

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



13TH ANNUAL

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2010

GEORGE WRIGHT MEMORIAL CONCERT



**GRANT UNION
High School**
1400 GRAND AVENUE
SACRAMENTO

**Sunday,
Nov. 14th
2:00 PM**

The four-manual twenty-one rank theatre pipe organ at Grant Union High School was installed over a period of one year from 1938 to 1939. Pipe work and chests were obtained from theatre organs in Redding and San Francisco, California, and Reno, Nevada. The best parts were used to assemble the organ by students under the direction of Fred Wood, an organ builder from Oakland. The new Grant organ was presented to the public in a recital by Emil Martin, Howard Scott, and George Wright on December 8, 1939.

GUEST ARTIST: JONAS NORDWALL

Jonas Nordwall is an internationally renowned organist equally skilled in both traditional classical and modern/popular schools of musical performance. He has performed around the world and is the only organist to play a public recital on the famous concert organ in Sydney's Town Hall to an audience over 2000, broadcast by the Australian Broadcasting Company.

A Portland, Oregon, native, Nordwall's musical studies began at age 4 on the accordion. His studies expanded to piano and organ at age 10. In 1970 Nordwall graduated with a Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Portland. His piano, organ and orchestration studies were with Arthur Hitchcock, a former staff pianist and organist for 20th Century Fox Studios. Additional classical organ studies were with Richard Ellsasser, Canada's Frederick Geoghegan, and Richard

Purvis, of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral.

BY the mid 60s, Nordwall was one of few organists professionally playing theatre pipe organs. He was the organist for Howard Vollum Estate (co-founder of Tektronix) and later was the Senior Staff Organist for the Organ Grinder Corporation, performing in both Portland and Denver, Colorado. He has been a featured artist for many American Theater Organ Society national and regional conventions. The societies' "Organist of the Year" Award was presented to Nordwall in 1987. He is the principle coordinator for the ATOS Youth and Adult Educational Theater organ Summer Camp Programs.

Nordwall has been a major influence in the latter 20th century design and manufacturing of both pipe and electronic organs. He was with the Rodgers Organ Company for over 30 years and is presently an artist for the Allen Organ Company.



13th Annual George Wright Memorial Concert Advance Ticket Order Form

<p>GUEST ARTIST: Jonas Nordwall</p> <p>DATE: Sunday, November 14, 2010</p> <p>TIME: 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>LOCATION: Grant Union High School</p> <p>Make checks payable to:</p> <p>Sierra Chapter, ATOS</p> <p>Complete this fill-in form, then print and mail it with your check to:</p> <p>Dave Sauer P.O. Box 101 Sacramento, CA 95812</p>	<p>Name <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>Address <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>City <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>State <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>ZIP <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>Phone <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p> <p>Email <input style="width: 100%;" type="text"/></p>	<p>Order your advance tickets now and save! Tickets will be \$10 at the box office.</p> <p>No babes in arms or strollers will be admitted.</p> <p>Ticket orders must be postmarked no later than November 8, 2010.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><input style="width: 50px;" type="text"/> x \$8</p> <p>Total Amount \$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/></p>
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Christmas Party and Annual Board Meeting/Election

Where: Fair Oaks Clubhouse - 7997 California Avenue
When: Sunday, December 5 1:00 PM

The most important part of the day will be ***the election of Officers and Board members.*** In order to make that happen **we need a quorum:** To achieve a quorum requires at least 20 members be present to vote before it is official. **If you are a member of Sierra chapter and National ATOS, We need YOU there!**

Bring your favorite main dish, plus a salad or dessert to share for the potluck. You need to bring along your own paper plates and utensils. Beverages will be provided by the chapter. After lunch is an open console opportunity, so bring along your song sheets and plan to play a couple of tunes.

Chapter Officers

President

2nd term expires Dec 2011
Carol Zerbo
 916/624-9182
 E-Mail: cazbo@sbcglobal.net

Vice President/Publicity

1st term expires Dec 2010
Randy Warwick
 661/392-0269
 E-Mail: rwarwick@bak.rr.com

Secretary

1st term expires Dec 2010
Terry Clifton
 916/863-6344
 E-mail: terry@parklaneblessings.com

Treasurer/Web Master

1st term expires Dec 2011
Dave Sauer
 916/925-7440
 E-Mail: davesauer@comcast.net

Program Director

Craig Peterson 
 916/682-9699
 E-Mail: peterson59@comcast.net

**Historian
Barbara Harris**
 916/332-2837

**Recording Library
Beverly Harris** 
 916/332-2837

Board Member

1st term expires Dec 2010
Robert Barrett, MD
 916/962-1988
 E-Mail: artiebee2@aol.com

Board Member

2nd term expires Dec 2010
Marian Galbraith
 916/722-0411

Board Member

2nd term expires Dec 2011
Jim Leach
 916/797-9125
 E-Mail: jleach@surewest.net

Board Member

2nd term expires Dec 2011
Craig Peterson
 916/682-9699
 E-Mail: peterson59@comcast.net

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Terry Clifton 
 916/863-6344
 terry@parklaneblessings.com

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 Sherry@parklaneblessings.com

Organ Technician

Dave Moreno
 916/484-7356
 davem@lanset.com

Music Librarian

Jim Leach 
 916/797-9125
 E-Mail: jleach@surewest.net



This year, we have openings for Vice President, Secretary, and two Board positions.

