

Mark Your Calendar

Sierra Chapter, ATOS

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

April 9, Saturday 1-9 p.m.
Morton Madness
Tom Hazleton

April 10, Sunday 2:00 p.m.
Stockton Fox Organ Dedication
Walt Strony

May 13, Friday 8:00 p.m.
Silent Movie - Wings
Bob Salisbury
Towe Auto Museum

The Sierra Chapter Board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the East Lawn Rancho Cordova Mortuary.

NOR-CAL Theatre Organ Society

Berkeley Community Theatre
All concerts Sundays at 2:30 P.M.

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

SierraChapterATOS.org

Please see our website for more details of Theatre Organ events.

The Organ Spiel

MARCH 2005

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

Newsletter of the Sierra Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Good Friday Event

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

The King of Kings

With Live Organ Accompaniment By

Jim Riggs

Friday, March 25, 2005 at 8:00pm

At the Towe Auto Museum

2200 Front Street, Sacramento, CA (916)442-6802

Donation - \$10 at the door - \$8 for Sierra Chapter Members
\$5 Students - \$20 Family Maximum

Radio Interview with Jim Riggs

Tune into the KXJZ Stations of Capital Public Radio on March 25th to hear this month's artist, Jim Riggs, give a tour of the Sierra Chapter's Wurlitzer at the Towe Auto Museum. Jim Riggs will talk about his craft and our instrument with board member Matias Bombal, NPR announcer with Capital Public Radio. The two will then be interviewed by Jeffrey Callison, host of the hour length talk show "Insight". This will air "Live" on the same day as our presentation of "The King Of Kings" at the Towe, and is sure to generate interest in the presentation. So get your radio's ready: FM 88.9, KXJZ, Friday, March 25th at 2 p.m. If you are unable to get the station effectively on your radio, it will also be webcast at the very same time, and you can listen online with Windows Media Player at the following link: (select the KXJZ stream) <http://www.capradio.org/stream/default.aspx> We're very grateful to Mr. Riggs for taking time to do this broadcast in our behalf, furthering the goals of our club, in creating public awareness about the theatre organ and our events. This show will additionally be simulcast on these additional NPR/CPR stations at the very same time: 91.3 KUOP Stockton, 90.5 KKTO, Tahoe City/Reno, 88.7 KXJS Sutter, and 88. KQNC Quincy. It will be an hour of radio you won't want to miss!

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.



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

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
916/332-2837

Seaver Organ
Practice Coordinator
Irene Wilper
916/967-5386

Chapter Historian
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

E The bus trip to Berkeley, to hear Dave Wickerham, was a huge success! Many of the 56 people on the bus had never heard a theatre pipe organ concert; they were in for a great surprise. Dave Wickerham's energy, excitement and musical ability brought the crowd to life. What a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon...and we didn't have to drive! It was fun to get to know some of the people who were new to the theatre organ scene, and to visit with "old" friends. A special thanks to Dave Sauer for coordinating the trip.

R Last Friday night, Tom Norvell and I had the pleasure of attending the first theatre organ event at the newly restored California Fox Theatre in San Jose. The 1178 seat movie palace, was almost full. What a thrill to hear the sounds of the Wurlitzer as Chris Elliott road the console up playing the King Kong March. Following a few brief remarks, Chris went right into his accompaniment of Harold Lloyd's, Safety Last. After the film, David Packard introduced and interviewed Harold Lloyd's grand daughter. She brought some old home movies with her in which we got to see the Lloyd family in action around the pool. Following an intermission, we went right into the second film of the night which was a Harold Lloyd sound film, Crazy. The organ, with only 16 of the 20 ranks playing, sounded wonderful! On Saturday, we were privileged to get a tour of the theatre and organ from Edward Stout & Dick Taylor, the men who are restoring the instrument.

S This month we welcome Jim Riggs back to Sacramento. Matias Bombal, in charge of publicity for our chapter events, has arranged for a special one hour radio interview with Jim. Please see the details in this issue.

P I'll be looking for you on Good Friday Night at the Towe.

Craig A. Peterson

Membership News

Renewing Membership:
Howard Morton - Sustaining

Just to say Thanks!

As a way of saying thank you to all who renew their memberships above the "Regular" level, the Board has decided to give out refreshment coupons good for a Soda or Pop Corn at our silent movie events at the Towe Auto Museum. Coupons will be given as follows: Benefactor - 10; Patron - 5; Sustaining - 3; Contributing - 2. If you have already renewed your membership in this year, you can still upgrade to a higher level.

The King of Kings

Mary Magdalene becomes angry when Judas, now a follower of Jesus, won't come to her feast. She goes to see Jesus and becomes repentant. From there the Bible story unfolds through the Crucifixion and Resurrection.

Trivia * Lead actor H.B. Warner, who played Jesus, was involved in an off-camera scandal with anonymous woman who was determined to blackmail Cecil B. DeMille by ruining the production. It is believed that DeMille paid the woman on the condition that she leave the U.S. * Cecil B. DeMille did not want to take any chances with the film. His two stars, 'H. B. Warner' and 'Dorothy Cummings', were required to sign agreements which prohibited them from appearing in film roles that might compromise their "holy" screen images for a five-year period. DeMille also ordered them not to be seen doing any "un-biblical" activities during the film's shooting. These activities included attending ball games, playing cards, frequenting night clubs, swimming, and riding in convertibles.

Jim Riggs

For over 25 years, Jim Riggs has been the San Francisco Bay Area's most visible---and most listened to---purveyor of music on the "Mighty Wurlitzer" pipe organ. Having regularly appeared at every major Bay Area movie house equipped with one, Riggs has entertained well over one million toe-tapping patrons. It's no wonder local media and emcees call him the "Wizard of the Wurlitzer".

Riggs is now in his sixteenth year as House Organist at the fabulous Paramount Theatre in Oakland. Born and raised in the Bay Area, he has appeared previously at the Grand Lake Theatre (also in Oakland), the Castro Theatre in San Francisco and at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto. In addition to countless performances all across the United States, Riggs has made many international concert tours, the most recent being a five-week swing through New Zealand and Australia during June-July 2004.

Of the handful of touring theatre organists worldwide, Riggs is also one of the few that specializes in the presentation and live scoring of silent films. He has composed and performed scores for the films of such greats as Douglas Fairbanks, Greta Garbo, Harold Lloyd, Lon Chaney, Buster Keaton, Gloria Swanson, Joan Crawford, Laurel & Hardy and many others. His movie scores are always dramatic and creative, blending seamlessly with the action onscreen without overtaking it.

Riggs has several recordings, with the latest---"Up Close & Personal." His music has been heard on National Public Radio in the USA and the BBC in the UK. Riggs was also featured in the PBS television documentary, "Pulling Out All The Stops---A History of the Pipe Organ in America".

Morton Madness XI

Tickets are now on sale for this year's Morton Madness with Tom Hazleton. This is a great day with concerts at Lodi and Murphys. The dinner is very good, just ask anyone who has been with us in the past. The gardens of both wineries are beautiful! So, don't miss out. You can get your \$45 tickets at www.SierraChapterATOS.org or by mailing your check to Dave Sauer, P.O.Box 101, Sacramento, CA 95812. For more details, please see the website.

* Music * Roast Tri-Tip Beef * BBQ Chicken * Red Jacket Potato Salad * Mixed Green Salad *
* Fresh Fruit Salad * Sauteed Seasonal Vegetables * Fresh Baked Bread * Chef's Choice Desert *
Music * Red and White Wine * Music