

# The Organ Spiel

NEWSLETTER FOR THE SIERRA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY



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 Emil Martin, Howard Scott, and George Wright on December 8, 1939.

## CONCERT

## NOVEMBER 2009

### 12TH ANNUAL



## GEORGE WRIGHT

## MEMORIAL CONCERT

**GRANT UNION  
High School**  
1400 GRAND AVENUE  
SACRAMENTO

**SUNDAY,  
Nov. 15th  
2:00 PM**

## GUEST ARTIST:

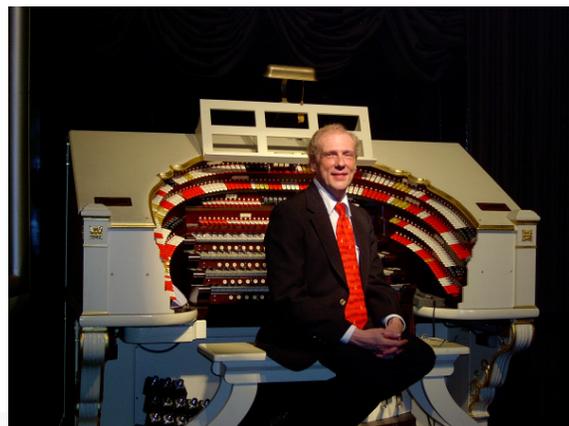
## CHRIS GORSUCH

Chris Gorsuch began formal studies on the organ at age fourteen. He was soon playing for several different churches in his home town of Springfield, Ohio. At twenty, Chris moved to San Diego, California, to become a staff organist for the Organ Power Pizza restaurant chain. One of the instruments that Chris played was the famed five-manual Reginald Foort Traveling Moller Theatre Pipe Organ, now installed at the Pasadena Civic Center. While playing for the restaurant, Chris became a student of Lyn Larsen. Chris gained invaluable knowledge from Lyn in the areas of registration and phrasing.

Having a fascination with electronics, in 1979 he formed his own company with the purpose of designing and manufacturing electronic systems for pipe and electronic organs. His company has created many new and innovative products including digitally sampled sounds and computer software. Chris is also a sought-after voicer and tonal finisher. He feels as much at home in a pipe organ chamber as he does on the bench playing the finished product. He has been the tonal finisher of several major instruments in the United States.

Chris also functions as a recording engineer and has been responsible for recording and mastering a number of CD's released by several major artists. Developing new arrangements, concertizing, recording, improving the sounds of both electronic and pipe organs and running a business make for a very interesting life. In all of this, Chris has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to strive for excellence in a demanding profession; chosen Organist of the Year in 2008.

In 2008, the American Theatre Organ Society presented Chris with the prestigious Organist Of The Year award. Do NOT miss this consummate professional at the Grant concert!



<b>12th Annual George Wright Memorial Concert Advance Ticket Order Form</b>		
<p><b>GUEST ARTIST:</b> Chris Gorsuch</p> <p><b>DATE:</b> Sunday, November 15, 2009</p> <p><b>TIME:</b> 2:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>LOCATION:</b> Grant Union High School</p> <p>Make checks payable to <b>Sierra Chapter, ATOS</b></p> <p>Complete this fill-in form, then print and mail it with your check to:</p> <p><b>Dave Sauer P.O. Box 101 Sacramento, CA 95812</b></p> <p><i>The post office may return your letter if the address is not printed EXACTLY as above.</i></p>	<p>Name <input type="text"/></p> <p>Address <input type="text"/></p> <p>City <input type="text"/></p> <p>State <input type="text"/></p> <p>ZIP <input type="text"/></p> <p>Phone <input type="text"/></p> <p>Email <input type="text"/></p>	<p>Order your advance tickets now and save! Tickets will be \$10 at the box office.</p> <p>No babes in arms or strollers will be admitted.</p> <p><b>Ticket orders must be postmarked no later than November 10, 2009.</b></p> <p><input type="text"/> x \$8</p> <p>Total Amount \$ <input type="text"/></p>

**For Sale** — Two Allen MDS-17 3-manual Theatre Organs owned by Dennis Fertitta. Priced at \$20,000 for the larger & \$18,000 for the smaller, or best offer. See picture at left. Contact Damien Fertitta at (775) 287-4988 for more details.



