

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

PIANO AND ORGAN CONCERTS (YES - BOTH!)

July 2018

DAVID GRAY
AT THE TRABUCCO RANCH
NEAR NEVADA CITY
14328 BARR RANCH Rd
SATURDAY, July 7 3:00 PM
SEE PAGE 2 FOR DIRECTIONS
\$20 DONATION AT THE DOOR

Bill & Anna Trabucco have agreed to host a **Sierra Chapter event** at their **IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA** music building. They have a varied collection of instruments including a 2/13 eclectic "American Classic" pipe organ, a 7 rank baroque tracker pipe organ and a harpsichord. But the instrument featured at this event will be the 1940 Model BB Mason & Hamlin Concert Grand Piano.

About the Artist

You probably think of **David Gray** as a Theatre Organist and may have heard his wonderful theatre organ concerts in 2016 at Harmony Wynelands and at the Berkeley Community Theatre. But, the roots of his career go back to Piano.



David was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1990. He first showed an interest in music at the age of four. The majority of David's musical work has been piano studies; at the age of 13 he attended St Mary's specialist music boarding school in Edinburgh, intensively studying classical music performance all five years of high school. In 2008, David was admitted to the Royal Academy of Music in London on a full scholarship to study piano with Professor Hamish Milne. He completed his undergraduate degree in 2013 with first class honors and the highest mark in his year for his final recital. Immediately, he continued his postgraduate studies at the Academy, also on a full scholarship. During that time, he won many of the school's biggest prizes and again graduated with the highest marks in his year for his concerto and final recital exams. He performed in numerous, important British concert halls and garnered prizes in international piano competitions. In 2015-16, David was a fellow of the piano department at the Academy and this year he runs a small class coaching the piano students.

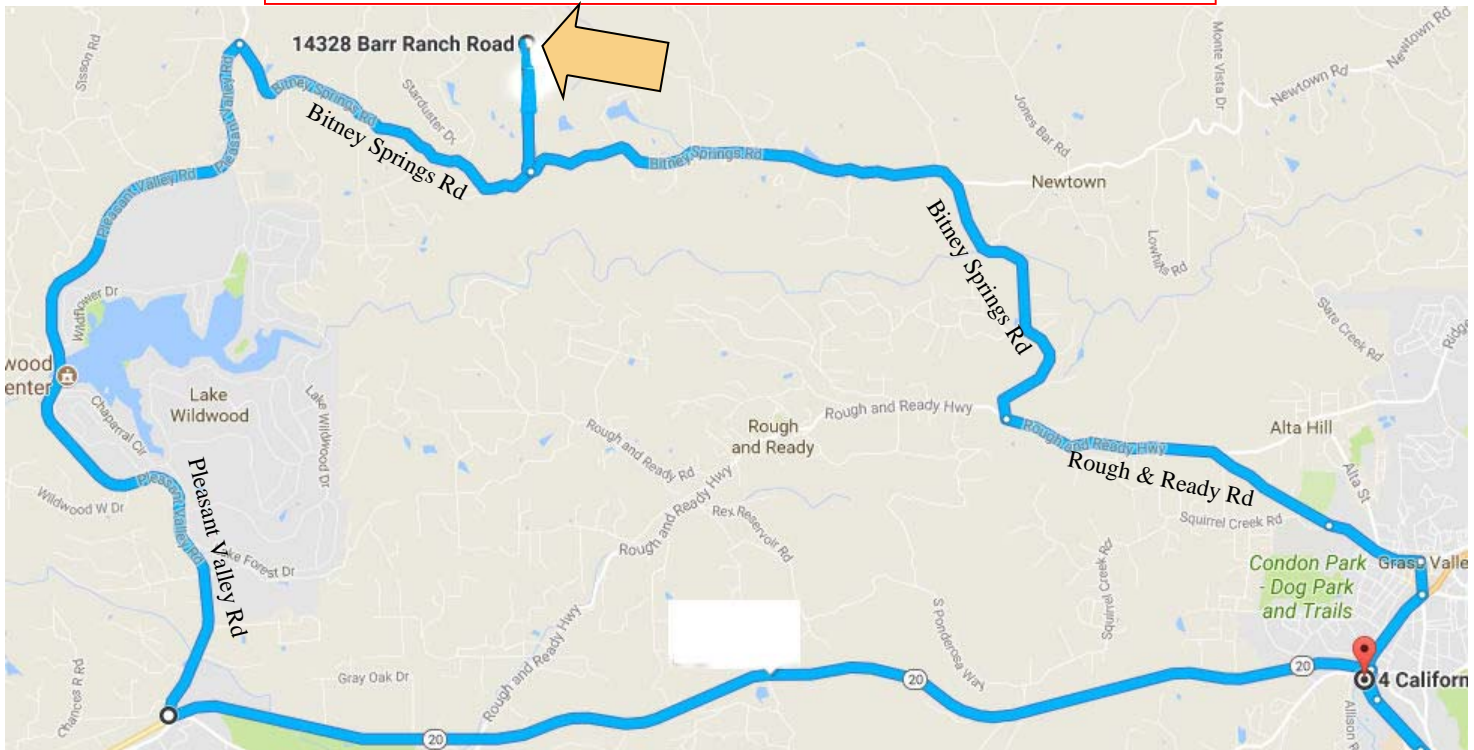
Bill Trabucco was told some years ago that if he could find an old Mason & Hamlin, it would be better than a Steinway. So Bill asked John Callahan what he thought about Mason & Hamlin's and John said a pre-WWII Mason BB would "blow the doors off" a Steinway B. The Mason BB is massive, and at 7' 0" weighs nearly half again as much as a 6' 10" Steinway.