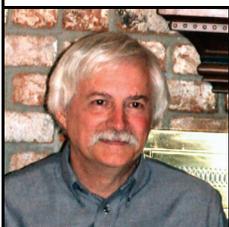
Below are the nominees along with a short Bio of each.

Vice President: Randy Warwick

Running for a second term as Vice President, Randy has been a member of Sierra Chapter since 1968. He served as Chapter VP and President in the late 70's, early 80's. Retired from a career in radio and TV broadcasting, he has three grown sons and three grandsons. "While not a musician, 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 continue 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."



Secretary: Terry Clifton

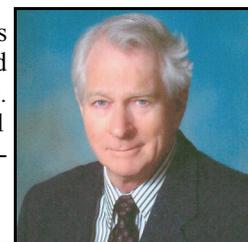


Terry Clifton, your current Secretary, is running for a second term, and is also the printer and mailer of your Organ Spiel. He also has the duties of Membership Secretary and co-editor of the *Spiel*. He first became hooked on theatre organs back in the late '60s with Friday night Silent Movies at the West Seattle Granada Organ Loft. He has been a member of ATOS since 1970 and a member of Sierra Chapter since 1992.



Board Member: Robert Barrett, MD

Running for a second term, Dr. Robert Barrett developed a liking for the theater organ when his parents took him, as a schoolboy, to the Radio City Music Hall. He maintains a collection of popular and sacred organ music and enjoys giving technical and logistical support to professional local and visiting organists. He served 28 years in the military service as a pilot, flight surgeon, and general surgeon. He has had 11 years of private solo practice of general surgery after military retirement and now maintains a limited practice in the operating room.



Board Member: William Coale, Ph.D.

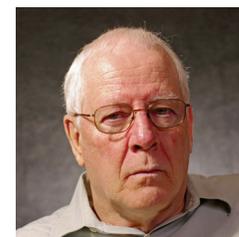


Bill is a former band and choir director who retired as a school superintendent and moved from his native Michigan to the East Bay a year ago. A long time ATOS member, his love for theatre pipe organs started when he was a college student, and he continues to be an active listener and player who greatly enjoys his Allen GW-319, as well as the many fine instruments in northern California. He is a member of the NorCal Theatre Organ Society board and work crew, and looks forward to serving the Sierra Chapter in any way he can.



Board Member: Eric Parker

Eric recently retired after 11 years in computer support at Vision Service Plan in Rancho Cordova. Prior to working at VSP he worked in computer support at Intel and HP. Computer support concluded his fourth career, which included nearly 20 years as an Air Traffic Controller with the FAA and 10 years as an aircraft mechanic. A member of ATOS since 1975 although there was about a 10 year period when he was not, he served as Treasurer of the Sierra Chapter in the early 1990's. He has participated in many work sessions including rebuilding of the California Auto Museum Wurlitzer in 1995 and overhaul of the keyboards for both the CAM and Fair Oaks organs. During his earlier years he traveled around the country and had the opportunity to twice play Bill Brown's 5-manual Wurlitzer, the 4-manual Wurlitzer at Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix, the 4-manual Kimball in the Minneapolis Convention Center and the 4-manual Kimball/Wurlitzer that originally had been in Rockefeller Center in New York City which is now in the Berkeley Community Theater.





ATOS “Liaison” Message from Ken Double

Greetings all:

For many of you, the monthly or occasional message from an ATOS Board Member acting in their capacity as “liaison” was a glimpse into board activity, a reminder of certain items, or just a chance to interact.

We are changing that just a bit with this October message. I will generate a message on ATOS news, with additional input from board members who have specific items of interest.

As individual chapter representatives, be it President, Secretary or simply a member of the chapter who has seen this information, you are free to respond to me or any of the board and staff with your comments and suggestions. We are delighted to hear from you and will hope that this particular method of communication is beneficial.

Convention CD’s: Unfortunately, ATOS encountered numerous problems surrounding the production of the 2009 Cleveland convention two-disc CD collection. Fortunately, that is now behind us. That CD is out, was delivered to those who ordered, and is available on line via the ATOS Marketplace.

