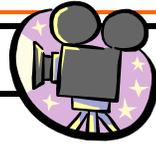


The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

SILENT MOVIE FROM 1924



MARCH 2009

FRIDAY,
MARCH 20

TOWE AUTO
MUSEUM

8:00PM

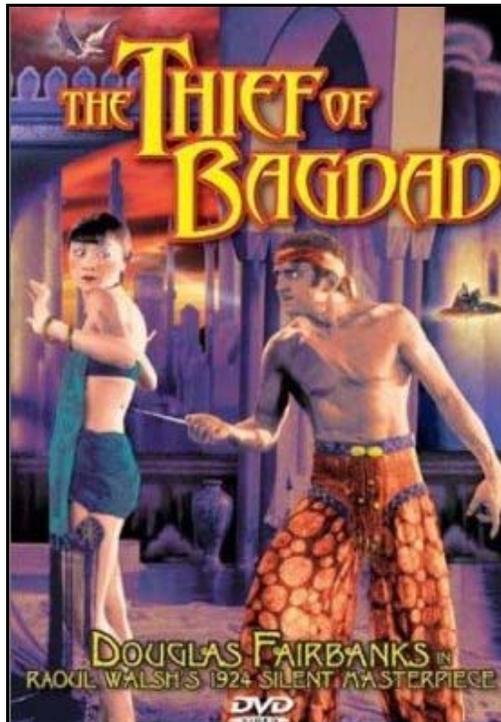
The Thief of Bagdad

ABOUT THE FILM

The Thief Of Bagdad

(United Artists, 1924),

directed by Raoul Walsh, is the original *Arabian Nights* fantasy that remains one of the most visually stunning of all silent films with trick photography and lavish sets (by William Cameron Menzies) taking top form over anything else. Considering the time when this was made, with the musical score and title cards taking the place of spoken dialogue, this gives the impression that it was filmed some decades into the future in the days of advanced film technology. But then again, this is a 1924 film release, running almost 150 minutes in length (depending on the projection speed), and it's a small wonder how audiences felt while watching this lavish production during its initial premiere, focusing on mythical events set in "The Dream City of the East." It then became obvious that this is something that has never been presented on screen before, making the then current films directed by DW Griffith seem old-fashioned and out of date. Fortunately, *The Thief Of Bagdad* never fell into that category, and hopefully never will. (courtesy of Iugonian on IMDB)



GUEST ARTIST

Bob Salisbury

will ACCOMPANY
THE SILENT FILM.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Bob Salisbury started piano lessons at a very early age. By the time he was 13, he had taken theatre organ lessons from Gaylord Carter. He moved with his family to Catalina Island when he was 15 where he first heard theatre organ. Later, he became the organist at the Catalina Island Casino theatre.





TWO marvelous *Robert Mortons* at TWO wonderful Wineries with TWO consummate Concerts by MARK HERMAN - Who could ask for anything more? Do NOT miss this!!!

First we will experience the **Harmony Wynelands Morton** (in the large picture) which began life in San Francisco's Castro Theatre in 1922. Bob Hartzell bought it in 1987. You will want to bring along a picnic to enjoy the lovely grounds & taste some wine before the concert.

Next, we drive through the beautiful, winding foothills to **Ironstone Vineyards** (the dinner picture) to hear the Morton that graced the Sacramento Alhambra Theatre in 1927. Greeted by hundreds of wine barrels filled with daffodils, you will have time to tour the grounds and museum before dinner. **Dinner** : Roast Tri-Tip beef; BBQ Chicken; Red Jacket Potato Salad; Mixed Green Salad; Fresh Fruit Salad; Sautéed Seasonal Vegetables; Fresh Baked Bread; Chef's Choice Desert with Red & White wine on the table.



