

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

THEATRE ORGAN CONCERT



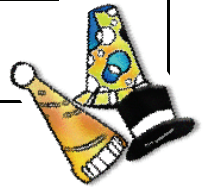
JANUARY 2010

FAIR OAKS CLUBHOUSE  
7997 CALIFORNIA AVE.

NATHAN AVAKIAN

SUNDAY, JAN. 10TH  
2:00 P.M.

Once again, Sierra Chapter is introducing new talent to Northern California with its January concert in Fair Oaks. Our ability to bring these artists to Fair Oaks is in jeopardy due to past low attendance. Those who have attended have not been disappointed. The future of the Theatre Organ lies with the talent of outstanding young artists such as **Nathan Avakian**. Ask anyone who heard his performance at the last ATOS convention, and they will tell you they were blown away. So, tell your friends, and please join us for a great concert!




## ABOUT THE ARTIST, NATHAN AVAKIAN



Nathan Avakian is an eighteen-year-old theatre organist from Portland, Oregon. He is the 2009 overall winner of the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition. Nathan's fascination with the theatre organ began at age four, with a visit to the Portland Organ Grinder Restaurant. He began formal organ studies with Donna Parker at age eleven and is also frequently coached by Jonas Nordwall. Nathan enjoys arranging, composing, and transcribing music.

He has given concerts in Oregon and Washington for organizations including the Columbia River Theatre Organ Society (CRTOS), Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society (PSTOS), Mount Baker Theatre Organ Society and the Portland Rose Festival Association. Nathan is extremely grateful for scholarships from ATOS, CRTOS, and PSTOS, which have helped fund his lessons and trips to organ workshops in Colorado, Illinois, and Phoenix, as well as the 2009 ATOS Convention.

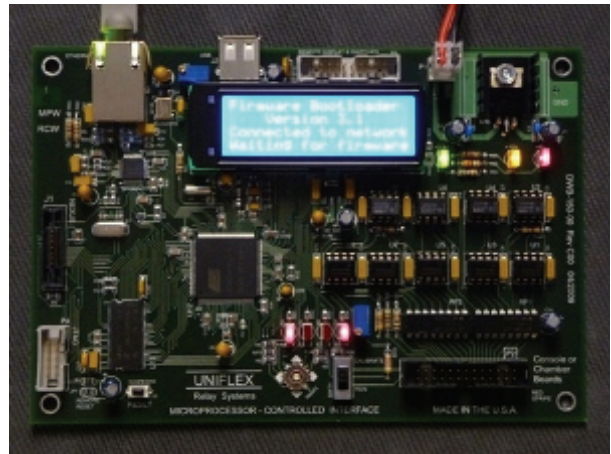
 Nathan is a high school senior at the Arts and Communication Magnet Academy (ACMA), where he is a member of the National Honor Society, the ACMA Theatre Ensemble and the ACMA Advanced Vocal Ensemble. He is a dedicated actor and has trained with Westside Dance Academy since he was five years old in various styles of dance including tap, jazz, and ballet. In addition to acting, singing, and dancing, Nathan has technical theatre interest and experience in lighting design. As a musician, Nathan's mission is to showcase the versatility of the theatre organ by playing music from a diverse variety of eras and styles. Nathan hopes to promote interest in the theatre organ among people of all ages to ensure that the instrument is preserved and kept alive for future generations.



## California Auto Museum Organ Upgrade

Sierra Chapter is pleased to announce a major upgrade to the Dale Mendenhall Memorial Theatre Pipe Organ at the California Auto Museum. This is one example of your annual membership dues at work.

Recently, your Sierra Chapter Board of Directors approved the purchase of a Uniflex 3000 Relay System. This system consists of new software, and interface boards that will allow the Relay System to run on a standard Windows PC. In addition to satisfying our requirement for a reliable system, it will also allow us to proceed with a user friendly interface that will allow museum docents to easily demonstrate the organ and promote the instrument as well as its connection to Sierra Chapter.



### Now all that is needed is a Computer.

If you have an old **Windows XP Compatible Desktop** style PC with monitor, keyboard, and mouse that you would like to get out of that closet or garage, please consider a donation to Sierra Chapter. Your donation is **tax deductible** to the extent of its current value. Contact any of the Chapter Officers, below, to arrange for pickup.

For you history buffs, here's an interesting article on the original Devtronix Relay with its Sacramento roots: [http://www.uniflex.com/about/articles/Dicks\\_Devtronix\\_Console.pdf](http://www.uniflex.com/about/articles/Dicks_Devtronix_Console.pdf)



The Christmas Potluck was more FUN this year, thanks to Randy Warwick and his "Name that tune". He chose some pretty obscure selections but our astute member, Beverly Harris, correctly identified 2 of the 10 selections. The closest winner to her was her Mom, **Barbara Harris** who correctly identified one of the selections. No one else even came close! We also want to say **THANK YOU** to both Beverly & Barbara for always decorating the tables!!! It's a big job, as you can see, as Beverly packs up for next year.

### Chapter Officers

**President**  
2nd term expires Dec 2011  
**Carol Zerbo**  
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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – CAROL ZERBO



Well apparently y'all agree with me that our chapter has the best Board of Directors in ATOS -- we're still here! Thanks for the vote of confidence. It will be a pleasure continuing to work with **Randy, Terry, Dave, Jim, Craig, Marian, and Dr. Bob.**



We've got a wonderful lineup of artists for our 2010 concert and silent movie schedule. Starting us out will be *2009's winner of the ATOS Young Theatre Organist competition - Nathan Avakian.* I'm hearing wonderful things about this young man and I encourage everyone to come hear what all the fuss is about. Our February concert will star, drum-roll, please, everybody who always wanted to play a real

live, air breathing theatre pipe organ. Yup, our second Fair Oaks open console will be on Sunday, February 21st. So all you closet organists get your tunes ready. Here's our own **Irene Wilper** at Open console at our Christmas Party!

