

# TOSA NEWS

September 2010  
Volume 49 No.7

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**50th Anniversary Year**

**SUNDAY 26 September 2:00PM**  
**MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL**  
**SIMON GLEDHILL**



**Direct from the UK Plays the  
Prince Edward Theatre 2/11 Wurlitzer**

# Directory

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Printing by Rob Gliddon

## From the President



Hello all,

The two hundred people who attended the David Gray show in early August certainly got value for money. He came well-recommended and emails received from other Australian Divisions where he had performed confirmed the earlier advices. He certainly did not disappoint this audience. A thank you to John Shaw for the loan of his digital keyboard which allowed David to showcase his ability on piano as well as the Wurlitzer.

Having just got over one election, members of our Society are faced with another. Seriously, our organization does require committed people to stand for election. Please see details elsewhere in this issue and give some consideration to nominating either yourself or someone you believe could benefit your Society.

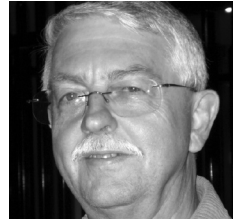
Apart from Executive and Committee persons, there is still the need for volunteers with virtually every aspect of the organization requiring some additional assistance. If you can help in any way please talk to me at one of the shows or telephone me on 6351 3122

This month we have the long awaited return visit of Simon Gledhill and this show will again be one you won't want to miss. Simon comes with an enviable international reputation for great musicianship. See you there.

Happy organising,

Geoff Brimley

## Editorial



What a great show David Gray presented for us on the Marrickville Wurlitzer. Doug Grant has once again kindly agreed to review the show for those members who were not able to attend.

A number of patrons asked if we had any CDs of David's magic at the theatre organ. Unfortunately David has not produced any CDs to date and we certainly look forward to the first one when it is released.

I have had the pleasure of listening to the new CD released by our Co-Patron John Atwell played on the Marrickville Wurlitzer. I thoroughly enjoyed the selection of music and the organ sounds outstanding. This CD should be in every theatre organ enthusiasts collection. Well done to John and all the people involved in the production of the CD.

Having heard Simon Gledhill at the Seattle Convention this year play a superb show, I recommend that you come along to his show at Marrickville Town Hall on 26 September. You won't be disappointed.

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

### New Members

TOSA (NSW) welcomes these new members and wish them a long and happy stay:

Douglas L Mathews

Beth Carol Mathews

Dennis Clarke

## New Service for TOSA

### (NSW) Divn Members

*Theatre Organ Sheet Music  
Collection & Lending Library*

Would you consider donating unwanted theatre organ sheet music (of any condition) to help get a new collection started? All genres, styles and complexities are welcomed.

Please contact TOSA member  
*Graham Glendenning on*  
Tel: (02) 9680 3122  
Mob: 0401 094 884  
Email: [gcglen@gmail.com](mailto:gcglen@gmail.com)

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### Members Change of Address

If you are moving house, or change your email address please advise the Membership Secretary of your new address and/or email address by phoning (02) 9524 7203 or email [membership@tosa.net.au](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au)

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### The Mid Life Disaster

Middle age is when you know all the answers and nobody asks you the questions. *Bob Phillips*

You're at that age when everything Mother Nature gave you, Father Time is taking away. *Milton Berle*

You know you're getting old when everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work. *Bob Hope*

## To watch out for..

Sunday 26 September 2:00pm

**Simon Gledhill** *UK*

Plays the Prince Edward Theatre  
Wurlitzer

Marrickville Town Hall

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## Countdown to TOSA (NSW) AGM

The date for the AGM is Sunday  
7th November 2010  
at The Selwyn Theatre  
13 Rosemont Ave, Mortdale 2:00pm

**Nominations for Office-Bearers  
and Committee are now open**  
*see the nomination form in this  
issue of TOSA News*

Completed nomination forms must  
reach the Returning Officer by  
Friday 24 September 2010

Notice of any motions or special  
resolutions for the AGM should be  
sent to:

**The Secretary TOSA NSW Divn,  
230 Spring Hill Road  
Mittagong, NSW 2575**

and must reach the Secretary no  
later than 24 September 2010  
to enable them to be advised to  
members in the October issue of  
TOSA News.