The most recent 2010 Seattle CD production is on schedule, barring delays and/or surprises, with the completed product hopefully in our hands by the end of this month. Many musically spectacular moments have been captured that will help attendees relive memories, and offer a taste of the musicianship to those not able to attend.

And this will hopefully “whet the appetite” to help convince more of you to sign up for the conventions. EMCATOS is planning a marvelous event, with several stellar installations coming up in the summer of 2011 in beautiful New England.

DVD Lesson Series: Production is nearing completion on the ATOS DVD teaching series titled *John Ferguson and Friends*. Produced in partnership with the Allen Organ company, this DVD series features four completed DVD’s and one “bonus DVD” still to come. The four “in-the-can” star Jonas Nordwall, Jelani Eddington, Lyn Larsen and Simon Gledhill. These alone offer more than 4-1/2 hours of brilliant material aimed at making our amateur players better, and teaching them of the secrets of the stoprail.

The fifth DVD will feature Walt Strony, and will be based on questions that our members and players present to Walt, thus focusing on exactly what those people wish to learn. It will ship sometime in the spring.

We firmly believe that your chapter has many players who have never had the benefit of formal teaching from the likes of these five, and are literally begging for this kind of information. Throughout ATOS-land, this could mean hundreds of our members. And if you do not play, this series could certainly make you a better listener!

And thanks to the Allen Organ Company. They offered their full television production suite to ATOS for this project at no cost...a savings of well more than \$50,000 had we gone to a professional production company.

In all, there are five DVD’s, nearly six hours of material, and all of this is aimed at improving performance skills on the theatre organ.

The Website: Tom Blackwell (Puget Sound) and Tyler Morkin (former Youth Rep now board member) and their compatriots are working on the finishing touches for the new ATOS website. The board will have seen a “sneak peek” before this month has ended and that is exciting in that the new site has all kinds of great new features.

There will also be a more user-friendly navigation, more information, and more appeal to those newcomers who might stumble upon ATOS and wish to know more.

There are more than 50 individual items that need attention, change, creation, and/or substitution. Tom and Tyler will have nearly 70% of the new site up and running this January, with plans to complete the rest by convention time next July.

Strategic Planning: The team headed up by Doug Powers (Western Reserve chapter) has met twice in person in the past three months - intense sessions working to fine tune a proposal aimed at securing ATOS’ future for many years ahead. The most recent session included advisor John Nelson (from Tennessee); Chairman Mike Hartley; Tim Needler (Central Indiana); Bob Dilworth (DTOS and the First State Chapter); Doug Powers and yours truly. This session covered five days in all and we worked on several important goals and initiatives going forward.

Membership: This is becoming more and more the “hot-button-issue” for ATOS as our numbers diminish each year. Right now, the Membership Task Force headed up by John Apple and Tim Needler are working on specific initiatives to bring back those whose memberships have lapsed; create an incentive for new members to join; and, get aggressive in finding “fertile new territory” for finding those who might be interested in ATOS. More on this soon both via this communication and in the pages of your Journal.

Timely items of interest: The search is “ON” for a new Treasurer for ATOS, as Paul Van Der Molen has announced he wishes to resign prior to the Mid-Year board meeting. Anyone with an appropriate background in accounting and/or bookkeeping could serve ATOS well. Please scour your membership rosters and offer a suggestion for this important post. Notify any board member, or COL. Mike Hartley, or myself with information on any potential candidates you know. We have had two individuals express interest to date. **This is a priority item which the board will move on quickly. Do not hesitate to put forth a suggestion of a qualified individuals.**

We are awaiting news from the University of Oklahoma officials regarding our proposal for relocating the Archive and Library to the Norman, OK campus. We hope to know more very soon.

See announcements in the upcoming issues of *Theatre Organ* that will focus on finding those who wish to run for the ATOS Board (Nov.-Dec. issue); local chapters seeking funding for projects via grants from the Endowment Fund; and, other items of note in the Journal.

You will also see articles penned by individual board members on projects they are working on, or items of interest to the chapters and members at large.

This item from board member Bob Dilworth: The Strategic Planning Task Force is embarking on a Time and Cost Study for those working on various ATOS activities. The information gathered will be used in the formation of the path forward as we work to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the operations of ATOS.

Please pass these notes and items on to your members to keep them up-to-date on board activities, and items of interest to individuals and chapters.

Let us hear from you on topics and questions of interest and/or concern. Thanks.

Ken Double
President and CEO

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – CAROL ZERBO



We, in Sierra Chapter, have much to look forward to - **Mark Herman** in concert at Berkeley on Nov 7th, **Jonas Nordwall** playing our

George Wright Memorial Concert at Grant on Nov 14th, another "Silents at the State" in Oroville on Nov 20th and our annual Christmas Party at the Fair Oaks clubhouse on Dec. 5th. Remember y'all - the Christmas Party is also the time of our annual meeting when we elect next year's Board members so put a bow around that date on your calendars. Just in case something got left out here, please see the last page of the Spiel

for coming events.