MARK HERMAN

Call for Music Library Volunteers

Members of our Sierra Chapter ATOS have been involved, over the past year, with updating and cataloging our "Music Library." Thanks to Librarian, Alice Kutzer, Computer Tech, Jim Leach, and Librarian Advisor, Cathy Peterson, organizing and filing over 2000 pieces of sheet music and music books has evolved. Sierra Chapter members, from the past, have donated piano-organ books and sheet music to our library which became a great lending resource. However, the "Music Library" remained somewhat dormant over time and its recent revival has been a prime objective. There is still more cataloging, data entry and filing to be done in order to promote a fully functional "Music

Library." We NEED volunteers to assist with this process. Volunteers must have their own computer with a knowledge of data entry and the ability to update and save these records to a "Flashdrive." The intent is to physically import the updated "Flashdrive Records" to our "Music Library's Main Computer."

One of our Sierra Chapter Member's, Bob Suffel, has recently enlisted as a volunteer. Our thanks go to out Bob for his participation. The volunteer training program is scheduled for April-May 2009. We NEED Volunteers to keep this program going. Please contact Jim Leach via email: jleach@surewest.net or phone: 916-705-9515

For Sale: Allen 317 Theatre Organ This instrument has both theatre and classical voices. It is a seven channel organ and is in excellent condition. Contact Vern Bickel at 707 994-4436 or E-mail v.m.bickel@att.net

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE — CAROL ZERBO



Are we all having fun? This winter has presented some interesting weather. Thank goodness for the Allen - I'm getting lots of practice and the Allen is getting lots of use. A couple of chapter members come over to play on a regular basis and, bless them, they are willing to share their knowledge about the voices and proper use. Since an organ is capable of producing an endless variety of sounds, I'm learning that beauty is in the ear of the listener. For some people, tibias reign supreme and for others, strings set their hearts fluttering. The trick is to get the proper mixture so that most people are, if not happy, at least content. This is why I refuse to play for anyone. So far, I've been able to recreate the sound of poorly played bagpipes and the only thing suffering is the organ. But, I've got the rest of my life to learn and some dear friends willing to teach so -- life is good. We bid a temporary goodbye to Fair Oaks with Paul Quarino's

gospel/talk-fest concert on February 8th. Dave Moreno and Paul Brown can now set about the task of permanently exorcising Aunt Clara from the computer capture system. Good luck, fellows!

This month, we're back at the Towe for a silent movie. It is always a pleasure to have Bob Salisbury here to entertain us. He is wonderful at providing just the right sounds to enhance our viewing experience. Plus, he's also a really nice fellow! Come say "Hi" and enjoy the movie and refreshments. It's a fun and inexpensive way to spend a Friday night with the family.

It's not too soon to consider buying those Morton Madness tickets! We are delighted that Mark Herman is returning to play for us. Those of you who attended November's George Wright Concert at Grant will remember Mark's varied repertoire and charming presentation. Those who missed it will now get a second chance. NorCal and Si-

erra Chapters have been privileged to present the best artists the theatre organ world has to offer. Mark is adding his name to the list. It is no small feat to play two complete concerts in one day for the same audience but Mark is eager to prove that what we heard in November is just a small sampling of music this young artist has to offer. I encourage you to spend a day with Mark and your fellow organ lovers at Harmony and Ironstone wineries on April 18th. You will be very happy you did. Go to our website - SierraChapterATOS for complete information and a ticket order form.

