

Sunday 16 February 2014 2:00pm

Simon Ellis

Bernard Walz

" Your Old Time Favourites "

on the 3/17 Wurlitzer

&

Grand PianoOrion Centre Theatre
155 Beamish Street, CAMPSIE

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Photography Barry Tooker 9744 1535

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Printing by Rob Gliddon

From the President



A Happy New Year to all.
Thank you to all of our members who have supported our shows during 2013: I hope we see you at each of our shows this year.

Several people have already availed themselves of the Season Ticket option for 2014. This is an option worth considering as it brings several advantages to members. First, you get one show free. Second, you have your choice of seating for the year. Third, you have one ticket for the year and do not have to worry about booking before each individual show, and fourth, if you are unable to attend a show for some reason, you can lend vour ticket to a friend or relative. This facility can only be purchased up to 16th February, the date of the first show for 2014.

May I encourage you to plan to be at each show this year. Your Committee has arranged a varied program which includes three overseas Artists. As always, all of the Artists are top-class, quality musicians. Don't forget that we need to grow our Society: what better way to introduce a friend to the Society than by utilizing the free ticket offer for those who have not previously attended.

Happy organ-izing Geoff Brimley

Editorial



Happy New Musical Year.

A booking form for Season Tickets for the 2014 Season of 7 shows is included in this issue of TOSA News. You can make a booking for next years Season Ticket up until the show at the Orion Theatre on 16 February 2014. With eight world class musicians to entertain you, each with their own style it promises to be a year of great Theatre Organ music at excellent value.

Where else can you find 2 hours of outstanding entertainment at TOSA Ticket Prices.

Google Gaumont Theatre Paris Christie Theatre Organ to view a video of the organ installed in the Pavillon Baltard Paris on You-tube. Runs 8+ minutes.

Deadline for TOSA News is the 12th of the previous month.

Enjoy the music, Ernie Vale PO Box A2322 SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235 editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



Thanks for your responses and please continue to email or write in, telling us what you think.

Where space permits we will do our best to publish your comments, but as space is limited, the editor reserves the right to edit any submitted comments and, as always, the views expressed by any individual may not necessarily coincide with the views of TOSA NSW Div.

Please submit all comments via email to:

The Editor editor@tosa.net.au or in writing to:
The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

New Members

TOSA welcomes them and wish them a long and happy stay

Calling on Help from TOSA Members.

The Executive and Committee of TOSA and the Technical Team, Front of House and Refreshments Teams thank everyone who came to the Christmas show on Sunday 1 December at the Orion Theatre.

As those in attendance were informed by the artists - the

time constraints for access for artists to practice - particularly duo artists - as well as time to set up for a show places everyone involved under unnecessary stress. Whilst this situation remains the Executive & Committee wish to encourage additional members to lend a hand to set up for shows as follows: Two members to help carry equipment into the venue and assist with clean out after a show; Two members to number the seat rows; A member who has experience with show lighting to help with set up and be a back up for operating the follow spot or who is willing to learn these procedures. Also it would be appreciated if a member who has some experience with stage lighting was prepared to act as a backup to John Weismantel and/or Ian in the event that John or Ian is not available for a show. In addition it would be appreciated if two retired members were available to help with setting up the console and piano for tuning and for practice days when possible.

Please contact Vice President, Craig Keller - Technical Team Leader - if you can Help.

See also article by Craig re setting up the organs for a show.

To Watch Out For

Another fabulous season of

Theatre Organ entertainment in 2014 with 5 Australian Artists who are also all international musicians along with 3 Overseas artists - two from the USA and one from the UK. TOSA look forward to your company in 2014 and we ask that you help spread the word to friends and acquaintances.

For Sale

Rare out of print books (all in good condition)

Picture Palaces & Flea Pits (80 years of Australians at the Pictures)

Australian Silent Films (A pictorial history 1896 - 1929)

Movie Pioneers (Charles & Elsa Chauvell)

Historic Organs of NSW (Their Instruments, Their Makers & Players 1791 - 1940)

Also Various copies of TOSA News 1995 - 1974 & 1978 - 1995 \$5.50 ea + postage

Apply Mr P. Andersen PO Box 35 Deepwater, NSW 2371

Advertising Rates in TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE! For all other cases:

> Small bubble = \$11.00 Quarter Page = \$24.75 Half Page = \$49.50

Full Page = \$99.00

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

Members' Playing Dates The Orion Theatre Campsie

There will be some players days in 2014 - but not every month. Craig Keller will notify members by text when the dates have been confirmed.

