

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Hot August Pipes



July - August 2012



**GUEST ARTIST:
Bill Coale**

WHAT - **ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

(With all of the fixings)

PLUS: Theatre Organ Concert on the

Seaver Memorial 3/13 Morton/Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ

WHERE - Fair Oaks Clubhouse - 7997 California Ave

WHEN - Sunday August 5 - 2:00PM

Suggested Donation - \$5.00 per person (Includes everything)

Dr. William (Bill) Coale, Ph.D., is a retired school superintendent from Michigan who started playing theatre pipe organs approximately 35 years ago when he first encountered the 3/11 Barton "Butterfield Special" in Flint, Michigan's Capitol Theatre. He soon became a student of the late Rev. Jim Miller and President of the Flint Capitol Theatre Organ Club, being heard in concert on that instrument a number of times. Today, he is on the Board of Sierra Chapter and is Chairman of the NorCal Chapter.

Bill has had the opportunity and privilege over the years to play more than 30 theatre pipe organs in the United States and England. Primarily self-taught, Bill

has a particular interest in ragtime music and marches. In addition to his twenty years as a band and choir director, he also conducted a professional concert band as well as conducting and performing in the pit orchestras for many musical theatre productions. He also served as a church choir director for over a decade.

After completing his doctorate in Educational Leadership in 2005, Bill reentered the theatre organ hobby after a long period of inactivity and purchased his Allen GW-319 digital theatre organ, now in his El Cerrito residence. He currently owns an educational consulting business and does his best to act as though he's really not retired. He is honored to perform for you today!

The Theatre Organ - A Dying Art Form???

Well, it's hard to dismiss the demographics. The average age of supporters of this truly unique American Invention continues to get older. One key to keeping it alive involves developing new talent. This is where you have the opportunity to leave a legacy that can help introduce this most powerful and versatile instrument to others, to enjoy as you have over the years.

Please consider Sierra Chapter - ATOS when drawing up your will or trust. Your bequest can specify where you would like your donation to go, whether it be the general fund or to specific areas such as:

- ◆ The Scholarship Fund - which can further be subdivided into support for Artists or Technicians. They go hand in hand. If there are no Artists, then there is no need for Technicians and if there are no Technicians to maintain these instruments, then the Artists will take up some other instrument.
- ◆ Organ Maintenance Fund - These instruments are expensive to maintain. They always seem to need something fixed or replaced. For example, our chapter's instrument, the George A. Seaver Memorial Organ, has been experiencing several problems that are potentially expensive to fix.

What if you have already written your will or trust?

If you have already made out your will and wish to amend it to include the Sierra Chapter - ATOS, your attorney can prepare a codicil which adds a new bequest while reaffirming the other terms of your will. If you have created a revocable trust, you can simply make changes through an amendment.

In your estate plans, if you have already made a provision for Sierra Chapter - ATOS, we thank you for your generosity. Please let us know so that we may express our gratitude!

Visit Your Sierra Chapter Website

When was the last time you visited our website, www.SierraChapterATOS.org? We are constantly adding new content to the site, so the chances are very good that you will find something new & exciting on your next visit.

Current events are always posted on the EVENTS page, which is the front page of the website. This month we are featuring the daily updates from the 2012 ATOS Convention, earlier this month. We also have links to two outstanding *Pipedreams* radio programs. Ken Double is a guest on the first program, and the second program features interviews with American Organ Institute faculty and students at the University of Oklahoma.

We now have 21 videos on our YouTube Channel, www.youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS. The latest videos are from Jerry Nagano's concert at Hunter Hall in Rio Vista on March 10, 2012. The Ken Double videos made at Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse last year have been played more than 3,500 times!

There are more than 70 theatre organ recordings listed on the LIBRARY page of our website. These recordings include *George Wright at the Organ*, broadcast on KCBS in 1961, the live *Farewell to the Fox* program broadcast on February 17, 1963, and a Rosa Rio interview broadcast on WTIC in 1971. These recordings are all high quality mp3 files that you can download and listen to all day on your iPod or any other mp3 player.

Every Organ Spiel newsletter published during the last ten years is now archived on the LIBRARY page and can be downloaded and printed in color. If you can't remember which issue contains the article you are looking for, just use the search box at the top of the EVENTS page. It will search for a key word in all of the archived Organ Spiel newsletters.

Plan to spend some quality time visiting your Sierra Chapter website. It contains things that are not available on any other website, and it will give you many hours of reading, viewing, and listening pleasure.



