

The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

ORGAN CONCERT



24TH GEORGE WRIGHT TRIBUTE CONCERT

\$20/AT THE DOOR (CASH OR CHECK)



FEBRUARY 2026

GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL

1400 Grand Avenue

Sacramento

SATURDAY,

Feb. 21st

2:00 PM

\$20 (cash or check)

Doors open at 1:00PM

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 Howard Scott and George Wright on December 8, 1939. Recent improvements to the organ have been completed including a replacement Post horn more suitable to the size of the Grant auditorium.

Mark Herman is a distinguished American theatre organist who has performed hundreds of solo concerts and silent film presentations across the United States and internationally. He received the prestigious American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year award in 2012, becoming the youngest recipient in the society's history.

Featured on American Public Media's *Pipedreams* and at conventions for various organ societies, Mark has toured internationally in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the UK. His work has been showcased on television and in films, including a notable 2019 organ cameo with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Renowned for his period-authentic film scores, he composed and recorded new scores for The Criterion Collection's *Harold Lloyd* Blu-ray release in 2019.

Mark studied theatre organ with John Ferguson and classical piano with Christine Freeman. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Arts/Management from DePaul University. Residing in Los Angeles, he is the President of [Herman Organ Company](#), leading a talented team in the museum-quality restoration and care of historic pipe organs.

GUEST ARTIST MARK HERMAN



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE — Randy Warwick



In the prior newsletter, I stated 2026 bodes well for the Chapter, but I neglected to mention that **Geoff Hansen** has gifted two ranks that had been on indefinite loan to the Chapter organ in addition to the console and relay. And to top it off, he added in a Kinura rank of pipes (that's the one with a thin buzzy sound great for light, rhythmic tunes). Once again, *thank you so much Geoff* for your generosity! This project will require many hours of work. **Dave** can use some volunteer help to get the console change implemented and other aspects that will give us a much better organ after many years of service from the Morton console which was donated to the chapter by **Steve Restivo**.

On Saturday, February 21, 2026, is our return to the restored Grant High School George Wright Tribute Concert with Mark Herman. We urge all members to support this event.

IL TEMPIO DI MUSICA

Upcoming Programs for 2026

Sunday, March 22nd 2:00 pm

Lynn Schugren, Piano An All Beethoven program.

Sunday, March 29th 3:00 pm

Muriel Anderson, Harp/Guitar

This is guitar like you may have never seen/heard before.

Sunday, April 26th 2:00 pm

Nevada County Composer's Cooperative

New works by a number of composers,
various ensembles and soloists

Late August, TBD

Dalton Ridenhour, Piano; Danny Coots, percussion

Ragtime, Stride, Blues, early jazz.

Near Grass Valley, CA

More info and RSVP, at email billtrabucco@saber.net

Or phone 530-273-4252

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome Back:

John & Cindy Carleton (Patron)
Tim Laskey (Sustaining)



Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

Edward M Stout III

Renewing at the Patron Level:

Gary French
Bill & Alice Kutzer
Charles Lindquist
Walt Strongy

NOTE: Your memberships can now be renewed online. See your mailing label for your expiration month and year. Go to:

SierraChapterATOS.org/onlineapplication.html

Select your Membership Option
and click on Add to Cart.

You will then be directed to pay by
Credit Card or PayPal.

Chapter Officers

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8th term expires Dec 2027
Randy Warwick
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7th term expires Dec 2026
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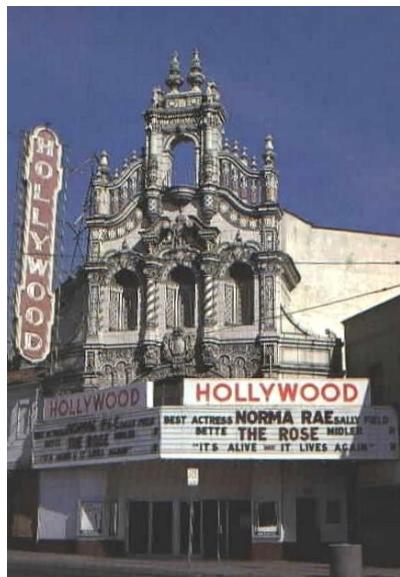
Beverly Harris
916/332-2837

The history of Wurlitzer Opus 1327



Opus 1327 was originally installed in the Hollywood Theater in Portland Oregon in 1926. It was a 3/10 Style H "special."

In 1955, it was moved to the Imperial Ice Rink in Portland. As was typical for skating rink installations, all pipes, wind chests, percussions and traps were located in the rafters above the skating floor. For some reason, in the early 70's, it went into storage and was supposedly owned by the McDonalds Restaurant chain.



In the late '70s, it was purchased by **Dr. John Dapolito and his wife Jane** in La Mesa, California, (San Diego area) and installed in his residence. Over the years it was expanded to 20+ ranks including several MIDI ranks. Dr. Dapolito had the entire console restored with new keyboards. It was beautifully refinished in natural mahogany. A prototype S'andelco relay was installed and the console now had a capacity of 23+ ranks.



In 2020 after the passing of Dr. Dapolito, the console was put up for sale and when **Geoff Hansen** heard about it, he purchased it and put it on display in the lobby of **Hunter Hall** in Rio Vista. Geoff expanded it to handle 40 ranks and had plans to use it for a Hauptwerk project. Last fall, when Geoff heard about the failure of the combination action in the Sierra Chapter Morton console, he decided to donate his Wurlitzer console to us.

Dave Moreno is currently downsizing the console to match our instrument in the Fair Oaks Clubhouse and plans to add a few new ranks that will be installed in the future. The console portion of the Uniflex 5000 relay, that was also donated by **Geoff Hansen**, will be installed prior to transfer to Fair Oaks. The Z-tronics relay in our organ's chambers will be replaced with the new Uniflex 5000 system.

Our Robert Morton 3 manual console, once owned by Buddy Cole, will be transferred to Hunter Hall so that Geoff can use it for his Hauptwerk project.



Sources used for this article include:

PSTOS.org, TheatreOrgans.com, Mark Herman, Geoff Hansen, Julie P and Dave Moreno.



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www.sierrachapterATOS.org

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

SIERRA CHAPTER/ GRANT UNION ALUMNI EVENT

Grant Union High School
1400 Grand Ave
Sacramento, CA

MARK HERMAN

Saturday,
February 21st, 2026
2:00PM

\$20 At the Door
(cash or checks)
Students - Free

NORCAL EVENT

Berkeley Community Theatre
1930 Allston Way
Berkeley, CA

*The Organ is
currently being
repaired from
damage caused
during the theatre
renovation*

*Re-opening is
scheduled for 2026.*

SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse
7997 California Ave
Fair Oaks, CA

Hot August Pipes

More information

In a

Future Newsletter