Craig Keller on 0418484798 Players and listeners welcome.

Marrickville Town Hall 4th Monday afternoon/evening at 2:30pm to 7:30pm

Not available in December because of Opera Australia or January because of Australia Day holiday on 27th

Please contact Neil or John Batts to confirm availability

To be sure there is no last minute cancellation at Marrick-ville please ring Neil on 9798 6742 after 7:00pm the Friday before.

TWO ELECTRONIC ORGANS FOR SALE BEST OFFER.

Both these organs were purchased new and are in excellent condition.

HAMMOND COLONNADE ELECTRONIC ORGAN

Features include two 61 note keyboards, 25 note pedal board, harmonic tonebars, philharmonic strings, melody makerstops, percussion, auto rhythm and autochords, Cabinet and electronics are in excellent condition.

HAMMOND ELEGANTE ELEC-TRONIC ORGAN. MODEL 340100

Hammond Elegante electronic organ. model 340100 with two 61 note manuals and 25 note pedalboard. This is a top of the line model with rhythm unit, strings, and percussion. Cabinet and electronics are in excellent condition. One owner,. All offers considered. Original instruction booklet included.

To make an offer please contact Martin (02) 4782 1650

Martin@2UComputers.com.au

FOR SALE

CONN ORGAN & BEALE BABY GRAND PIANO

Conn Theatre Organ Model 651 type 201 Style 001 Finish 033

Includes rhythm box

In Good condition

Pedal tuning and some other maintenance work required.



Conn 651 Theatre Organ Price negotiable on both instruments.

Phone Elizabeth

0425 352 877m



Beale Baby Grand piano

Good condition, 40 years old

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Thomas Royale Theatre Organ 2 manuals with Colour Glo Well maintained

Located at Tea Gardens NSW

Please phone Fred Hardy 02 4997 2236

Tony Fenelon played the Compton Theatre Organ Albert Hall Canberra, ACT Sunday 8 December 2013

A message from TOSA Member Doug Grant

I went down to Canberra for Tony's concert on the 8th and it was a great success. Barry Quick and others on the TOSA(ACT) team have done a fine job to bring the 'old girl' back to concert standard. Tony, as usual had brought along backup (just in case) and gave us a lot of the lap-top pre-recorded accomaniments. He also did the 'bit' with organ and piano - and literally blew away the few young attendees and the copious 'oldies' in the audience.

Rob and Neil also attended as audience members, and with John Wiesmantel et al handling the projection TV and video recording roles, it likewise blew the TOSA(ACT) people away. The hall was almost full and it is to be hoped that the TOSA(ACT) people keep the old girl in good condition and get the good burghers of Canberra off their butts to attend concerts.

I was home by 8PM . It is an easy drive down these days and traffic wasn't too bad around the time of 'hitting' Liverpool.

TOSA NSW Technical Team members John Weismantel and Ken Barwick went down to Canberra early to provide technical aspects, set up and controlling of lighting, video screening and sound for the show.

As you can see from the pictures in this article there were some 200 patrons in attendance. Tony played a well balanced program with piano and organ duets as well as the organ. The feedback is that the performance was most enjoyable and it is hoped that more ACT performances can be scheduled on the Compton.







Photos by John Weismantel



Show & Membership Prices

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	All Artists
Non-members	\$32.50
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$27.50
TOSA Members	\$23.00

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status All Children FREE

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$20 per person Annual Membership Fees are now: \$35.00 for Full membership, and

\$25.00 for Concession, Country, Interstate & Overseas.

Membership enquiries Geoff Brimley (02) 6351 3122

membership@tosa.net.au

Associate Membership for a spouse/partner is only an additional 50%





TOSA Technical Team Appeal to members to Learn the procedures for set up at TOSA Shows

from Craig Keller

Have you ever sat and watched a TOSA show and wished you could be involved in helping the show to operate?

Do you have reasonable computer skills with Windows XP?

