# The Organ Spiel

Newsletter for the Sierra Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

# Theatre Organ Concert



February 09

Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave.

Paul Quarino

Sunday, Feb. 8th 2:00 P.M.

# The Gospel According to Paul

A Theatre Organ Concert of Gospel



# About Our Featured Organist, Paul Quarino

Paul Quarino has been accompanying silent films for us at the Towe Auto Museum since 1993, played concerts for us at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse and Morton Madness. For 22 years, Paul was the primary organist at the Portland Organ Grinder restaurant where for 12 years he had a Sunday afternoon program called "The Gospel According to Paul" which attracted quite a following. It is this that he will share with us next.





As Musical Products Evaluator for the Rodgers Organ Company, Paul now lives in Hillsboro, Oregon. He has spent most of his life playing the organ in Concerts, Silent Film Presentations and Restaurant Entertainment. Over the years, Paul has been an American Theatre Organ Society convention favorite and he has three recordings to his credit.

#### So, What IS Gospel Music?

From the smooth sounds of Sam Cooke to the dancing, acrobatic vocals of Kirk Franklin, gospel music does more than just sound sweet--it literally moves its listeners. Whether it's swaying with the choirs or tappin' along with the quartets or simply raising hands to the rhythm of soul-stirring crooners, gospel is one genre of music that needs to be heard. Once narrowly defined as religious, gospel has transcended those limits to become a profound force in American music and popular culture.

The term "gospel music" actually encompasses a number of subgenres, from the original Negro spirituals to the most contemporary Christian "Praise and Worship" songs used in modern worship services. Gospel music in general deals with religious (largely Christian) themes based on sacred texts and traditions. As with rock music, gospel music evolved from two separate but influential paths: Caucasian religious hymnody and African-American traditional spirituals. Today's subgenres of gospel music can all be placed along the path of intersection between those two musical philosophies.

"Gospel music is coming to the mainstream," says gospel diva Yolanda Adams. "Singers are coming out of the church and introducing the gospel style to a mainstream audience." Gospel music is composed and performed for many purposes, including aesthetic pleasure, religious or ceremonial purposes, and as an entertainment product for the marketplace. An excerpt by Phil Petrie

#### Silent Auction Scholarship Fundraiser



Sierra Chapter member, Vern Bickel has graciously donated an organ themed vest, modeled by Board Member Marian Galbraith (left), to be auctioned at the Paul Quarino concert on February 8th. This auction will be a silent auction. That means your best chance to win this vest is to be there in person! However, bids will also be accepted via regular or e-mail. Bidding starts at \$25.00.

All mail bids must be received by Saturday, February 7.



#### Regular mail should be directed to:

Sierra Chapter ATOS P.O. Box 2017 Fair Oaks, CA 95628-2017

E-mail bids to terry@parklaneblessings.com

If the winning bidder is not present, they are responsible for Priority Mail shipping, which is estimated to be \$12.95.



## **Bid High To Buy!!**

This is a close-up of the beautifully embroidered organ on the back of the vest.

## All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE—CAROL ZERDO



We're off to a good start in 2009. Donnie Rankin's concert at Fair Oaks was wonderful. At 19, he is unflappable (yep, Aunt Clara showed up to test him. I'm convinced I heard somebody cackling in the solo chamber). He played a variety of songs, 3 of which you can hear on

Youtube.com/ sierrachapterATOS

Thank you webmaster Dave for being so prompt in posting!

We had a few new faces in the audience and it is reassuring to know that our younger artists are appreciated and, I'm sure it is encouraging for them to think that people will be listening as they mature. Donnie is under no illusion that he can make a living as a touring artist. This is the unfortunate reality of our niche in today's musical world. It is, and always has been, highly selective but, as long as we can continue to put "butts on benches" there will be artists whose love of the genre outweighs common sense

And, speaking of attending, one of our own was called upon, on very short notice, to play for about 700 fifth and sixth graders at Grant Union High School. Joyce Clifford played the organ for about 30 minutes before a presentation by Michael Morgan, conductor of the Sacramento Symphony. Maestro Morgan brought a couple of his orchestra musicians along to demonstrate their instruments in a sort of "show and tell" program. Guess what - the kids were mesmerized by the organ! Morgan wisely asked Joyce to remain for the questionanswer period and she fielded some very good questions about how that music box full of air worked and what it takes to play one.

People, this is a perfect example of getting the message out to the younger generation. Starting with Mark Herman's concert in November, the school board sat up and took notice of the organ. Now, students are being bussed in and hearing the organ, any organ probably for the first time and they are interested! Kudos to Sondra Fuson of the Alumni Association for her continued efforts to promote this important part of Grant's history and also to Joyce Clifford for stepping up and giving of her time and talents for this wonderful opportunity. We are so fortunate to have members who are willing to go above and beyond for the Chapter.

In addition to his technician's duties. Dave Moreno toured Donnie Rankin around on Saturday prior to his Sunday concert. Donnie got to see and play the Towe, Grant, and Wendell Jacob's SF Moller lobby organ. Terry and Sherry **Clifton** hosted Donnie in their first class B&B, and Irene Wilper alerted music teachers about the "kid at the console". Bless you all and job well done!

The first weekend in February will be busy. For those of you who would like to visit our many Museums - here's your chance. On Saturday, February 7th the Museums are open free of charge. Now that's public relations at its best. Of course, the Towe is participating and the organ will be out. All who can come are welcome. Stop by and say Hi! Then on Sunday, Paul Quarino will be at Fair Oaks for some good old-fashioned gospel and popular music. Paul is always fun and what better day than Sunday?

The good times are rolling -come and join in!



CZ

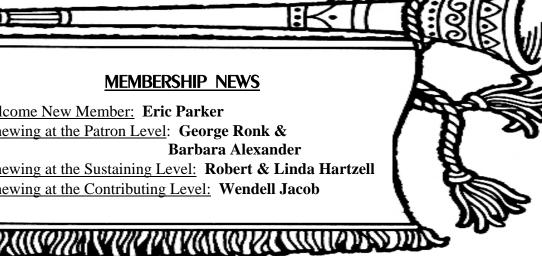
# **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Welcome New Member: Eric Parker

Renewing at the Patron Level: George Ronk & **Barbara Alexander** 

Renewing at the Sustaining Level: Robert & Linda Hartzell

Renewing at the Contributing Level: Wendell Jacob





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### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

#### SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Clubhouse 7997 California Ave

Sunday February 8th

2:00 PM



**Paul Quarino** 

The Gospel According to Paul

#### **MORTON MADNESS**

April 18

Harmony Wynelands Lodi, CA



Ironstone Vineyards Murphys, CA

**Guest Artist TBA** 

\$50 per person includes Buffet Dinner

#### **NOR-CAL TOS EVENT**

Berkeley Community Theater

Sunday Feb 15 -2:30 PM

> Ron Reseigh \$15/General Admission

#### **STOCKTON FOX EVENT**

Bob Hope Theatre 242 E. Main Stockton, CA

Friday Feb 13—7:00PM

Classic Film Series
My Fair Lady
Organ Concert 6:30PM
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