## 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 Events 2010 Dates

**The Orion transferred to  
Marrickville Town Hall at  
2:00pm**

Mon 13 now Tuesday 14 September

Mon 11 now Tuesday 12 October

### Marrickville Town Hall

Mon 20 now Tuesday September 21  
**2:30 - 6 pm**

usual time for dates below

Mon 27 now Tuesday September 28

Mon 4 Now Tuesday 5 October

To be sure there is no last  
minute cancellation at Marrickville  
please ring Neil on 9798 6742 after  
7:00pm

## **What's happened at the Orion Theatre Campsie?**

A few days after our last show at the Orion we learned of a problem with the hoist.

Initially the fault was diagnosed as a broken seal and there certainly was a lot of oil in the liftwell.

However when the lift mechanics investigated further it was found that water had infiltrated the area and the resultant rust had created additional problems necessitating some repairs.

As most know, the building is owned by Council and the hoist is their responsibility. We have been in regular contact with their representative and until 21st July it was stated the repairs would be completed in time for our August show. Fortunately, as it happened, we did not share the confidence of the Council and had booked Marrickville Town Hall for 8th August, "just in case".

It has now been found that the cost of repair would exceed the cost of a new hoist and Council is awaiting receipt of quotes after which all those associated bureaucratic matters require attention.

We do not know how long the Orion Wurlitzer will be out of action but will keep you informed of developments as and when they occur. Meanwhile the Committee is investigating the possibility of some maintenance work on the Orion Wurlitzer during this period.

The inconvenience caused to you, our members, is regretted and your understanding, appreciated.

*President Geoff Brimley*

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## **Members Visit the Wesley Centre Christie Theatre Organ Saturday 31 July 2010**

An enthusiastic and keen group of TOSA members braved the early morning Saturday fog and frosts to enjoy and hear the Wesley Christie Organ being played.

John Batts was the featured organist, whose one hour programme managed to extract previously unheard magical sounds from the organ by way of well-selected contrasted registrations, opening with "I Love to Hear You Singing", Medley from "Those Roaring Twenties", "I'm in the Mood for Love", "Fairy on the Clock" and more.

Open console again was on the Agenda for Part 2 of the morning's entertainment with Rod Blackmore playing the "Dam Busters March" and "Bird songs at Eventide". Graeme Costin followed with "Back to the Future" selections and "Johnny be Good". Tom Barber played "Secret Love", "Dancing in the Dark", "I've got you under my Skin" and a selection of Hymns. Deirdre McMullan chose "Here in my Heart", "No other Love", and "Til I hear you Sing" from Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest 2010 musical - Love Never Dies - being a sequel to Phantom of

the Opera.

John Batts concluded the morning's event together with Tom Barber, joining him on the Grand Piano for a Duo playing "Dancing Tambourine" and "Black & White Rag". Finally a closing bracket from John "Sentimental Journey and "Funiculi Funicular".

TOSA members donated the morning offerings to the hiring costs of the Wesley Centre. Our visit, while down in numbers owing to commitments at Marrickville, was most enjoyable and hopefully a yearly event.

*Secretary Deirdre McMullan*

*Some history of this Christie Theatre Organ researched by the featured organist John Batts*

Tuesday , 4 February, 1930: *Sydney Morning Herald* refers to Lyceum Theatre renovated by Union Theatres Ltd. A new Christie Organ is being installed.

Official Opening of New Organ.  
[SMH: Monday 5 May 1930]

"The Lyceum was crowded in every part yesterday [i.e. Sunday] on the occasion of the official opening of the new organ by Mr Roland Foster. Mr Price Dunlavy, organist of the State Theatre, played several numbers on the new instrument.

"Mr Foster gave an interesting talk on the evolution of the organ, beginning with that installed in the Temple of Venus three centuries before the time of Christ.... He added

that as the organ being opened that afternoon was made by the Melbourne branch of an English firm it could be claimed that it was really Australian-made."