As you may know, when a show/concert is underway at Campsie the organ console connects via cables to a computer that runs our Uniflex software. At every performance we actually "record" the playing of the artist by controlling the computer to capture each action as it goes through the software on the way to the attached pieces of theatre pipe organ (pipes, percussions and toys). This allows us to keep an archive of the performance.

From time to time various artists also pre-record themselves playing the organ which we capture on the computer and then replay for them at the appropriate time. Recent examples include Donnie Rankin playing drums, Tony Fenelon on piano and even Ken Double singing at the start of his second act.

It would be great if a couple of other people were willing and able to offer their services to assist in this important part of performances at Campsie. For anyone with reasonable computer skills it is a fairly easy task. Pre show there is the setup and connection of the console, including connecting its data cable and power prior to starting the blower. Once the blower starts the organ is ready to run.

During the performance all that is required is a mouse click just before the artist starts playing and another as they complete the tune and (hopefully) push the General Cancel button is as simple as it can be. Keeping track of the recording number against a running sheet is also helpful for later reference.

At the end of the performance there is shut down and pack up of the console including cable disconnection. The setup and pack up of the console of course is a team effort unless you have some hidden Herculean strength that you have been keeping under wraps!

As we move towards installation and finalisation of the Christie at West Ryde, we will then have a second instrument with Uniflex installed. Perhaps even in 2015 we may finally get to "Uniflex" the Wurlitzer at Marrickville – although the technical team would probably like a rest once West Ryde is complete!

Anyway, if you are interested and can help, please feel free to contact me via email craigkeller1966@gmail.com or phone me on 0418 484 798 during the day or up to 9pm to discuss.

The Next Performance Australian and International Musicians





Simon Ellis & Bernard Walz playing

" Your Old Time Favourites " including Rhapsody in Blue

on the 3/17 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ and Grand Piano

Orion Centre Theatre, 155 Beamish Street, Campsie Sunday 16 February 2014 2:00 – 4:30pm

Tickets: Members \$23; Non-Members \$32.50; Pensioner/Senior \$27.50 Group bookings for 10 or more adults \$20 per person Students FREE on confirmation of Student Status

Bookings: Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 14 Warrah Place, Greystanes 2145 - Visa & Mastercard accepted For the best reserved seats you can book securely on trybooking.com by going to www.tosa.net.au then Events, click on the Artists name/show title then scroll down to the text to buy your ticket, click on it, select your preferred seat/s and complete the purchase.

Simon Ellis & Bernard Walz

Simon Ellis is a native of Sydney, and has a background in Philosophy, English, Law and Theology. After initial piano studies from the age of 6, he studied organ with Robert Broughall and then with the late Eric Smith. He served as Assistant Organist to Eric at Wesley Central Mission for 6 years, and was regularly heard playing the Christie theatre organ in the Lyceum Theatre, playing for both church services , and before and after movies.

Simon was Organist/ Choirmaster at Northmead Uniting Church for 9 years until the early 1980's, and concurrently Director of Music at a large reception venue, Fairfield House, at Windsor. He also served several years as Associate Music Director for the Sydney Touring Theatre Company, and was Director of the highly successful Blue Mountains Consort for 6 years until 1998.

Simon has performed in both theatre and classical organ venues in many parts of Australia, America, Britain, and Europe. He has accompanied many singers, both in Australia and overseas, and also studied singing with the late Florence Taylor. He is a Fellow of the Royal School of Church Music, and is currently in his 10th year as Senior Staff Organist for a large Sydney church.

Well-known to TOSA audiences, Bernard has been awarded three consecutive "MO" Awards as "Variety Instrumentalist of the Year" for Excellence in Live Performance. His debut recording, "Piano Passion" was a Number One success in Australia, knocking the Three Tenor's Dodger Stadium album from the top of the classical charts upon its release! Internationally he has been awarded four "Instrumentalist of the Year" Awards and two "Entertainer of the Year" awards by the luxury cruise line, Crystal Cruises, Inc.

Bernard completed his Master of Music Studies (conducting and pedagogy), graduating with First Class Honours from University of Melbourne (Australia), in November 2011, and had previously completed his orchestration studies with Berklee School of Music (Boston, USA). His arranging and orchestrating clients include Crystal Cruises, for whom he prepared music for the 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 "Serenity Pops" concerts.