Bill found a 1940 Model BB in a warehouse in up-state New York. He purchased it and sent it directly to Callahan Piano for restoration; it went through a complete, concert performance ready restoration, including the action having gone through the Stanwood Action Balancing process which produces a really INCREDIBLE dynamic range and touch sensitivity. Only two restorers use this system. It's an incredible piano: The bass on it easily equaling or exceeding a 9' Steinway and with the Stanwood action, is capable of a pppp whisper to a wall rattling forte. This is a concert you will not want to miss!

IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA



Directions to: IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA



The map above starts at the bottom right corner.

It assumes you are coming from Auburn on Hwy 49 towards Grass Valley.

At the intersection of CA-20, south of Grass Valley, you have two options for routes to the ranch.

Option 1:

Continue north on CA-49 from CA-20 towards Grass Valley.
 Take exit 182A (Colfax CA-174) to S Auburn St in Grass Valley
 Turn left on to S Auburn St. Go north 4 blocks.
 Turn left on to W Main St.
 W. Main becomes Rough & Ready Hwy. Continue 2.2 miles.
 Turn right at stop sign on to Bitney Springs Rd. (not marked)
 After 4.7 miles turn right at the tall wooden sign on your right for Linden Lea.
 You are now on Barr Ranch Road. Proceed straight north .6 mile (no turns) to the ranch.
 The paved single lane will turn to gravel at the entrance to the ranch.

Option 2: This option adds about 7 miles, but is a bit simpler and avoids traffic in Grass Valley.

Exit Hwy 49 to CA-20 West towards Marysville.
 Continue west on CA-20 for 7.6 miles to Pleasant Valley Road (traffic signal)
 Turn right on to Pleasant Valley Road.
 After 5.5 miles take a hard right on to Bitney Springs Rd. (it is not marked)
 After 2.3 miles turn left at the tall wooden sign on your left for Linden Lea.
 That is Barr Ranch Road. Proceed straight north .6 mile (no turns) to the ranch.
 The paved single lane will turn to gravel at the entrance to the ranch.

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 4th term expires Dec 2019
Randy Warwick
 530/477-7018
 Email: rwarwick@bak.rr.com

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 3rd term expires Dec 2018
Carol Zerbo
 916/624-9182
 Email: cazbo@sbcglobal.net

Secretary
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 916/635-4160
 Email: joanie52@sbcglobal.net

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



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

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 1st Term expires Dec 2018
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 916/332-2837
 Email: wurligirl530@gmail.com

Board Member
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 707/876-3139
 Email: rollei@sonic.net

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 2nd term expires Dec 2018
Craig Peterson
 916/682-9699
 Email: peterson59@comcast.net

Facebook
William Coale, Ph.D.
 510/778-9117
 Email: wmcoale@comcast.net

Webmaster
Dave Sauer
 916/925-7440
 Email: davesauer@comcast.net

Membership
Terry Clifton
 916/863-6344
 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



DAVID GRAY AT HUNTER HALL
218 CALIFORNIA ST., RIO VISTA
SAURDAY, July 14th 2:00 PM
 (doors open at 1:30PM)
 Tickets \$15.00
JOINT EVENT WITH NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

This concert is being presented jointly by **Sierra Chapter ATOS** and **NorCal TOS**. David will be fresh off from the 2018 ATOS convention in Pasadena where he gave a concert at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood. That theatre featured the Organ originally installed at the San Francisco Fox - a 4/37 Wurlitzer! Here at Hunter Hall in Rio Vista, David is calling this an "informal concert". What that encompasses for him is "let's just have some fun". Expect plenty of "wows" at this concert.

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 refreshments provided by the house. Parking is never a problem.

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 and runs every 20 minutes. Exit Ferry and turn left onto River Rd. Turn left on Front Street, and follow directions above.



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

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Il Tempio Di Musica
At the Trabucco Ranch
Nevada City, CA

Piano Concert

Saturday
July 7 3:00PM

David Gray

On the powerful
Mason & Hamlin Model BB

\$20.00 suggested donation
at the door

SIERRA CHAPTER and NORCAL EVENT

Hunter Hall
218 California St
Rio Vista, CA

Organ Concert

Saturday
July 14 2:00PM

David Gray

On the fine 3/15
Mighty Wurlitzer

Tickets \$15.00 at the door

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse
7997 California Ave
Fair Oaks, CA

Hot August Pipes
Ice Cream Social

Sunday,
August 5th, 2018
2:00PM

Featuring: **Greg De Santis**

This is our annual Fundraiser

\$5 Donation
Includes Ice Cream with all of the
fixins

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