

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Hot August Pipes

August 2024

Bill Coale AT HUNTER HALL
218 CALIFORNIA ST
RIO VISTA, CA
SATURDAY, AUGUST 3 2:00 PM



HOT AUGUST PIPES

Come on down to Hunter Hall in Rio Vista and enjoy a mini-concert featuring **Bill Coale** and indulge in some ice cream with all of the toppings. Bring a prospective new member!

This is our annual fundraiser.
\$5 minimum suggested donation

About the Organist



Dr. William Coale was a band/choir director and professional musician/conductor in Michigan before retiring in 2009 as a superintendent of schools and university professor. He started playing the theatre organ in the early 1970s, and studied with the late Fr. Jim Miller. His work in the field of education and advanced studies took him away from the hobby for a decade, but upon finishing his Ph.D. in educational leadership, Bill purchased an Allen GW-319 and quickly fell back in love with the hobby.

Bill moved to California upon retirement in 2009, and worked for Ed Stout and Dick Taylor for five years, as well as playing intermissions at the Grand Lake Theatre in Oakland.

He spent four years doing extensive research that culminated in a 3-volume, 1500+ page biography of legendary theatre organist George Wright. Bill acquired BANDA during his research for the biography, and has issued a number of “new” George Wright recordings.

Bill loves playing ragtime and marches on the theatre organ, and has recorded a CD on an Allen GW-4 once owned by Walt Strony. More recently, he has appeared in concert overseas at Saltaire, UK, and in Stockholm, Sweden, and twice on the “Gerhard Gregor” Welte in the NDR radio broadcasting studios in Hamburg, Germany.

He moved back to his hometown in Michigan in 2023, and was hired as a staff organist at Ann Arbor’s Michigan Theater. He has also acquired a Style D Wurlitzer that will go in his new “Wurlitzerage” music building that is currently under construction.

Directions: Take I-5 towards Lodi and exit at Hwy 12 West towards Rio Vista. When you cross over the Rio Vista Bridge (the big drawbridge) take the first off ramp, keep to the right and go under the bridge and head south (along the river on Front Street). You will come to a 4-way stop sign (Main St.). Keep going south two more blocks to California Street, turn right and go one block. The Hall is on the right, at the corner of California and Second Street. Hunter Hall is the L shaped building. Parking is on the street. Allow about 1 1/4 hr. from the Sacramento area.

Scenic Route: Take I-5 towards Lodi and exit at Twin Cities Road (west). Drive past the TV towers, and turn left (south) onto Hwy 160 (River Road). Continue on Hwy 160 to Hwy 12 and turn right onto the Rio Vista Bridge, then follow directions above.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—Randy Warwick



Our longtime member, Tom Norvell passed away on July 9, 2024, after a five year battle with cancer. Tom was a 30 year member of the Sierra Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society, had served on the Board of Directors and had been President. But Tom was most known and appreciated for his continuing efforts as the primary fund raiser for the Chapter's support of the ATOS young organists annual summer teaching sessions. These week long series of classes are held in various, usually large cities with this year being held in Portland. At the Chapter raffles during meetings/ concerts Tom was the persistent sales guy urging everyone to buy the raffle rickets.

Because he delivered his pitch in such an endearing way, almost no one could say no to buying many raffle tickets. Tom also made the popcorn at the silent movies at Fair Oaks and the Auto Museum. Through his efforts the Chapter raised thousands of dollars in support of young aspiring theatre organists. Rest in Peace, Tom.



NorCal Theatre Organ Society Presents:

Mark Herman *In Concert*

Saturday, August 10, 1:00PM

Kevin King's Organ Studio

2851 Creston Road, Walnut Creek

12:00 Noon - Bring Your Own Lunch and Socialize.

About Mark - Born in 1987, Mark Herman is one of America's busiest young theatre organists, performing over 30 concerts and silent film presentations each year across the US and abroad. In 2012, he was named the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive the prestigious honor. He studied theatre organ with John Ferguson of Indianapolis, who is recognized worldwide for his skills as a teacher. His classical studies were with Christine Freeman of Fort Wayne. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts/Management from DePaul University. Mark currently resides in Los Angeles, where he is President and Tonal Director of the Los Angeles Organ Company, the Allen Organ dealer for the greater Los Angeles area. He is in demand as a voicing specialist and tonal consultant for Allen Organs and is proud to be an Allen Artist, showcasing new Allen Organs in the US and beyond.

