

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

ORGAN POPS CONCERT

April, 2016



SIERRA CHAPTER ATOS PRESENTS

DAVID GRAY AT THE BLUE BARN
HARMONY WYNELANDS

9291 HARNEY LN Lodi, CA

SUNDAY, APRIL 10 2:00 PM

INDOOR ADMISSION - \$15

David Gray was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1990, and first showed an interest in music at the age of four. He taught himself to play the piano by ear and his first lessons followed a year later. At the age of 13 he began attending St Mary's specialist music school in Edinburgh with a principal focus on piano, but also started studying classical organ in St Mary's Episcopal cathedral with Simon Nieminski.

Around this time, he had his first encounter with theatre organ; the first instrument he ever played was a 3/8 Compton organ in Glasgow. With the help of Duncan Sinclair from the Scottish Cinema Organ Society, he began learning to play the instrument and in 2005 won the *ATOS Young Theatre Organist of the Year* competition. This led to great acclaim internationally for his skills as a theatre organist. He has made many appearances in the UK and was the recipient of the *Ian Sutherland Award* from the

Cinema Organ Society and the *Dean Herrick Memorial Cup* from the ATOS London chapter.

Towards the end of his high school studies, David chose to stop playing and studying classical organ as there simply was not enough time to do everything, but he kept the theatre organ going as it is *just too much fun and enjoyment* to ever let go of!

Since 2008 David has been studying piano on an undergraduate program, with a full scholarship to the Royal Academy of Music in London. His teacher is renowned pianist Hamish Milne.

In time between lessons and exams, he remains as active as possible on the theatre organ scene.

from ATOS Atlanta 2013 Conference website



About the Harmony Wynelands Robert Morton Organ

Bob Hartzell, former president of the California Winegrape Growers Association, is the proud owner of the 2/11 Robert Morton that was originally installed in San Francisco's Castro Theatre. The organ was removed from the theatre by Dave Schutt and Ron Downer in 1962 and later purchased by Charlie Davis of Concord. Davis made several changes to the organ including replacement of the original two-manual console with a three-manual console from a theatre in Provo, Utah.

Hartzell purchased the organ in 1987 and his son, Mark, designed a new building to house the organ. The building,

set in the middle of Bob's private vineyard, looks like a picturesque blue and white country barn, but the interior is no barn! It's a wonderful organ studio, 30' wide by 60' long with a 30' high beamed ceiling and is complete with guest quarters for visiting artists.

The organ was featured for fifteen years at the highly acclaimed Morton Madness concerts.



Indoor Seating is Limited!

Send check payable to Sierra Chapter ATOS with a self addressed, stamped envelope to:

PO Box 2017 Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2017

Please include a phone number where you can be reached in the event that we received your request too late to mail your tickets. In the event of a sellout, outdoor seating can be purchased for \$10 at the event.

Directions to the event will be provided with your tickets.

Questions? (916) 501-4045

Scheduled Practice Sessions

Our chapter hopes to present scheduled Practice Sessions on the **George A. Seaver memorial organ at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse** in coming months. We wish these times to be enjoyable experiences for our members of all talent levels, from beginner to advanced. We encourage our members to give it a try.

Our agreement with the Fair Oaks Recreation & Parks District allows us to have practice sessions on Sunday afternoons when the Clubhouse is not rented out. Because we expect to get dates for Practice Sessions on short notice, it

may not always be possible to include that information in *The Organ Spiel* in time to alert our members. With that in mind, we ask members interested in participating to contact Board Member **Charlie Metcalf**. He can create a list of interested members and can reach out to those who wish to have the practice time on our Theatre Pipe Organ. That list will also be needed to alert members in the event that a last minute rental "bumps" us out of the building for a particular practice date.

Any members having interest, questions, or comments please contact: **Charlie Metcalf**
209-595-9429 or email 95350man@gmail.com.

