

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

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

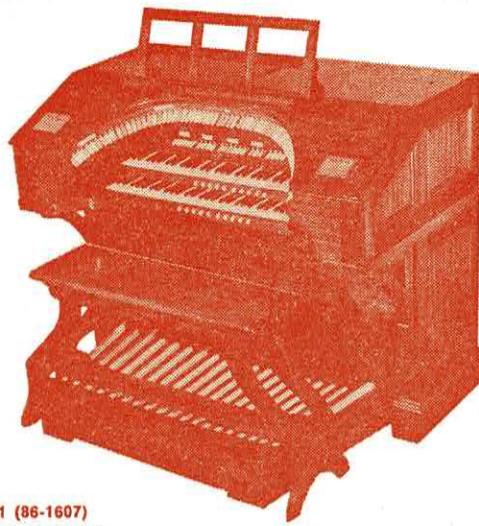
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**PRICE
40c**



VOL 11 No. 8

AUGUST 1972

DON BAKER at Chatswood

August 2nd at 8p.m.

Half the programme will be played on the 2/10 WurliTzer and the other half will be a Conn promotion presented by R.H. Elvy Pty. Ltd. of Clarence Street, Sydney.

Tickets: \$2 Children & Pensioners 50¢. TOSA members \$1.50 concession rate until 7.45 p.m.

Bookings: TOSA Secretary: Elvy's : or Frank Dickson
Musical Enterprises, Chatswood.

Art Exhibition at Marrickville

Marrickville Rotary Club are presenting an Art Exhibition in Marrickville Town Hall from August 4th to 6th and background music will be provided on the Society's WurliTzer by Heather Moen, David Parsons and Lance Wells.

On the Friday at 7 p.m. (when Heather will be playing) the President of the Royal Art Society, Sir Erik Langker, will officially open the exhibition. Admission is by \$5 double ticket which includes a chicken and champagne supper. TOSA members are welcome to purchase tickets at the door.

David Parsons will be playing on Saturday when the exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. till 9 p.m. and on Sunday from 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.

Lance Wells will be the organist. On both Saturday and Sunday admission is 20 cents, children accompanied by parents free.

Reginald Porter-Brown Recitals

Metropolitan Area

Wednesday 9th August R.S.L. Club, Bondi-Waverley.
Tuesday 15th August St. Colomb's, West Ryde.

Sunday 3rd September, Dendy, Crow's Nest.

Wednesday 27th September, Top Ryde Civic Centre (TOSA)

TASMANIA

Saturday 16th September, Hobart Town Hall
(Pipe & Conn organs - with TOSA)
Tuesday 19th September, St. John's, Launceston.

N.S.W. Country Areas

Friday 4th August, Bathurst Town Hall
Sunday 13th Aug. Wagga Civic Centre
Saturday 19th Aug. Lismore City Hall
Tuesday 22nd Aug. Coff's Harbour
Civic Centre
Wednesday 23rd Aug. Tamworth,
Private House.
Friday 25th Aug. Armidale Town Hall
Tuesday 5th Sept. Wollongong Town
Hall
(Pipe and Hammond organs)
Wednesday 6th Sept. Goulburn Lilac
Time Hall

VICTORIA

Sunday 10th Sept. Dendy Theatre,
Brighton.
Thursday 14th Sept., Moorabbin
Town Hall (TOSA)

Organ Concert - Friday 11th AUGUST at 8 p.m. at
ST. CHADS C. OF E. HALL, Cnr. Morrison Road and DeLange Road, Putney.

Baldwin Orga-Sonic 71c model-Organist Heather Moen with
Vocalist Mrs. J. Schramko, T.O.S.A. members welcome. Donation asked for
Church Funds.

REMEMBER: Ian Cameron's Record Night at St. Anne's Church Hall, Strathfield,
on August 19th, at 8 p.m.

Next month: Lawrence Dunk's organ party.

This party will feature a Yamaha E3 model but a vastly different one from
that available from dealers. Lawrence has added double the original registrations
in new voices plus an external speaker system. These modifications combined with
a new Music Room adds up to an evening not to be missed.

Reservations by telephone 85 6376 at 276 Marsden Road, Carlingford.
(opposite Mobbs Lane) - Maximum 33 guests - \$1.00 donation to T.O.S.A. Funds.

OUR THANKS to Frank Dickson proprietor of the Chatswood music shop who
will be selling tickets for TOSA events at Chatswood Town Hall. Frank sold
about forty tickets for Reg. Porter-Brown on July 19th. Incidentally, Frank
has for sale a B6 Yamaha in superb condition for only \$550 - a real bargain.

OUR SYMPATHY to Alec Dunne, husband of our former secretary Phylis Dunne,
who has been ill for several months and is now in hospital. Our thoughts are
with you both in this trying time.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to our American friend Billy Nalle on another great
"first" to his credit. On Sunday 23rd July he played a Rodgers theatre organ
in St. John the Devine cathedral, New York. Looking through the stoplist of
the giant Aeolian Skinner organ one wonders why they needed to set up a Rodgers
for the occasion with so much tone colour available!

M7 Records Pty. Ltd. have recorded Eric Smith at Sydney Town Hall.

The disc will be entitled "The Beautiful Music of Rodgers and Hammerstein"
and number and price will be announced shortly. Eric has been interviewed on
both radio and TV regarding this recording, which is the first occasion of which
pop music has been recorded on the vintage Hill.

