

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

THEATRE ORGAN CONCERT

FEB - MAR - APR 2015



SCOTT HARRISON AT HUNTER HALL
218 CALIFORNIA ST., RIO VISTA
SATURDAY, MAY 2ND 2:00 PM
(DOORS OPEN AT 1:30PM)

Scott Harrison from Australia will be performing on the recently installed 3/15 Wurlitzer at Hunter Hall in Rio Vista on Saturday, May 2, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. Scott will have his CD's available.

The tickets for this event will be \$10 and will be available at the door.

This is a concert presented jointly by **NorCal ATOS** and **Sierra Chapter ATOS**. Scott will be playing several concerts in the U.S. on this tour; Rio Vista will be his first stop. Scott played a duet concert with his friend **Mark Page** who played several numbers on a Steinway grand piano, both in solo and duet, for NorCal at Berkeley. He visited Rio Vista afterwards, liked the organ very much and asked for this concert.

This concert will also be a dedication of sorts for the freshly installed Uniflex relay which will greatly increase the reliability and versatility of the instrument. The new relay provides for recording and playback of any performance which was never possible with an electro-pneumatic relay. It was installed over a period of three months by **Dave Moreno, Chris Nichols** and **Julie Porter**.

Hunter Hall, named for the late **Bill Hunter**, is located at 218 California Street in Rio Vista, near the downtown area. The Hall is a former Masonic Hall which was dedicated in 1954, but due to declining membership, the Masons sold the hall. After years of neglect, it came to be owned by Jan and Bill Hunter who had been involved with theatre organs for many years. Through some very good timing, they were contacted by longtime Wurlitzer collector and organist, **Geoff Hansen**, and it was arranged that Geoff would install a Wurlitzer in the hall. The installation of components, mainly from the Seattle Orpheum Theatre, was done by **Dave Moreno**. With some additions, the organ is now 3/15. A fine, recent addition to the instrument is a large Ampico grand piano that was once a part of the Wurlitzer owned by the late NorCal member, **Aura Edwards**, which was installed in her home in Lafayette where many NorCal ATOS events were held over the years. With the extraordinary technical assistance of **Curt Wood**, this grand piano now plays as a part of this excellent instrument.

The Hall has proved itself to be an excellent venue for this Wurlitzer. The large central auditorium is 2,400 square feet with concrete floors, concrete walls, no windows and an open beamed ceiling so that the sound of the organ develops very well without becoming overbearing. To take the best advantage of the fine acoustics, the organ is situated in two chambers high off the floor on either side of the auditorium. The exposed 16' Wurlitzer wood diaphones provide an authoritative bass.

The Hall is also home to a growing collection of automatic musical instruments, theatre memorabilia, antique lighting and an extremely rare Robert Morton style 49 pit organ, originally from The Orpheum theatre in San Francisco, lately owned by NorCal member **Warren Lubich**. Currently it is under restoration. When restored, it will be a 2/4 with a horseshoe console and two side boxes.

Research discloses that this is one of only four in existence!

The concert will have an intermission with finger food and drinks provided by the house. Parking is never a problem.

Directions from Sacramento and more about Rio Vista on Page 2.





Rio Vista is located in the California Delta region near the intersection of Highways 160 and 12. It was founded in 1862 and played an important role in the early development of the Delta as one of the prime agricultural regions of the world. These days it is quiet and family oriented with a downtown reminiscent of a sleepy mid-western town in the 1950's. Fosters, a bar and restaurant on Main Street, houses a huge collection of mounted animals from all over the world and is an amazing tourist attraction worth stopping in to see. Another great place for lunch before the concert is **The Point**, a recently renovated restaurant right on the Sacramento River, five minutes from *Hunter Hall* with views of the river from every table.

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 draw-bridge) 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, but does not run at lunchtime (Noon -1:00pm) Exit Ferry and turn left onto River Rd. Turn left on Front Street, and follow directions above.

