

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

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REGISTERED FOR POSTING AS A PERIODICAL—CATEGORY B

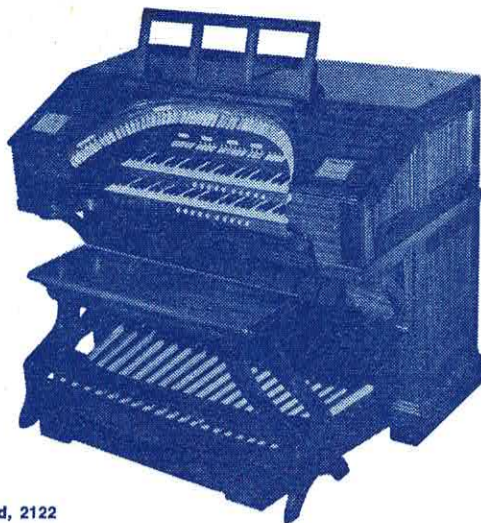
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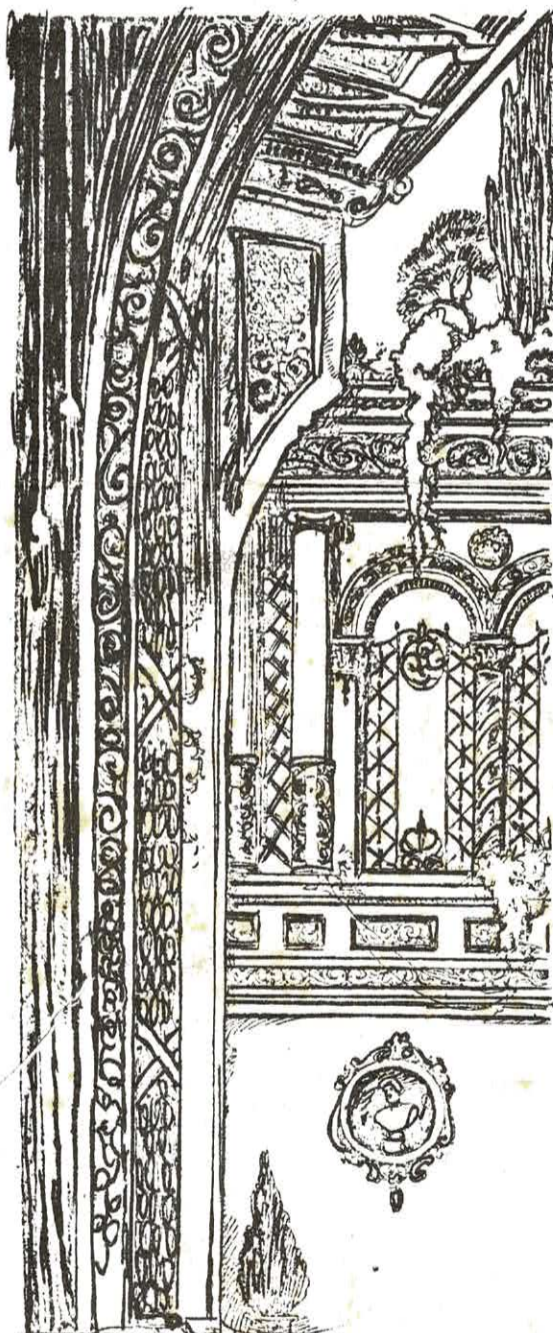


PRICE
40c



VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3.

1st MARCH, 1971.



WHAT'S ON IN N.S.W. THIS MONTH

TWO PIPE ORGAN CONCERTS

ORIGINAL WURLITZER & ORIGINAL CHRISTIE

First on our list, and heralded by this piece of contemporary artwork, is a free concert - an "early-morn-Capitol." Timed to start at 8.00 a.m., our organist at the fabulous 3/15 Wurlitzer of the Capitol Theatre is PETER GROVES. PETER played a highly entertaining programme at Marrickville on 1st November last, so we can look forward to another bright couple of hours, this time at the Capitol - still the finest original cinema organ in Australia. If you have never heard this wonderful organ in its palatial setting, or if you've forgotten about its lush, unimpeded sound, then get yourself down to the Capitol Theatre on SATURDAY 13th MARCH AT 8.00 a.m.

This is a free concert and you may bring as many friends as you wish.