Closing Chords

Margaret Smith
 John Brunelle

Saturday, April 9th, 2016
 8am-11am

Appreciation BBQ
 from 11am-12pm

Miller Park - Fair Oaks
 Sunset Ave @ Kenneth Ave



Sierra Chapter needs your help to reach our volunteer hourly goal in support of the Parks District.

If you are able to help, contact:

Terry Clifton
916-501-4045

Il Tempio di Musica Presents Main Street Souvenirs with Scott Kirby Pianist, composer, visual artist

Kirby has served as Musical Director of the Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival in Sedalia, MO, and of the Rocky Mountain Ragtime and American Music Festival in Boulder, CO, as well as director of the San Juan Islands Ragtime Institute. Admired by fellow pianists including George Winston, and hailed by Time Magazine as an "ace pianist," CBS News' Charles Osgood agreed that "...Critics call Scott Kirby one of the best interpreters of ragtime music on the scene today."

Main Street Souvenirs is a multi-media stage performance featuring live piano music, a spoken narrative, and a video presentation. This visual "projected" dimension of the program will accompany both the narrative and the music throughout, and will consist of Kirby's

original artwork, his video footage, his photography, and archival photos. The narrative, also written by Kirby, reflects a thematic progression, weaving different concepts about small town American life together with musical, visual and literary examples which illustrate these themes. The music in the first half will span 150 years of Americana, including Scott Joplin, Stephen Foster and John Philip Sousa, and continuing up to the present. The second half will feature Kirby's original compositions, paintings, photography, literary excerpts and a narrative all exploring historical and visionary dimensions of the American Great Plains and Prairies.

Saturday, April 9 3:00PM

At the Ranch near Grass Valley
 Donation \$25 at the door

PLEASE! RSVP to: billtrabucco@saber.net
or (530) 273-4252



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 3rd term expires Dec 2017
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 2nd term expires Dec 2016
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 2nd term expires Dec 2016
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 2nd term expires Dec 2017
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Historian & Recording Library
Beverly Harris
 916/332-2837

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—Randy Warwick

Maybe it was the threat of rain, several competing events, or the fact that many members had competing plans, but for the many who did not make it to the **Greg De Santis** concert, I must say you missed a fine performance. With many tasteful, well-played arrangements, Greg played a very enjoyable program with no ciphers from the organ. Also, thanks to **Paul Brown** for bringing his P.A. system with the cool RCA antique microphone that even made my flat voice resonate with mellifluous authority.



bara Harris late last year and the fact that her daughter Bev was brought along into the Chapter as nearly a “babe-in-arms,” **Dave Sauer** is now our longest term member going all the way back to just prior to the Chapter affiliation with ATOS in early 1967. Dave has served in various capacities through the years as treasurer and as the **webmaster** of our very fine website. Many thanks to **Dave Sauer** for his years of service and thanks in advance for many more years to come. (Stu Boyer is still alive and was an early member & organist at the Carl Greer Inn, but is no longer a member).

On another note, with the unfortunate passing of Bar-

the Carl Greer Inn, but is no longer a member).

California Zephyr Railcar Charters

Presents

KING OF INSTRUMENTS TOUR

August 14–27 Two week tour

One week tours also available: Aug 14 Northbound and Aug 21 Southbound

The King of Instruments! We'll visit some of the finest examples of this most grand and complex of musical machines on our round trip tour from San Diego to Seattle. We will visit concert organs, church organs, and theater organs. We'll make the same city stops in both directions (except San Luis Obispo), but each locale has many organs of interest, so we won't be visiting the same instrument twice.

We will visit 2-3 organs per city, with demonstrations and a chance to meet the organist. In some locales we are hoping to arrange an organ crawl.

Enroute, our private railcars will be your hotel, and our chefs will prepare an interesting menu, emphasizing fresh, in-season locally grown items.

All guests will have private room accommodations consisting of roomettes, double bedrooms, drawing room, and state-room. Most meals are included, as are hotel at the beginning of the tour and transfers from hotel to train.