**John Batts at Wesley Christie**



**John Batts at Wesley Christie**

**HOME PARTY at BRONTE**  
**John and Rhonda Batts**  
**Sunday 30th May 2010**



**Rod Blackmore Wesley Christie**



**Peter Robinson**



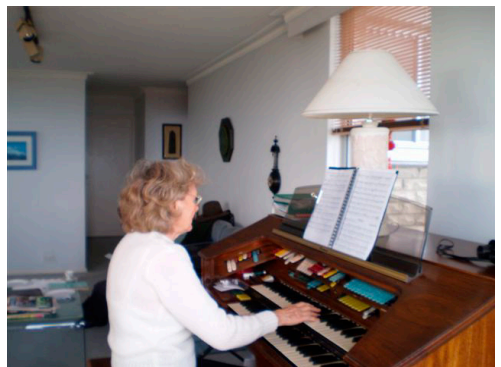
**Graeme Costin Wesley Christie**



**Ian Georgeson**



**Deirdre McMullan**  
**Wesley Christie**



**Deirdre McMullan**



**TOSA NSW Division  
50th Anniversary  
Commemorative Coffee Mugs**

The fine bone china coffee mugs have arrived and will be available to purchase at the Shows at Marrickville Town Hall on Sunday 8 August, Sunday 26 September and Sunday 14 November unless sold out prior to these shows.

The mug has a colour picture of the Orion Wurlitzer on one side and a colour picture of the Marrickville Wurlitzer on the other side. It has a double gold rim with gold lettering and gold music notes.

This momento of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia NSW Division's 50th Anniversary would look fine in any china cabinet.

As there is one of our Wurlitzer Theatre Organs on either side of the mug you may like to purchase two mugs so you can display each organ in your china cabinet.

There is a limited production of the mugs and they will be available to purchase only at our 50th Anniversary shows this year until sold out.

The price is \$25 per mug and they come in a special box.

## **Show & Membership Prices**

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	Australian Artists	Overseas Artists
Non-members	\$25.00	\$27.50
Non-member Pensioner/Senior	\$22.00	\$25.00
TOSA Members	\$20.00	\$20.00
Students 15-21yrs	\$10.00	\$10.00
Group Booking for 10 or more Adults	\$20 per person	

Child under 15yrs accompanying an adult: FREE!

Annual Membership Fees are now: \$30.00 for Full membership, and \$20.00 for Concession, Country, Interstate & Overseas.

Membership enquiries Bob Alleway 9524 7203 [membership@tosa.net.au](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au)

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

## **Recordings for Sale**

### ***Down Memory Lane***

#### ***Readers Digest Set of 4***

*Includes: Reginald Dixon  
at the Tower Ballroom Organ  
Blackpool, England*

Blackpool is England's Atlantic City, a sprawling resort filled with theatres, hotels and amusement parks, where Britons go for holiday fun beside the chilly waters of the Irish Sea.

Dominating Blackpool's skyline is a steel structure which straddles a huge beehive of a building sheltering restaurants, bars, an indoor zoo, a penny arcade and an elaborate ballroom - one of the world's largest. The Tower Ballroom is perhaps the most popular place in Blackpool, and on busy evenings 3000 dancers crowd the ornately inlaid floor to dance in unison - everyone moves around the floor in the same direction, executing the same intricate steps simultaneously.

Reginald Dixon plays a collection of purely American favorites on this record. A number of them are so danceable (Dixon keeps strict dance tempo on every tune) that it may well be a temptation to roll up the rug when he plays such toe-tappers as "Happy Days Are Here Again." "I Wonder What's Become of Sally?" is by contrast, played mostly on the flutelike tibia stops, with string stop

accompaniment.

*Reginald Foort at the*

*Joe Kearns privately installed  
former CBS Studio 3 manual  
Wurlitzer*

This organ is larger than the Blackpool Tower organ but was voiced for recording movie sound tracks and consequently is perfect for a home installation. The opening number is the overture to the "Poet and Peasant" played in a purely orchestral style. The treatment of Joyce Kilmer's "Trees" is in the pure theatre organ style.

