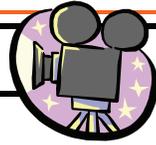


# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

Silent Movie from 1925



May 2009

Friday,  
May 22

## Seven Chances

GUEST ARTIST

JERRY NAGANO

CALIFORNIA AUTO  
MUSEUM  
(FORMERLY THE TOWE)

will accompany  
the silent film.

8:00PM

ABOUT THE ARTIST

### ABOUT THE FILM

**Jerry Nagano** was born and raised in the Los Angeles area where he began his musical training at age ten. From the very beginning, the movies played a major role in his musical life. But it was when he attended a silent movie that Jerry experienced his first major interest in the organ. When Jerry moved to Northern California, he became a member of the musician staff at the Stanford Theater, in Palo Alto. For ten years, he was the featured artist at the famed *Ye Olde Pizza Joynt* in Hayward. During the day, Jerry is a Computer Systems Engineer for Stanford University.

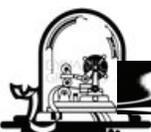
Jimmie (Buster Keaton) is a young stockbroker who has gotten into financial difficulties with his partner Billy. When Jimmie learns a rich grandfather has died and left him 7 million dollars in his will, it looks like Jimmie's troubles may be over. But there is a catch: Jimmie must marry by 7PM on the evening of his 27th birthday, which is the same day he is notified of the possible windfall. He asks



his girlfriend Mary to marry him and she says yes, but then he bungles the proposal when he tells her the reason why he must marry her "today".

No girl likes to think she is being married just to obtain a fortune and Mary spurns Jimmie.

This dilemma leads to Jimmie's partner, Billy, convincing him he must marry "some girl", since he owes it to their friendship and partnership to obtain the money to salvage their business. The madness then ensues, where Jimmie proposes to every female in sight, including the famous female impersonator Julian Eltinge.





# Grant Union Special Concert

## Featured Organist

### Joyce Clifford

Where: Grant Union High School Auditorium  
1400 Grand Avenue  
Sacramento

When: **Saturday May 16th 2:00PM**

### About the Event

The GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION became nonprofit in 1984 and is celebrating 25 years of success and dedication to their Alma Mater. In giving back, they continue to accomplish their goals:

- Providing scholarships to assist deserving students to further their education (they gave \$29,000 last year)
- Keeping in touch with classmates
- Preserving historic items and artifacts
- Supporting school activities
- Please help us spread the word to alumni and friends.

Admission is free, but donations are warmly accepted!



Joyce Clifford, a California resident, has shown decided talent for music since early childhood. Her piano experience was broadened by the transfer of her talents to the diversified music of the organ.

Among the teachers with whom she has studied are: Richard Purvis of San Francisco, a renowned classical organist. The remarkable legacy of the "living legend," George Wright, lives on through Joyce's many years of tutelage with George in his Los Angeles studio. Joyce has transcribed many of George's fantastic arrangements, keeping the technique of this remarkable genius alive.

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – CAROL ZERBO



By the time most of y'all get this, we will have been to two, count 'em, two wonderful concerts.

*Morton Madness* was fun from start to finish.

Mark Herman proved he has the poise and repertoire to join the big names on the circuit.

Two concerts on two organs in two venues for the same audience on the same day is no small feat but Mark overcame travel troubles and a minimum amount of practice time to delight the crowd with a polished and varied playlist. At 21, he is just a "kid" but quite an amazing one. It is comforting to know that the future of theatre organ music is secured. Mark's best years are ahead of him. It will be fun to watch, and listen to, his journey. I would be remiss if I didn't write **a huge THANK YOU to Craig Peterson.** This is Craig's baby from start to finish and it takes monumental patience and time to make this day's activities go smoothly. I'll bet he sleeps well on Sunday night.

Our next adventure involved Lew Williams. May 3rd's *Bus Trip to Berkeley* to hear this "Phoenix phenom" solves a logistical problem that, I fear, keeps a lot of people

from enjoying the wonders of the Berkeley organ. How nice to just get on a bus, sit back and let the driver navigate highway 80, the crowded streets of Berkeley, find a place to park, then deliver us to a nice dinner before reversing the process. I have had the pleasure of hearing Lew Williams at Organ Stop pizza in Mesa, AZ. This is not the easiest organ to play, yet Lew W controls the thing like it was just an extension of his hands and feet. Compared to that, the Berkeley organ is a holiday and Lew's talent is audible and visible since we now have the benefit of being able to see the keyboard as he plays. And play he did -- a wonderfully varied program of both classical and popular songs, oldies we theatre organ folk like to hear, a bit of "newer" music from the sixties and more current movie music a la Disney. I'm just guessing here but I'll bet his repertoire is fashioned around requests from Organ Stop patrons who are more familiar with the Beatles than Jerome Kern.

