

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

HOT AUGUST PIPES



AUGUST 2008



Matthew Bason was born in Northampton on 4th July 1980. At the age of 7 he commenced piano lessons with a local teacher and completed the graded examinations set by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College of Music, London (now known as Trinity-Guildhall). He was also classically trained on the 'cello, but is a self-taught organist.

He has worked on a wide range of productions - from Stephen Sondheim's musical "Company", concerts with groups such as "University of Reading Gospel Choir" and Northamptonshire's "Overstone Singers" through to providing musical "fill-ins" and "effect" music for Shakespeare plays. He has directed or co-directed choirs in Slough, Reading and Northampton. He is now Resident Organist at Ranelagh Hotel Wellingborough (UK) as well as playing freelance.

The winner of the 1999 ATOS Young Organist of the year, Matthew is a honours graduate from the University of Reading, having studied Music and Education (the degree being BA(Ed)Hons). He continues to travel the whole of the U.K., surrounding isles and the continent playing for a wide range of events on Piano, Keyboard and Organ.

Matthew lives in Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, with his wife, Jenny.

Greg De Santis is a native of San Francisco now living in Santa Rosa. Following a four year foray into bluegrass he has joyfully found his way back to the Theatre Pipe Organ. Early classical organ studies with Harold Mueller and Dr. Sandra Soderlund culminated in a 1st prize at the 1981 San Francisco A.G.O. Chapter Young Organist's Competition. After hearing a Theatre Pipe Organ for the first time in-theatre he contacted the late James C. Roseveare and began studies at the Oakland Paramount Theatre from 1986-1988. He has performed at Johnson's Alexander Valley Winery and also for Yamaha dealerships on his EL90 Electone. Greg was selected to participate in the ATOS Mentor program at this year's national convention in Indianapolis.

WHAT - Ice Cream Social with all of the fixings.
PLUS Two mini-concerts on the Seaver Memorial 3/13 Morton/Wurlizer Theatre Pipe Organ

WHERE - Fair Oaks Clubhouse - 7997 California Ave

WHEN - Sunday August 3 - 2:00PM



2008 ATOS Convention

By Greg De Santis

I was impressed by the warmth and hospitality of 'Hoosier' locals. Drivers seemed in less of a hurry compared to those in California, and my shoulder bag, containing camera, iPod, digital recorder and all my organ scores, left in a 'Steak 'n' Shake' booth at 1:00am one night was returned to me the next day, intact, by cheerful, honest employees.

My too-short mentoring session with Jonas Nordwall at the Warren PAC Barton opened up a whole new world of performance details that, while seemingly subtle, can make all the difference between 'good' and 'great'. The on/off state of a single tremulant can turn mush into clarity, or the opposite!

Sitting only a few feet from Jelani Eddington in performance at the Wehmeier residence was a jaw-dropping experience. To see every detail of his playing and console-manipulation techniques close-up is to inspire the

greatest admiration for the tremendous skill required for this level of playing.

Though Carol may disagree (!) I think the music of the 60's deserves more attention from our artists. Tunes such as 'Georgy Girl' and 'Downtown' heard at the convention were standouts for me by reason of their up-beat, infectious 'only in the 60's' rhythms and melodies made fresh again by the sounds of the organ.



The console of the Wehmeier residence 4/36 Wurlitzer

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE — CAROL ZERBO

Goodness! Where to start! Since this was my first full ATOS Convention, I had no basis for comparison so I'll just say Central Indiana Chapter sure knows how to throw a party.

From the world-class performances expected of **Jelani, Simon, Richard, Walt and Ken** to the unexpected emergence of **Eric Fricke** as a stand-up comedian, this convention proved that theatre organs can be just as relevant in today's musical world as they were in the era for which they were created.

What impressed me was how well theatre organs play with others. Not only were we treated to refreshing solo concerts, **Jim Riggs** teamed up with a player piano, **Mark Herman** accompanied a singer and played duets with one heck of a pianist, **Scott Foppiano** brought along a whole jazz band and the *Trio con Brio* (**Jonas Nordwall, Donna Parker, and Martin Ellis**) played the roof off a beautiful Methodist church with its 2 pipe organs, an Allen 3 manual

digital organ, a synthesizer and a piano. Personally, I think the Trio could be a bridge to AGO. And, of course, no convention would be complete without the purpose for which the theatre organ was originally intended, a stellar accompaniment of "The Winning of Barbara Worth" by **Clark Wilson**.

Add to that rising young artists like **Donnie Rankin, Jonathan Ortloff, Eric Fricke** and the UK's **Mary Ann Wootton** and the future of theatre organ as a musical art form seems assured. These young artists exhibited astounding grace under fire when the Manual High School's 3/26 WurliTzer developed memory problems. **Eric Fricke** kept us laughing for several minutes while the organ regrouped. For them and us, it was worth the effort.

