

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Hot August Pipes



August 2026



Theatre organist **Edward Torres**, 30, who fell in love with the popular music of the 1920s and 1930s by the age of 13, has been heard in numerous Southern California venues such as El Segundo's Old Town

Music Hall, Paramount Iceland ice rink, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, The Bob Baker Marionette Theatre and the magnificent Orpheum Theatre, one of Los Angeles' great movie palaces.

At his own request, Edward Torres, originally from Culver City, California, asked his parents to let him study music at eight years of age. He was inspired further by the recordings of Everett Nourse at the Wurlitzer of the FOX Theatre, San Francisco.

At 14 years of age, a trip to El Segundo's Old Town Music Hall introduced him, in-person, to the impressive sound of the theatre organ. By 15, he became the protégé of organist Bill Field. Through Field's generosity and teachings, Torres at 21 became the organist at the Old Town Music Hall. He currently serves as house organist at the famed and historic Bob Baker Marionette Theater in Los Angeles.

A former student of the American Theatre Organ Society Summer Youth Program, which holds a yearly theatre organ workshops for young/aspiring theatre organists, he currently teaches piano for the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department when not touring the United States to play the remaining remarkable theatre organs and the venues that house them.
(photo courtesy of Matias Bombal)

The pipe ranks for this 3/15 Wurlitzer came from the former Uncle Milts Pizza in Vancouver, Washington.

The console was originally installed in the St. Petersburg Florida Paramount Theatre in 1926. **Dave Moreno** completed the installation of the organ into Hunter Hall in 2010.



Come on out to Hunter Hall in Rio Vista.

Enjoy a mini-concert featuring **Edward Torres** and indulge in some ice cream with all of the toppings.
Bring a prospective new member.

This is our annual fundraiser

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.

Adventure Route: Take Hwy 50/I-80 to West Sacramento and exit at Jefferson Blvd. Continue south on Jefferson Blvd (Hwy 84) to Courtland Rd and turn right. Then a left onto Ryer Ave and continue a few miles on the delta levies. Then right onto the Ryer Island Ferry. Note - Ferry is free and runs every 20 minutes. Exit Ferry and turn left onto River Rd. Turn left on Front Street, and follow directions above.

Sierra Chapter Organ Console Update

Work continues on the incorporation of the Uniflex Relay into our "new" Wurlitzer console and organ chambers.

Dave Moreno and **Terry Clifton** have been working diligently on this project since April. The Fair Oaks Recreation and Parks District has allowed us in 3 days a week, so we have been able to put in a lot of hours.

The console was wired for a different system, so not only did we have to replace all of that with Uniflex control boards, we also had to do some re-wiring of the 220 stop tabs. That wiring is almost complete. After testing, the Bolster and back rails will be put back in the console. The cables from those units and the pistons will then need to be connected to the Uniflex boards.

The Uniflex wiring in the Main chamber is done with the exception of the swell shades, traps, percussions and tremulants. Our Uniflex laptop (thank you to **Terry Clifton** for donating the new Touchpad Computer) was hooked up to it and was able to play the organ ranks in the Main.

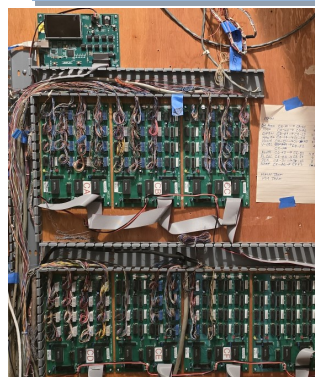
The Uniflex wiring in the Solo chamber is done with the exception of parts of the Tibia and the swell shades. The Xylophone needs work and will temporarily be replaced with a MIDI stop.



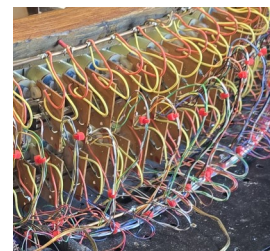
Back Rail - Front View



Back Rail - Rear View



Main Chamber



Bolster Stop - Closeup

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

Terry & Sherry Clifton
Joan & Gary Grootveld
Tom Sebo & Cheryl Young
Dick Taylor & Carol Zerbo
Randy & Adele Warwick

Renewing at the Patron Level:

Bill Trabucco

Renewing at the Sustaining Level:

Frank & Sondra Fuson
Sam Holsinger
Kathryn Moorefield

Renewing at the Contributing Level:

Gary Konas



We make it easy to renew online.

Use the QR code on the right or go to

www.sierrachapteratos.org/onlineapplication.html

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Hunter Hall
218 California St
Rio Vista, CA

Hot August Pipes



Saturday
August 15
2:00PM

Organ Concert
EDWARD TORRES

\$10 At the Door
Cash or Check only please

NORCAL EVENT

Organ Studio of Kevin King
2851 Creston Road
Walnut Creek, CA

Organ Concert

Saturday
September 5
1:00PM

Free

Gate opens at Noon
Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy
on the patio.

Organist:
David Marsh

SIERRA CHAPTER/ GRANT UNION ALUMNI EVENT

Grant Union High School
1400 Grand Ave
Sacramento, CA

ORGANIST: TBD

Saturday,
November 7th, 2026
2:00PM

More information
In a future Spiel

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