As well as the Sydney Opera House, Bernard's performing career has included performances at concert halls of the Melbourne Arts Centre, QPAC (Brisbane), Sydney Entertainment Centre, Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne, and Festival Theatre, Adelaide. Internationally, his performances include Festival Hall in London and the Village Vanguard in New York and private performances across Europe and the USA. He has toured in Australia and internationally with the "Phantom" himself, Michael Crawford.

Bernard's performances move between many styles of music, from the works of the Great Masters to ragtime and boogie and everything in-between! His engaging stage presence and relaxed humour complement his technical and interpretative musical skills. Be prepared for a performance of superb musical entertainment.

The State Theatre Melbourne

Melbourne's original State Theatre was built in 1929 to seat 3,371 patrons and is situated on Flinders Street. It was conceived as an "atmospheric auditorium", a novelty in Melbourne at the time. Another notable feature was the dual-console Wurlitzer organ, the first to be built "west of Chicago", and since relocated to the Moorabbin Town Hall in 1967. The State Theatre was renamed the Forum in 1963. The current State Theatre opened in 1984 and is part of the The Arts Centre located by the Yarra River and St Kilda Road, the city's main thoroughfare. The State Theatre is a venue for ballet, opera and other productions (but not plays, which are performed in The Playhouse and elsewhere). Like the other performance venues within the Arts Centre, the State Theatre is underground. The stage is one of the largest in the world.

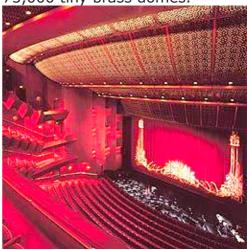
Companies performing opera in the State Theatre include Opera Australia (which has presented seven or eight operas each season). The first opera in the State Theatre was the new John Copley production of Don Carlos, Verdi in 1984 by Victoria State Opera.

The theatre is frequently home to The Production Compa-

ny, a theatre company specialising in short season revivals of classic Broadway musicals.

From leading dance and Broadway musicals to grand opera productions the State Theatre offers the complete theatrical experience.

It seats 2,085 and has one of the largest stages in the world. Theatrical highlights include performances by Opera Australia and The Australian Ballet. Don't forget to look up at the amazing ceiling, which is decorated with 75,000 tiny brass domes.



State Theatre Melbourne
Note the tiny brass domes

Forum Theatre redevelopment includes 32-storey tower

By Chris Vedelago The Age Published: December 22, 2013

The Forum Theatre is set to be completely refurbished as part

of a \$70 million development bid that promises to return the iconic venue to its heyday. The ambitious plans will also see a 32-storey boutique hotel and office complex built behind the Flinders Street property and the creation of a new thoroughfare connecting Russell Street to the street art mecca of Hosier Lane.

The Sunday Age can reveal that the Marriner family, owners of the Forum, Regent, Comedy and Princess theatres, have sought state state government permission to overhaul the National Trust-listed building.

The plan is being mooted as a way to secure the future of the Forum, one of the few remaining large-scale live music venues in the city.

The proposal will involve a full renovation of the interior and exterior of the 84-year-old Gothic-Romanesque building, which includes returning heritage features common to its original use as a 1920s-era "picture palace". Among the promised changes are fixing the clock tower, replacing the original sign on the roof, re-creating the entry doors, installing poster boxes and repairing the copper domes. It is believed to be the first major refurbishment for the ageing complex since it was bought by David Marriner in 1996 and converted from a religious revival meeting centre into a live music and cabaret venue.

Since then, the Forum's twin auditoriums have hosted acts including Oasis, Nick Cave, Primal Scream, Ozzy Osbourne, Grandmaster Flash, Katy Perry, Sonic Youth and Beck. It has also been a key venue for the Melbourne international film and comedy festivals.

The proposed hotel and offices would be built behind the Forum on the site of an empty building that was formerly used by the Melbourne Theatre Company.

The tower, which will violate the area's height restrictions, features a glass curtain that flows down to meet the roof at the rear of the Forum in what its designer says will be a 'sympathetic" connection to the theatre.

"The new building is designed to respect the Forum and will provide a curtain backdrop wall framing that building," said Bill Kusznirczuk of Clement-Stone Town Planners, who filed the planning application on behalf of the Marriner family.

The plan also calls for the creation of a new 50-metre thoroughfare connecting Russell Street to Hosier Lane, a graffitied bar and restaurant precinct that has become one of the city's most recognised landmarks.

