

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



## 17TH ANNUAL GEORGE WRIGHT MEMORIAL CONCERT



OCTOBER 2014



GRANT UNION  
High School

1400 GRAND AVENUE

SACRAMENTO

SUNDAY,

OCT. 19TH

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 Emil Martin, Howard Scott, and George Wright on December 8, 1939.

Hear George Wright play this organ in 1940 at age 19. With your donation of \$25 or more, we will gift the CD titled *The Genius of Young George Wright* as our thank you. Donations will go to the Grant Union Organ Restoration Fund. Checks should be made payable to Sierra Chapter ATOS. Or, you can donate via our website at [sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org) This CD will also be available at the concert.

## GUEST ARTIST:

**RICHARD HILLS**

Richard Hills was born in 1980 and, having shown an early interest in the organ, commenced piano studies at the age of six. Having heard the Wurlitzer organ of the Thursford Collection in Norfolk, England at the age of seven, Richard became hooked on the sound of these instruments and began to study both theatre and classical organ with John Norris.

In 1994 Richard was awarded the Organ Scholarship at King's School in Rochester, England, and studied the classical organ at the Cathedral there with William Whitehead. Following this, Richard became the Organ Scholar of Exeter College at Oxford University where he studied the classical organ with David Sanger. Having completed his studies at Oxford, Richard spent a year as the Organ Scholar of Portsmouth Cathedral before being appointed to the Organ Scholarship of London's Westminster Abbey, where he performed regularly on the five-manual Harrison & Harrison organ and worked with the world-famous Abbey choir.

In 1995 at the age of 14, Richard was the over-all winner of the American Theatre Organ Society International Young Theatre Organist of the year competition in Detroit, Michigan. He returned to the United States the following year to perform at the 1996 ATOS convention in Pasadena. Since then, he has been a featured artist at five international ATOS conventions, giving his debut concert in 1998 at the Oakland Paramount Theatre in California at the age of 17.

In addition to these and other performances in the US, Richard has played throughout the British Isles, in Holland and Germany, and undertaken a four-week concert tour of Australia in August and September, 1999. He has appeared many times on national and international radio and TV and has several recording credits.

Richard left Westminster in September 2004 and is now pursuing a career as a freelance musician. In addition to his theatre and classical organ performances, Richard serves as Assistant Director of Music at St Mary's Bourne Street - a central London church in the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

His career in the theatre organ world has been equally prestigious. He has numerous prizes and awards to his credit, both in this country and in the USA, where he was named by 'Organist of the Year' in 2010 by the American Theatre Organ Society. He has appeared many times on national and international TV and Radio, including solo appearances on programs as diverse as Radio 3's *Choral Evensong* and Radio 2's *Friday Night is Music Night*, and has several recording credits. His most recent solo recording was made on the magnificent dual-purpose Compton organ of Southampton's Guildhall.

When not on the bench, Richard continues to spend time furthering his interests in, amongst other things, Classic Cars and Organ Building. He has recently been appointed Musical Advisor to the UK's Cinema Organ Society in whose work he has taken an increasingly active role.

Richard is one of the very few musicians truly to have bridged and mastered the divide between the world of the classical organ and that of the theatre organ. His playing has generated a great deal of excitement both among ATOS audiences and his fellow artists. This is not a concert to miss.



PLEASE JOIN THE FAIR OAKS RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT & THE SIERRA CHAPTER AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

# HALLOWEEN

## *Silent Movie & Dinner Soiree*

POISONOUS EATS • TOXIC DRINKS • CREEPY PEEPS • CHILLING CLASSIC

*Feature Presentation*

# PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

LIVE PIPE ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT BY DAVE MORENO WITH SPECIAL GUEST OPERA SINGER LINDA SMALLS

## FRIDAY *Community* CLUBHOUSE

DOORS & DINNER @ 6:30PM  
SHOW BEGINS @ 7:30PM

7997 CALIFORNIA AVE.  
FAIR OAKS, CA 95628

*Sorry, Adults Only | Costumes Encouraged*

## *Ticket Sales: \$20 per person*

SALAD BAR • PIZZA • DESSERT • SPIRITS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE



**FAIR OAKS • WWW.FAIROAKSPARK.ORG**  
RECREATION & PARK DISTRICT

### Chapter Officers

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2nd term expires Dec 2015  
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1st term expires Dec 2014  
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**Historian & Recording Library**  
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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—Randy Warwick



Many thanks to **Pete Eveland** for presenting one of our most entertaining music programs at **Wendell Jacob's** music room in Davis. Pete made great use of several of the other keyboards, including the Moller organ, and what a treat it was for

Sacramento area folks to hear ragtime piano and calliope music as played by the teenage Pete Eveland on Sacramento's beloved Delta Queen. Pete is not old enough to have played on the Queen during the 30's; this was during the Queen's second career on the Mississippi River in the 50's through 90's. Pete put the Hammond "A" on stage too. Great fun for all, and thanks again to Pete Eveland.

