

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

ORGAN CONCERT

NOVEMBER 2023



## 23<sup>RD</sup> GEORGE WRIGHT TRIBUTE CONCERT

\$12/ADVANCE  
\$15/AT THE DOOR (CASH OR CHECK)



GRANT UNION  
HIGH SCHOOL

1400 Grand Avenue  
Sacramento

**SATURDAY,**

**Nov. 4th**

**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 Fair Oaks PO box and tickets will be held for you at the Auditorium Box Office. Or you can order online at:**



## GUEST ARTIST WALT STRONY



**Walt Strony** is one of America's premier concert organists. Since his debut in 1974 at the age of 18, he has established himself as one of the few organists equally at home playing both theatre and classical organ.

Mr. Strony has performed from coast-to-coast in the United States as well as in Japan, Australia, England and Canada. He has performed for more conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society than anyone living, and has also performed numerous times for chapters of the America Guild of Organists.

This well-rounded musician brings a wealth of experience to any organ console. This experience has brought him the reputation of being one of America's most original and interesting sounding organists. As one reviewer noted years ago -- "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 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."



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – Randy Warwick



Hopefully everyone that attended the Ron Rhode concert enjoyed Ron's wonderful artistry at Hunter Hall in Rio Vista. In mentioning Rio Vista, a very big thanks has to go to **Geoff Hansen** for his generous hosting of our recent events at his facility and for the use of the Wurlitzer. Even though we hope to be back at Fair Oaks by early next year we will continue to have events in Rio Vista at Hunter Hall on that wonderful Wurlitzer installed there.

There may be an added attraction at **Walt Strony's** George Wright Tribute Concert coming up on November 4. I don't want to reveal everything but there might be someone noodling on the big Baldwin Concert Grand in the auditorium. We hope to see you there.



## Arts@Peace Presents: BRETT VALIANT

Admission is free, but there will be an offering basket for donations. Brett will play a mixed program of classics and theatre organ music on the Allen hybrid pipe/digital organ.

A wine/cheese reception will follow the concert.

**Sunday, November 12, 4pm**  
**828 W. Main St, Grass Valley**

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

**Craig Peterson**

Renewing at the Patron Level:

**William Coale, Ph.D.**



**NOTE:** Your memberships can now be renewed online. See your mailing label for your expiration month and year. Go to:

**SierraChapterATOS.org/onlineapplication.html**  
Select your Membership Option  
and click on **Add to Cart.**  
You will then be directed to pay by  
Credit Card or PayPal.

## ANNUAL ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

**Nominations are still being accepted for Board positions beginning in 2024.**

If you are a member of ATOS National and have not yet gotten involved at the chapter level...this is your opportunity!

**We have an open position.**

*Ask not what Sierra Chapter can do for you...ask, what can I do for Sierra Chapter?*

It takes a lot of people to keep the chapter machinery running and we have fun doing it! **The success of every nonprofit organization depends on its volunteers.**

**Contact Dick Taylor**  
if you are interested.  
[cazbo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cazbo@sbcglobal.net)

## NEVADA COUNTY COMPOSER'S COOPERATIVE FALL CONCERT SUN. OCTOBER 29 TRABUCCO RANCH | 2 P.M. | 2023

**Alexis Alrich: *The Fire Road***  
for violin, viola, cello, and piano

**Jake Collins: *Piano Trio***  
for violin, cello, and piano

**Jesse Haennelt: *Backyard Burns***  
for violin, cello, and piano

**Durwynne Hsieh: *Why Not?***  
for solo violin

**Lou Johnson: *The Question***  
for guitar and string quintet

**Bruce Nalezny: *Inside the Smile***  
*Five Musical Settings of Poems by Nellie Hill*  
for voice and piano

**Mark Vance: *Anawan 1939***  
for clarinet and piano

**ADULTS \$30 | STUDENTS \$10**

Near Grass Valley, CA  
More info and directions:  
Email: [billtrabucco@saber.net](mailto:billtrabucco@saber.net)  
Or phone 530-264-6629