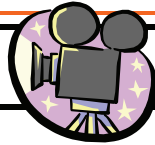


The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Silent Movie From 1929



SEPTEMBER 2010

Sunday,
September
19

CALIFORNIA AUTO
MUSEUM
(FORMERLY THE TOWE)

6:00 PM

NEW DATE
AND TIME



About the Film:

Musketeer par excellence Douglas Fairbanks (as D'Artagnan) is back, in this extraordinary sequel to his "The Three Musketeers" (1921). After some years, Mr. Fairbanks' main job becomes protecting the French King's good son. Unbeknownst to most everyone (except the movie audience), the Prince and heir to the throne, William Bakewell (as Prince Louis XIV), has an evil twin brother; the identical twosome were separated-at-birth, in order to assure one King ascended to the throne, without incident. However, "good" Prince Bakewell is abducted, and locked up in "The Iron Mask"; then, "bad" Prince Bakewell takes his place. Fairbanks and his musketeer pals must set things right.

With its superb acting, brilliant pace, and stunning photography, this is the one Douglas Fairbanks film you must see, if you only see one. "The Iron Mask" is among the best films in the swashbuckler and silent film genres. It's also (probably) Fairbanks' best performance as an actor. His quintessential performance, and film, might have been overlooked for "Academy Award" consideration due to Fairbanks being, at the time, President of the Academy. It was also apparent, to Fairbanks and others, that the popularity of talking pictures would soon silence the older style, despite the artful late 1920s silent film productions.

Fairbanks, with director Allan Dwan and photographer Henry Sharp, came up with an ending so memorable it's been said to symbolize the approaching end of its star's career, and the end of silent films in general. They could hardly have had a more suitable ending. For Douglas Fairbanks and company, "The Iron Mask" was a perfect fit.

(courtesy of Wes Connors from IMDB)

GUEST ARTIST

Bob Salisbury

will ACCOMPANY
THE SILENT FILM.

ABOUT THE ARTIST,

Bob Salisbury first exhibited his interest in music at the age of 7 when he began piano lessons in Los Angeles. He moved on to organ lessons at the age 10 and theatre organ at age 13, studying with Gaylord Carter. This began a 45 year relationship as friend and instructor.

In his home town of Avalon California on Catalina Island, Bob played the Page Theater Pipe Organ on a nightly basis before the movie. He also played organ for all 3 churches on Catalina Island.

Bob and his wife Mary have now semi-retired to Big Bear City, California. Bob continues to play silent movies and concerts and is organist for St. Columba Episcopal Church in Big Bear.

Bob feels that silent films are the basis for today's film industry and his mission is to teach the proper technique for silent film accompaniment so that films may be preserved and enjoyed by future audiences. Bob is working with the Los Angeles County Theater Organ Society and the Orange County Theater Society to develop a silent film accompaniment teaching program.

Bob was honored by the American Theater Organ Society with a national award at their convention in 2010.

His favorite program is always the one he does next!



Bob Salisbury

PICNIC AT THE ATWOOD'S

Kelseyville (Clear Lake) Sunday,
September 26th 11:30 AM to Dusk



Bert and Ann Atwood once again are hosting a picnic at their lovely home on Clear Lake and have invited both NorCal and Sierra Chapter members to attend. Bert's Allen GW-4 organ will be available for anyone wishing to play. Recent upgrades to the expression shades were installed and tonal improvements made by **Tom DeLay, Chris Nichols, Bill Schlotter, and Neal Wood**. Those who attended the last picnic know what a treat is in store for all of us. So mark the date and figure about a 2 1/2 hour drive from the Sacramento area. Bert and Ann built the house with the organ in mind. Please call or e-mail by September 19, so that Bert will have a headcount and can have time to get directions to you. See back page for details.



OROVILLE STATE THEATRE UPDATE

The Oroville State Theatre, PAC façade restoration started again last week with the removal of the sidewalk and store fronts. The new fronts are in Oregon, and on their way, according to the contractor.

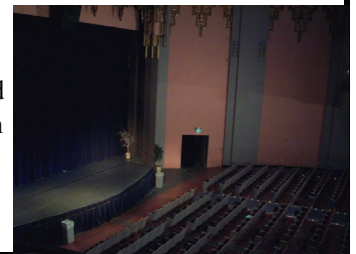
A little problem happened while cutting up the sidewalk. Some sparks got into the basement and started some debris on fire. Fortunately the sprinkler system did its job and all the fire department had to do was clean up and make certain we all stayed out of the building (carbon monoxide fears). It did make the front page though!

