

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

THEATRE ORGAN CONCERT - WALT STRONY



FEBRUARY 2012

## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

### WALT STRONY

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. In addition, he has performed at many conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists.

In July 2007 he performed the first solo organ recital to be presented in many years at New York's Radio City Music Hall for the American Theatre Organ Society's 2007 Convention. 

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" - the youngest person currently in it. He has performed with the Calgary Symphony; Allentown Symphony; El Paso Symphony; and Symphony Silicon Valley.

In addition to his fine reputation as a concert organist, Mr. Strony is 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 30 albums with his most recent CD (2007) being recorded on the world's largest theatre organ at the Sanfilippo Music Room in Barrington, IL.

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.

In addition to being one of America's most sought after concert organists, his services as a pipe and digital organ consultant-tonal finisher are in great demand. His work in this area has taken him to both theatre and classical instruments around the world. In 2008, the Allen Organ Company commissioned him to design a new four-manual instrument - the Walt Strony Signature Series Organ.

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.

In his spare time, he works on the restoration of his mid-century Las Vegas home and enjoys traveling, fine dining, and collecting Art Deco items.

This well-rounded musician brings a wealth of experience to any organ console. This experience has brought him the reputation of being one of America's most original and interesting sounding concert organists. As one reviewer noted - "Strony has become one of the rare breed of today's younger theatre organists to have developed a style uniquely his own. 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."



## Pops Concert at Ironstone Featuring Brett Valliant Saturday Afternoon, April 14

Included with this newsletter is an order form for this event. Note, that there are two sides of the form. One side is for "Drive it Yourself" and the other for "Admission Plus Bus Transportation". If joining us on a bus, be sure to check off which bus you will be using.

*Enjoy the concert and leave the driving to us!*

### Pianist Mimi Blais

Mimi, from Quebec, Canada, has received several nicknames during her career: The Female Victor Borga, The Celine Dion of the Keyboard, The French-Canadian Liberace...but the one she's most proud of is *The Queen of Ragtime!*



**Saturday, March 3rd @ 3:00**

**Bill Trabucco Ranch, Nevada City  
RSVP: 530/273-4252 or email Bill  
billtrabucco@saber.net**

Suggested donation is \$20

## Get Rid of the Winter Doldrums With a Visit to Wendell Jacobs' Open House/Open Console

Here is a chance to hear the San Francisco Fox Theatre Lobby. This Moller 2 Manual, 14 Rank Pipe Organ fits well in Jacobs' lovely Organ Room. And even better, you can take a turn at the keyboard and admire Jacobs' many other instruments featured in the room. These include a working Calliope, a Wurlitzer Band Organ, Ragtime Piano, a Conn Theatre Organ (once owned by Everett Nourse), a Hammond B3 complete with Leslie Speaker and an Antique Reed Organ. Bring your lunch if you wish -- there are tables and chairs both inside and outside in the beautiful garden. This promises to an especially enjoyable outing! See the back page for Date, Location, and Time.

## Clark Wilson

**at the Stockton Fox**

On Sunday, May 20th,  
Clark will be accompanying the Silent Classic:  
*Steamboat Bill, Jr. (1928)*  
on the 1928 Robert Morton Theatre Organ. More details to come.

### SILENT MOVIE EVENTS

Courtesy of Dave Moreno

**February 8th, 2012**

Silent Comedy Films at Noon  
'FINISHING TOUCH' (1928) Laurel & Hardy  
'ONE WEEK' (1920) Buster Keaton  
Special Guest Hosts: Dr. Kristen Wagner  
**WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
1300 N St/downtown Sacramento  
admission is Free  
(bring your lunch)  
**12noon** (916) 442-8939



**FEBRUARY 17th, 2012**

An Evening of Comedy Shorts  
"SATURDAY AFTERNOON" (1926)  
Harry Langdon  
"UNDER A SPELL" (1925) Alice Howell  
"ALL WET" (1927) Charley Chase  
"NO PLACE LIKE JAIL" (1918) Stan Laurel  
**HARMONY WYNELANDS,**  
9291 East Harney Lane, Lodi, CA  
**ShowTime: 7:30 pm.**  
Reservations: (209) 369-4184  
Tickets: \$12 per person

#### Chapter Officers

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Term expires Dec 2012

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – Randy Warwick

The January event at the Fair Oaks Clubhouse, *Flashback Cinema: 1920's* went very well with close to a sell-out of about 180! Playing silent comedies is **Dave Moreno's** specialty and he was definitely on his game. An enthusiastic crowd of all ages, most of whom had never seen a silent film with live organ accompaniment, left that night understanding that *movie going* in the 1920's was entertaining in a way generally not experienced today. Many thanks to **Nick Davison** and the crew at Fair Oaks Parks & Rec. for putting on and sponsoring this event. And, thanks to Dave and our "Popcorn King" **Tom Norvell**. We look forward to more opportunities to

partner with the folks at Fair Oaks.

