

Mark Your Calendar

Sierra Chapter, ATOS

February 6, Sunday 12:30 - 7:30
BUS TRIP to Berkeley
Concert by David Wickerham
SOLD OUT

March 25, Friday 8:00pm
Silent Movie - The King of Kings
Jim Riggs
Towe Auto Museum

The Sierra Chapter Board will meet February 8, 2005 at 7:30 P.M. at the home of Craig Peterson.

SierraChapterATOS.org

The Sierra Chapter web site has many organ related events listed on the "Events" page. Dave Sauer maintains our website and you can count on him to give you up to date information.

NOR-CAL Theatre Organ Society

Berkeley Community Theatre
All concerts Sundays at 2:30 P.M.
February 6 * David Wickerham
March 6 * Jonas Nordwall
May 1 * Lew Williams

Towe Auto Museum

Sunday 2:00 P.M. Free with Museum Admission
March 20 - Jim Brown * April 17 - Bert Kuntz
May 15 - Dave Sauer * June 19 - Bob Heil

Morton Madness XI

April 9, Saturday 1:00 p.m.
Tom Hazleton
Harmony Wynelands, Lodi
Ironstone Vineyards, Murphys
Two concerts plus a buffet dinner!
Nor-Cal TOS/Sierra Chapter
Tickets go on sale March 1, 2005

The Organ Spiel

February 2005

Craig A. Peterson - Editor
craigapeterson@cs.com
Terry Clifton - Printing/Mailing

Newsletter of the Sierra Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Sierra Chapter February Sixth Bus Trip to Berkeley to hear Dave Wickerham is **SOLD OUT!**

All 56 seats went fast! If you were not able to get a ticket for this event, and/or are interested in another trip like this, please let Craig know (916) 682-9699. We need to hear from you so we can plan for the future.

Good Friday Event

A special Screening of Cecil B. DeMille's 1927 film

The King of Kings

Accompanied By

Jim Riggs

March 25, 2005 at 8:00pm - Towe Auto Museum



Sierra Chapter ATOS
P.O. Box 2017
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2017

Sierra Chapter ATOS - Organized for the purpose of preserving and promoting the Theatre Pipe Organ and its music. 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.

Chapter Officers
Craig A. Peterson
President '05
916/682-9699

Tom Norvell
Vice President '06
916/947-0673

Dave Sauer
Treasurer '05
916/925-7440

Sherry Clifton
Secretary '06
916/863-6344

Board Members
Madrina Smith '05
Jerry Rosenberg '05
Beverly Harris '06
Matias Bombal '06

Music Librarian
Hubert Snow
916/786-5060

Recording Librarian
Beverly Harris
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Seaver Organ
Practice Coordinator
Irene Wilper
916/967-5386

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Barbara Harris
916/332-2837

Program Director
Craig Peterson
916/682-9699

Publicity Director
Matias Bombal
916/447-3483

Organ Technician
Dave Moreno
916/484-7356

PRESIDENT'S

ERSPECTIVE

A few of us had a moment of panic as Dean Cook brought in a synthesizer to use with the George Seaver Memorial Theatre Pipe Organ. However, our fears were calmed as he began to play along with his "orchestra." Dean's arrangements were tastefully done, and the organ was never overpowered, or drowned out by, the synthesizer. It was clear by the audience response that Dean had quickly won over the ears of those assembled. As the program ended and people were leaving there were several who gave me their favorable reviews and hopes that we would have more programs like this in the future. Thanks to Dean for his many hours of preparation and performance. Thanks also to everyone who brought cookies and/or helped in other ways. It takes a lot of people to produce and staff a concert, and I'm so glad that we have such a willing and capable group of volunteers.

In an effort to increase the number of people who join or renew their Sierra Chapter membership at levels higher than the "Regular" \$20 level, the board has decided to: publish such memberships in the Spiel; give coupons for pop corn and sodas; and have special "Artist Receptions" for our Patrons and Benefactors from time to time. The membership levels will also be included in all of our chapter membership notices and publications. If you have any other ideas about this, please let me know!