*Raymond Bohr plays the Radio  
City Music Hall Wurlitzer*

One of the memorable features of a visit to the Music Hall is the sound of the grand organ - the largest Wurlitzer ever built. With its 56 ranks of pipes, housed in eight chambers around the huge arched proscenium, and its two gleaming consoles on either side of the stage, it was the largest theatre organ on the face of the globe.

In this recording Ray Bohr presents the theatre organ in a reflective mood, starting with "Tenderly," and using grand piano with hollow flute tones of the tibia stops. Drigo's "Serenade" is a fine example of the Music Hall organ's famous "ensemble" sound.

The fourth recording in this set provides a contrast with the well known organist:

*Virgil Fox playing the organs of the Royal Albert Hall, London and Riverside Church, New York*

On this record you will hear the King of Instruments. No one knows the limitations of the theatre organ better than the organist who has attempted to play the classics on one; for all its range and special effects, the theatre organ is not capable of the tonal nuances, the glory and the thunder of a great concert or cathedral pipe organ. On this record listeners have the opportunity of comparing the sounds of two outstanding instruments, both played by one of the great master organists of the twentieth century.

*Those interested in purchasing this set of dynagroove recordings should contact Dorothy Kerr-Lansom on 0408257858 or kerrly1@bigpond.com*

Location is Kemps Creek NSW

Price is negotiable

## **For Sale**

Kawai E650 organ. 2 x 61 note manuals, 25 note pedals, bench. Has tibia drawbars upper and lower manuals, strings, drum unit, inbuilt Leslie speaker. Works fine for a circa 1982 instrument. A few knocks and scrapes. Suitable for practice instrument. \$150 ONO. Can assist with transport in Sydney area.

*Craig Keller Ph 0418 484 798*

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## **For Sale**

A book of "**Organs of NSW**"  
(as New)

Video "**Midnight Pipes**"  
N.T.S.C. Wurlitzer in Denver  
USA. (as New)

Apply to: *Peter,*

*PO Box 35*

*Deepwater NSW 2371*

**Next Shows**  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 2:00pm**  
featuring **Direct from the UK**  
**Simon Gledhill**



playing the former **Prince Edward Theatre** Sydney,  
**Mighty Wurlitzer**  
**Marrickville Town Hall**  
**Marrickville Road, Marrickville**

**Simon's** first experience of the theatre pipe organ was hearing the late Ernest Broadbent play the Mighty Wurlitzer at Blackpool's Tower Ballroom. In 1982 he entered and won the Northern Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition. Nigel Ogden, presenter of BBC Radio 2's The Organist Entertains, was in the audience, and invited him to make some recordings for the programme on the BBC theatre organ at the Playhouse Studio in Manchester.

The broadcasts resulted in a flurry of concert offers, and **Simon** has since performed at all the major theatre organ venues in Britain, as well as touring in Germany, Holland, Australia, Canada and the USA. There have been 11 appearances at Annual and Regional Conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society.

***Free parking near the venue***  
(Disabled Access available at the entrance to the venue)

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010 at 2:00pm**

featuring **Direct from the USA**

**Martin Ellis**



playing the former **Prince Edward Theatre Sydney,**  
**Mighty Wurlitzer**  
**Marrickville Town Hall**  
**Marrickville Road, Marrickville**

**MARTIN ELLIS** is a concert artist that bridges the boundaries between traditional classical and theatre organ. Equally proficient in both playing styles **Mr. Ellis** performs on organs of distinction in the United States and abroad, offering a contemporary perspective to music enthusiasts of all genres.

For well over a decade now **Martin** has worked as an arranger and at the keyboard with the renowned Indianapolis Childrens Choir. **Martin** records and performs as a member of "Trio Con Brio" Along with artists Donna Parker and Jonas Nordwall, the "Trio" gained it's fame by adapting classical, orchestral, and popular music for performance with three organs simultaneously.

