

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

POPS CONCERT AT IRONSTONE VINEYARDS



April 2013

## ABOUT THE 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 established himself as one of few organists equally at home playing both theatre and classical organ.



tigious publication. He has recorded over 30 albums with his most recent CD (2007) being recorded on the world's largest theatre organ at the Sanfilippo Music Room in Barrington, IL.

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 his spare time, he works on the restoration of his mid-century Las Vegas home and enjoys traveling, fine dining, and collecting Art Deco items.

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 pres-

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 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."

**Your \$40 ticket price includes :**

**the concert and a full luncheon buffet.**

At press time we still had many tickets available for either drive-it-yourself or luxury coach. Please bring your friends and enjoy the beautiful setting at Ironstone as well as the quaint town of Murphys. *We need your support* in order to continue to bring top notch artists to Northern California.

**Leave the driving to us with a leisurely trip on a luxury coach for only \$60.**

**You can order and pay for tickets directly on our website at [SierraChapterATOS.org](http://SierraChapterATOS.org) or call Terry Clifton at (916) 863-6344**

**Orders must be postmarked by later than April 8.**

**Coach attendees will meet at the Country Club Lanes parking lot located on Watt Avenue, just north of El Camino Avenue.**

**Arrive no later than 10:00 AM.**

The event begins at **12:30PM** with a specially prepared luncheon buffet, downstairs, **in the Alhambra Music Room**. The full 2 hour concert (with intermission) will follow at **2:00PM**.

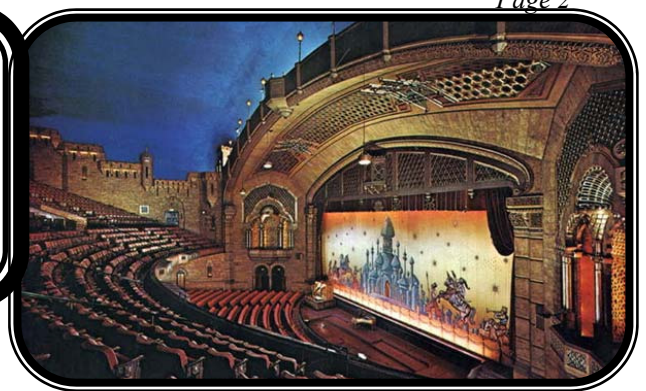
**Please stop by the Sierra Chapter Membership desk and pick up your 2013 Directory.**

**SATURDAY, April 13**  
**COACH DEPARTS 10:00**  
**COUNTRY CLUB LANES**



Ironstone Vineyards is nestled against the Sierra Foothills, in the heart of California's scenic Gold Country. Enjoy its beautiful gardens, History Museum and Gift and Jewelry Shoppe.

The Organ was originally installed in the Alhambra Theatre in Sacramento in 1927. It went from a Baptist Church in Stockton to Bob Hartzell. John Kautz later bought it for his winery and built the Alhambra Music Room to house it (now a 3/14).



**July 1 - 6 including Prelude and Finale dates**

**Venues:**

- The Atlanta Fox (4/42 Moller)
- The Birmingham Alabama (4/32 Wurlitzer)
- Stephenson HS (4/16 Grande Page)
- Marietta Strand (Allen GW-IV)
- Tivoli Theatre (3/13 Wurlitzer) Prelude day
- Memorial Auditorium (4/81 Austin) Prelude Day
- Rylander Theatre (3/11 Moller) Finale Day
- Grand Theatre (3/18 Barton) Finale Day

**Artists:**

- Nathan Avakian
- Jelani Eddington
- David Gray
- Mark Herman
- Richard Hills
- Lance Luce
- Jonas Nordwall
- Ron Rhode
- Walt Strony
- Dwight Thomas
- Dave Wickerham
- Clark Wilson

Register for Convention and book Hotel

ONLINE at:

[www.atosatlanta.org/convention](http://www.atosatlanta.org/convention)

If you need a paper form or have questions, please contact **Terry Clifton at (916) 863-6344**

**San Francisco Castro Theatre Organ Needs a Rescue**

The Castro Organ Devotees Association, a nonprofit organization, has been formed to rescue the Castro 4/21 Wurlitzer. The goal is to raise \$1 million which will insure that this organ remains in its current home and is put into top-notch condition.

The rescue plan is to purchase the organ, replace and enlarge the keyboard console, and add theatre/classical pipe/digital ranks. This will elevate the Castro Theatre, built in 1922, to a classical and symphonic concert hall while it still reigns as San Francisco's favorite and last single-screen movie palace.

The theatre organ ranks will be equivalent to the beloved San Francisco Fox "Special" Wurlitzer, now relocated to Hollywood. The classical ranks will allow the organ to function not only as a theatre organ, but as an authentic classical/symphonic organ as well.

The initial goal is to raise \$250,000 by May 1st, which will secure purchase of the Wurlitzer and allow CODA

to continue implementing the full project.