What we need now are people to come and hear all these artists. Their efforts are in vain if we don't support them, the instruments they play, and the technicians and artisans who keep the instruments go-

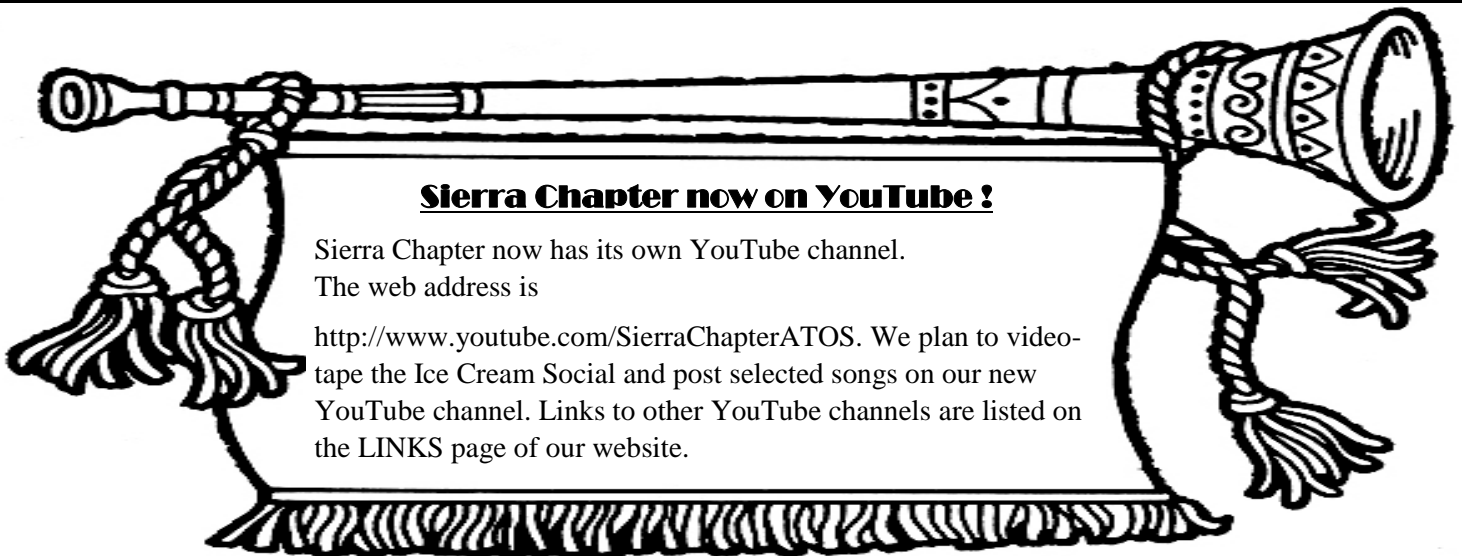
ing.

If this appears to be banging the drum -- it is. Head drummer/CEO **Ken Double** did his best to amp up our enthusiasm for ATOS's future.

National has programs in the works and is actively seeking funds to expand our efforts to promote and preserve but we, the local Chapters, need to direct our energies to bringing in new members of all ages, involving them in our message. We cannot afford to be the best kept secret in the music world. All newcomers and ideas are welcome!

To that end, please plan to attend **Hot August Pipes**. The front page has the particulars. Then, tell your friends about our posting on YouTube!

See y'all there,
CZ

Sierra Chapter now on YouTube !

Sierra Chapter now has its own YouTube channel.
The web address is

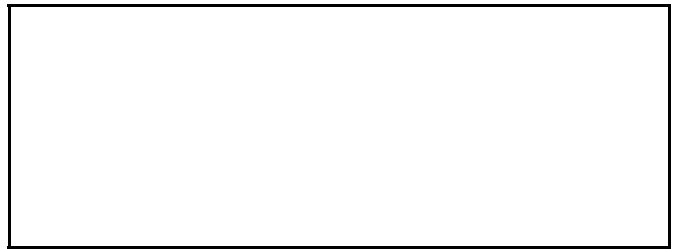
<http://www.youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS>. We plan to videotape the Ice Cream Social and post selected songs on our new YouTube channel. Links to other YouTube channels are listed on the LINKS page of our website.



SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN
THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2017
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We are on the Web:
sierrachapterATOS.org



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENTS

Fair Oaks Clubhouse
7997 California Ave

Hot August Pipes

Matthew Bason
Greg De Santis

Sunday August 3
2:00 PM

Admission:
\$5 Donation

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENTS

Towe Auto Museum
2200 Front Street
916-442-6802



NOR-CAL TOS EVENT

Berkeley Community Theatre

Sunday November 2
2:30PM

Jonas Nordwall



STOCKTON FOX EVENTS

Friday Aug 8 - 7:00 PM
Annie Get Your Gun

Friday Sept 12 - 7:00 PM
Born Yesterday

Sierra Chapter ATOS

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

