

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Hot August Pipes



July 2023



Theatre organist **Edward Torres**, 27, 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)

**Edward Torres at Hunter Hall
218 California St., Rio Vista
Saturday, Aug 5th 2:00 PM**

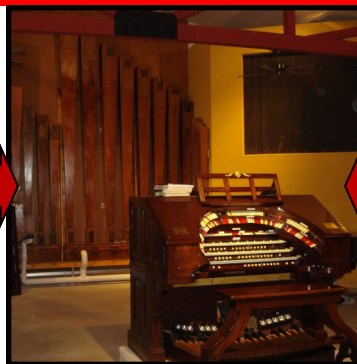
(lobby opens at 1:00PM)

Suggested Donation \$10.00 (cash or check)

**Many thanks go to Geoffrey Hansen
for making this concert possible!**

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.

Editors Note: I had some available space in this newsletter so I thought it would be nice to recognize **Gary Konas** who recently renewed his membership. Several of our long time members had some great visits with Gary at the ATOS convention in Chicago. Gary currently lives in La Crosse Wisconsin. So, below is a bit of nostalgia for our old time members.

Theatre Organ Magazine February/March 1980 VOX POPS Section

From Sacramento, **Gary Konas** reports that in 1979, Sierra Chapter's Seaver Memorial Organ was used more and heard by more people than ever before since its installation in Sacramento's Golden Bear Playhouse in 1974. The history of this 2/7 Wurlitzer has been given previously (THEATRE ORGAN Dec. 1974 and April 1975). This past year thousands of people outside of ATOS heard theatre organ music, perhaps for the first time, played on the only theatre pipe organ located at a California State Fair in Sacramento (running from mid August through Labor Day.) Two "cameo concerts" were played daily in the Playhouse by the club members and local pros. Thanks to advertising, attendance was excellent, with full houses on several occasions. Total attendance was over 6,000 and as a result, several people decided to join ATOS.

This past December a local group staged the musical, *Scrooge*, at the Playhouse. A small group of Sierra Chapter volunteers, organized by **Randy Warwick**, took turns playing Christmas music on the organ before each of the 18 performances and at intermission. Thanks to these efforts another 4,000 people were able to hear a pipe organ in a theatre atmosphere.



Jim Maples at Cal-Expo Golden Bear Playhouse
Photo by Gary Konas

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Back at the Contributing Level:

Gary Konas

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

Tom Norvell

Tom Sebo & Cheryl Young

Carol Zerbo & Dick Taylor

Randy & Adele Warwick

Renewing at the Patron Level:

Christopher Booras

Stuart Boyer

Jeanne Paquette-French

Neal Wood

Renewing at the Sustaining Level:

Frank & Sondra Fuson

Max & Carol Brown

Bill Trabucco



IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA

Presents *the incredible* **Brian Holland** with the *fantastically talented* **Danny Coots** for Early Jazz, Stride and Ragtime, Piano and Percussion.

2:00 pm Saturday, August 26th

Near Grass Valley, CA

More info and directions:

Email: billtrabucco@saber.net

Or phone 530-264-6629

Please RSVP

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Hunter Hall
218 California St
Rio Vista, CA

Hot August Piper



Saturday
August 5
2:00PM

Organ Concert
EDWARD TORRES

\$10 At the Door
Cash or Check only please

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Hunter Hall
218 California St
Rio Vista, CA

Organ Concert

September

Organist: Ron Rhode

More details in the next
Organ Spiel

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse
7997 California Ave
Fair Oaks, CA

**The Fair Oaks
Community Clubhouse
is currently Closed
for renovation.**



**Stay tuned for a possible
re-opening in February 2024.**

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