

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

THEATRE ORGAN CONCERT



JANUARY 2009

FAIR OAKS CLUBHOUSE
7997 CALIFORNIA AVE.

DONNIE RANKIN

SUNDAY, JAN. 11TH
2:00 P.M.

Sierra Chapter has been privileged to bring you some outstanding new talent in 2008 including Eric Fricke, Matthew Bason, Greg De Santis, and Mark Herman. We begin 2009 with a bang, by bringing **Donnie Rankin** to Fair Oaks from Ravenna, Ohio. To those of you who may have missed one or more of these concerts, all we can say is: "You missed some of the more memorable events of the past few years! So, don't let this one pass you by, too."



ABOUT THE ARTIST,
DONNIE RANKIN:



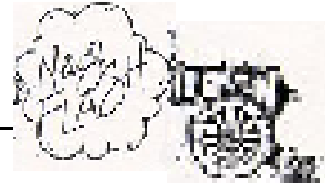
When he was three, a trip to the Akron Civic Theatre introduced him to the sounds of the mighty theatre organ. He would often try playing music on his great grandfather's home organ and around 2000, his own instrument was purchased and lessons began. Donnie took two years of home organ lessons and was told classical piano training would be a good idea, so classical piano lessons began in 2005. The two years that Donnie has studied piano have helped him win several organ competitions including the title of 'The American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist of the Year' in 2007. He began studying theatre organ with Jelani Eddington in September 2007. Donnie has performed in Sarasota, Florida; Allen, Texas;

Foxburg, Pennsylvania; Mundelein, Joliet and Belleville Illinois; Indianapolis, Indiana; Middletown, New York; Cleveland, Warren, Mansfield and Lorain, Ohio.

Donnie was also very active with the high school band receiving the Melissa Strasser First Chair award in 2005 and 2006 and the John Phillip Sousa award in 2007. He held the position of drum line captain, and was Senior Lieutenant in the high school band council. He played lead pan and drum set for three years in Ravenna High School's steel band and played the drum set four years in the Jazz band. During high school, Donnie took 6 solo and ensemble events on instruments including piano, xylophone and steel drum receiving superior ratings each time.

When he has free time, he enjoys: boating, bowling, cinematography, cycling, archery, marksmanship, and assorted backyard sports. Some more productive hands-on activities he's been involved with include re-soldering PC boards for home organs and restoring antique tractors; his latest a 1966 John Deere.

We have a Vice President Nominee



Vice President: Randy Warwick



Even though I have lived away from Sacramento for over twenty years, I have been a member of Sierra Chapter since 1968. I served as Chapter VP and President in the late 70's, early 80's and with Dale Mendenhall's help arranged for the re-location of the Fair Oaks organ from Cal Expo to the Fair Oaks Club House. About to retire from a career in radio and TV broadcasting, I have seen to it that my wife now has her 108 year old dream house near Grass Valley that will become our primary residence by about the middle of 2009. I have three grown sons and two grandsons. Not a musician, but I do play the organ for my own amusement, as well as for any one willing to listen. I have owned too many electronic organs to count and at one time a six rank "Mortitzer" T.P.O. (thank you Dave Moreno for all the work on that too short lived organ). I look forward to helping Carol and the rest of the crew at keeping Sierra Chapter both a fun group as well as a vital presenter and advocate of the wonderful sound of wind through the pipes that we all love.

More great Organ related Websites

http://www.die-orgelseite.de/index_e.html - Known as "The Organ Site", it originates from Germany, and contains a database of over 3,700 organs in 76 countries. Concentrating mostly on classical organs, there is an outstanding collection of photos as well as music tracks for download.

<http://www.historigraphics.com/fox> - This site is dedicated to the San Francisco Fox Theatre, built in 1929 and demolished in 1963. It contains a collection of black and white photographs, that were rendered into color by William Swain, a native San Franciscan with childhood memories of the theatre.

<http://www.youtube.com/sierrachapteratos> - We can't leave out our own newest website! Go here to view videos of recent performances by Greg De Santis and Matthew Bason.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – CAROL ZERBO



How time flies! I'm one year into my term as President and I know a couple of things for sure - first, I don't frown nearly as much as I used to but I have developed some serious laugh lines. Second, this job would be impossible without a first-rate Board. I will miss those who can no longer serve but they are being replaced by equally qualified members who will bring new ideas and energy to the table. **Randy Warwick, Dr. Bob Barrett and Terry Clifton** are no strangers to Sierra Chapter. **Randy**, our new Vice President, has served multiple times on the Board and you've probably seen **Dr. Bob** behind the projectors at Towe for our silent movie series. If **Terry Clifton** is a man of few words, it's only because he is so busy balancing all those hats he's wearing for Sierra Chapter. He already publishes the Spiel, manages our directory and handles membership and now he will be Secretary. This is multi-tasking at the highest level! These capable individuals will be joining people who are currently serving Sierra Chapter and I would like to thank them here and now for their invaluable contributions and friendship: **Craig Peterson**

is a perfect example of grace under fire. He is the go-to guy for policy, advice, public relations, talent (maybe that's why he's the Chairman of National - duh!) Always smiling and, at least outwardly, calm, Craig has been a wonderful counselor who, I hope, I haven't embarrassed too much. **Dave Sauer** is one of a kind. After ably serving as Treasurer for years, he looked forward to some quiet time. That lasted 6 months. Bless him - he agreed to come back and do it again when illness forced Bob Suffel to resign as Treasurer. I know Sierra Chapter's funds are in good hands with Dave and I place great value on his friendship and integrity. **Jim Leach** is no longer the new kid. He has jumped in the deep end to update and organize the music library. His knowledge of computers is a great asset as is his wonderful sense of humor. And my Morton Madness roomie, **Marian Galbraith** (technically, she has agreed to a second term), can be depended upon for help at our events and common sense at our meetings. Her sweet presence is volunteerism at it's best. A huge THANK YOU to you all!

