

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING & CATERED LUNCH



DECEMBER, 2013



## Christmas Party

A recent arrival to the Sacramento area from Las Vegas, please welcome **Thom Greathouse** who will be entertaining us on the Fair Oaks Wurlitzer

Mini-concert from 1:00 to  
1:30 P.M.

*OPEN Console after  
the annual meeting.*

SUNDAY, DEC. 1ST

1:00 P.M.

FAIR OAKS CLUBHOUSE  
7997 CALIFORNIA AVE.

\$6 DONATION

The most important part of the day will be the election of **Officers & Board members**. We need a **quorum!** A quorum requires that at least 20 National ATOS members be present to vote. We need **YOU** there!



**The meal will be catered!**

**Please be there by 1:00 as a count for meals will be taken.**

**Bring ONLY a \$6 donation!**

Beverages will be provided by the chapter. See you there!!!

### Closing Chord

Jim Spohn 1949-2013

Jim died November 7 after a prolonged illness. He was the owner/proprietor of the Bakersfield Granada Theatre and its 4/24 Wurlitzer. For many years, his Poorman's Organ Convention was a very popular event held each year in May.



### MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Member:  
**Dr. Peter Eveland**

Renewing at the Patron Level:  
**Greg De Santis**

Renewing at the Sustaining Level:  
**Gary French**



**President: Randy Warwick**

A member of Sierra Chapter since 1968, I served as Chapter VP and President in the late 70's, early 80's. While not a musician, I do play the organ for my own amusement, as well as for anyone willing to listen. I have owned too many electronic organs to count and at one time a six rank "Mortitzer" T.P.O. (thank you Dave Moreno for all the work on that too short-lived organ). I look forward to serving again as Chapter President working with the Board and as many of you who are willing, at keeping Sierra Chapter both a fun group as well as a vital presenter and advocate of the wonderful sound of wind through the pipes that we all love.





**Treasurer: Terry Clifton**



Terry Clifton was appointed to fill out the term of our previous Treasurer last January. He previously filled two terms as Secretary and is presently the printer and mailer of your *Organ Spiel*. He also has the duties of Membership Secretary and co-editor of the *Spiel*. He first became hooked on theatre organs back in the late '60s with Friday night Silent Movies at the West Seattle Granada Organ Loft. He has been a member of ATOS since 1970 and a member of Sierra Chapter since 1992. While not a player or technician, he remains fascinated by the mechanics and sound of these fabulous instruments.



**Board Member: Gary French**

Gary holds a love of organ music, especially Theatre Organ music, which prompted him to recently upgrade his theatre organ to a newer digital model. Although playing mostly for pleasure, he has been a choir accompanist and special service organist. He feels privileged to serve as one of your board members for the last two years. During that time, he has been able to work on the Fair Oaks organ and has gained first-hand knowledge of the complexity of a pipe organ, its maintenance requirements, and ongoing enhancement opportunities. There are a lot of challenges still facing us in the "preservation and promotion of the Theatre Pipe Organ and its music." As a board member, he wishes to continue to help the Sierra Chapter meet those challenges and bring the fascinating Theatre Organ and its music to an even larger group of enthusiasts.





**Board Member: Charles Metcalf**



Charlie is running for a first term on the Sierra Chapter Board. Prior to retirement from 911 dispatching, Charlie served for five years on the Board of the Fairfax Police Officers Association. Charlie also did volunteer (unpaid) efforts including 14 years of service as an umpire for Little League Baseball, and a current ongoing effort playing organ music for dementia patients. Charlie's interest in organ music began at age 12, skating to live music from the Hammond at the Culver City Rollerdrome. Charlie began playing organ at age 14 and currently owns two Hammonds and an Allen MDS-3. Charlie joined Sierra Chapter at the end of 2011 and is also an ATOS member. Charlie and his wife Kathy bought a home in Modesto in 2010, which is everything they want in a retirement residence.

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| <p><b>Chapter Officers</b></p> <p><b>President/Publicity</b><br/>1st term expires Dec 2013<br/><b>Randy Warwick</b><br/>661/392-0269<br/>Email: rwarwick@bak.rr.com</p> <p><b>Vice President</b><br/>1st term expires Dec 2014<br/><b>Carol Zerbo</b><br/>916/624-9182<br/>Email: cazbo@sbcglobal.net</p> <p><b>Secretary</b><br/>1st term expires Dec 2014<br/><b>Joan Grootveld</b><br/>916/635-4160<br/>Email: joanie52@sbcglobal.net</p> | <p><b>Treasurer</b><br/>Term expires Dec 2013<br/><b>Terry Clifton</b><br/>916/863-6344<br/>E-Mail: terry@elegantminis.com</p> <p><b>Webmaster</b><br/><b>Dave Sauer</b><br/>916/925-7440<br/>Email: davesauer@comcast.net</p> <p><b>Board Member/Facebook</b><br/>2nd term expires Dec 2014<br/><b>William Coale, Ph.D.</b><br/>510/778-9117<br/>Email: wmcoale@comcast.net</p> | <p><b>Board Member</b><br/>1st term expires Dec 2013<br/><b>Gary French</b><br/>916/726-4516<br/>Email: gary.f8201@comcast.net</p> <p><b>Board Member</b><br/>1st Term expires Dec 2014<br/><b>Paul Brown</b><br/>916/632-1093<br/>Email: psnrbrown@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Board Member/Program Dir</b><br/>Term expires Dec 2013<br/><b>Craig Peterson</b><br/>916/682-9699<br/>Email: peterson59@comcast.net</p> | <p><b>Membership</b><br/><b>Terry Clifton</b><br/>916/863-6344<br/>Email: terry@elegantminis.com</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editors</b><br/><b>Sherry &amp; Terry Clifton</b><br/>916/863-6344<br/>Email: sherry@elegantminis.com</p> <p><b>Organ Technician</b><br/><b>Dave Moreno</b><br/>916/484-7356<br/>Email: davem@lanset.com</p> <p><b>Historian &amp; Recording Library</b><br/><b>Beverly Harris</b><br/>916/332-2837</p> |
|--|--|---|---|