Secondly, another of Sydney's original instruments. This time, an organ which I am sure many members have not heard for a good many years - the 2/8 Christie of the Gordon (Kings) Theatre. Installed in late 1929, the main feature organists here were Idwal Jenkins, Valda Kersey and Muriel Jeavons. In rather poor condition in 1956, the organ was purchased for £300, and after three years' work was at last

HAVE YOU RENEWED
? YOUR ?
SUBSCRIPTION

IF NOT ← → WHY NOT?

re-installed in St. Columb's Church of England, West Ryde. It remains to this day the only Christie Organ in Australia still in its original Theatre Organ condition, voicing, specification (including all the toy counter) and the like.

Now is your opportunity to hear this instrument, in a concert of light music presented by our well-known recitalist, ALAN TRANTER, who incidentally has been organist at St. Columb's for the past six years, on TUESDAY 30th March, at 8.00p.m.

This evening has been arranged by ALAN in conjunction with the Church, and there will be a donation of \$1.00. This money will go into a special fund to help defray costs of complete and final restoration of this organ when a new proposed Church building for St. Columb's is completed.

The programme promises to appeal to all, being a light typical Theatre Organ Music programme. Well-known violinist Sidney Coates will be ALAN'S associate artist.

See you at St. Columb's Church of England, Bellvue Avenue West Ryde, at 8.00 p.m. on TUESDAY 30th MARCH 1971.

COMING EVENTS

Coming up on Saturday 3rd April is one of our ever-popular ORGAN PARTIES, this time at the home of Mrs. Shirley Nott, 17 Wyuna Place, Dundas; (A Conn organ.)

Everyone enjoys our organ parties whether they go along to try their hand at a strange installation, or just be content to sit back and listen to the ones who do so, so let's have a big effort for a full house at this our next swinging organ party SATURDAY 3rd APRIL, at 8.00 p.m.

Just in case you don't receive your April TOSA NEWS in time, better make a note now, to ring Mrs. Shirley Nott, at 638 3488, to make your reservation a few days before the date. A donation of \$1.00 will go as usual to the Pipe Organ Fund.

ADVANCE NOTICE NUMBER TWO

Tuesday 27th April at Marrickville Town Hall we shall once again have the thrill of hearing our Honorary Member DAVID PARSONS at the Mighty WurliTzer.

DAVID'S associate artiste will be the soprano Elaine Thornborough, so make a note as well on your calender, of TUESDAY 27th APRIL, at 8.00 p.m.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday 1st March, Monday 5th April, Monday 3rd May; all at 7.15 p.m., at St. Anne's Church Hall, Strathfield.

NEXT TOSA NEWS DEADLINE

Please ensure that all copy for the April issue of TOSA News reaches me by Friday 25th March. You will see by the title page that the new address for all TOSA News correspondence is P.O. Box 447, Chatswood, 2067.

NEW MEMBERS

We are glad to welcome the following people as members of the Society, N.S.W. Division, and trust that a very happy time will be enjoyed by them. Don't forget to make yourself known to us at the next function you attend, and, old members, if you see a strange face or someone standing alone in a corner with a long face, then go over, say a few words, and before you can say "WurliTzer-Hope-Jones-Unit-Orchestra" there'll be two new friendships formed - one for him and one for you.

A very warm welcome to: Bill Austin of Kensington
Ray Hill of Belmore
Neville Davey of Lidcombe
Mrs. Joan Wills of Sydney
Mr. & Mrs. C. Watson of Marrickville.

REVIEW OF LAST MONTH

Tuesday 9th February saw our second "Meet your Organ Night", at Marrickville. This was the night that everyone had the chance to actually PLAY our mighty instrument, and then have a look into the workings of the big machine. And what a fascinating night it was.

Sixteen members played a variety of music ranging from present-day hit parade songs through old standards and light classics, to the hallowed Bach himself; and here may I add that the No. 8 Prelude & Fugue from the "Eight Short", really sounded great.

Members who "had a go" were Rod Blackmore, David Parsons, John Castray, Colin Tringham, Elizabeth Bird, Noel Cerezo, Joyce Walker, George Walker, Bill Austin, Bill Slattery, yours truly, Charlie Cohen, J. Maclean, Peter Held, Jim Birkett and Cliff Bingham.