Since this edition is combined for November and December, I would like to take some space to thank everyone for the support and fellowship we've had this past year. As always, our events have been fun and well attended and I have enjoyed meeting new people and seeing old friends. In my humble opinion, Sierra Chapter is one of the friendliest, "y'all come" chapters in ATOS. I am privileged to be able to serve on a Board whose members work very well together and are all exceptionally good at what they do. We are already planning for a very busy

2011. With the addition of some events throughout the year, Sierra Chapter members and guests will have ample opportunity to enjoy theatre organs in a variety of venues.

So -- Happy Holidays everyone! I look forward to seeing y'all at our upcoming events and my Very Best Wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2011!



Carol Z

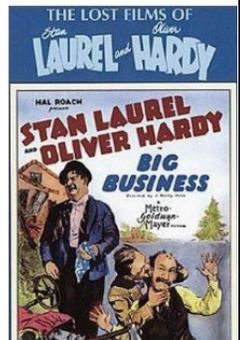


Message from NorCal TOS

"Due to a recent lawsuit against Berkeley High School regarding handicap access, all public concerts in the Berkeley Community Theatre have been cancelled. The School Administration has exempted members of NorCal TOS from this restriction, therefore the **Mark Herman** concert will take place, **but only for members of NorCal**. If you wish to attend the **Mark Herman** concert you may join NorCal TOS as a member, the day of the concert. Annual Membership dues are \$20.00 per family. We sincerely regret this inconvenience."

Silents at the State PRESENTS: A SAMPLING OF SILENTS An Evening of Comedy Shorts

For the second "Silents at the State" event, we will be showing a selection of Short Comedies. Our featured comedy will be "**Big Business**" starring **Laurel and Hardy** as Christmas Tree salesmen in balmy Southern California. We will also be showing selections with **Buster Keaton** and **Charlie Chaplin**.



Silent movies weren't really silent because they were accompanied with live music--at the State; that meant a Theatre Organ--really a "one-man-orchestra" complete with sirens, horse's hoofbeats, bird calls, steam whistles, and more! While our Theatre Pipe Organ isn't yet here, we have brought in an electronic substitute.

Not only will you see and hear these famous silent comedies, vaudevilian historian **Matias Bombal** will be our Master of Ceremonies adding a touch of period Live Entertainment to the evening.

Where: Oroville State Theatre - Oroville, CA
When: Saturday, November 20 - 7:30PM \$10 at the door

BOARD MEETING

Saturday



Nov 6

10:00AM

Home of

Carol Zerbo

Open to all Regular Members, but please RSVP to Carol if you are planning to attend.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

Richard & Brenda Cook

Renewing at the Patron Level:

William Coale, Ph.D.

Renewing at the Contributing Level:

Bill & Alice Kutzer

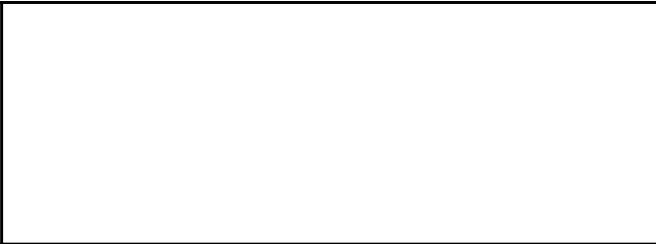




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Fair Oaks, California 95628

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sierrachapterATOS.org
youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

**SIERRA CHAPTER/
GRANT UNION ALUMNI
EVENT**
Grant Union High School
1400 Grand Avenue
13th Annual
George Wright Memo-
rial Concert

**Sunday Nov 14th -
2:00 PM**
Jonas Nordwall

\$10/At the Door
\$8/Advance
Purchase



NOR-CAL TOS EVENT
Berkeley Community Theater
**Sunday Nov 7th -
2:30 PM**
Mark Herman
\$15/General Admission
Nor-Cal Members Only!

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT
Fair Oaks Clubhouse
7997 California Ave
**Sunday December 5th
1:00 PM**
Annual Meeting
and
Christmas Party
Potluck Dinner



Oroville State Theatre Event
A Sampling of Silents
Featuring:
Dave Moreno
Saturday November 20
7:30PM

Harmony Wynelands Event
9291 East Harney Lane, Lodi

**Silent Movie:
The Navigator**
Staring
Buster Keaton
Friday Nov 19 7:30PM
\$12/Adults \$10/Harmony Club
Reservations necessary (209) 369-4164

Featuring
Dave Moreno
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