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—Randy Warwick



Sierra Chapter ATOS wraps up our 46<sup>th</sup> year, having had a variety of well-received concert and movie presentations for which we thank our roster of artists for the year: **Ken Double, Dave Moreno, Walt Strony, Greg De Santis, Chris Elliot, Paul Quarino, and Donna Parker.** These events were held at a nice variety of venues, starting with

**Geoff Hansen's** Wurlitzer in Hunter Hall, Rio Vista; then the good old, now-installed (32 years ago), Chapter-owned Fair Oaks Wurlitzer; and next the Robert Morton organ at Ironstone Vineyards. Then there was our picnic/potluck concert at **Pete and Dianne McCluer's** home in the foothills where we heard their mighty Wurlitzer. Last, but certainly not least in the context of the theatre organ world, the two events at the historic Grant High School Wurlitzer ended our year on a high note.

I have to put in "many thanks" to our officers and board this year for making Sierra Chapter such a smooth running organization and a pleasure to head up as President: VP **Carol Zerbo**, among other things, headed up the George Wright CD Project. Treasurer **Terry Clifton** used the first year of his retirement to really get involved with the Chapter by doing not only a wonderful job putting together our news-

letter BUT also functioning as Chapter Treasurer, including membership functions. **Joanie Grootveld**, our Recording Secretary, knows shorthand and always gets it right. Board member **Gary French** headed the disbursement of the Chapter Music Library. Board members **Bill Coale** (who helped Carol with graphics on the GW CD) and **Paul Brown** gave invaluable support and participation throughout the year. Board member **Craig Peterson**, probably the most involved member of the last 20+ years, is responsible for putting together our programs and the "care and feeding" of the out-of-town organists. Webmaster **Dave Sauer** continues to ensure that we have one of the best websites of any ATOS chapter. And, of course, although it is not an elected position, we have to thank (for about the 33<sup>rd</sup> (?) year) our organ tech, organist, comedian, and all around great guy **Dave Moreno**.

As to our future, I would have to think that while any chance for a treasured "in theatre" installation in Sacramento is a boat that sailed away long ago, the arrival of the New York Paramount Studio "Jesse Crawford" 4/21 Wurlitzer awaiting restoration in **Dick Taylor's** Rocklin building has got to be a sign of good things and great music to come. Lastly, we welcome, having moved into the foothills from Las Vegas this year, two-time ATOS Organist of the Year and ATOS "Hall of Fame" member **Walt Strony** to our part of the world.

## Cameron Carpenter to perform at the Mondavi in Davis



### Answer to last month's Trivia question:

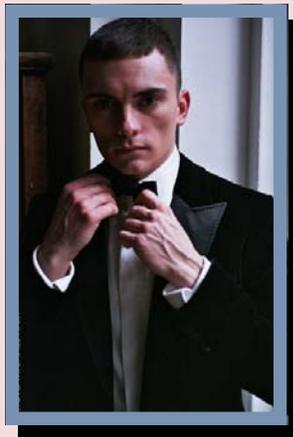
Above is the massive pedalboard for Cameron Carpenter's new touring organ.

Sierra Chapter member **Wendell Jacob** is sponsoring the upcoming performance of **Cameron Carpenter** on **April 2, 2014 at 8:00PM.**

Wendell has arranged for a block of prime seats to be held for American Theatre Organ Society Chapter members. **BUT** this block of tickets will be released to the general public on December 20. So, get your tickets now!!

Phone the Mondavi at **(530) 754-4448**

Reference "ORGAN SOCIETY" to be seated in this special block.



*"No other musician of Carpenter's generation has more adeptly fused shrewd showmanship, dazzling technique and profound thinking about his instrument and his place in the musical cosmos."* —

*San Francisco Chronicle*

At right, Cameron sits on the "world's largest organ bench"! In reality, the bench for this organ was still being constructed when this photo was taken. He is facing his new 5 manual touring console which will be featured at his Mondavi performance.



CAMERON CARPENTER INTERNATIONAL TOURING ORGAN www.CameronCarpenter.com



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

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

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

First Class  
 Postage  
 Stamp

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

### SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse  
 7997 California Ave



Sunday,  
 December 1st  
 1:00 PM

Annual Meeting and

**Christmas Party**



◆ Catered Dinner

### FAIR OAKS PARK EVENT

Fair Oaks Clubhouse  
 7997 California Ave

Friday,  
 January 24th (tentative)

**Silent Movie**

Featuring

**Dave Moreno**

More information to come  
 in the January Spiel

### STOCKTON FOX EVENT

**BOB HOPE THEATRE**

242 East Main Street

**WHITE CHRISTMAS**



Sunday  
Dec 8

1:00PM  
 \$8/Adults

Featuring  
**DAVE MORENO**

On the  
*Mighty Morton*

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)