Add to that some wonderfully witty introductions, delivered without a microphone (Lew had to use his "theatre" voice until he was handed a small red cone to use as a megaphone) and in his unflappable,

quiet style, Lew's concert was a wonderful way to spend a Sunday afternoon. This was followed by dinner at the new *Brennan's*. It was another fun day for Sierra Chapter, this one brought to you by **a person who wears many hats, Dave Sauer.** As treasurer of Sierra Chapter, he handles ticket sales for our events but he also makes arrangements for buses, deals with backstage details and is always thinking about ways to make our concerts more user-friendly. And when it's all over, he will deliver a detailed report! I am most grateful to have him on the team.

Our last May offering is the 22nd at Towe (oops, California Automobile Museum). Jerry Naganano will be playing "Seven Chances". Details on the front page.

Another FUN night!

Hope to see y'all there.

Carol Z

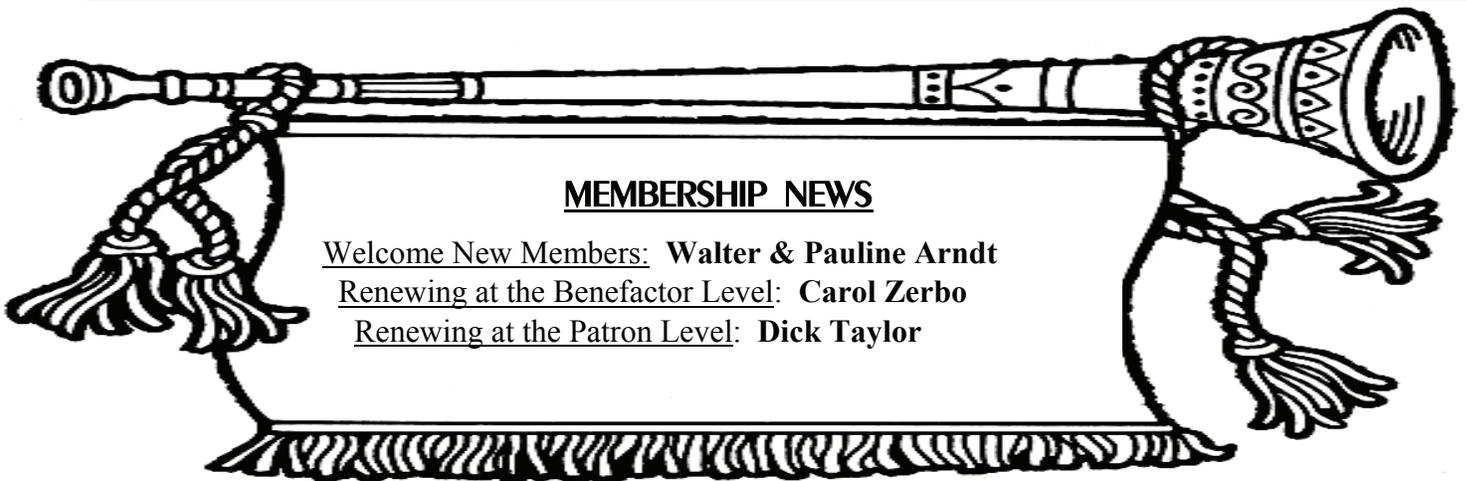


## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome New Members: **Walter & Pauline Arndt**

Renewing at the Benefactor Level: **Carol Zerbo**

Renewing at the Patron Level: **Dick Taylor**

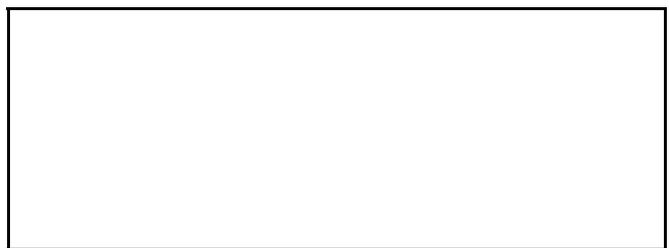




SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN  
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SierraChapterATOS](http://youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS

### **SIERRA CHAPTER EVENT**

California Auto Museum  
2200 Front Street

**Friday May 22 - 8:00PM**

*Seven Chances - 1925*

Silent Film - **Jerry Nagano**

\$10/General  
\$8/Members  
\$5/Students  
\$20/Family



### **GRANT UNION HIGH SCHOOL**

1400 Grand Avenue

**Saturday May 16**  
**2:00PM**

**Joyce Clifford**

**On the 4/21**  
**George Wright Memorial**  
**Theatre Pipe Organ**

Free Admission  
Donations Encouraged

### **SIERRA CHAPTER BOARD MEETING**

**Saturday May 16**  
**10:00AM**

Home of Carol Zerbo

### **STOCKTON FOX EVENT**

Bob Hope Theatre  
242 E. Main  
Stockton, CA

**Friday May 15 - 6:30 PM**

*East of Eden*  
Featuring **Tom Thompson**  
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)