But the plans are likely to be scrutinised by heritage protection advocates following a string of proposals that have seen landmark CBD buildings targeted for redevelopments that violate height restrictions.

Melbourne Heritage Action president Tristan Davies said improvements to the Forum were welcome but the group would reserve judgment about its support or opposition to the project until it had seen the plans.

''Anything that restores the Forum Theatre is great because it needs a lot of work and it will cost a lot of money," he said.
''But we'd be concerned that the proposed height of the new building would overwhelm the heritage streetscape in the area as well as dominate Hosier Lane, which has become enormously important to the street art scene in Melbourne."

The application was filed with the Victorian Department of Planning on Friday and the decision about the proposal will ultimately rest with Planning Minister Matthew Guy.

A move is already under way by another developer to replace the Palace Theatre on Bourke Street with a high-rise hotel and apartment complex in a controversial proposal that was bitterly resisted by the Melbourne City Council. Minister Guy is yet to rule on the application.

The Marriner family could not be reached for comment.



Artists impression of the proposed Forum Theatre development

The Christie Theatre Organ Gaumont Theatre Paris

The Gaumont Palace was the biggest movie theatre in Europe. It was a re-construction of the Hippodrome Theatre (1900) which had 5,500 seats.



The Hippodrome Theatre was taken over by Leon Gaumont and re-opened as a cinema on 14th December 1907 as the Hippodrome Grand Cinema du Monde, soon known as the Hippo-Palace.

Another re-construction of the Hippodrome took place in 1930 when architect Henri Belloc created a fantastic super cinema in an Art Deco style, named Gaumont Palace. Seating was provided in orchestra and two balcony levels. It was equipped with a British made Christie 4Manual/15Rank theatre organ.

The cinema was renovated in 1954 to the plans of architect Georges Peynet and the exterior was renovated in 1955. It was converted into a 3-strip Cinerama theatre from 17th September 1963 until 13th October 1964, after which it was a 70mm cinema.

The Gaumont Palace closed in 1970, the last film to play was Mar-

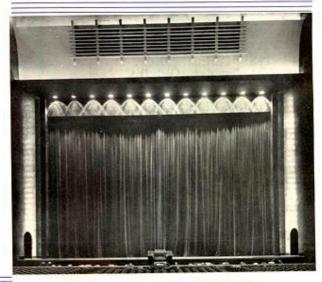
tin Balsam in "Tora, Tora, Tora".

Torn down in 1972, the famous pipe organ was removed at the last moment before demolition and is now in a suburb of Paris. Today the Mercure Hotel, part of the Ibis Hotels Group stands on the site.

The Gaumont Christie Theatre Organ was reinstalled in Pavilions Baltard in a suburb of Paris. If you google "gaumont palace in paris Christie Theatre Organ" you can view a You tube video of the organ which runs for a little over 8 minutes.







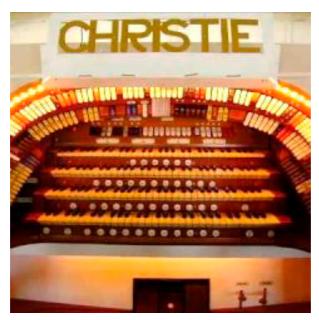
THE "CHRISTIE" ORGAN AT GAUMONT PALACE, PARIS.





Architect M. BELLOC-

This colossal theatre, reputed to be one of the largest cinemas in the world, with a seating capacity of about 6.000 has a four-manuel "Christie" Organ. No greater tribute could be paid to British organ building than the choice of a "Christie" for the leading picture theatre in France.



History of the Gaumont Theatre, Paris Christie Theatre Organ

There have never been many cinema organs in France, and now the only instrument that is still accessible to the public, which is also the most important of all those ever installed in the country, is at risk of being abandoned.

This organ which has a special place in the memory of the French (particularly Parisians), was originally installed in the Gaumont Palace cinema in Paris. Built by Hill, Norman and Beard in 1930, this organ was inaugurated in 1931 at the Gaumont-Palace, which was reopened after renovation and modernization.

Despite the impressive size of the building that could accommodate over 6,000 patrons, the instrument was relatively modest in size, 15 ranks over 4 manuals (pipes and machinery was installed 30 meters above the stage). This small size, however, did not prevented it from becoming one of the favorite attractions of Parisians when they went to the Gaumont Palace.

