

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



16TH ANNUAL GEORGE WRIGHT MEMORIAL CONCERT



NOVEMBER, 2013



GRANT UNION
High School

1400 GRAND AVENUE
SACRAMENTO

SUNDAY,
Nov. 10th
2:00 PM

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 This CD will also be available at the concert.

GUEST ARTIST:

DONNA PARKER

Donna Parker, a native of Los Angeles, California, began her organ studies at the age of 7. Four years later she was introduced to the theatre organ and, at thirteen,

began her classical organ instruction with Richard Purvis, Organist and Master of Choristers Emeritus and Honorary Canon of San Francisco's famed Grace Cathedral.

Donna attended California Polytechnic State University at Pomona, California, majoring in organ. Subsequently, she moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where she performed at Organ Stop Pizza. This began an association that would last for many years with restaurants centered around entertainment on large theatre pipe organs, including The Roaring 20s in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, Indiana, The Organ Grinder in Portland, Oregon, Uncle Milt's in Vancouver, Washington, and Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix and Mesa, Arizona.

Donna has actively promoted the theatre pipe organ art form over the years including television appearances on CBS Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt, PM Magazine, and numerous entertainment news spots. She has conducted master classes nationally and abroad, and has worked with public school districts to incorporate this all-American art form into their music history curriculum. In 1996 Donna was honored by being named Organist of the Year by the American Theatre Organ Society. She was elected to serve on the international board of directors of the ATOS for six years, where she headed the scholarship committee that assisted students studying theatre organ. After a hiatus, she is once again serving on the board as the Publisher of the Theatre Organ journal--the official publication of ATOS, as the Public Relations chair, and as a core faculty member of the ATOS Summer Youth Camp. Donna also manages a limited

private teaching and coaching schedule as well.

Donna has numerous highly acclaimed recordings to her credit including her latest release, "The Lady Elsinore." Her concert performances take her to well-known venues across the United States and abroad. International appearances include Canada, Vienna, Austria--where she performed for a national broadcast on the ORF--Australia, New Zealand, and Japan--where she had the distinction of performing the first organ concert at Tokyo's famed Casals Concert Hall.

king theatre organ music to a whole new audience, Donna performed at the Tropicana Casino and Hotel in Atlantic City, New Jersey, for two years where she provided daily holiday concerts in The Quarter, and has performed as a staff organist at the El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood for the Walt Disney Company. Donna was invited to perform at Scotty's Castle in Death Valley, California, the only National Park with a pipe organ.

In 2009, Donna performed as featured soloist with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra for the Yuletide Celebration Concert series on the newly installed Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at the Hilbert Circle Theatre in Indianapolis. She returned for the 2010 Christmas season which marked the series' 25th anniversary with the Maestro Jack Everly conducting and guest host Sandi Patty. This is the second largest Christmas concert series in the United States, second only to Radio City Music Hall in New York.



Diane Bish to perform at First Baptist - 2324 L Street



Tuesday, November 5th, join us for an evening with World-Renowned organist Diane Bish. Tickets are just \$10.00 and can be purchased online or at the FBC office Monday through Friday from 9am-4pm (we are closed for lunch from 12-1pm). During the concert there will be an opportunity to contribute to FBC's Organ Fund. If the concert is not sold out, tickets will also be available at the door. Get your tickets today so you don't miss out! Phone (916) 443-6537 for details.

Diane Bish is the most visible and influential classical organist performing today. Concert and recording artist, composer, conductor, and international television personality, Diane Bish has displayed her dazzling virtuosity and unique showmanship the world over to international acclaim. Her performances have been hailed by critics as stunning, virtuoso, fiery, and astonishing.

Miss Bish's television program The Joy of Music is broadcast to over 300 million people around the world each week. The show combines exhilarating organ and ensemble performances with an informative, inspirational narrative and exciting world travel. After twenty-five years of continuous broadcast, The Joy of Music is one of the longest running television programs still in production with new programs taped, edited and broadcast each year. The Joy of Music library boasts over 500 episodes featuring famous cathedrals, concert halls, churches and organs.