As you can see on the cover page, we have no chapter event here in the Sacramento area in the month of February. However, the Sierra Chapter Bus Trip to Berkeley on February 6th has completely sold out. I want to thank Dave Sauer for his time and energy to arrange this trip...things like this don't just happen!

If you live in a retirement community, are members of a church or other community group, please let the activities director know about our special Good Friday screening of The King of Kings. This is Cecil B. DeMille's great silent drama that depicts the death and resurrection of Jesus. Jim Riggs will be our guest artist for this event. If you are new to the theatre organ scene, you may not know that Jim is one of the best theatre organists of our day. Jim is the house organist of the Oakland Paramount Theater, has toured the United States and abroad giving concerts and accompanying silent movies, and has several theatre organ recordings to his credit. Get the word out! Let's see if we can break our attendance records at the Towe Museum.

On February 8th, our chapter board meeting will start at the East Lawn Andrews & Greilich Mortuary to see the new home of our Music Library (this stop may be cancelled if there is an evening service scheduled). Our Music Librarian, Hubert Snow will show us how to use the computer to find music and how the check out procedure works. From there, we will travel just a few miles south to my home in Elk Grove where the meeting will continue. If you would like to join us, please give me a call at (916) 682-9699.

The New Year is off to a great start...see you soon!

Craig A. Peterson

50th Anniversary ATOS Convention

It Began in Los Angeles:
The Founding of American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (ATOE)

Fifty years ago, on February 8, 1955, American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts was formed in the living room of Richard C. Simonton's home in Toluca Lake area of North Hollywood, California. There is a historic photograph showing 31 people at that meeting. Among those attending that historic meeting were organists Gordon Kibee, Ramona Gerhardt Sutton, "Tiny" James, and Buddy Cole. Others in that photo include many notable theatre organ enthusiasts such as Judd Walton, Richard Vaughn, Bud Whittenburg, Harvey Heck, and Mel Doner.

At that meeting Richard Simonton was elected ATOE President with Judd Walton Vice-President and Paul Pease Secretary-Treasurer. Volume 1, Number 1 of "The Tibia" (which became "Theatre Organ" in 1959) was published in the Fall of 1955. The magazine appeared quarterly. Tom B'hend was the Editor and undoubtedly part of the original group.

The Simontons had a 4/36 Wurlitzer installed in their basement theatre, the Bijou. The organ was originally a Style 260 from Paramount Pictures Hollywood Studio. Mr. Simonton enlarged the Organ to 36 ranks and had his cabinetmaker build a four manual console from drawings that he personally made of the second console at Radio Music Hall in New York. The home also had a large classical organ in the living room on the main floor assembled from a Welte console and a variety of pipework. A small exposed Aeolian-Skinner Positiv division sat above the doorway into the living room. The Simonton residence was a venue at the 1987 Annual ATOS Convention in Los Angeles.

These comments are from a history of the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society by Ralph Beaudry.
Lyn Larsen provided the information about the Simonton classical organ.

Los Angeles, California
Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ATOS
July 1 - July 5
PreGlow, June 30
AfterGlow, July 6
<http://www.ATOSconvention.org>

Membership News

Renewing Membership:

Wendell Jacob - Benefactor
Terry & Sherry Clifton - Patron

Sierra Chapter Membership

*Membership starts at \$20.00; one must also join the American Theatre Organ Society, at a cost of \$40.00 per year. Members receive the Organ Spiel (monthly), plus six issues of the Theatre Organ, the official journal of the ATOS, and the ATOS newsletter, International ATOS News, published in off months of the Theatre Organ journal. In addition, members have playing privileges on the Seaver Pipe Organ on a time available basis. Sierra Membership levels are as follows: Regular-\$20; Contributing-\$25; Sustaining-\$35; Patron-\$50; Benefactor-\$100. Checks, payable to Sierra Chapter ATOS, may be mailed to P.O.Box 2017, Fair Oaks, CA 95628. Checks, payable to ATOS, may be mailed to P.O.Box 551081, Indianapolis, IN 46205-5581. For more information, call Terry Clifton at 916/863-6344.