Kevin King's Studio



Chapter Officers

President/Publicity

7th term expires Dec 2025
Randy Warwick
530/477-7018
Email: rtw.vny@gmail.com

Vice President

3rd term expires Dec 2024
Tom Sebo
916/863-1116
Email: tomcyl@pacbell.net

Secretary

6th term expires Dec 2024
Joan Grootveld
916/635-4160
Email: joanie52@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer

6th term expires Dec 2025

Terry Clifton

916/501-4045
Email: terry@elegantminis.com



Board Member

7th term expires Dec 2025

Gary French

916/726-4516
Email: garyf8201@comcast.net

Board Member

4th Term expires Dec 2024

Beverly Harris

916/332-2837
Email: wurligirl530@gmail.com

Board Member

5th term expires Dec 2024

Craig Peterson

916/682-9699
Email: peterson59@comcast.net

Board Member - Vacant

Term expires Dec 2025
Position is open to any eligible
Voting member.

Webmaster

Terry Clifton

916/501-4045
Email: terry@elegantminis.com

Membership

Terry Clifton

916/501-4045
Email: terry@elegantminis.com



Newsletter Editors

Sherry & Terry Clifton

916/863-6344
Email: sherry@elegantminis.com

Organ Technician

Dave Moreno

916/484-7356
Email: davem@lanset.com

Historian & Recording Library

Beverly Harris

916/332-2837



**Saturday Sept 21
12pm to 6pm
Fair Oaks Park**

- Join the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District for the 14th annual Fair Oaks Chicken Festival. General admission and parking is free! Festivities include:
- Live music
- pancake breakfast,
- Craft brew tasting
- 100+ vendors,
- SactoMoFo food court
- kid's park
- cluck n' crow contest and so much more.



Tom Norvell with his good friend, **Adele Warwick**, selling popcorn during the showing of silent film "Peter Pan".

Tom always added the "life" to any event, making it fun! His exuberance will truly be missed

He is "absent from the body,
present with the Lord."

IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA

Presents *the incredible* **Dalton Ridenhour** with the *fantastically talented* **Danny Coots** for Early Jazz, Stride and Ragtime, Piano and Percussion.

2:00 pm August 24th

And also presents **the Nevada County Composer's Cooperative Concert**

2:00 pm September 29th

Near Grass Valley, CA

More info and RSVP, at email

billtrabucco@saber.net

Or phone **530-273-4252**

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Welcome New Members:
Doug & Vickie Mahr

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

Jim Jordan
Charles Metcalf
Tom Norvell
Tom Sebo & Cheryl Young
Dick Taylor & Carol Zerbo
Randy & Adele Warwick
Neal Wood

Renewing at the Patron Level:

Frank & Sondra Fuson
Gary Konas
Jeanne Paquette-French
Bill Trabucco

Renewing at the Sustaining Level:

Sam Holsinger

Renewing at the Contributing Level:

Mignonne Tinkham

NOTE:

Your memberships can now be renewed online. See your mailing label for your expiration month and year. Go to SierraChapterATOS.org and click on Membership. Select your Membership Option and click on Add to Cart. You will then be directed to pay either by Credit Card or PayPal.



P.O. Box 2017
Fair Oaks, California 95628

www.sierrachapterATOS.org

You  youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS

 twitter.com/sierrachapter

 [Sierra-Chapter-ATOS](https://facebook.com/Sierra-Chapter-ATOS)

First Class

Postage

Stamp

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Hunter Hall
218 California St
Rio Vista, CA

**Hot August Pipers
Ice Cream Social**

Saturday,
August 3rd, 2024
2:00PM

Featuring: **Bill Coale**

This is our annual Fundraiser

\$5 Donation
Includes Ice Cream with
all of the fixin's

NORCAL EVENT

Studio of Kevin King
2851 Creston Road
Walnut Creek, CA

ORGAN CONCERT

Saturday
August 10, 2024
Gate opens at Noon

Concert will begin after the
NorCal business meeting
which starts at
1:00PM

Mark Herman

Free

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse
7997 California Ave
Fair Oaks, CA

*The Clubhouse
is still closed for
renovation.*

*Re-opening is
scheduled for late
January, 2025.*

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