Miss Bish has recorded on the foremost organs of the world and was the first American woman to record on the four organs of Freiburg Cathedral, Germany. Featured on over 30 of her recordings are music for organ and orchestra, brass and organ, great organ masterpieces, organ and harp, original works, and hymn arrangements.

The sparkling creativity and artistry of Diane Bish is equally evident in her compositions. She has composed numerous solo pieces, arrangements, and full symphonic works which have received much acclaim and are performed regularly due to her ability to combine musical quality with accessibility.

All Saints Sunday: Evensong and Organ Recital



On November 3, celebrating 25 years with All Saints Church, **Scott Nelson** will present a Recital, following Evensong. The augmented choir of All Saints will sing Evensong at 4:00PM. The Recital will start at approximately 4:45PM. Scott will be performing works by Reger, Mendelssohn, Howells, LaMontaine and Widor.

Suggested donation for the recital is \$10. A gala reception will follow the recital. Overflow parking available across Sutterville Rd at City College. The Church is located at 2076 Sutterville Rd.



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—Randy Warwick



Sabrina Bernardo aided by **Nick** and **Katy** of the Fair Oaks Parks District deserve kudos for an impressive presentation of the Silent Movie Halloween Event at the Clubhouse featuring **Paul Quarino** at the Wurlitzer accompanying *Dr. Jekyll and*

Mr. Hyde. The concept of dinner and movie seemed a bit out of the box based on our prior experience, but it worked. Great turn out and great show! I think we can look for this event again next year.

The wind down and disbursement of material of the Chapter Music Library Project is almost finished; this was a most worthy project with many hours of work by current and prior members! But the reality turned out to be that there was just not the demand within the Chapter membership. The management and effort required to lend out music outside the Chapter, when internet sources are now so readily available, made justification of contin-

uance unviable. Many thanks to **Craig Peterson** for providing literally years of storage space at the A&G facility, **Jim Leach** for putting in many hours three to four years ago and lastly **Gary French** for heading up the disbursement of the materials. Also **Bill Coale** is delivering the core of the collection, consisting of pop sheet music up to the mid 1950's, to the huge pop music library housed at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland. Some of the remaining pop compilation books, which are not as desirable to the Paramount as original sheet music, have been kept for distribution to Chapter members. A couple of boxes will be at the Christmas party.

Let's all give **Donna Parker**, our first woman organist for the George Wright Memorial event, a big turnout. Hopefully it won't be another 16 years until the next woman plays this event, but I am not sure who we would ask. There are lots of female classical organists, but the theatre organist female cohorts are very, very small.

Any ideas anybody?



Trivia question: Yes, it's a very large pedalboard, but who owns the console? The answer will be in an upcoming *Spiel*.

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 2014:

President, Treasurer and two Board Members.

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

Bill Coale	510/778-9117
Joan Grootveld	916/635-4160
Dick Taylor	916/624-9182
Carol Zerbo	916/624-9182



BOARD MEETING

Saturday

November 2

10:00AM

**East Lawn Memorial Park
43rd and Folsom
Sacramento**



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Renewing at the Sustaining Level:
Linda & Bob Jarvis

Renewing at the Contributing Level:
Carle & Doris McFarland



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www.sierrachapterATOS.org

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

Twitter twitter.com/sierrachapter

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

First Class

Postage

Stamp

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER/GRANT ALUMNI EVENT

Grant Union High School
 1200 Grand Ave



*16th Annual
 George Wright
 Memorial Concert*

Sunday Nov. 10th 2:00 PM

Donna Parker

\$12/General

\$10/Sierra Chapter and
 Grant Union Alumni Members

Students - Free

Box Office Opens 1:00PM



SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community
 Clubhouse
 7997 California Ave



**Sunday,
 December 1st
 1:00 PM**

Annual Meeting and

**Christmas
 Party**



Catered Dinner

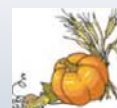


NORCAL EVENT

Berkeley Community Theatre
 1930 Allston Way
 Enter via Stage Door

Sunday, November 3

2:30PM



With: **MARK
 HERMAN**

Open to NorCal Mem-
 bers and their guests.
 Memberships available
 at the door.

\$15 General

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