

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



## 19TH GEORGE WRIGHT TRIBUTE CONCERT

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



NOVEMBER 2017

GRANT UNION  
High School

1400 Grand Avenue  
Sacramento

SUNDAY,  
Nov. 12th  
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. Recent improvements to the organ have been completed including a replacement Post horn more suitable to the size of the Grant auditorium.

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

## GUEST ARTIST: JERRY NAGANO

**Jerry Nagano** (na-GA-no, not NA-ga-no) was born and raised in the Los Angeles area where he began his musical training at age ten. From the very beginning, the movies played a major role in his musical life. It was because of attending a silent movie show accompanied by the Mighty Wurlitzer that Jerry took an interest in the organ. After instruction on electronic organ for a period, he had a chance to study with organist Gaylord Carter, the very person who played for that silent film years before.

During his college years, Jerry was also the organist at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium playing their fabulous Moller Pipe organ. Upon moving to Northern California, Jerry became a member of the staff of the Stanford Theater. For ten years he was the featured artist at the famed Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in the Bay Area, home of the "Wurlitzer in the Pizza Parlor" concept.

In 2017, Jerry was named Organist of the Year by the American Theatre Organ Society.

Aside from a very busy musical life, during the day Jerry is a Computer Systems Engineer for Stanford University.

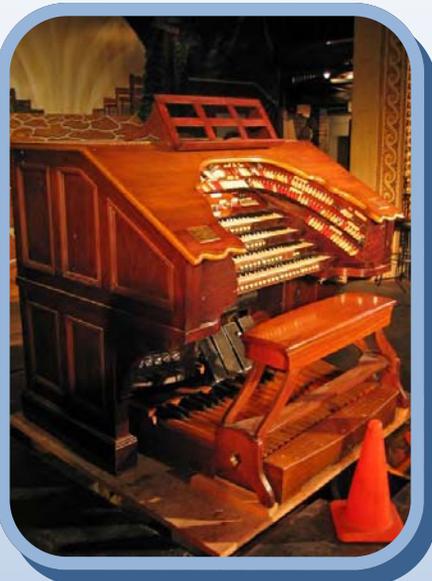




## NORCAL THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

*Presents*  
**OPEN HOUSE**  
*at the MAJESTIC THEATRE*  
**Sunday, November 19, 2017**  
**2:00 to 4:00 pm**  
**710 First Street, Benicia FREE**

NorCal and Sierra Chapters have been invited to an open house at the Majestic Theatre in historic Benicia, California. It houses a 25-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ controlled by two consoles:



- ◆ *Wurlitzer 4-manual console from the Hippodrome Theatre in New York City*
- ◆ *Devtronics 4-manual console*

Majestic Theatre Proprietor, Bob Reichert, and Kevin King will demonstrate the organ and talk about the history of the Majestic Theatre and its Wurlitzer organ.

Since the last open house at the Majestic, the Ye Old Pizza Joint accordion and a Wurlitzer 16-Foot Bombard have been added to the organ.

Chamber access is “not conducive for chamber tours,” but the portions installed on the stage and in the house will be available for viewing.



The theatre also has a fine collection of historic memorabilia from the San Francisco Fox and a most remarkable three-manual Hammond organ.

### Chapter Officers

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**Beverly Harris**  
 916/332-2837

**The Capitol Theatre  
615 K Street, Sacramento  
1906 - 1957 1,177 Seats**



## INTERIOR OF MOVIE HOUSE REFINISHED

T & D, Reopening as the Capitol Presents New Ideas in Design

*August, 1923* Something new in the way of theatre architecture was presented to the people of the city today when the remodeled T & D Theater, now to be known as the Capitol, was reopened after being closed.

At the expense of approximately \$25,000, the West Coast Theaters Corporation, owner of the theater, has completely redecorated the interior of the theater in the Moorish type of architecture. This type of decoration is said by E.A. Eames, architect in charge, to be a new departure for a Pacific Coast theater and will give the local playhouse a distinctive name.

