

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



## 18<sup>TH</sup> GEORGE WRIGHT TRIBUTE CONCERT

\$10/ADVANCE  
\$12/AT THE DOOR



NOVEMBER 2016

GRANT UNION  
High School

1400 Grand Avenue  
Sacramento

SUNDAY,

Nov. 13th

2:00 PM

Box Office opens at 1:00PM

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 Howard Scott, and George Wright on December 8, 1939. The auditorium renovation began in 2015 and was just recently completed.

For advance tickets, mail check payable to Sierra Chapter ATOS at our PO box and tickets will be held for you at the Auditorium Box Office.

## GUEST ARTIST: WALT STRONY

Walter Strony is one of America's premier concert organists. He made his public debut in 1974 at the age of 18 and has since estab-

lished himself as one of few organists equally at home playing both theatre and classical organ.

Mr. Strony has performed hundreds of concerts from coast to coast in the United States as well as in Japan, Australia, England, and Canada. In addition, he has performed at many conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists.

He is the only living organist to have been twice voted "Organist of the Year" by the American Theatre Organ Society - in 1991 and 1993. In 2011, he was inducted into the ATOS "Hall of Fame" - the youngest person currently in it. He has performed with the Calgary Symphony; Allentown Symphony; El Paso Symphony; and Symphony Silicon Valley.

In addition to his fine reputation as a concert organist, Mr. Strony is well known for his many recordings. His first CD *Phoenix* was rated 10/10 by CD Review -- the highest rating given by this prestigious publication. He has recorded over 31 albums with his most recent CD (2013) being recorded on the Aveni Wurlitzer in Gates Mills, OH -- an instrument that he designed.

As an author, he is well known for his book *The Secrets Of Theatre Organ Registration* which has become the standard reference book on this subject.

In addition to being one of America's most sought after concert organists, he is well known for his work as a pipe and digital organ consultant-tonal finisher. His work in this area has taken him to both theatre and classical instruments across the country

and around the world. In 2008, the Allen Organ Company commissioned him to design a new four-manual instrument: the Walt Strony Signature Series Organ.

This experience has brought him the reputation of being one of America's most original and interesting sounding concert organists. As one reviewer noted - "Strony has become one of the rare breed of today's younger theatre organists to have developed a style uniquely his own. While looking backwards, respectfully to the masters of the theatre organ tradition, he manages to look forward with a refreshing approach in all his musical arrangements. It is a style that is inventive, harmonically interesting and above all, right for today."

Walter Strony was born in Chicago in 1955 and began music lessons at the age of seven. His theatre organ teacher was the famous Chicago organist Al Melgard, who for many years was the Staff Organist at the Chicago Stadium. His classical studies were with Herbert L. White and Karel Paukert.

Today, Walt lives in California's Gold Country, located in the Sierra Nevada foothills. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, fine dining, and collecting contemporary art and Art Deco items.



# "ROBERT MORTON GOING BACK TO IT'S ORIGINAL HOME" at the California Theatre, Pittsburg, CA.

## INSTALLATION UPDATE:

We have been installing the original pipe organ back into it's original home at the California Theatre on Railroad Avenue in Pittsburg, CA.

At this moment the entire pipe organ is finally installed and slowly starting to play!

We are now out of funds and need your help to finish this project.

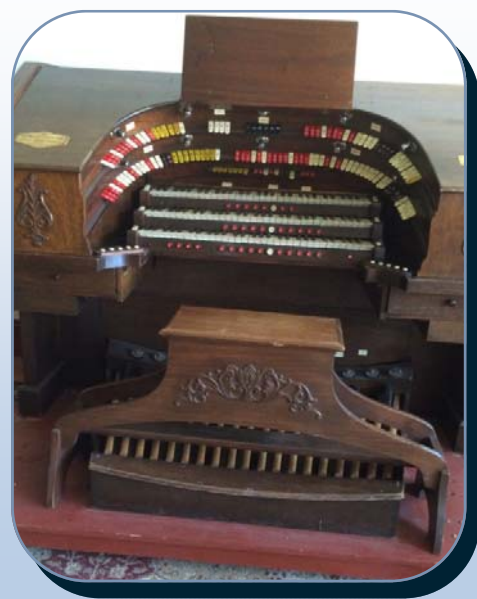
Again we are asking for contribution of funds to keep this historical project moving forward as we continue to bring the California Theatre's original pipe organ back to life again!

This entire project has been operating totally on donations. If you would like to be a part of this historical project, you can do so by sending donations to:

**PACIFIC COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.**  
329 RAILROAD AVENUE  
PITTSBURG, CA 94565  
(925) 439-1056

This is a tax deductible 501 (c) (3) project...make checks to; PCSI with notation: Morton Organ Project

Further information: **Mr. Tom LaFleur**  
(925) 383-1610 Executive Vice  
President of PCSI



## GOLDEN ERA PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS



### THE ORIGINAL 1925 SILENT FILM CLASSIC THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

With live film accompaniment on pipe organ by **Dave Moreno** and special guest vocalist, singing the opera: **Linda Small** of Sacramento and film host: **Matias Bombal**.

**October 30th. (Sunday) Matinee**

Doors open@ 1pm, Organ Prelude@ 1:30pm  
Showtime@ 2pm.