Not to sound too much like a broken or, more accurately, scratched record, but we still need to pick up some mo-

mentum for our contribution to the costs of the recently concluded ATOS youth training/teaching camp, "Youth Adventure," which was held in Portland, Oregon, was headed up by **Donna Parker**. Sierra Chapter (from our funds dedicated to scholarships) will match up to \$500 from member pledges.

Checks can be made out to Sierra Chapter ATOS with a notation to Youth Adventure and sent to our P.O. Box. There is more detailed information on the ATOS National involvement in the program on the ATOS website. We already have a good start toward the \$500 match, but we are still not there. It would be great to announce at the Christmas Party/Annual Chapter Meeting that we have reached the goal.

Lastly, if you have never heard **Richard Hills**, you have not heard one of the best. I highly recommend that you attend his concert at Grant Union High School on October 19.

## Oroville State Theatre Event

Thursday - October 30 - 7:00PM

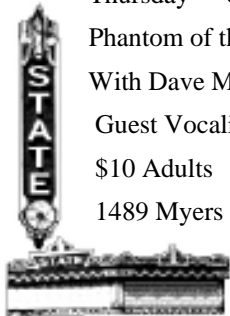
Phantom of the Opera (1925)

With Dave Moreno at the Organ and

Guest Vocalist Linda Small

\$10 Adults \$5 Students

1489 Myers Street, Oroville CA



## Oroville State Theatre News

After a year of trying to operate the State Theatre without a theatre manager, the City of Oroville has entered into an agreement giving the daily operations of the State Theatre to the State Theatre Arts Guild (STAGE), the local non-profit theatre support group. Prior to this, STAGE's main purpose was to provide assistance in purchasing equipment and other theatre needs that the city was unable to fund. STAGE also has been in the process of assisting the Mt Shasta chapter ATOS in installing the Dale Mendenhall Memorial Wurlitzer TPO in the theatre. The Organ project had been put on hold during the "year of uncertainty" when the theatre's survival was a risk. Now that STAGE is booking and operating the theatre, the project has been reactivated; although STAGE's primary focus at this time is in getting the theatre itself operating smoothly. You can visit their website to see what's going on: [www.oroillstateatre.com](http://www.oroillstateatre.com)

So, this month there will once again be a silent movie with live Theatre Organ accompaniment! This has been made possible by the donation of a full-sized electronic Theatre Organ as a stand-in while the restoration and installation of the Mighty Wurlitzer goes on. Set aside Thursday, October 30th for a one-time showing of "The Phantom of the Opera" starring Lon Chaney, Sr. with **Dave Moreno** at the organ, AND **Linda Small** singing the opera during those scenes in the movie. This duo is such a wonderful pairing that folks have stated, "I forgot it was a silent movie!" Tickets are \$10 adults, and \$5 student, and are available online at the website, and at the Box Office the night of the performance. There will also be a costume contest, so feel free to come in your Halloween finest as practice for the following evening, Halloween night!

### BOARD MEETING

**Saturday October 11 - 10:00AM**

East Lawn Memorial Park, 43rd and Folsom  
Sacramento

*Nominating  
Committee*

It is the time of the year to start thinking about how you can become a more active member of Sierra Chapter.

Available positions for 2015:

*Vice President, Secretary and two Board Members.*

**If you are interested**, please contact any of the members of the Nominating Committee:

**Randy Warwick** 530/477-7018  
**Terry Clifton** 916/501-4045  
**Charlie Metcalf** 209/595-9429

*Thank You  
For Renewing!*

### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Member:

**Ron Bauer**

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

**Bob & Linda Jarvis**  
**Edward Millington Stout III**

Renewing at the Patron Level:

**Robert Barrett, M.D.**

Renewing at the Contributing Level:

**Clifford Edstrom**





P.O. Box 2017  
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 (916) 604-6173

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

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

### SIERRA CHAPTER/ GRANT UNION ALUMNI EVENT

Grant Union High School  
 1400 Grand Ave  
 Sacramento, CA

Sunday,  
 October 19  
 2:00PM



*Richard Hiss*

\$12/General  
 \$10/Advance

Send check with self-addressed stamped envelope to  
 address above. Make check payable to  
 Sierra Chapter ATOS

### FAIR OAKS PARK AND REC EVENT

Halloween Silent Movie  
 and Dinner Soiree

Friday, October 17  
 6:30PM

Phantom of the Opera (1925)

Dave Moreno

*On the Mighty Wurlitzer  
 with Special Guest  
 Opera Singer Linda Smalls*

Adults only! \$20

Advance tickets encouraged.  
 This was a sellout last year!

### STOCKTON FOX EVENT

242 East Main Street  
 (Bob Hope Theatre)

Classic Movie  
 Friday, Oct 24

Preshow concert 6:30PM

***Abbott & Costello  
 Meet Frankenstein  
 (1948)***

Dave Moreno  
*On the Mighty Morton*

\$8/Adults



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)