**Tickets to each show: Members \$20;**  
**Non Member Pensioner/Senior Card \$25**  
**Non-Members \$27.50; Student (15 – 21 Years) \$10**  
**Group bookings for 10 or more adults \$20 per person**  
**Bookings: (02) 9629 2257**  
Visa & Mastercard accepted

**For Sale**

**Buchtmann 7ft Grand Piano in new condition**

**Regulated for home use**

**The owner is moving to smaller premises and reluctantly has to part with this instrument**

**For more information please contact**

**Member John McGrath on (02) 63311971**

**Bathurst NSW**

**Removal to be arranged by the purchaser**

**\$10,000 or near offer**



# **2010 Seattle 55th annual ATOS Convention**

**Seattle Washington, June 28-July 4**

## **The organ Crawl - Seattle Style**

### **Kenyon Hall**

The Kenyon Hall Wurlitzer was originally installed in 1929 at the First Reformed Church in Pella, Iowa. The instrument was removed by the Wicks Organ Company when a new instrument was sold to the church. Don Born of Norridge, Illinois acquired the organ in 1958 and installed it in his home. In 1970, the organ moved again, this time to the Pam Martz residence in Antioch, Illinois. In 1998-99, Hokum Hall (now renamed Kenyon Hall) purchased the instrument. The instrument has undergone additional expansion with the antiphonal ranks in the rear of the facility, and now has 17 ranks. It is quite a sound for the building and they are fortunate to have the benefit of Bob White and Greg Smith as a work team for this expansion. This is a very colorful venue and we were treated to a variety show with organ, accompanied singing by two fine artists and piano.

### **Haller Lake**

The Haller Lake Community Club organ is owned by PSTOS and serves as the chapter instrument. Originally a Style D Wurlitzer with player, opus 1432, it was shipped from the factory in July, 1926. It was first installed at HLCC in 1969. Today it consists of a three manual Marr & Colton console, a Kimball kinura, seven ranks of Wurlitzer pipework, as well as chimes, and a Chrysoglott. Clark Wilson accompanied a silent movie extremely well at this venue.

### **The Evans Residence**

The Evans' Wurlitzer originated with a Style B Wurlitzer from the Anacortes, Washington Empire Theatre. The original two-manual console was completely restored by Russ but was sold when a three-manual console originally from Cleveland's State Theatre was acquired.

Additional pipework, percussions, regulators, and tremors are from Steve's Gay Nineties Restaurant in Tacoma where the former North Bend Oregon Liberty Theatre Wurlitzer was installed in the 1970's. A Yamaha Disklavier piano is playable from the console. Our member, Bill Schumacher, played a very interesting program on this instrument.

REVIEW OF DAVID GRAY'S  
SHOW  
Marrickville Town Hall – 8th August  
2010

Way back in the 1960s, Melbourne radio station 3DB broadcast across Victoria a weekly program from Melbourne's Wesley Church called 'A Pleasant Sunday Afternoon', during which the congregation and radio listeners were initially harangued by the minister Reverend C. Irving Benson on social issues, but mercifully, were then charmed by musicians including a good friend of mine, who performed on their marvellous classical pipe organ. I couldn't help being reminded that nearly 50 years on, I was sitting in the Marrickville Town Hall enjoying another pleasant Sunday afternoon with a performance by a similarly aged (20) young organist, albeit on an equally marvellous theatre organ. What a pleasant Sunday afternoon we had with the young man from Glasgow, (who looked for all the world not unlike Justin Bieber), but who from the very first item on his play-list for the concert, demonstrated a degree of musical maturity and technical excellence belieing someone of his age.

Steve Allen's 'This Could be the Start of Something Big' was David's choice as the opener for the afternoon, and was aptly chosen. It was clear that this young man already knew his way around the Marrickville 2/11 Wurlitzer, and was ready and able to exploit its capabilities. Incidentally Marrickville was not meant to be the chosen venue, but the Orion 3/17 was unavailable

because the console-hoist was out of commission. Consequently David had to adapt to a 2 manual organ when he probably more often uses a 3 manual instrument.

A somewhat serious but delightful young man with a broad Scottish accent greeted the audience asking if he could be understood? No worries there as he introduced a novelty number 'Tinkle Toes', calling upon the pure flute tones of the organ for the melody and soft rhythmic accompaniment from the strings.