What a thrill it was for me to play this fine instrument for the first time. Thanks however to Bill for the hint that the trumpet rank is connected up to the "Celeste" tabs, otherwise the Trumpet Voluntary would have sounded a bit strange.

Groups of four members each, during the evening were taken on conducted tours through the chambers. Herewithin, we can begin to appreciate the tremendous amount of work which went into bringing this organ to its present condition, and also we got some idea of what makes it tick (I mean blow.) Let's have another "Meet your organ night" again soon. Last but by no means least, thanks to the ladies for the most welcome cuppa at interval.

FROM THE COMMITTEEADDITIONAL BY-LAW

The Committee, in pursuance of its powers under By-Law 25, and in accordance with the wishes of the Annual General Meeting, has made the following additional By-Law:

- " 23A An Editor for "Tosa News" shall be elected at the Annual Business Meeting. "

The Constitution & By-Laws (as recently amended at the Annual Business Meeting) have been reprinted. Any member interested in obtaining a copy may write to the Secretary.

NAME BADGES

Renewing members and new members have been supplied with "DYMO" name badges, which the Committee encourages you to wear to Society functions. The names on the badges are in accordance with the Society's records, but should any member wish alteration of a badge it may be returned to Committeeman Rod Blackmore, 21 Yethonga Avenue, Lane Cove 2066.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The new mailing list for 1971 will be operative with the next issue of TOSA News. If you have not already renewed your subscription, please rush it to the Hon. Treasurer, 68 Shepherd Street, Ryde, 2112, to make sure of continued news of TOSA functions this year.

THEATRE PIPE ORGAN PURCHASE FUND

The raffle of an Al Bollington recording at the "Meet your organ Night" has raised a further \$8.40 for this fund.

As Well, CLIFF BINGHAM generously donated to the Fund the fee to which he was entitled for playing at the Annual Meeting.

WADSWORTH'S INSTAL NEW WURLITZER

Messrs Wadsworth Music Pty. Ltd. have advised the Society that they have just finished installation of a BRAND NEW WURLITZER electronic Full Theatre Organ at the "Burning Log" Restaurant at Dural. The new organ, finished in beautiful Antique White and Gold, is coupled to additional FIVE CHANNEL sound system, also installed at the restaurant.

The new Wurlitzer is owned by Mr. John CONGERT, who will play at the restaurant Wednesdays to Sundays inclusive. Mr. Frank Wadsworth tells us that his company is greatly stepping up their importation of Wurlitzer Electronic Organs, as their last four shipments have all been pre-sold before their arrival. A great number of new models are now available from the two Wurlitzer plants in Germany and the United States, and promise to be very popular organs. Wadsworth's have secured the Sole Agency for Wurlitzer and plan to introduce these, perhaps the best known organ in the world, to the local market with great vigour.

ELECTRONIC INSTALLATION ON THE PENINSULA

Another new Electronic Organ installation has come to our attention, this time at Avalon. At the Pizza Playhouse, Barefoot Boulevard, Avalon, you can hear Art Kaub at the fabulous Thomas Palace III organ each night till midnight, (Except Mondays.) The Pizza Playhouse is a licensed restaurant and you are assured of a happy time with Dance Music and Sing-alongs etc; go and hear Art Kaub at the Thomas, and you will find out why this is claimed as "The Most Unique Electronic Organ Installation in Australia."

GIFT OF HISTORIC RECORDINGS

A number of historic 78 r.p.m. recordings of various Organists including Jesse Crawford and Lew White, has been generously donated to T.O.S.A. Archives by Mrs. Leon, widow of our beloved late member, Vic Leon.

The recordings are most interesting, and arrangements are being made for transfer to tape so members can share the listening pleasure and own a piece of history by purchasing the tapes. More details later when the news comes to hand.

Thank you to Mrs. Leon for this wonderful gift; it shall certainly be treasured.

ORGAN SPECTACULAR BOOSTS SCHOBER SALES

Following the Organ Spectacular at the Sydney Town Hall last year, as part of Sydney's Waratah Festival, the Schober Organ agent Mr. R.A.B. Tarrant informs me that enquiries for Schober kits have sky-rocketed, and quite a few orders have been placed. See what a subtle little advertising campaign can do? Nice going.