**Oroville State Theatre -
Fundraising Event**

Ragtime Extravaganza - Featuring
Mimi Blais
Saturday, August 4th

This event will support the
Theatre and Organ restoration project.

Contact **David Dewey** djedewery@cncnet.com or (530) 589-3676

Board Meeting

Saturday
August 11
10:00AM

East Lawn Memorial Park
43rd & Folsom
Sacramento

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – Randy Warwick

Once again we extend **many thanks to Pete & Diane McCluer** for hosting the June Potluck at their wonderful Shingle Springs organ studio with its 3/19 Wurlitzer. The McCluers have one of those settings that most of us dream of: a fully complemented, powerful Wurlitzer in its own large building, sitting next to a beautiful home and all in the country..... really nice! **Bill Coale** opened with his stint at the console which featured his use of an icon of today's world put to use while playing a circa 85 year-old music machine. Bill mounted the console, *placed his I-pad* on the music rack and proceeded to “flip” through some pages until finding one of a couple hundred pieces of sheet music that he had loaded into a sheet music “app”. With the music clearly displayed, Bill started playing; there were no sheets to come loose and fall off, no dog eared pages and just a quick flip motion to change pages. Can you believe that some of us were brave enough to even play after that?

Many Sierra members went to the National Convention; in fact, we may have had one of the largest Chapter turnouts. Way to go, Sierra, to show our spirit for theatre organ!

Just a quick take on part of the convention (I had to leave about halfway through): Many, including me, were perplexed at the hotel choice as the area around LAX is not exactly charming, particularly compared to Pasadena of the 2005 convention. But it was generally more central for the vast spread of organ locations in the L.A. area. Also, it proved to be an excellent, quality hotel for a great rate. Don Near and his crew were friendly, helpful and overall did a great job. It was nice that they were able to reinvolve Lowrey and Yamaha, joining Allen for

a varied group of electronic rooms all with some great playing. And, Allen even did workshops.

Having never been to the Olde Town Music Hall in El Segundo, I really got a kick out the place; lots of kitsch in a small theater and a great sounding big Wurlitzer arrayed on stage and with percussions lit by ultraviolet.

Oh, and it was played expertly by Tony Wilson in a style highly reminiscent of Larry Vanucci.

The recently finished “The Castle” featuring Bob Trousdale's fine Wurlitzer, re-located from his home, was really something else. It is a three story roof-top addition done on top of a garage in a large apartment complex. That sounds like a strange scenario for a big Wurlitzer and it is, but it is very cool. Chris Elliot who had played the Trousdale organ as a kid was featured and played very well.

The huge Moller at the Pasadena Civic is one of the ten wonders of the theatre organ world and both Mark Herman and Walt Strony took terrific back to back and stylistically different approaches to playing this unique, historic organ.

Lastly how could I not mention the opportunity to hear the largest church organ in the USA, the 365 ranks at First Congregational played by Scott Foppiano. Wow, definitely inspiring!

Thanks much to **Carol Zerbo and Terry Clifton** for joining us to pitch in at Fair Oaks for “It's My Park Day”. We will be giving tours of our completed handiwork at the **“ICE CREAM SOCIAL”**.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to New Member:

Richard Mathis

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

Edward Millington Stout III



First Class
Postage
Stamp

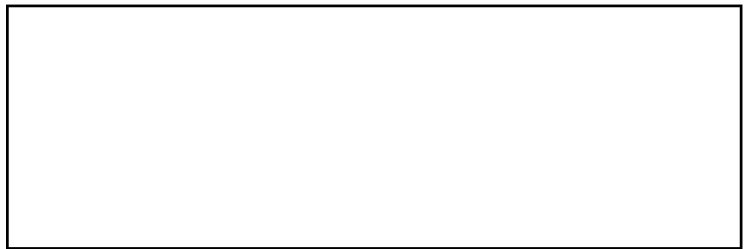
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www.sierrachapterATOS.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

**Hot August Pipes
ICE CREAM SOCIAL**

**Sunday August 5th
2:00PM**

With **Bill Coale**
\$5.00 Donation

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

*Do YOU have any ideas
for a Fall performance?*

*What would YOU like
for us to present?*



STOCKTON FOX EVENT

Some Like It Hot

Friday,
August 24

6:30PM

\$8/Adults



Featuring

Dave Moreno

On the

*Mighty Morton
Theatre Organ*

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