**CLOSING CHORD**



**Dennis Fertitta**, one of our members from the Reno area, passed away on September 23rd. He was riding his motorcycle when he was hit by a car. Dennis was also a NorCal member and a student of David Hagarty.

**Chapter Officers**

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1st term expires Dec 2009  
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1st term expires Dec 2010  
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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE – CAROL ZERBO

Great fun at Cal Auto Museum on October 23. *Mr October*, **Paul Quarino**, played *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. We had a good-sized crowd, which is always the case for our October feature. I hadn't seen the movie before. John Barrymore, profile and all, was amazing in his ability to change his face, without the use of makeup, from character to character. Maybe he has come back as Jim Carrey.

I must offer a big "thank you" to everybody who works so hard to make our silent film nights a success - **Tom Norvell**, our gourmet popcorn maker, **Troy Killorn** and **Jim Leach**, who keep the drinks and candy flowing. **Sherry Clifton's** smiling face is the first one people see when they open the doors and **Dave Sauer** sees to it that we make a little money for Sierra Chapter. Hard-working **Terry Clifton** is always ready to sign up new members and **Barbara and Beverly Harris** help people review ATOS history with Journals and LP records. Movies don't happen unless we have projectionists and **Dr. Bob Barrett** kept the film rolling on the 23rd. This is no easy task - Bless you, Bob! Of course, a silent

movie really is a silent movie without the instrument that provides the sound and fury. As always, **Dave Moreno** makes sure the Mendenhall organ is up to the task. And the one person who was EVERYWHERE on Friday, **Craig Peterson** - talent procurer, crew chief, head janitor and he was still smiling at the end of the evening. You guys are the BEST!!

Of course, an appreciative audience makes it all worthwhile and when the media acknowledges our efforts and tells the public about us that is a real boost. Such is the case when Mary Jane Popp interviewed movie aficionado **Matias Bombal** on her KAH1 radio show, Popp Talk. Then Kitty O'Neil reminded her drive-time listeners about us on Friday. Thanks ladies! We appreciate the press!

I know our front page features this but, I hope November 15th is highlighted on everyone's calendar. I look forward to seeing y'all at Grant High School then.

If you have Sunday, November 1st free, why not hop on over to Berkeley and hear Scott Harrison and Mark Page on the organ and piano? This time, AMTRAK might come in real handy since the bay

bridge is shedding its parts. Come on - be adventurous. It's fun!



Speaking of fun, frequent AM-TRAK traveler, **Dave Sauer**, is our newest

Allen Organ owner. Dave couldn't resist a new Quantum 2 manual Allen theatre organ.

Congrats Dave - happy playing!

More fun -- If anyone hasn't made plans for Thanksgiving weekend, go to ATOS' website and check out the **Regional Convention** in Birmingham, Alabama from Friday through Monday after Thanksgiving. The friendly folks in Birmingham have lined up some great artists to play "Bertha". She has been recorded by quite a few organists and I'm sure she'll be in fine form. I believe six or so Sierra Chapter members are going so -- y'all come!