Without pausing for breath, David continued with 'Vienna City of My Dreams' written in 1914 by the Austrian Rudolph Siczynki. One could almost hear Richard Tauber's rendition of this wonderful song as David performed it with all the rhythmic beauty and light-and-shade of this great old waltz piece.

A slight pause for an introduction to the 1921 novelty ragtime piece 'Kitten on the Keys' by 'Zez Confrey'. As if it isn't difficult enough playing this piece on the piano, David's transcription for organ was very clever and a great toe-tapper. A few flappers would have completed the performance.

Next on the agenda was a bracket of some of the marvellous songs of Arthur Schwartz many of which found their way into the 1953 film 'The Bandwagon' featuring Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse. Being more accustomed to hearing most of the songs as individual items written for the original stage show



in 1931, and for various other musical stage shows, it was great to hear David's choices from the movie compilation. His bracket began with 'A Shine on Your Shoes' from 1932, 'I Guess I'll Have to Change My Plan' from 1929, 'By Myself' from 1937, 'You and the Night and the Music' from 1934, 'Louisiana Hayride' from 1932, 'Dancing in the Dark' from 1931, ending with 'That's Entertainment' from 1953. David's arrangements were notable for a brilliant use of registrations extracting a great variety of tone colours from the organ with effortless technique and totally musical interpretations. As my co-listener for the concert, Chris Style later remarked: "here was a young man who had obviously listened carefully to the interpretations of an older generation of theatre organists, and had the incredible ability to reproduce and enhance those arrangements with a skill that one would never have expected from one so young".

The time had come for a change of instrument for David as he gingerly migrated from the console across to the main stage to take over TOSA Vice President John Shaw's Technics electric piano. An amusing aspect of his relocation was that he was not familiar with the settings of the Technics, and he had to spend some moments until he managed to obtain the piano sound he required – but – when he did, what a wonderfully delicate and sensitive performance of a composition by Rachmaninoff 'Vocalise' (Opus 34 No. 14) as transcribed by the Scottish com-

poser/arranger Alan Richardson, came from this young man. It was as much a delight to listen to, as it was a remarkable demonstration of the performance of the John Shaw's electric piano. It was during this performance that an errant aircraft en route to Mascot attempted to turn the performance into a concerto for aircraft and piano, but David remained undeterred and completed a flawless performance to enormous audience applause.

Back to the console and straight into 'Temptation Rag' – a 1909 two-step by Henry Lodge, with plenty of marvellous ragtime syncopation, apparently a favourite idiom for David.

Another mood change providing added interest to his eclectic mix for the program, this time to the lovely 'I Concentrate on You' a song written by Cole Porter for the MGM film 'Broadway Melody of 1940', starring Fred Astaire and Eleanor Powell, the last of the big black and white musicals. David instilled in his rendition, all the romantic sensitivity and restraint of this great Cole Porter hit.

A slide back in time somewhat to 1924 to the strains of the opening bars of 'Rhapsody in Blue' heralded David's next bracket of the 'best of' George Gershwin. This rapidly gave way to 'Nice Work if You Can get It', 'S Wonderful', 'Someone to Watch Over Me', 'Clap Yo' Hands', Embraceable You', 'The Man I Love', a particularly impressive personal version of 'I Got Rhythm', and finally a brief amalgam of



the closing bars of 'Rhapsody in Blue' and 'I Got Rhythm'. A very enjoyable conclusion to the first half of the concert.

After a short interval David returned to the console opening with one of those grand old marches by the English composer Eric Coates. This particular item was 'The Television March' written for the restart of BBC television after the end of WW2 in 1946.

Duke Ellington would have been most impressed with this Scottish lad's version of 'Mood Indigo' – strictly conforming to the composer's tempo, the tonal variations for the respective melody repetitions, and particularly for David's personal 'variation' at the conclu-

sion with a surprising, but totally agreeable atonal final chord.

Again a change of pace and a novelty ragtime piece familiar to everyone, 'Nola' by the American composer Felix Arndt dating from 1915. As we had begun to expect, David wove a little of his own magic into the music with a lovely key change into the theme before ending with an apparently effortless series of arpeggios.

