

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

ORGAN CONCERT

April 2026

**Guest Organist:**

**Walt Strony**

(shown below)

Walt had the opportunity to hear this Walker/Rodgers' organ and was impressed enough to want to play for the final public event prior to its removal. It's likely the 2nd largest Walker in Northern California, followed by the massive 7 manual Walker in the Castro Theatre.



**SUNDAY, MAY 3RD**

**4:00 P.M.**

**FREE**

**TECHNIQUE GYMNASIICS  
11345 FOLSOM BLVD  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CA**

From Jim Welch

This Walker/Rodgers' organ is now a 4 manual 140 rank classical instrument with 10 ranks of theater pipes. It is owned by Jim and Alice Welch and resides in a 38,000 sq ft gymnastics facility in Rancho Cordova, CA.

The organ was originally owned by Keith Chapman of Wanamaker's, who at the time was a Rodgers dealer in Philadelphia. Keith added a 4<sup>th</sup> manual and sold the Rodgers 350 organ to Jim in 1996 as a wedding gift for Alice.

It resided in their home for many years, then moved to their church where it was played every Sunday. While at the church, the organ was enlarged by Walker Technical to be a 4 manual 140 rank classical/theater organ. For Jim's three daughters' weddings, it was masterfully played by Scott Nelson, Tom Hazelton and then Jonas Nordwall respectively.

The organ was then moved to southern California to Christ Cathedral when they needed a replacement organ while their Ruffatti was being rebuilt. Walker Technical enlarged it to a 4/170 rank instrument to accommodate their needs. There is a CD that Hector Olivera made on the organ while at the Cathedral that you can find free on YouTube ([hector olivera from vivaldi to vierne - YouTube](#)).

The organ finally came back to Rancho Cordova and was installed in the family-owned gymnastics facility. Installed in 3 chambers that were originally designed by Edward Stout for a 4/35 rank Wurlitzer, there are five divisions with a sixth division in the rear of the building. The classical samples are about 95% from the Girard College Chapel Skinner Organ and the theater organ ranks are Wurlitzer.





1489 Myers st, Oroville, CA

Sun, Apr 26

Silent Movies featuring the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ

Apr 26, 2026, 2:00 PM

Come celebrate our 98th Anniversary with a Buster Keaton double feature of Seven Chances and Cops! Live accompaniment by Dave Moreno.

the historic  
**Hanford**  
**FOX**  
Theatre

**Silent Comedies with Dave Moreno on the Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ**

Purchase Tickets

Sunday, June 07, 2026 @ 04:00 PM

\$20 plus fees

<https://www.foxhanford.com/9-calendar>

**Sierra Chapter Seaver Organ Console Swap  
The Move is Done!! (The Uniflex Relay is next)**



The Morton Console on its back.



Morton Console - The Big Drop

We will be posting more pictures and videos of the move on our website. Stay tuned.



Wurlitzer Console - The Big Lift

**IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA**

Nevada County Composer's Cooperative  
Performance of new works by a number of composers, various ensembles and soloists.

**2:00 pm Sunday, April 26th**  
Near Grass Valley, CA

More info and directions:  
Email: [billtrabucco@saber.net](mailto:billtrabucco@saber.net)  
Or phone 530-264-6629  
Please RSVP