See you at Grant and Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Carol Z



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

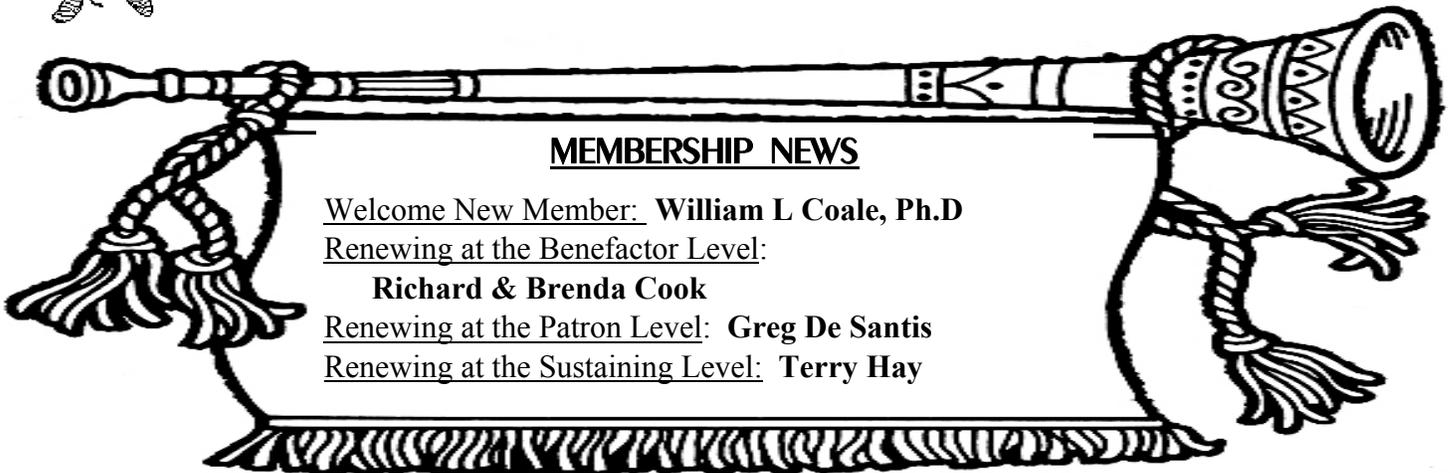
Welcome New Member: **William L Coale, Ph.D**

Renewing at the Benefactor Level:

**Richard & Brenda Cook**

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

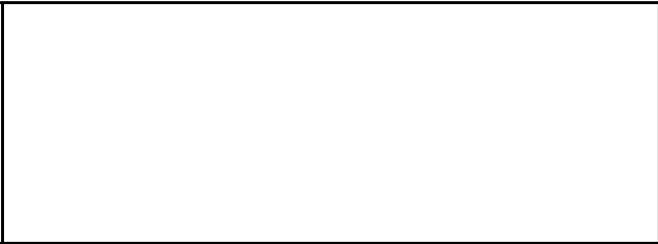
Renewing at the Sustaining Level: **Terry Hay**





P.O. Box 2017  
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**We are on the Web:**  
[sierrachapterATOS.org](http://sierrachapterATOS.org)  
[youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS](http://youtube.com/SierraChapterATOS)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR EVENTS**

**SIERRA CHAPTER/GRANT UNION ALUMNI EVENT**



**GEORGE WRIGHT  
MEMORIAL  
CONCERT**

Grant Union High School  
1400 Grand Ave.  
Sacramento, CA

**Sunday Nov 15 - 2:00 PM**  
**Chris Gorsuch**  
\$10/General  
**\$8 Advance Admission**

**BIRMINGHAM EVENT  
ALABAMA JUBILEE**  
Nov 27-29  
6 concerts at 2 venues



President@alabamatheatreorgan.com  
Or Go to their Web Site  
[www.alabamatheatreorgan.com](http://www.alabamatheatreorgan.com)

**SIERRA CHAPTER EVENTS**  
Fair Oaks Clubhouse  
7997 California Ave

**Sunday December 6th**  
**1:00 PM**



**Annual Meeting and  
Christmas Party  
Potluck Dinner**

**NOR-CAL TOS EVENT**  
Berkeley Community Theatre  
**Sunday Nov 1—2:30PM**

Scott Harrison &  
Mark Page

\$15/General Admission

**Stockton Fox Event**

Bob Hope Theatre  
242 E. Main  
Stockton, CA

**Sunday Nov 29 -  
1:30PM**

*Mary Poppins*  
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 Revenue Code and Section 23701d of the organized for the purpose of preservation 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)

tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal California Revenue and Taxation Code. It was and promotion of the Theatre Pipe Organ and its