More than 20 people attended the organ party at the home of Col Tringham.
Colin has done much work on his Gulbranson organ and made many improvements.
Everyone enjoyed the evening immensely - especially the sausage rolls prepared
by the master chef himself. \$20 was raised towards the Capitol Organ Purchase
Fund, which was gratefully received by the treasurer.

Rees Wills, the Lowrey distributors, have moved to spacious new
air-conditioned premises at 57 York Street, Sydney. Phone 29-5327. During
the last ten days in July, Rees Wells have supplied two 3-m Rodgers theatre
organs to lucky Sydney organists. This makes a total of four that we know of.

New Rhythm Unit from Conn. The integrated circuit chip incorporated
is a marvel of engineering achievement. The rhythm patterns were planned by
leading American percussionist Bobby Christian. Conn also have two new spinets
in production: Theatre Model 552 and Minuet Model 554 both of which include
the "One Man Band" described above.

A warm welcome is extended to the following members who joined us during
July - Miss Nancy Bayley - Kingsgrove.

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Harrison - Carlingford.

We thank also the following members for donations to the Capitol Organ Fund -

Mr. and Mrs. N. Pratten \$5 and \$10 from each of the following:
Messrs W. Vernon, A. Misdale, Mr. & Mrs. G. Hughes, Mr. & Mrs. G. Taylor,
and Mrs. E. Leung.

Best since Best?

If all the little boys who wanted to become engine drivers became theatre organists Reginald Porter-Brown may not be quite so outstanding. As it is he is an exception.

For fifty years now the boy from Worsborough Dale, Yorkshire, has been surprising music teachers, music critics and mortal organists, and possibly been cursed by quite a few organ-builders.

Thirty five years ago it was suggested that Reg should do a concert tour out here and on Sunday 16th July 1972 that tour actually commenced - appropriately enough at Sydney Town Hall.

After a frantic ten days of recording sessions, radio, TV and Press interviews and a frustrating rehearsal on the ailing organ Frank Ellis introduced Reginald Porter-Brown to a good sized enthusiastic audience.

Carefully negotiating the tricky terraced platform to the five-manual console must have been quite an ordeal for Reg, who suffers from an optical defect. After warm applause he launched straight into Percy Fletcher's showy "Festival Toccata", followed by an artistic rendering of "Villanella" by John Ireland. Next came one of his own lively compositions - "Tuba Tune". Very impressive. From the style of the English cathedral to that of the French cathedral was competently achieved with Joseph Bonnet's "Elfes".

The remainder of the programme ranged from Bach to Offenbach. The Fugue in G minor by J.S.B. was taken at a steady tempo and built up to full organ showing the basic choruses in Hill's great masterpiece. After "The Russian Patrol" by Rubinstein the first half finale was a nautical fantasy by Porter-Brown entitled "A Sailors Story". The storm effect must have been one of the best heard at the Town Hall since the time of Ernest Truman or even the great W.T. Best himself who played a "storm" at the opening recital.

The second half opened with "Finlandia" by Sibelius. A Berceuse by Louis Vierne and "Evensong" by Fasthope Martin were the only other organ pieces included but the orchestral transcriptions "Prelude the Act 3 (Lohengrein)" and "Ride of the Valkyries" came off very well. Some of the audience were a little shocked by some of the lighter numbers but were agreeably surprised how effective the big organ could sound.

The death of Farney WurliTzer occurred in New York on May 8th. Farney, the son of Rudolph WurliTzer (the founder of the company) worked in the family business from 1904 until 1966. He was 88.

Members of the Sydney Organ Society heard Ann Barker and Gail Green on John Clancy's residence WurliTzer a short while back.

Porter-Brown at Chatswood

Owing to a hitch in the publicity routine this memorable concert was not very well attended. As the Chatswood instrument was formerly in a cinema a "lighter" programme was presented than that at Sydney Town Hall the previous Sunday. In the first time for many years the second touch was put to good use as many of us had expected.

"Montmartre" by Haydn Wood is a jaunty march demanding crisp playing and snappy action, making it a good opening number. The chimes were next demonstrated in "Bells across the Meadow" and then a switch back to fast tempo for "Nola" in which most of the toys were put to work. "Harlem" displayed Reg's uncanny use of drums and traps and second touch work.

To my mind the outstanding item in a versatile first half was another performance of the "Sailor's story" with storm effect.

The second half opened with a musical journey including "Knightsbridge March", "Under the Bridges of Paris", "Tulips from Amsterdam" "Hungarian Rhapsody" "Blue Danube" "Sorrento" "Japansy" "Stars and Stripes" "Canadian Capers" "Now is the Hour" and "Waltzing Matilda".

"Smile" by Charlie Chaplin included a superb variation of the Tocatta from Widor's 5th Organ Symphony with the theme played on the pedals. This, and Handel's "Largo" was the nearest we came to organ music, though at times we did hear a few snatches of good organ tone without tremors.

Reg had promised to go "right through the organ" and he did. He satisfied all tastes and proved once again that a ten rank unit organ can be extremely versatile in the hands of an artist. Although the instrument has 23 pistons the maestro's spare (third) hand was kept busy improving and modifying registration.

As I said to him immediately after the performance - "Thanks Reg".



Our Patron, IAN DAVIES: Reg. PORTER-BROWN: Peter IRWIN (Tour Manager) at Sydney Airport.