

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

POPS CONCERT AT IRONSTONE WITH MARTIN ELLIS

April 2010

SATURDAY,
April 17

**COACH LEAVES THE
CALIFORNIA AUTO
MUSEUM
(FORMERLY THE TOWE)
AT 10:00AM**

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Martin Ellis holds the distinction of being the first winner of the *ATOS Young Organists Competition* in 1986. After his initial exposure to theatre organ at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis at 7-years old,

Martin began organ studies in the 6th grade, and at 15 began studies with John Ferguson. Upon winning the ATOS competition, he premiered with Rex Koury at the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer that year and was featured in concert at the ATOS National Convention the following year in Richmond, Virginia.

Martin entered DePauw University majoring in keyboard performance and composition, which would prove to serve him well in future endeavors. The Central Indiana Chapter of ATOS was extremely supportive, engaging Martin in performances regionally throughout his college years. After winning the local AGO competition, he was the runner-up in the AGO Region V competition. During his senior year, he served as the weekend artist at Milwaukee's Piper Music Palace, as an alternate organist at the Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois, and performed concerts in and around the Chicago area.

Martin was invited to be the fourth member of the Trio con Brio by Donna Parker, Jonas Nordwall and Tom

Hazleton. He performed for the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society and Fort Wayne's Embassy Theatre when Tom was unable to perform and was ready to step in and play any of the other member's parts as the understudy. In Indianapolis, Martin became the Senior Staff Pianist/Organist for the Indianapolis Children's Choir – a touring organization with over 2,000 children! Their tours have taken them through most major cities in Europe and Canada--including playing an organ concert on the Tambourini organ at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome.



He became the staff arranger and orchestrator for the ICC organization and has many published choral and orchestra arrangements with Hal Leonard and Colla Voce publishing companies & recently orchestrated 15 pieces that were performed and recorded with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra and ICC. For seven years, Martin has also served as Artistic Assistant/Pianist for the Pacific Rim Children's Choir Festival in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In 2004, Martin was appointed the Associate Director of Music and Organist at North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. He also became the third permanent member of the Trio con Brio upon Tom Hazleton's passing—something Tom, Jonas and Donna agreed upon when the trio was formed.



Ironstone Vineyards is nestled against the Sierra Foothills, in the heart of California's scenic Gold Rush Country. Enjoy its beautiful gardens, History Museum and Gift and Jewelry Shoppe.

The Organ at Ironstone was originally installed in the Alhambra Theatre in Sacramento in 1927. It went from a Baptist Church in Stockton to Bob Hartzell. John Kautz later bought it for his winery and built the Alhambra Music Room to house it (now a 3/14) and provide banquet space.



ATOS BOARD APPROVES NEGOTIATIONS FOR ARCHIVE RE-LOCATION

Six-month Study Produces Recommendation to Begin Discussions with the University of Oklahoma, American Organ Institute

Representatives of the board were involved in a six-month study, culminating in a six-page document with the recommendation eventually approved by the board. The study involved five locations for the archive, which must find a new home. The current location, in the Rialto Square Theatre building in Joliet, Illinois, will become home to an expanding local college facility, forcing ATOS to move the collection.

The decision to begin negotiations with the University of Oklahoma, was made for one major reason: the University, through its American Organ Institute, provided an overwhelming set of advantages unmatched by the other options. These includes:

- ◆ The advantages of a major research university
- ◆ Professional library services readily available
- ◆ Access of students, professors, scholars, ATOS members and the public
- ◆ The ongoing success and growth of the AOI and the organ program at OU



Allen Miller's committee will begin negotiations with representatives of the University of Oklahoma as soon as possible with a recommendation to be presented to the board on or before the Annual Meeting at the Seattle convention in late June.



Yamaha E-5 three manual with Hammond style 25 note Pedal-board. Also included is a whole music rack of instructional books as well as the original manual for the organ.

For more information, contact:

Hazel Godager at Phone (916) 638-1281

Some Trivia on the E-5 from theatreorgans.com:

The Model E-5 was a professional home model of the mid 1970s with the famous three-position stop levers and virtually any voice you can imagine. It included B-3-type percussion, a Slide control for Hawaiian Guitar and other effects, a Vibraphone that would knock your socks off, and a Portamento bar for special effects. The Portamento bar can be heard on Lenny Dee's recording of *Also Sprach Zarathustra*, where he simulated radio waves (the base recording was done on the Hammond Concorde).