In 1930, talking pictures became more and more prevalent, and although some famous silent films had success (Chaplin, Sennett, etc...) the Gaumont Palace Christie organ predominantly came into its own at the intermission. It then sang out the popular tunes, accompanied the dancing girls, or featured in concert, perhaps playing with a full orchestra.

Originally clad in Rosewood, and placed in the middle of the stage, dressed all in white, this impressive console rose and fell under the colored spotlights. Everything contributed to the spectacle and wonder of the audience.

The most famous organist and the one that most people remember was Tommy Desserre. He remained as long as the Gaumont Palace was open. We should also not forget George Ghestem, Bernard and Simone and Roy Gilbert, who succeeded on these keyboards!

Despite its 6,000 seats and being the largest cinema in Europe, the Gaumont Palace became increasingly empty, the space it occupied more and more the subject of interested from sponsors and other investors. And eventually the inevitable happened - the Gaumont Palace closed its doors in 1972 and was slated for demolition, with uncertainty about the fate of the Christie organ. It was expected to disappear with the audience!

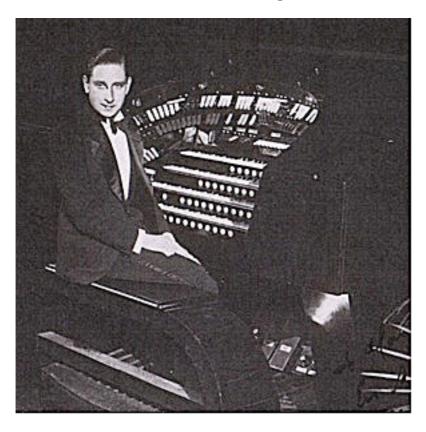
Today, however, this instrument is still with us, thanks to the

eccentricity (or rather should we say genius!) of Alain Villain, who grew to love the instrument and disassembled it at his own expense, but prior to which recording one last album and film of the organ with Tommy Desserre.

With help from roofers and craftsmen, organ builder Jacques Probst, dismantled the instrument in the few days just prior to demolition. The instrument, saved "in extremis", was stored for 5 long years until 1976 when it was sold at auction and purchased by the town of Nogent-sur-Marne (it was classified a historic monument the morning of the sale!).

Assembled by Bernard Dargassies from 1978 to 1979 at the Pavilion Baltard (old Parisian halls of the famous French architect transformed into a theater) where he spent some wonderful times supporting many parties and other gala events of all kinds.

Alas since 2004, the instrument has been played less and less and maintainable reduced until it is no longer maintained at all.



Tommy Desserre 1931

TOSA 2014 Season Shows

Sunday 16 February 2:00pm Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie Simon Ellis and Bernard Walz both from Sydney Sunday 23 March 2:00pm Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie Mathew Loeser from Sydney Sunday 18 May 2:00pm Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville Patron John Atwell from Melbourne Sunday 20 July 2:00pm Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie **Donna Parker** from Portland USA Sunday 19 October 2:00pm Orion Theatre, 155 Beamish St., Campsie **Dwight Beacham** from USA Saturday 15 November 2:00pm Venue to be confirmed Richard Hills from UK Sunday 7 December 2:00pm Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville **Tony Fenelon** from Melbourne, All Wurlitzer Show

Note:

Non Member Season Tickets include 6 months TOSA News

Season Tickets can be purchased up until the February 16th show at the Orion Theatre.

Why not consider giving a couple of tickets to the February show as a present to your friends. Their first show is FREE

Members Diary

Monday 3rd February Committee 7:00pm

Sunday 16 February 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Two International Musicians

Simon Ellis & Bernard Walz

"Your Old Time Favourites" including Rhapsody in Blue

on the 3/17 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ & Grand Piano

The ORION CENTRE THEATRE
155 Beamish Street Campsie

Book at www.tosa.net.au

Or Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

Tickets also available at the box office from 1:30pm

Radio 2MBS-FM 102.5 "Colours of the King" (program of the Organ Music Society of Sydney) 2nd Saturday of each month, 5pm till 6 pm

Web Sites of Interest:

https://www.facebook.com/tosansw www.theatreorgansaust.info (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

www.sydneyorgan.com (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

www.ATOS.org

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