

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

POPS CONCERT AT IRONSTONE

May 2018



Walter Strony is one of America's premier concert organists. He made his public debut in 1974 at the age of 18 and has since established himself as one of few organists equally at home playing both theatre and classical organ.

Mr. Strony has performed hundreds of concerts from coast to coast in the United States as well as in Japan, Australia, England, and Canada. He has performed with the Calgary Symphony; Allentown Symphony; El Paso Symphony; and Symphony Silicon Valley.

In addition, he has performed at many conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists. He is the only living organist to have been twice voted "Organist of the Year" by the American Theatre Organ Society - in 1991 and 1993. In 2011, he was inducted into the ATOS "Hall of Fame."

Mr. Strony is also well known for his many recordings. His first CD "Phoenix" was rated 10/10 by CD Review -- the highest rating given by this prestigious publication. He has recorded over 31 albums with his most recent CD (2013) being recorded on the Aveni Wurlitzer in Gates Mills, OH -- an instrument that he designed.

As an author, he is well known for his book "The Secrets Of Theatre Organ Registration", which has become the standard reference book on this subject. He is currently working on its expanded 2nd Edition, which will be released in 2017.

Walter Strony was born in Chicago in 1955, and began music lessons at the age of seven. His theatre organ teacher was the famous Chicago organist Al Melgard, who for many years was the Staff Organist at the Chicago Stadium. His classical studies were with Herbert L. White and Karel Paukert. While looking backwards, respectfully to the masters of the theatre organ tradition, he manages to look forward with a refreshing approach in all his musical arrangements. It is a style that is inventive, harmonically interesting, and above all, right for today."

He lives in California's Gold Rush Country, which is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, fine dining, and collecting contemporary art and Art Deco items.

**Sunday, May 20**

**DOORS OPEN 1:00 PM**

**LUNCH STARTS AT 1:30PM**

**ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY!**

**Your \$44 ticket price includes :  
The concert and lunch.**

At press time we still had many tickets available. Please bring your friends and enjoy the beautiful setting at Ironstone as well as the quaint town of Murphys. *We need your support* in order to continue to bring top notch artists to Northern California.

**You can order and pay for tickets directly on our website  
at [SierraChapterATOS.org](http://SierraChapterATOS.org) or by mail.**

Make checks payable to: Sierra Chapter ATOS  
P.O. Box 2017  
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

**Orders must be postmarked no later than May 10.**

Ironstone Vineyards is nestled against the Sierra Foothills, in the heart of California's scenic Gold Country. Enjoy its beautiful gardens, History Museum, Gift and Jewelry Shoppe.

The Robert Morton Theatre Organ was originally installed in the Alhambra Theatre in Sacramento in 1927. It went from a Baptist Church in Stockton to Bob Hartzell. John Kautz later bought it for his winery and built the Alhambra Music Room to house it: (now a 3/14).



## Amtrak Discount Fare is Back

Northern California residents can travel directly to the ATOS Convention Hotel door in Pasadena via Amtrak. Buy 1 adult full fare and get up to 5 more at 50% off by reserving at [www.amtrak.com/san-joaquins](http://www.amtrak.com/san-joaquins)

On that website, click on the "Friends and Family" picture to make reservations with the special discount. Passenger type must be specified as Adult for all riders to get the discount.

## Baldwin Theatre Organ Looking for a Home

I have a 1960's Baldwin HT2R theater organ that has been in my family home since new. It hasn't been played for many years, but is in mint condition. I wish I had room for it in my own home, but do not and have no where else to store it, so I have to let it go. It is located in Vacaville.

This organ has great sentimental value and I am really hoping it will go to someone who can play it and appreciate it.

Sincerely, Carol Weeks 530-263-9754

Saturday, May 12th, 2018

8am-11am

Appreciation BBQ  
from 11am-12pm

Phoenix Park - Fair Oaks  
East of Sunset Ave @ Hazel



Sierra Chapter needs your help to maintain our **Community Partner Status** in support of the Parks District so we can keep our discounted rental rate!

If you are able to help,

contact: **Terry Clifton**  
916-501-4045

## George Wright Signature 3/19 Wanted

Contact Sam Gilstrap  
samgea@aol.com



## George Wright: REFLECTIONS OF HIS LIFE

".....Within this book is a true treasure trove of the personal remembrances of distinguished musicians, organ technicians, recording engineers, and family acquaintances concerning the life of the legendary George Wright. Particularly for those of us who appreciate Mr. Wright's enduring musical legacy, Dr. Coale's new compilation of extended interviews proves a most informative and entertaining means to learn much more about its subject. The recollections of those people, some no longer with us, most effectively complement the preceding book-*The Genius of George Wright*.

Jonathan Kleefeld, MD

Associate Professor of Radiology  
Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

**PRE-ORDER** will only be available until **MAY 15, 2018**.

**After that, no signed books will be available for order.**

Don't miss your chance to own a signed copy of this companion volume to "*The Genius of George Wright*" that will contain hundreds of pages of transcribed interviews of 29 individuals who knew GW best.