On the topic of silent movies, even though there was no organ music, I recommend the new silent in current release, "The Artist". This film is up for several Academy Awards including Best Picture. It very much captures the magic of silent films with an original orchestral score, great acting, plus some unique creative touches. And it is in black and white.

Everybody come out February 19 to Fair Oaks to see and hear world class organist, the incredible **Walt Strony**. Walt is the youngest organist to ever be inducted into the ATOS Hall of

Fame. If you go to only one event (hopefully not just one) this year, then this has got to be it.



Now for an update on the Fair Oaks Organ: The Wurlitzer Tuba is in and is a definite improvement from the prior Smith Tuba. The new 16' Tuba octave is being installed. **Dave Moreno** with help from **Gary French** and **Terry Clifton** will have the Clarinet installed on its rebuilt windchest in time for the Walt Strony concert. Thanks to **Paul Brown** for troubleshooting the combination action.

*Board Meeting*  
Saturday

*February 11*

**10:00AM**

Home of Carol Zerbo  
Open to all Members

Please RSVP to Carol if you plan to attend.  
**916-624-9182**



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Members:  
**M J Mitchell**

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:  
**Terry & Sherry Clifton**

## 2012 Directory

We need any phone or e-mail address updates, now! Your 2012 directory will be printed next month.

We have your Phone # as:

And your E-Mail as:

Please contact **Terry Clifton**  
**(916) 863-6344**  
if you have any changes.

## New - Atlantic City Convention Hall CD

For the first time on CD, the two most famous recordings made on the *two* great organs in the Atlantic City Convention Hall are now on one CD, after decades of unavailability. In November of 1956, Mercury Records recorded Robert Elmore in stereo on the **world's largest organ (7 manuals, 449 ranks built by the Midmer-Losh firm)**, when it was in-tune and functioning, playing four great works of J. S. Bach in the cavernous Convention Hall. At the same time, a very pleasing program was recorded on the very fine **1929 Kimball 4-55** located in the grand acoustic of the Ballroom. The original stereo tapes have been digitally transferred with 24-bit technology utilizing the High Definition Compatible Digital process. The CD booklet contains notes on the organs, the stoplist of the Kimball (the stoplist of the Midmer-Losh organ is available from many sources), and notes on Robert Elmore and the original recording sessions. Order from the OHS catalog, or at: <http://www.ohscatalog.org/baonbibopiat.html>





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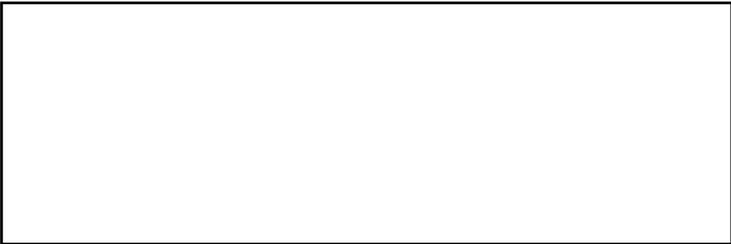
P.O. Box 2017  
Fair Oaks, California 95628

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

[youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS](http://youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)

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# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

## SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Clubhouse  
7997 California Ave

### Walt Strony In Concert



**Sunday  
February 19th**

**2:00PM**

- \$10 — General
- \$8 — Members
- \$5 — Students
- \$20 — Family



## NORCAL CHAPTER EVENT

Sierra Chapter Members  
are Welcome



Open House &  
Open Console

Home of  
Wendell Jacobs

48 College Park, Davis, CA  
530-753-3916

Sunday February 26, 2012

Noon to 4 PM

## STOCKTON FOX EVENT

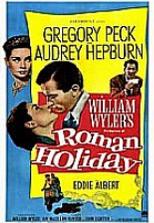
### *Roman Holiday*

Friday, February 24

**6:30PM**

\$8/Adults  
Featuring

*Tom Thompson  
On the  
Mighty Morton*



### **HARMONY WYNELANDS**

An Evening of Comedy Shorts  
**Photo-play by Dave Moreno**

Friday, February 17 7:30PM

Admission: \$12 per person  
**Reservations: (209) 369-4184**  
9291 East Harney Lane, Lodi, CA

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)