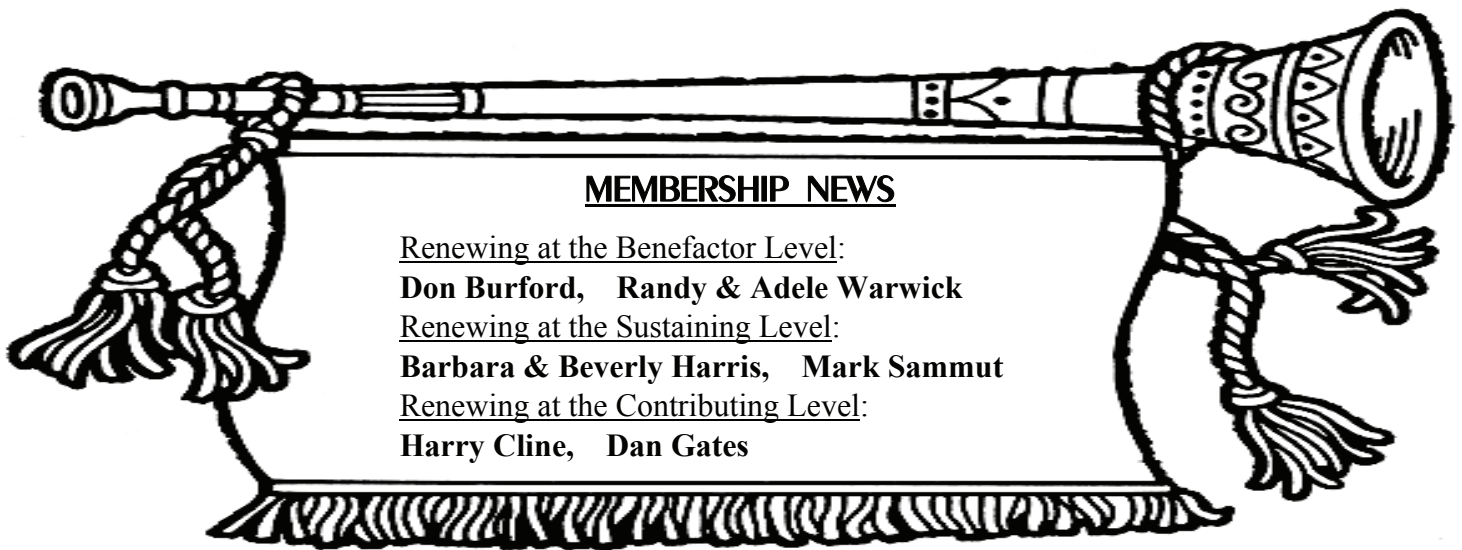


Our resident tour director, **Dave Sauer**, is organizing a bus trip to Berkeley to hear Donna Parker on February 14th. She was in top form in Birmingham so this should be a great concert. Tickets for the bus trip are available on our website and I'll bet Dave will be happy to take your reservation at Nathan's concert.

We have a new publicity chairman - **Randy Warwick!** With his broadcasting background and way with people and words, Randy will keep the media aware of Sierra Chapter's goings-on. Thanks very much, Randy!

I hope everyone had a happy holiday, got back home safe and sound, and ready to tackle whatever the new year brings us. Thank you all for your support and encouragement these past two years. I look forward to serving you for another two years and I hope to see you all at our events. Don't forget - theatre organs need to be seen and heard to survive. They don't work very well in a vacuum.

Happy 2010!  
Carol Z



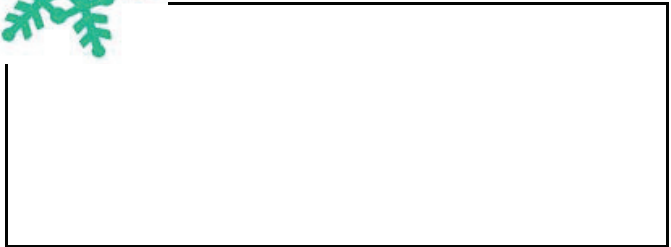
## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:  
**Don Burford, Randy & Adele Warwick**  
Renewing at the Sustaining Level:  
**Barbara & Beverly Harris, Mark Sammut**  
Renewing at the Contributing Level:  
**Harry Cline, Dan Gates**



P.O. Box 2017  
Fair Oaks, California 95628

First Class  
Postage  
Stamp



**We are on the Web:**  
[sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org)  
[youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS](https://youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

**SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT**  
Fair Oaks Clubhouse  
7997 California Ave



**Sunday**  
**January 10th**  
**2:00 PM**  
**Nathan Avakian**

\$10 General  
\$8 Members  
\$5 Students  
\$20 Family



**SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT**  
**Sunday February 14th**  
**12:30 PM**  
**Bus Trip To Berkeley**  
**Donna Parker Concert**  
\$35 Includes concert ticket



**SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT**  
Fair Oaks Clubhouse  
7997 California Ave



**Sunday February 21st**  
**2:00 - 5:00PM**  
**Open Console**

**NOR-CAL TOS EVENT**  
Berkeley Community Theater  
**Sunday Feb 14 -**  
**2:30 PM**  
Donna Parker  
\$15/General Admission

**LOS ANGELES EVENT**  
**Wurlitzer Weekend** 

**January 15 - 17**

Call Toll Free, 1.888.LATOS.22  
Please Order Early, some venues have limited seating

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)