Where: Philadelphia
When: July 2 - July 7

Venues:

Longwood Gardens
Macy's (Wanamaker) SOLD OUT
Macy's Greek Hall
Colonial Theatre
Dickinson High School
Allen Organ Octave Hall
Grand Theater
Sunnybrook Ballroom
Wilmington & Western Railroad ride
Boardwalk Hall
Broadway Theatre



Visit www.atos.org
For information and registration

Artists:

Steven Ball
John Barrata
Peter Richard Conte
Simon Gledhill
Mark Herman
Richard Hills
Don Kinnier
Lance Luce
Jonas Nordwall
Hector Olivera
Dave Peckham
Ron Rhode
Andrew Van Varick

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Beverly Harris
916/332-2837

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – Randy Warwick



I don't want to become a "Mr Broken Record" but I want to return to the thought that it would be a real help to the Chapter if we can bring in new members. Our membership level has been static in the

last several years. Seems like for every new member, we will lose one for a variety of reasons. I would like to ask everyone to think about your personal acquaintances and assess each one as a potential member. That person is likely to have a musical taste that is wide enough to like theatre organ music or maybe a classic or is a silent movie

buff or maybe just someone with an interest in complex antique mechanisms.

Thanks much for your efforts.

Finally, if you have never visited or explored our web-page, you have been missing a huge trove of interesting information on the theatre organs in our area and the sound files where you can command your own personal concert. In my opinion, **Dave Sauer's** efforts have given us one of the three or four best web sites among all ATOS chapter web sites. Thanks **Dave!**

www.sierrachapterATOS.org

Cassette Collection Donation

If you love theatre organ music and all other manner of instrumental interpretation of the Great American Songbook...AND you also have nostalgia for cassettes, we have the mother of all collections for you:

Approximately 150 cassettes of 60 to 90 minutes each, have been carefully recorded from LP's or CD's. The assortment includes roughly 50 mostly theatre organ, 81 instrumentals of all variety of ensembles including lots of big band and brass centered groups and 23 classical orchestral cassettes. There are a few vocals scattered into the instrumentals. The collection is indexed by artist and/or song titles.

No cherry picking. Buyer takes all. \$75.00. All proceeds go to Sierra Chapter.

Thanks much to **Kay Duran** for the donation.

Contact **Randy Warwick** if you are interested.

NorCal Stage Door Event

Richard Hills

Sunday - June 21 - 2:30PM

Open to NorCal and Sierra Chapter Members

Enter via the Stage Door;
choose to sit on the stage or in the auditorium.

\$12 Advance
\$15 General

BOARD MEETING

Saturday, April 25

10:00AM

East Lawn

Folsom Blvd at 43rd
Street

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

Terry & Sherry Clifton
Wendell Jacob
Troy Killorn
Gilbert Solorio
Carol Zerbo



Renewing at the Patron Level:

Gary & Joan Grootveld
Richard Taylor

Renewing at the Contributing Level:

Bob Suffel

Welcome New Member:

Darlene Grenz

FREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

ORGAN CONCERT
GAIL ARCHER

SUNDAY,
MAY 17TH • 4:00 PM

FREMONT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5770 CARLSON DR. SACRAMENTO, CA
(916) 452-7132

Suggested Donation - \$10

Gail is a Grammy-nominated, international concert organist, recording artist, choral conductor and lecturer. Among her recordings are "Franz Liszt: A Hungarian Rhapsody" and "Bach, The Transcendent Genius." She is the college organist at Vassar College and director of the music program at Barnard College, Columbia University.

OPEN CONSOLE

Sunday, June 7

2 - 4 P.M.

Fair Oaks Community
Clubhouse

Your opportunity
to play the chapter
Wurlitzer



P.O. Box 2017
 Fair Oaks, California 95628
 (916) 604-6173

www.sierrachapterATOS.org

YouTube [youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS](https://www.youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)

Twitter twitter.com/sierrachapter

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

First Class
 Postage
 Stamp

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER/ NORCAL EVENT

Hunter Hall
 218 California St
 Rio Vista, CA

Saturday, May 2nd
 2:00 PM

SCOTT HARRISON



\$10
 General

Seating is
 limited to
 first 100
 guests

NORCAL EVENT

Berkeley Community Theatre
 1930 Allston Way
 Berkeley, CA

Sunday, June 21st

2:30PM

Richard
 hills



\$15/General
 \$12/Advance

STOCKTON FOX EVENT

242 East Main Street
 (Bob Hope Theatre)

Classic Movie
Friday, May 15

Preshow concert 6:30PM

*"The Great
 Escape"*

Artist:
 Dave
 Moreno



On the
 Mighty Morton

\$8/Adults

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