In the meantime, y'all stay warm and dry!
Carol Z



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

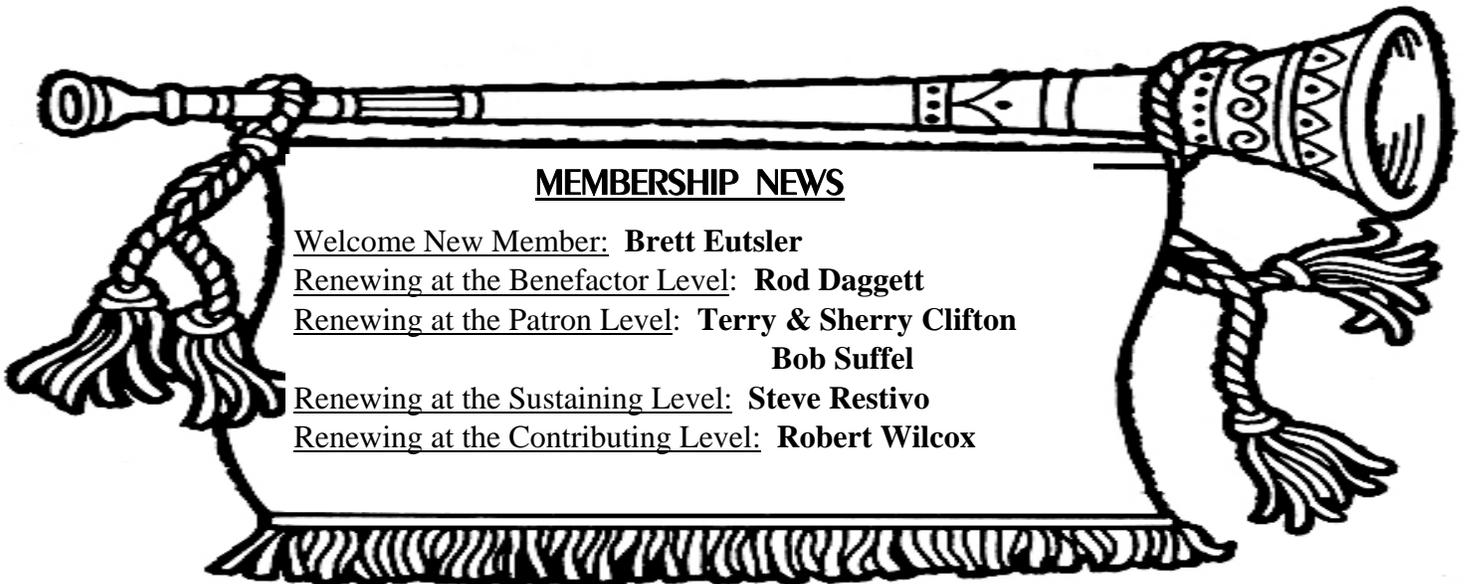
Welcome New Member: **Brett Eutsler**

Renewing at the Benefactor Level: **Rod Daggett**

Renewing at the Patron Level: **Terry & Sherry Clifton**
Bob Suffel

Renewing at the Sustaining Level: **Steve Restivo**

Renewing at the Contributing Level: **Robert Wilcox**

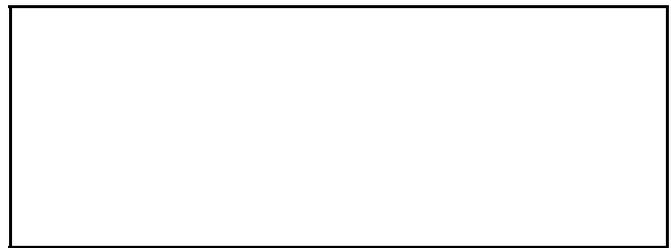




SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2017
Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2017

First Class
Postage
Stamp

We are on the Web:
sierrachapterATOS.org
[youtube.com/
SierraChapterATOS](http://youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Towe Auto Museum
2200 Front Street

Friday Mar 20 - 8:00PM

The Thief of Bagdad - 1924

Silent Film - Bob Salisbury

Friday May 22 - 8:00PM

Seven Chances - 1925

Silent Film - Jerry Nagano

Sunday May 3

Coach Tour to Berkeley

Low Williams

\$35 includes Concert Ticket

MORTON MADNESS

**April 18
1:00PM**

**Harmony Wynelands
Lodi, CA**

**Ironstone Vineyards
Murphys, CA**

Guest Artist Mark Herman

\$50 per person includes Buffet Dinner

See enclosed order form

NOR-CAL TOS EVENT
Berkeley Community Theater

Sunday Mar 15 - 2:30 PM

Jim Riggs

\$15/General Admission

STOCKTON FOX EVENT

Bob Hope Theatre
242 E. Main
Stockton, CA

Friday Mar 13 - 6:30 PM

It Happened One Night
Featuring **Tom Thompson**
On the Mighty Morton

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