To further emphasise the thoughtfulness of David's programming, he chose to play a very fine example of a work of great importance to the Scots, the majestic 'Highland Cathedral', ironically written by a pair of Germans, Ulrich Roeber and Micael Korb in 1982 for

highland games held in Germany. A simulated bagpipe sound marked the start of the piece, before proceeding with a number of variations on the basic theme, some with tremulants, some without, a simple yet elegant entre-acte before the return to the final majestic theme, with ever increasing volume to a near full organ sound. You could feel David's national pride demonstrated in his performance of 'Highland Cathedral'. During the work, my co-listener on my other side, remarked on David's octave pedaling, i.e. both feet playing notes an octave apart, providing added substance to his performance.

Another 'sea-change' of programming took us to the music of Harry Warren with selections including 'Shuffle off to Buffalo', 'I've Got to Sing a Torch Song', 'You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby', 'Back in Nagasaki', 'Honeymoon Hotel', 'Jeepers Creepers', 'I Only Have Eyes for You', and finally 'We're in the Money'. To repeat Chris Styles earlier observation: "Here was a young man who had obviously listened carefully to the interpretations of an older generation of theatre organists, and had the incredible ability to reproduce and enhance those arrangements, with a skill that one would never have expected from one so young". David's version of 'Jeepers Creepers' involved some simply stunning keyed runs between the notes of the melody (i.e. not glissando).

It would be difficult to identify the highlight of David's concert, but for sheer virtuosity, the award

must surely go to his performance, (using John Shaw's Technics electric piano), of Rachmaninoff's 'Floods of Spring' (Opus 14 No. 11). The version David performed was an arrangement by the celebrated American pianist Earl Wild. I'm sure John's Technics will never be the same after David's superb performance. If you would like to be reminded of David's playing of 'The Floods of Spring', have a look at the web-site <http://www.youtube.com/user/davidgray2>

Then followed the Ukrainian Russian pianist/composer Nikolai Kapustin's Concert Etude (Prelude Opus 40 No.1), a stunning work calling for incredible dexterity and virtuosity, which David provided in full measure and totally in control.

As if sensing both the audience's and his need for a wind-down from the gymnastics of the previous two piano works, David glided into a lovely rendition of 'Moon River' which as much as anything else showed off the more delicate attributes of the Marrickville Wurlitzer. We are so lucky to have this instrument and to have the loving care and attention of Neil Palmer overseeing it's ongoing role.

David's penultimate choice for a highly eclectic program-mix involved two pieces, the first 'El Adorno' with a Moorish influence, merging into 'The Little Brazilian Soldier' with a not-unexpectedly Latin American rumba-type dance rhythm, and a cheery little melody.

The final item for the afternoon was the Overture from 'Die Fledermaus' by Johann Strauss II. This very tuneful piece was handled with great respect for the orchestral version with which most people are familiar, retaining the marvellous phrasing and articulation of the respective themes used in the overture, together with the infectious waltz rhythms. David admirably exploited the organ's many tone colours which I'm sure would have charmed Johann Strauss II if he had been around to hear it's translation to the Wurlitzer.

Having barely left the console, such was the audience response that David had no alternative than to return to the stage for an encore – and what an encore it was. It wasn't just 'Twelfth Street Rag', it was the most extraordinary blend of sounds not heard in the Marrickville Town Hall before. David had pre-recorded an accompanying piano version but the real 'action' came from his dueting on the Wurlitzer. There were some extraordinary pianistic (or is it organistic) runs to add further complication to the overall sound which was supplemented by thumping bass and percussions and what sounded like every stop on the organ active. This wasn't meant to be a musical treat but a real 'hoot' - a conclusion to a brilliantly planned and executed concert.

David Gray's debut performance in Sydney can only be described as a triumph, as I'm sure would have been his appearances at other Australian venues. He pro-

vided a fresh young approach, displaying no nervousness, and clearly is a born musician.