The color scheme of the theater is predominately mulberry, blue and red, but in keeping with the color tones used in the palace of the Alhambra at Granada, Spain, combinations have been worked out. Eames said the walls and ceiling effect are in many cases direct copies of the paintings and colorings of the Alhambra.

Instead of the usual plain ceiling, drapes have been placed in the form of a continuous canopy. These were designed by Eames and painted in the Faggioini Studio in San Francisco on fire-proof cloth. Heavy oil paints were used and a total of 150 pounds of gold leaf was utilized. The effect of the drapes is that of old tapestry.

In addition to the redecorating, the theater is being improved by installation of new cushion seats, a new operating room and battery of projectors, new rubber screen and additions to the ventilating system. The organ has also been returned and new pipes installed.

## NEW ORGAN AT CAPITOL TO BE HEARD SUNDAY

\$35,000 Instrument has 778 pipes and permits rare tonal groupings

*September, 1925* The work of installing the new two manual and pedal orchestral organ in the Capitol Theater, begun about two months ago, has been completed and the first performance will be heard tomorrow, when it will be placed in service. A brief description of the organ is interesting. The total number of pipes is 778; the mellow flute, the velvet tones of the tibias, the monotonous diapasons and diaphones, the violins, clarinet, full tuba, the human voice of the vox humana, the orchestral oboe, with its Oriental effects, kinura for comedy effects, and the saxophone, and the harp effects of the chrysoglott, the orchestral bells, xylophone, cathedral chimes, bass drums, cymbal, tympani, crash cymbal, snare drum, wood drum and sleigh bells.

A distinctive feature of the organ is said to be adjustable combination pistons which permit an unlimited grouping of tonal colors for use instantaneously by merely pressing a piston of which there are thirty to the right and left of the performer. A complete set of couplers is provided permitting perfect tonal blending.

Another feature is the second touch provided for the accompaniment, solo and pedal divisions, means of which the counter melodies are produced.

This instrument is located in specially constructed soundproof chambers on each side of the theatre above and to the rear of the curtain. A double set of expression controls are provided for each chamber allowing a crescendo from the pianissimo to the most powerful double forte. In addition to those facilities at the command of the organist, is a balanced crescendo, which brings on the various stops from the softest to the most powerful and back again.

There is a ten-horse power motor for the pressure turbine which furnishes 1,000 cubic feet of air per minute for the bellows. The current which operates the 1,017 magnets is supplied by a separate low voltage generator. Many miles of cable wire carry the electric impulses from the keys in the console to the magnets under each pipe in the organ. Other miles of extremely delicate magnet wire are needed to operate the stop key switches of which there are seventy-seven.

The woods used in the construction of the organ are California straight sugar pine for the pipes, and maple, walnut, and for general construction — Alaska spruce. For the metal pipes, black tin, pure lead, brass, zinc and other alloys are used.

Arthur Power, who has been the organist for West Coast Theaters for five years and at the Capitol for the last three years, will be the regular organist. The solo number for the opening concert will be the Raymond Overture.

The old organ at the Capitol was installed eleven years ago and was one of the first theater organs in Superior California.

**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 positions for 2018:  
Four Board positions are available  
Three of them have incumbents that will run for re-election

**We NEED One New Board Member**  
If you are interested, please contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee:

Carol Zerbo - 916/624-9182  
Joan Grootveld - 916/635-4160





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(916) 604-6173

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

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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 12  
2:00PM**

***Jerry Nagano***

**\$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 starting at 1:00PM

### SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse  
7997 California Ave



**Annual Meeting  
Christmas Party**

**Sunday,  
December 3  
2:00PM**



**Details in  
next month's *Spiel***

### NORCAL EVENT

Berkeley Community Theatre  
1930 Allston Way  
Enter Via Stage Door

**Sunday, Nov 5  
2:30PM**

**Zack Frame  
in Concert**

**NorCal members only.**

Join NorCal at the door  
for \$20 and receive  
free admission for your-  
self and a guest.

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)