We'll be taking [Silver Rapids](#), a roomette-bedroom sleeper and [Silver Solarium](#), a Vista-Dome sleeper-lounge-observation car. As demand may warrant we'll add another sleeper and Silver Lariat, a Vista-Dome diner-lounge.

Along the way we'll have seminars led by notables in the arts of organ performance and organ building. We may even have a 'crawl' or two! Visit www.calzephyrailcar.com or call (714) 751-2032 for more information.



Summary of Itinerary:

Aug 13: Out-of-town guests arrive Los Angeles, are welcomed aboard the railcars in the evening.

Aug 14: San Diego pt. 1 *Dr Carol Williams, organist*
Visiting: Spreckels Outdoor Organ, Balboa Park (Austin/Blackington) 4/73;
TBD: St Paul's Episcopal Cathedral (Quimby) 4/81

Aug 15: Los Angeles pt. 1 *Christoph Bull, organist:*
Visiting: First Cong. Church of Los Angeles (Skinner/Schlicker) 5/346;
FCCLA Shatto Chapel (Farrand & Votey/Murray Harris/Kilgen/Abbott & Sieker) 3/36
UCLA: Schoenberg Hall (Hradetzky) 2/21
Organ Studio (Noack) 2/19
TBD: Royce Hall (Skinner/ Turner) 5/104

Aug 16: San Luis Obispo

Aug 17: Oakland/East Bay
Visiting: First Presbyterian Church (Rosales) 3/75
Berkeley Community Theater (Wurlitzer) 4/41; *Walt Strony,*
Cathedral of Christ the Light (Letourneau) 4/94; *Dr Rudy de Vos,*

Aug 18: Portland (afternoon) pt. 1

Aug 19: Portland (morning) pt. 1

Revision: Respite from organs Tour to Multnomah Falls and Timberline Lodge on the slopes of Mt. Hood.
Train departs 4:00 PM for Seattle.

Aug 20: Seattle/Puget Sound area pt. 1

Visiting: TBD: Pacific Lutheran University (Fritts) 3/54s
St Mark's Episcopal Cathedral (Flemtrop/Fritts) 4/79. *Michael Kleinschmidt,*
(Fritts) 2/17

Aug 21: One way guests (northbound) depart; new guests arrive. Seattle/Puget Sound area pt. 2

Aug 22: Portland (afternoon) pt. 2
Visiting: Bond Organ Builders, Inc
TBD: Holy Rosary Catholic Church (Bond) 2/37

Aug 23: Portland (morning) pt. 2

Aug 24: San Francisco/Peninsula
Visiting TBD: Grace Episcopal Cathedral

Aug 25: Enroute Los Angeles--relax and enjoy the spectacular scenery!

Aug 26: Los Angeles pt. 2
Visiting: Walt Disney Concert Hall (Rosales/Glätter-Götz) 4/109
Nethercutt Museum (Wurlitzer) 4/73.

Additional free time at the Nethercutt to enjoy its collections of classic automobiles, musical instruments, steam locomotive and private car.

Aug 27: San Diego pt. 2

Aug 28: Guests depart



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

www.sierrachapterATOS.org

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

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

Harmony Wynelands
9291 E. Harney Ln
Lodi, CA



Sunday,
April 10, 2016
2:00PM

2015 ATOS
Organist of the
Year



David Gray

*On the
Mighty Morton*

\$15 Advance

NORCAL EVENT

Berkeley Community Theatre
1930 Allston Way
Enter Via Stage Door

Featuring
John Lauter

Sunday,
April 3, 2016

2:30PM

**\$15 General
NorCal Members Only**

*Join the chapter at the door for \$20
and receive free admission
For you and your guest to this concert*

FAIR OAKS PARK

Miller Park
Sunset @ Kenneth Ave

Saturday,
April 9, 2016
8:00AM

It's My Park Day



**Annual volunteer
cleanup.**

**Your volunteer hours will help
Sierra Chapter maintain its relation-
ship with the Parks District which
houses our Seaver Memorial 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