As a matter of policy, I

should mention that, due to out-of-town and prior commitments, quite a few voting members were unable to attend our annual meeting and Christmas Party. Procedure calls for the new Board to be installed by the old Board at our first meeting in 2009.

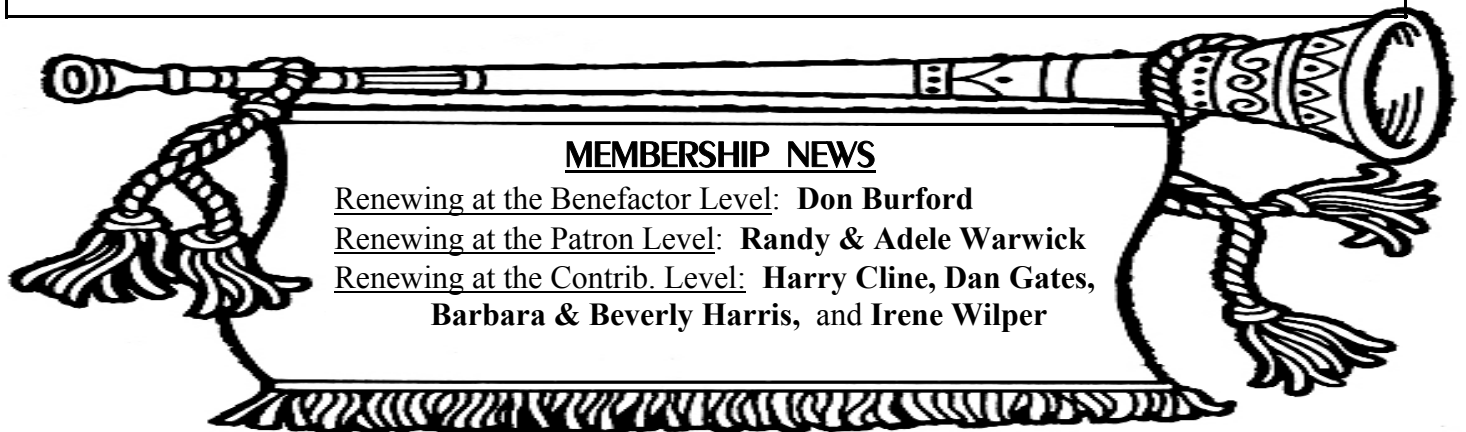
I must say that 2008 was quite a year. I managed to stay out of too much trouble, made some new friends and a special one, and thoroughly enjoyed my first year as your President. 2009 is shaping up to be equally exciting. Craig is already hard at work securing artists for our upcoming events. The first one continues our efforts to showcase the theatre organ world's rising stars. Be sure to reserve January 11th for Donnie Rankin at Fair Oaks. Let's show Donnie we'll be there for him.



February will be different - stay tuned!

See y'all in 2009,

CZ



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Benefactor Level: **Don Burford**

Renewing at the Patron Level: **Randy & Adele Warwick**

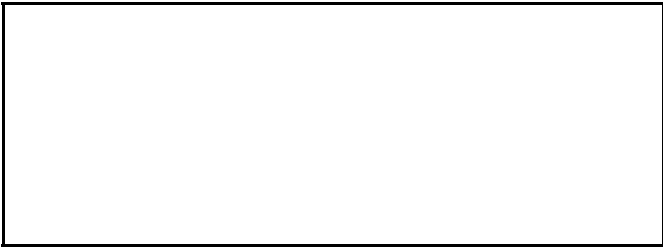
Renewing at the Contrib. Level: **Harry Cline, Dan Gates, Barbara & Beverly Harris, and Irene Wilper**



SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2017
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2017

First Class
Postage
Stamp

We are on the Web:
sierrachapterATOS.org
youtube.com/
SierraChapterATOS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT
Fair Oaks Clubhouse
7997 California Ave

Sunday January 11th

 **2:00 PM**
Donnie Rankin

Sunday February 8th

 **2:00 PM**
Paul Quarino

MORTON MADNESS

April 18



**Harmony
Wynelands
Lodi, CA**

**Ironstone Vineyards
Murphys, CA**

Guest Artist TBA

\$50 per person includes Buffet Dinner

NOR-CAL TOS EVENT
Berkeley Community Theater

Sunday Feb 15 -
2:30 PM

Ron Reseigh 
\$15/General Admission

LOS ANGELES EVENT
Wurlitzer Weekend 

January 16 - 18

Five Concerts at Five Venues
Call Toll Free, 1.888.LATOS.22
E-mail williamcampbellit@yahoo.com
Please Order Early, some venues
have limited seating

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