were able to get back into Berkeley Community Theatre in June. In the basement level blower room, the two blowers are now back in place on their padded floor mounts with their motors back in place and with the wind lines connected. The motors and much of the winding had to be removed from the blower room to allow earthquake strengthening of the building's foundations. A new, 21st century electrical cabinet has now been mounted on the wall. As of October 5, (no work session on Saturday October 12 due to school holiday) almost all of the electrical connections have been made. So the blowers should be running by the end of October. Many thanks to Ted Hubbard for his electrical knowledge and experience!

We have installed a new computer cabinet at the base of the stairs at stage right. It has a roll-up door, which will eliminate the problem with the old cabinet's swinging door, which could strike people in the head. We will replace the old computer (running Windows 98) and the relay program (Uniflex 2000). The new computer will run Windows 10 and the relay program will be Uniflex 4000.

HUNTER HALL



Bill Coale at the Hunter Hall console

On Saturday, August 3rd, Bill Coale presented a concert on the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at Hunter Hall in Rio Vista. The event was Sierra Chapter's annual ice cream social.

CLOSING CHORD

Tom Norvell. [Tom was from the Sacramento area. Chris Nichols and Neal Wood attended the service. The following is from the ATOS website.] Tom was a familiar face at ATOS gatherings for many years. He fought a courageous battle with cancer for a long time. Even so, he still managed to always keep a positive attitude, and was an inspiration. He leaves behind a family, including his partner, former ATOS President Craig Peterson, who faithfully took care of him throughout his illness.

Al Schoenstein died May 12. He and his wife Dorteia lived in Dunsmuir at the foot of Mt. Shasta for many years following his retirement as a financial executive at Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco. Although not involved in the organ business he nevertheless had a keen interest in all things relevant to pipe organs and was a regular attendee of the open house events at Schoenstein & Co. in Benicia. He was extraordinarily well informed on many subjects and an agile conversationalist with our regular phone calls often going on for several hours. His plans for a public theatre organ installation near his hometown fell through but he compensated by becoming centrally involved with the Wurlitzer installation at the State Theater in Oroville. He was a genuine old world gentleman and will be missed.

Best regards,

Roy K. Powlan, Esq.

OTHER VENUES

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

Paramount Theatre – 4/26 Wurlitzer. 2025 Broadway, Oakland. Organ again playing but no organ

events currently scheduled.

www.paramounttheatre.com

Stanford Theatre - 3/21 Wurlitzer. 221 University Avenue, Palo Alto. Open Thursday through Sunday.

stanfordtheatre.org

California Theatre, San Jose (Fox Theatre) - 4/21 Wurlitzer & 2/10 Wurlitzer. Schedule unknown.

<https://sanjosetheaters.org/theaters/california-theatre>

California Theatre, Pittsburg - 3/10 Robert Morton. 351 Railroad Avenue, Pittsburg. Schedule unknown.

<http://www.pittsburgcaliforniatheatre.com>

Oroville State Theatre – 3/16 Wurlitzer (former Towe Auto Museum organ). 1489 Myers Street, Oroville, (530) 538-2470. Schedule unknown.

<https://www.orovillestatetheatre.com>

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

<https://www.famsf.org/events/organ-concert>

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 contact our Membership Chair Neal Wood:

woodshed523@icloud.com

P.O. Box 625

Berkeley, CA 94701-0625

Normally NorCal Theatre Organ Society dues are \$20 per year. However, if you join now they will not be due until we return to having member meetings. For \$70 (special rate of \$25 for students younger than 24) you may join National ATOS per

year for a full voting membership plus six issues per year of *Theatre Organ Magazine*.

HOW OFTEN DO WE PUBLISH THE WINDSHEET?

We had been publishing whenever NorCal had an event scheduled. Until we return to a regular concert series, we will publish as copy accumulates. If you have anything to contribute, please do so. *Stay safe – hope to see you all soon!*

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 above.

NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY CONTACTS:

Please see the NorCal website norcaltos.org for current & recent past Windsheets in [.pdf](#) format along with an up-to-date Calendar of Events. Or reach NorCal directly at NorcalTOS@outlook.com.

Chairman: Chris Booras

43241 Giovanni Terrace

Fremont, CA 94539

christopher@scooplight.com

Vice Chairman: Judson Owens

1730 Virginia Street

Berkeley, CA 94703

jud.owens@gmail.com

Treasurer: Ted Hubbard

1973 La Corso Court

Walnut Creek, CA 94598-2214

(828) 606-7721

effertaph@hotmail.com

Secretary & Windsheet Editor:

Art Woodworth

600 Coventry Road

Kensington, CA 94707

(510) 524-7452

arthurjwoodworth@gmail.com

Membership Secretary: Neal Wood

523 Corbett Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94114

(415) 515-4030

woodshed523@icloud.com

Program Chair: Gordon Pratt

PO Box 2785

San Lorenzo Ca 94580

(510) 303-6809 mobile

aznme2@webtv.net

Board Member: Kevin King

musicbarn20@gmail.com

Board Member: Rudy Frey

2050 Willow Way

San Bruno, CA 94066

(650) 933-2513

RudyFrey@currently.com