ANDREW FENNER AND REGINALD FOORT VISITS POSTPONED

Jan./Feb. "Vox" magazine reports that due to inability to arrange suitable dates around Easter for Concerts for the eminent visiting English Theatre Organist, Andrew Fenner, his visit has now been postponed until June or July this year. However, arrangements are now proceeding smoothly and it shouldn't be long before we can give you definite dates and places. Something to look forward to.

Because Andrew Fenner's tour was shifted on to June or July, the proposed visit of the famous Reginald Foort cannot now take place till next year. More later on this tour also.

QUEENSLAND DIVISION NEWS

This year's Warana Spectacular will once again be recorded. We have been informed however that as well as the usual 12" disc, there will be available reel to reel tape, and tape cassettes for purchase. Full details concerning ordering will be published when the time comes.

VICTORIAN DIVISION NEWSARRIVAL OF NEW PIPE ORGAN

It is reported that the Vincent Organ which was purchased last year arrived some little time ago from England, and the problem arose as to what console and other missing equipment could be utilised to complete the unit, and where would one start looking for such pieces of organ mechanism.

Coincidentally, it appears that the original console of Sydney's Lyceum Theatre Christie Organ will do the job, and because the right people happened to be at the right place at the right time, these arrangements have been finalised. If you remember, when the Lyceum Theatre was all but destroyed by fire some time ago, the console was miraculously saved and except for a little water damage, was virtually intact unharmed. It was bought by G. Miles Brown, who later sold it to a syndicate. Eventually it passed into the hands of David Cross, who has kindly offered the console to the Vic. Division to complete their 2/8 Christie/Vincent, for a period of five years, with the option of later purchase. Mr. Cross also happened to have other parts which were needed so everything has ended happily. Whether it's "ever after" depends on whether a suitable home can be found for the composite instrument. Sites in some of Melbourne's Northern Suburbs are being investigated, and all being well, the Division will have another fine installation which should enjoy similar usage opportunities as the Dendy Wurlitzer.

A PICTURE PALACE FADES AWAY

The mighty Melbourne Regent/Plaza complex has been closed for some time now, and with the news of Auctioning of furnishings and effects we sense that it won't be long before the site is vacant land once more.

On December 1st and 2nd last, the auctioneers hammer was kept busy with the sale of curtains, carpets, seats, lights, period pieces and all the other items which went to complete the scene of a Picture Palace of the twenties. Among the more spectacular items sold were the Regents focal piece, the famous Czechoslovakian 72 branch 3 tiered festooned crystal chandelier, which went for a mere \$5000.00. Ordinary bracket lights from the interior went for a minimum of \$40.00 each, and someone bought the "House Full" sign, which I would say hadn't been used for many a long day, for \$10.

VISIT OF A.T.O.S. PERSONALITY

We have been notified by a Mr. Carr (an intending member recently settled in Australia from U.S.A.-) that a former executive of the American Society, Mr. Dick Symondton is expected to arrive in Sydney for a month's Visit. Dick Symondton is an enthusiastic organ owner very much involved in A.T.O.S., and it is anticipated that he will be inspecting, hearing and perhaps playing some of installations. We will do our best to accomodate our visitor and trust that he will return to his hometown convinced that our Society is really moving. We hope to be able to share with him some of the joys of being associated with the Theatre Organ and its music.

ANOTHER NEW ORGAN MUSIC PROGRAMME

Last month we told you about 2NC's new organ music session; now we have another, this time across the Great Divide, but not out of reach of Sydney's receivers; Station 2PK sends out a session each Tuesday night at 7.00 p.m. This is quite a powerful station and is often heard clearly in Sydney. You will find it on your dial at 1400 Kcs, between 2SM and the far end.

The programme is sponsored by Ellis Musical Enterprises of Forbes. Mr. Gordon Ellis also writes to let you know that he is organising a concert by ERIC SMITH at Forbes on Friday 19th March. For further details or advance bookings I would suggest you write to 74 Rankin Street Forbes and get in touch with Mr. Ellis.

HAVE YOU RETURNED YOUR TOSA TELENEWS FORM YET????

NEWCASTLE HAMMOND SOCIETY NEWS

Forthcoming concerts will be held as follows;
 5th March: St. Andrews C. of E. Mayfield
 19th March: Belmont V.J. Sailing Club.
 27th March: Gloucester Concert. (Saturday.)