Still a student studying for his BMus(Performance) at the Royal Academey in London, there will be numerous calls from around the world for his talents, and we can at least say that we have now heard him in concert and will hope that he will be able to spare some time in the future to grace us once again with his muscality and charm. We'll watch his progress with great interest.

*Review by Doug Grant  
ably assisted by Chris Styles.*

## **TOSA NSW**

\* 2010 - OUR 50TH YEAR \*

Sunday 26 September Simon Gledhill (UK)

Sunday 14 November Martin Ellis (USA)

Contact Kath Harding on (02) 9629 2257 for details  
of shows and bookings or go to [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au)

## **TOSA South Australia**

Tuesdays and weekends TOSA (SA) members play the  
4/29 Wurlitzer in their Capri Theatre, Goodwood Road,  
Goodwood (08) 8272 1177

## **TOSA Western Australia**

John Leckie Music Centre 3/12 Compton

Contact: Pat Gibbs (08) 9450 2151 [patgibbs@tadaust.org.au](mailto:patgibbs@tadaust.org.au).

September 12th Matthew Loeser

October 17th John Atwell

## **TOSA Gold Coast**

Club Musical Afternoon on the 3rd Sunday of each  
month (except December)

Contact: Des Gutterson (07) 5524 6607

## **TOSA Queensland**

Secretary: Mike Gillies (07) 3279 3930

## **Stirling Productions**

Karrinyup Community Centre, Perth, Western Australia

\* 2010 - Our 28th Concert Year \*

October 3rd Simon Gledhill (UK)

November 7th Martin Ellis (USA)

November 14th Cabaret Xmas Party

All concerts are on Sundays at 2pm. Prior bookings are  
essential with John Fuhrmann on (08) 9447 9837

## **TOSA Victoria - mto**

**50 years 1960-2010 September 10 - 12**

## Emailing of TOSA News to Members

If you would like to receive your TOSA News each month by email it will be in living color as a pdf file. The TOSA News looks very nice in color and it makes it so easy to file.

Please advise the Membership Secretary on *membership@tosa.net.au* with your name and membership number with a copy to the Editor on *editor@tosa.net.au* that you wish to receive TOSA News by email.

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## St Stephens Willoughby September Organ Concert 2010

**Date:** 12th September, 2010 2pm to 5pm

**Place:** St Stephens, Mowbray Rd., Chatswood

**Organist:** Graeme Costin

**Presenter:** Faith Costin

**Content:** Mary Poppins Singalong  
Introduction to pipe organs  
Children's TV/Movie themes memory challenge

### Description:

Starting with some dramatic light organ music and moving on with a demonstration of how pipe organs make music, this concert will have a bright singalong of music from the 1964 Mary Poppins movie. The central features of the story will be told, and although a few difficult songs will be sung by our presenter and our organist most of the songs will have their words displayed on the big screen for everyone to sing along with.

This will be a fun concert for families with children as young as 7 years old. It will also introduce children to the fascinating sounds of the pipe organ.

Bring your kids and grandkids!

\$5 Adults, \$2 children includes afternoon tea during intermission.

# **Members Diary**

## **September**

**Monday 6th 7:30pm**  
Committee Meeting Burwood RSL

## **Friday 24th**

**Nominations for Office-Bearers and Committee close  
Notice of Motion and any Special Resolution must be with the  
Secretary by this date**

## **Sunday 26th 2:00pm**

**\*\* Simon Gledhill Show\*\***  
**Marrickville Town Hall**

## **October**

**Tuesday 5th 7:30pm**  
Committee Meeting Burwood RSL

## **November**

**Monday 1st 7:30pm**  
Committee Meeting Burwood RSL

## **Sunday 14th 2:00pm**

**\*\* Martin Ellis Show\*\***  
**Marrickville Town Hall**

## **Radio.**

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

Radio 2MBS-FM 102.5 "The Theatre Organ" 3rd Saturday of each month, 6.30 – 7.00 pm

## **Web Sites of Interest:**

[www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au)

[www.theatreorgansaust.info](http://www.theatreorgansaust.info) (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

[www.sydneyorgan.com](http://www.sydneyorgan.com) (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

# TOSA NEWS

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