Pre-Order at: <https://tinurl.com/vapbrh4b>

### Chapter Officers

#### President/Publicity

4th term expires Dec 2019  
**Randy Warwick**  
530/477-7018  
Email: rwarwick@bak.rr.com

#### Vice President

3rd term expires Dec 2018  
**Carol Zerbo**  
916/624-9182  
Email: cazbo@sbcglobal.net

#### Secretary

2nd term expires Dec 2018  
**Joan Grootveld**  
916/635-4160  
Email: joanie52@sbcglobal.net

#### Treasurer

3rd term expires Dec 2019

#### Terry Clifton

916/863-6344  
Email: terry@elegantminis.com



#### Board Member

1st Term expires Dec 2019

#### Greg De Santis

707/876-3139  
Email: rollei@sonic.net

#### Board Member

4th term expires Dec 2019

#### Gary French

916/726-4516  
Email: garyf8201@comcast.net

#### Board Member

1st Term expires Dec 2018

#### Beverly Harris

916/332-2837  
Email: wurligirl530@gmail.com

#### Board Member

2nd term expires Dec 2018

#### Craig Peterson

916/682-9699  
Email: peterson59@comcast.net



#### Facebook

#### William Coale, Ph.D.

510/778-9117  
Email: wmcoale@comcast.net

#### Webmaster

#### Dave Sauer

916/925-7440  
Email: davesauer@comcast.net

#### Membership

#### Terry Clifton

916/863-6344

Email: terry@elegantminis.com



#### Newsletter Editors

#### Sherry & Terry Clifton

916/863-6344

Email: sherry@elegantminis.com

#### Organ Technician

#### Dave Moreno

916/484-7356

Email: davem@lanset.com

#### Historian & Recording Library

#### Beverly Harris

916/332-2837

# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—Randy Warwick



I wish to extend a big thanks to **Greg De Santis** for playing a very well-received demo of our Wurlitzer for the quarterly meeting of the Fair Oaks Historical Society. **Terry Clifton** and I assisted, but Greg's playing left them very impressed, both for the organ and his artistry. They had

about 80 members in attendance for the potluck dinner meeting, which always includes a presentation of some sort, and for April we were invited to make the presentation. Their President, a very friendly and welcoming **Jim Pearce**, had included in the invitation a mention of whether we would need any audio visual aids beyond borrowing

their mic, and I thought, "Oh, we got lots of AUDIO visual."

One of the Parks District Board of Directors was present and came over to express his support of the organ. He let us know that this summer the Clubhouse gets a new roof. It's good to see that this and other recent upgrades to the kitchen and restrooms (it now feels like you are in a high-end hotel in a run to the restroom) show the District's commitment to the building.

I hope to see as many of our members as possible at Ironstone for Walt Strony. It should be a wonderful afternoon for a theatre organ concert at one of the most unique and beautiful venues in the West.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

- Paul & Sue Brown
- Terry & Sherry Clifton
- William Coale, Ph.D.
- Charles Metcalf
- Greg De Santis
- Bob Suffel
- Randy & Adele Warwick
- Robert Wilcox

### Renewing at the Patron Level:

- Joan & Gary Grootveld

### Renewing at the Sustaining Level:

- Gary French
- Robert & Linda Hartzell
- Bill & Alice Kutzer
- Jeanne Paquette-French
- Roy Powlan
- Bill Trabucco

### Renewing at the Contributing Level:

- Jim & Denise Brown
- Jim Leach
- Mildred Troop



## IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA PRESENTS

# AMY ENGELHARDT

7:30 pm MAY 18th 2018 CONTACT Bill Trabucco [billtrabucco@saber.net](mailto:billtrabucco@saber.net)

RSVP (530) 273-4252 for directions and more information.


**\$20.00 SUGGESTED DONATION (or what you can afford)**


Donate at the door on entry. All contributions go to Amy, our performer. More about Amy at: [www.amyengelhardt.com](http://www.amyengelhardt.com)




P.O. Box 2017  
Fair Oaks, California 95628  
(916) 604-6173

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

 [youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS](https://www.youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)

 [twitter.com/sierrachapter](https://twitter.com/sierrachapter)

 [Sierra-Chapter-ATOS](https://www.facebook.com/Sierra-Chapter-ATOS)

First Class

Postage

Stamp

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

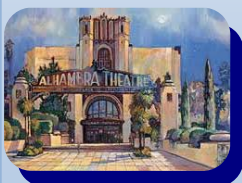
### SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Ironstone Vineyards  
1894 Six Mile Rd  
Murphys, CA

**Sunday,**  
**May 20th, 2018**  
**1:30PM**

Featuring: *Walt Strony*

*Echoes of the  
Alhambra Theatre*



**\$44 Advance Only**  
**Deadline**  
**May 10**

### SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Il Tempio Di Musica  
At the Trabucco Ranch  
Nevada City, CA

*Piano Concert*

**Saturday**  
**July 7**

**David Gray**

**On the powerful  
Mason & Hamlin Model BB**

More details in the next issue of  
*The Organ Spiel*

### SIERRA CHAPTER and NORCAL EVENT

Hunter Hall  
218 California St  
Rio Vista, CA

*Organ Concert*

**Saturday**  
**July 14**

**David Gray**

**On the fine 3/15  
Mighty Wurlitzer**

More details in the next issue of  
*The Organ Spiel*

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)