Our Honorary Member ERIC SMITH will be presenting a concert on Friday 12th March at the Hunter Theatre, on a number of Yamaha Organs, including the EX-42. Tickets are \$1.50 and may be reserved by ringing Newcastle 61 1232.

CORRECTION TO PAR ABOUT WORLD RECORD OF ORGAN PLAYING

And this is also open to correction. Following our item about Mr. Jim Barron's record-shattering 46 hours of continuous organ playing, I have been advised that the actual World Record for this feat was set late last year by a Dutchman of Lindberg province, who sat at the console for a staggering ONE HUNDRED AND ONE HOURS. This fact was verbally confirmed to me by the Editor of the Dutch-Australian Weekly, but if anyone has any further information then please let me know, as statements of this nature cannot as you realise be published without proper source reliability, or documentary proof.

TOSA QUESTIONNAIRE

to

At the last Committee Meeting it was decided that assist in future programming and to help the Society in giving members what THEY want, a questionnaire would be drawn up and members asked to complete the answers and return to the Secretary for assessment and analysis.

Here then is the Questionnaire, as drawn up by Col Tringham, so go to it and let's have all your ideas. Would you please either send this in to the Secretary or hand it to any Committeeman at the next function you attend.

1. List, in order of preference, the ten local organists whose concerts you most enjoy
2. List your ten favourite organists (World-wide including Australia.)
3. List the programme content you feel most suitable for TOSA concerts;
 - Classical Music
 - Semi-classics
 - Theatre organ pops of the 20's to 40's.
 - Modern music.
4. TOSA should have:
 - More pipe organ concerts
 - More electronic organ concerts
 - More technical lectures on pipe organs
 - More technical lectures on electronic organs
 - More teaching sessions for players.
5. What TOSA function did you most enjoy during the last twelve months?
6. What would you expect to pay to attend a concert by a top overseas artist?
7. What would you expect to pay to attend a concert by a good local artist?
8. Should TOSA resume early morning "jam sessions" on the Capitol Organ?
 (These consisted of a concert by four different organists, each playing for half an hour.)
9. Would attend the State Theatre for a change of programme night when the organ was to be played:
 - Every time the programme changed
 - Four times a year
 - Two times a year
 - Once a year
 - Never.

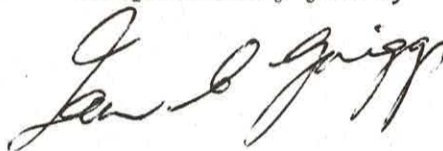
- 10/ What events/changes would you most like to see in the next twelve months?
- 11. Should this year's TOSA convention be;
 - One full day only
 - One full day plus an extra night
 - Two full days and nights.

ORGAN PARTY AT BADMAN RESIDENCE.

As this issue will be going to press before this function occurs, I will review it in April issue.

I shall be holidaying in Victoria and Tasmania for the next four weeks and hope to get to see and perhaps hear some of the installations there. I know there's no Theatre Organ left in Tasmania any more, but at least I will have the opportunity to play both the magnificent instruments in Hobart Town Hall and St. John's Church, Launceston. Till next issue, au revoir.

Diaphonically yours,



Ian C. Griggs
EDITOR

- DON'T FORGET:
- CAPITOL THEATRE 8 a.m. Saturday 13th MARCH
 - ST. COLUMB'S WEST RYDE 8 p.m. Tuesday 30th MARCH
 - 17 WYUNA PLACE DUNDAS ORGAN PARTY 3rd April.

The drawing on the front cover shows some of the proscenium and Spanish garden of the Capitol Theatre Sydney, and is reproduced from the advertisement in the "Sun" newspaper of the opening of the theatre.

STOP PRESS

THE ELECTRONIC ORGAN SUBCOMMITTEE have arranged what is expected to be their most interesting event yet. It will take the form of a round-table discussion on all aspects of electronic organ design PLUS a "brains trust" to advise on problems that any TOSA member may be having with his organ; so if not satisfied with some particular aspect of your organ and you want to improve it: come along to member ARTHUR SPRING's home (22 William Street, Henley) at 8 p.m. on FRIDAY, APRIL 16th. Member DAVID PARSONS will also be playing a production model of the new "Vernus II" organ during the evening.