Bob Hope Theatre  
242 Main Street, Stockton, CA Tickets: \$8. at door

## 2017 Il Tempio di Musica Concert Series

Host: **Bill Trabucco** at his ranch outside Nevada City

**Jan 14, 2017 2:00 pm** Ivory and Gold A Piano Flute duo  
Generally Ragtime [www.ivoryandgold.net](http://www.ivoryandgold.net)

**April 7th, 2017 evening concert** Fortin-Poirier Piano duo. These are two incredibly talented, very attractive young ladies from Montreal. Classic/Romantic/Contemporary music as in Saint-Saens, maybe as far back as Beethoven. [www.duofortinpoirier.com](http://www.duofortinpoirier.com)

**August 27th, 2017 3:00 pm** The dynamic Piano-Percussion duo Brian Holland and Danny Coots return.

### Chapter Officers

#### President/Publicity

3rd term expires Dec 2017  
**Randy Warwick**  
530/477-7018  
Email: rwarwick@bak.rr.com

#### Vice President

2nd term expires Dec 2016  
**Carol Zerbo**  
916/624-9182  
Email: cazbo@sbcglobal.net

#### Secretary

2nd term expires Dec 2016  
**Joan Grootveld**  
916/635-4160  
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#### Treasurer

2nd term expires Dec 2017  
**Terry Clifton**  
916/863-6344  
Email: terry@elegantminis.com



#### Board Member

2nd Term expires Dec 2016  
**Paul Brown**  
916/632-1093  
Email: psnrbrown@gmail.com

#### Board Member

3rd term expires Dec 2017  
**Gary French**  
916/726-4516  
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#### Board Member

2nd term expires Dec 2017  
**Charles Metcalf**  
209/595-9429  
Email: 95350man@gmail.com

#### Board Member/Program Director

1st term expires Dec 2016  
**Craig Peterson**  
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#### Facebook

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#### Newsletter Editors

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Email: sherry@elegantminis.com

#### Organ Technician

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

#### Historian & Recording Library

**Beverly Harris**  
916/332-2837



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – Randy Warwick



I hope to see everyone at the George Wright Tribute Concert. We are so lucky to have **Walt Strony** as a member of our local Chapter. Walt is ready to play a wonderful concert and there will be a different element or two than in past years. Plus,

we can get our first look at the recent renovation of the Grant High Auditorium. By the pictures I've seen, it looks very nice, quite close to new. By what several of us have determined, this may be the first or at most second full refinishing since the 1930's when George was at the school. Furthermore, Dave Moreno has been working on the organ and it should sound its best in many years.

Looking ahead to December, please set aside **December 4 for the Christmas Party and election/annual meeting.** We had a nice turnout last year, and all seemed to have fun; we would like to repeat that again.

As we go to press, **we have no nominee for one of the open Board seats.** If we can persuade you to join the merry group of the Board, we will welcome you. All you have to do is either call Terry Clifton or myself and indicate your willingness to join us. You can then be nominated from the floor at the Christmas Party/election. There are typically seven to nine two-hour meetings a year usually on a Saturday morning. Sometimes Board members will help out on various functions/projects, but that is optional.

## Oroville State Theatre News



STAGE has decided to repair the auditorium ceiling holes, despite the roof still leaking. In preparation for this, the entire floor and seating area is covered in plastic. It was suggested this would be an opportune time to cut the chamber door access hole in the concrete wall. The only bid came in for about ten times what was budgeted. (Bid was ~\$20K for the hole only).

In the process of figuring out how to proceed and possibly reduce the cost, it was concluded that the timing was just too short. Some new ideas were suggested and they are proceeding with preparing the area for the hole cut, which will likely happen in January.

Meantime, there is a major upgrade going on with the stage lighting system. Most of the ceiling repairs have been done, with metal lathe and plaster, identical to the original. What is done looks great.

Grant funding applications are being conducted for the entire organ install.

You can visit their website to see what's going on:  
[www.orovillestatetheatre.com](http://www.orovillestatetheatre.com)



### BOARD MEETING

**Saturday**

**November 5 - 10:00AM**

East Lawn Memorial Park  
43rd and Folsom  
Sacramento

**Thank You  
For  
Renewing!**

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Back:  
**Gregg Isett**

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:  
**Tom Norvell  
Craig Peterson**

Renewing at the Sustaining Level:  
**Linda & Bob Jarvis**

Renewing at the Contributing Level:  
**John & Cindy Carleton**

### *Nominating Committee*

It is the time of the year to start thinking about how you can become a more active member of Sierra Chapter.

Available position for 2017:

***We NEED One Board Member***

**If you are interested,** please contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee:

- Randy Warwick** 530/477-7018
- Terry Clifton** 916/501-4045
- Charlie Metcalf** 209/595-9429



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

[www.sierrachapterATOS.org](http://www.sierrachapterATOS.org)

YouTube [youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS](https://www.youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)

Twitter [twitter.com/sierrachapter](https://twitter.com/sierrachapter)

Facebook [Sierra-Chapter-ATOS](https://www.facebook.com/Sierra-Chapter-ATOS)

First Class

Postage

Stamp

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

### SIERRA CHAPTER/ GRANT UNION ALUMNI EVENT

Grant Union High School  
1400 Grand Ave  
Sacramento, CA

Sunday,  
November 13  
2:00PM



*Walt Strony*

\$12/General  
\$10/Advance\*

\*Send check to address above. Make check payable to Sierra Chapter ATOS. Tickets will be held at the Auditorium Box Office

### SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse  
7997 California Ave



Annual Meeting  
Christmas Party

Sunday,  
December 4  
2:00PM



Details in  
next month's *Spiel*

### STOCKTON FOX EVENT

242 East Main Street  
(Bob Hope Theatre)

Classic Movie  
Sunday, Oct 30

Preshow concert 1:30PM

*The Phantom of the Opera*  
(1925)



Dave Moreno  
*On the  
Mighty  
Morton*  
Adults \$8/

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](http://www.atos.org)