Be certain to set aside Saturday, October 30 for "Silents at the State"; a special night with "The Phantom of the Opera" starring Lon Chaney, and accompanied by our Dave Moreno with Linda Small singing the opera parts. There will also be a costume contest, so show up in your Halloween finery! Showtime is 7:30 PM, Tickets are \$10, as this is a fund raiser for the "Restore the Thea-

tre Organ Project." Come see this great silent in an historic movie house on the BIG screen! More details: **David Dewey 530-589-3676.**

Theatre box office: 530-538-2470, theatre website: www.oroVILLEstatetheatre.org

We also have tentative plans for November 12th for another "Silents at the State" event. Since Dave's organ is in the building, might as well use it! The short, "Big Business" will be shown, and (a full-length movie, or a selection of shorts) details to follow, or call the above numbers. Tickets price will be under \$10 (TBA).



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – CAROL ZERBO

What a summer! Looking back on the last three months, it's hard to believe an "organaut" could be bored. June started with a trip to Chicago (Hopeful Heart) and ended with a trip to Seattle. In between was a picnic/open console at Pete and Dianne McCluer's.

July started with us still in Seattle - correction: most of Washington and Portland, Oregon. Thank you, Ed Stout, for a very entertaining commentary on the ATOS convention in last month's Spiel.

July ended with a picnic/open console/concert/debut of Jan and Bill Hunter's "Hunter Hall" in Rio Vista (Wurlitzer 3/15 courtesy of Geoffrey Hansen).

August began with open console on our chapter organ at Fair Oaks and ended with open console

on the Fox lobby organ at Wendell Jacob's home in Davis.

Add in Board meetings, a few trips to Bay area events, a couple of mini-organ crawls and boredom was not an option this summer.

Many thanks to all of our hosts, who made our local events possible and the organists who made them enjoyable. Thanks to Dave



Moreno, without whom there would be nothing to play. And, of

course, to those Sierra and NorCal members and guests who attended and made it all such fun!

September finds us back at CAM (Towe to us diehards). We are trying something a little different - now, pay attention, y'all. The silent movie for this month will be

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th at 6:00PM. The movie will be *The Iron Mask* with Bob Salisbury accompanying. I would appreciate your input on the date change.

For those of you who fancy a nice Sunday drive, on Sept 26th, NorCal is sponsoring a picnic/open console on the Allen GW-4 at Bert and Ann Atwood's lovely home overlooking Clear Lake in Kelseyville, CA. It should be beautiful on the lake at this time of year and a very nice way to end our SSS - summer social season.



Stay tuned for Autumn! Craig Peterson is already lining up artists for next year.

See y'all at CAM on the 19th.

Carol Z



BOARD MEETING- SATURDAY
 Oct 9 10:00AM
 Home of Carol Zerbo.

Open to all Regular Members, but please RSVP to Carol if you are planning to attend.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:
 Troy Killorn
 Tom Norvell

Renewing at the Patron Level:
 Charles Lindquist

Renewing at the Contributing Level:
 David & Linda Dewey
 Gregg Isett
 Robert Allen




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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT
California Auto Museum
2200 Front Street

Sunday Sept 19 6:00 PM
The Iron Mask — 1929



Silent Film -
with
Bob Salisbury



\$10/General
\$8/Member
\$5/Student
\$20/ Family

CLEAR LAKE EVENT
Picnic and Open Console

Sunday Sept 26th 11:30 AM

Ann & Bert Atwood

For directions:

Phone (707) 277-7208

E-mail: atwoody@mchsi.com



Oroville State Theatre Event

Silents at the State

Featuring:

**Dave Moreno &
Linda Small**

Saturday October 30
7:30PM

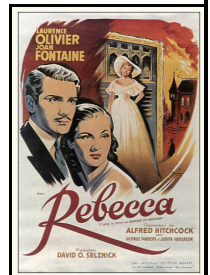


Stockton Fox Event

**Friday Sept 17
6:30PM**
\$8/Adults

Rebecca

Featuring
Tom Thompson



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