Chapter Directory

It's that time of year again!

If you have address changes, either snail or e-mail, and/or phone changes, please contact

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or e-mail me at

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SPRING

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – CAROL ZERBO

Spring has sprung - along with the trees, flowers, grass and anything else you might be allergic to. I never paid much attention to pollen but this year is different. Armed with lozenges and kleenex, I, along with approximately 200 movie-goers enjoyed "King of Kings", wonderfully played by Walt Strony on Friday, the 19th. Randy Warwick, our new publicity chairman, sent information on the movie to area churches. Here were many new faces in the audience and questions as to when the next silent movie is scheduled (Friday, May 21st with Chris Elliott). This was truly a group effort to stay ahead of drinks, popcorn requests, extraneous sounds from the pipe chambers, smooth projection, parking lot safety, seating, & greeting. It was an exhausting and exciting evening and I was never more proud to be a part of Sierra Chapter! Ours has to be one of the friendliest, most cooperative clubs in ATOS.

On the subject of flowers, I'm really looking forward to

"Ironstone Presents..." on the 17th. I hope we were able to accommodate everyone who requested a ticket. It is always so beautiful at Ironstone this time of year. Hopefully, the new format will allow all who wish to tour the grounds and "stop and smell the roses" time to do so.

Allergies notwithstanding. I have had the privilege of hearing Martin Ellis as part of Trio Con Brio and solo at last year's Hopeful Heart fundraiser at the Sanfilippo estate. His arrangements are refreshing and very entertaining. You will enjoy this afternoon.

At every gathering involving three or more organ enthusiasts, the question is always asked - "Are you going to the Convention?" My answer is "yes" and I'm hearing more and more "me too"s. While the list of artists and venues is impressive, there will also be a variety of workshops presented by technicians and performers and, of course, the annual meeting should be

most informative and entertaining. Since the Convention is on our coast this year, I hope everybody will make the extra effort to attend and show support for ATOS' efforts to keep theatre organs playing.

I want to update y'all on **Barbara Harris's** condition. On February 28, our longtime member had a stroke which affected her right side. She continues to make progress at Manor Care near Sunrise and Madison.



Daughter Beverly says visitors are welcome. Since her hearing and speech were affected, conversation is wonderful therapy. She may be at Manor Care for another month, so keep her in your thoughts.



Carol Z

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Patron Level:

Richard Taylor

Renewing at the Sustaining Level:

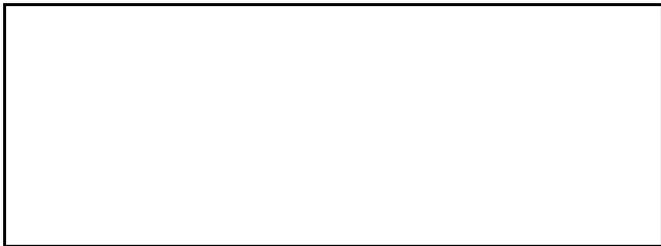
Steve Restivo





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We are on the Web:
sierrachapterATOS.org
youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

Ironstone Vineyards

Murphys, California



POPS Concert

With
Martin Ellis

Saturday April 17th

Coach leaves
Auto Museum

New Time
==> **10:00 A.M.** <==

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

California Auto Museum
2200 Front Street

Friday May 21 7:30 PM

Silent Film -
with



Christian Elliott

\$10/General
\$8/Member
\$5/Students
\$20/Family Street

NOR-CAL TOS EVENT

Berkeley Community Theatre

Sunday May 2

2:30 PM

Walt Strony

\$15/General Admis-
sion



Stockton Fox Event

Bob Hope Theatre
242 E. Main
Stockton, CA



Friday April 9
6:30PM
\$8/Adults
Butch Cassidy & the
Sundance Kid

Featuring **Tom Thompson**
On the Might Morton

The Chapter was organized in 1968 as a not-for-profit corporation under the statutes of the State of California and is recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 23701d of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. It was organized for the purpose of preservation and promotion of the Theatre Pipe Organ and its music. Membership in the local Chapter also encourages membership in the National Organization, American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS.) www.atos.org