Raising an additional \$750,000 by the end of 2013 will complete the project, making the Castro Theatre a major international attraction as home to the largest, most impressive and versatile state-of-the-art organ in the Western United States. It will also provide for music scholarships for organ students, and will enhance access to the theatre by increasing its musical programming potential and encouraging school/public tours and organ demonstrations.

See SFCODA.org for details and ability to donate online.

Checks may also be sent to:  
 Castro Organ Devotees Association  
 1876 Market Street Suite 103  
 San Francisco, CA 94102-6277

All contributions are fully tax deductible.



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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—Randy Warwick

Given that they are the least portable musical instrument, it is interesting to note that most theatre pipe organs have moved to many different locations, in the 80 to 95 years that most of them have been in existence. A good example of this is the core components of our own Fair Oaks organ, which have been moved around many times during the first nearly 60 years.

It left the Wurlitzer factory in May of 1924 as a two-manual seven-rank Style E to be installed at the Wurlitzer store in San Francisco (Does anyone know that address?). Then, not too many months later, it was taken apart and went to the Palace Theatre, which is across the Bay in San Leandro. In 1940, it was moved out of the theatre and into the St. Luke's Methodist Church in Richmond. Then in 1968, our Chapter member, the late Larry Wied, bought it and some months later had it playing in his Sacramento home. In 1974 the Chapter bought it from Larry, and a team of Chapter members installed it at the newly built "Golden Bear Theater" at Cal Expo.

We thought we had a venue to last many years and the 7 ranks of the Style E nicely filled the little theater. But in 1980, a change in management at Cal Expo had "better" ideas than a theater for the building, so out went our little Wurlitzer to travel to Fair Oaks in 1981. Now it has 13 ranks and the Buddy Cole Morton console; but the ranks and wind chests of the original Style E of 1924 are

still there.

To recap part of my note from last month, we are awaiting final signing of a new agreement with the Fair Oaks Park District for our use of the Community Clubhouse. Given the reality that the District must recover more costs for the building, we feel we are reaching an agreement that is affordable for us and has the District acknowledging the unique value of the Wurlitzer as an asset to the Clubhouse.

Part of our involvement with the District as a Community Partner is to participate in various activities, centered at the Clubhouse and its surrounding park. We will notify members through *The Spiel* of upcoming participation events and hope many of our members will consider pitching in. Several of us have helped out at "It's My Park Day" the last couple of years, and it is really quite fun with a nice barbecue lunch to all who help for four hours.

Hope to see many of you at Ironstone to hear the incredible Walt Strony. In fact, bring a friend to whom you may owe a lunch...especially if the friend is a prospective member.



## HARMONY WYNELANDS PRESENTS

Friday Night Silent Movies

Live silent film accompaniment with organist: **Dave Moreno** at the San Francisco Castro Theatre Pipe Organ

**Friday, April 19th 2013 7:30PM**

HARMONY WYNELANDS

9291 East Harney Lane, Lodi, CA.

Tickets: \$12.00 per person/RSVP (209) 369-4184

Snacks, wine and beverages available for purchase.

## Poor Man's Organ Convention

**May 4 - 5 ??**

This has been a fun event for the last 6 years and it's free! Please verify the date with James Spohn at [pipe10@aol.com](mailto:pipe10@aol.com)

Spohn Granada Theatre  
616 Kentucky St  
Bakersfield CA  
(661) 326-1308

**Board Meeting**  
Saturday

**April 6**

**10:00AM**

East Lawn Memorial Park  
43rd & Folsom  
Sacramento



### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Patron Level:  
**David Fallis**  
**Richard Taylor**

Renewing at the Contributing Level:  
**Bob Suffel**  
**Bill Trabucco**



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

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

[youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS](http://youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)

[twitter.com/sierrachapter](http://twitter.com/sierrachapter)

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First Class  
Postage  
Stamp

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

### IRONSTONE

Ironstone Vineyards  
1894 Six Mile Road  
Murphys, California

NORCAL/SIERRA CHAPTER  
*Special Event*



**Saturday April 13th**  
**12:30PM**

**WALT STRONY**

**\$40 Includes luncheon & Concert**  
**\$60 Luxury Coach, Lunch, Concert**

### IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA EVENT

Near Nevada City, CA  
Presents

### **FREDERICK HODGES**

**PIANO MUSIC OF THE JAZZ AGE**  
A CONCERT FEATURING CLASSICS BY  
GERSHWIN, GROFE, PORTER, MAYERL, AND SUEESE

**MAY 4, 2013, 3:00 pm**

FREDERICK HODGES PERFORMS A PIANO RECITAL  
ON THE NEWLY-RESTORED  
1940 MASON AND HAMLIN MODEL BB (7')

Suggested donation \$25.00.

For more info and directions, contact Bill  
Trabucco at

[billtrabucco@saber.net](mailto:billtrabucco@saber.net)  
or (530) 273-4252

### STOCKTON FOX EVENT

### BOB HOPE THEATRE

242 East Main Street

### **HARVEY**

Friday, April  
26  
**6:30PM**



**\$8/Adults**

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