

t.o.s.a. news

incorporating

THE DIAPHONE

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF

AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION.

Volume 12, Number 2.

FEBRUARY 1974

SOCIETY DIRECTORY

PATRON: Ian Davies.

PRESIDENT: Tom Halloran, 66 Flinders Road, Cronulla 2230. (523-5077)

SECRETARY: John Roberts, 5 Wyleena Place, Punchbowl 2196. (70-3650)

TREASURER: Alan Misdale, 74 View Street, Gymea 2227. (525-5554)

T.O.S.A.

NEWS EDITOR: Cliff Bingham, 98 Old Berowra Road, Hornsby 2077.

Registered for Posting as a Periodical - Category B.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 30th January, 1974, 8.00 p.m., St. Anne's Hall, corner of Homebush and Beresford Roads, Strathfield. This meeting should be of paramount interest to all members as the new Executive and Committee for 1974 will be elected. There will also be discussion on future policies covering all TOSA activities as well as some important details regarding the Adelaide Convention. Remember, only financial members can vote at this meeting.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

Sunday, 24th, 2.30 p.m. - Marrickville Town Hall. This date had been reserved for a free concert featuring a local artist. However, through the kind co-operation of Stedfast Enterprises, the Australian distributors of Thomas Organs, TOSA is proud to present one of America's foremost entertainment organists, BYRON MELCHER, at our 2/10 Wurlitzer.

Mr. Melcher is the American promotions manager for the Thomas Company and is on a promotional tour. He is also a past president of the Los Angeles chapter of ATOS (American Theatre Organ Society) and has a Robert Morton theatre pipe organ in his home. He has recently made, for Concert Recordings, a record on the Harvey Heck 4/27 Wurlitzer (not released in Australia yet) and is in demand for regular concerts, both pipe and plug-in, up and down America's west coast. Thus, he is no stranger to a theatre pipe organ, with a repertoire covering every aspect of popular music, from Stephen Foster to Blood, Sweat and Tears. As this is the very first all-pipe organ concert to be presented by an American organist for TOSA in New South Wales, the entertainment value in this concert will ensure an afternoon of fabulous popular organ music. Admission prices are: Adults - \$2.50, Members - \$2.00, Children and Pensioners - \$1.00, Family Ticket (for non-members with large families) - \$5.50, Members' Student Children are admitted free.

DON'T MISS IT! Bring yourselves and two friends and let's begin the 1974 TOSA concert season with a bang!

Saturday, 23rd, 8.00 p.m. - Our first organ party for the year at the home of Ritchie Willis and Norm Read, 23 Selwyn Street, Paddington. Featured organist is Bill Schumacher. Ritchie has a Thomas "Lawrence Welk" Organ and a beautifully restored Gulbransen pianola with stacks of rolls. Book your seat by phoning A.H. 31-8883. Seating is limited to 25, admission is \$1.00 (or more if you like), proceeds going to the Capitol organ fund.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

March 6th - Charity Night, Chatswood Town Hall, featuring Ray Thornby.

April 12th - 15th, Easter Convention, Adelaide.

T.O.S.A. 1974 NATIONAL
CONVENTION PROGRAMME
CONTINUED

MONDAY Assemble for 'bus tour. Trip to BAROSSA VALLEY.
9.15 a.m. Includes Seppeltsfield and free wine-tasting. Luncheon
(courtesy T.A.A.). Visit to historic church organ. \$4.00

Total Price would be \$24.50. PACKAGE PRICE FOR THE FULL FOUR DAYS \$23.00.
(Students, etc. - \$20.00).

Arrangements are in hand for organising a coach trip to Adelaide for N.S.W. members at
a tentative cost of \$30.00.

AROUND AND ABOUT

N.S.W. TOSA member in America. Member Vera Crane writes about her experiences:-

"On my recent return from a fantastic tour of the U.S.A., England and the Continent, I
would like our members to know that the A.T.O.S. Convention held in Portland, Oregon,
in July 1973 was an outstanding success with 700 attending.

"The hospitality given to the Australians who attended was beyond all expectations. This
same hospitality was extended by their society members in every state we visited. I would
like, through TOSA News to express our appreciation to those wonderful Americans and
hope that we will invite their members to our Convention, to hear our organists and to show
that we, too, have hearts of gold.

"Their 1974 Convention will be held in Detroit. I recommend to those who could attend
to do so. I am sure they will recollect, for many years, a very memorable occasion. Any
enquiries about this tour, or the Detroit Convention, will be answered by writing to me,
Mrs. V. Crane, 4 Eric Street, Bundeena, 2230, or to Mr. E. Young Jr., P.O. Box 1002,
Middleburg, Virginia 22117, U.S.A.

"How about joining A.T.O.S., fees ten American dollars per year. The magazine is worth
more for value in information and entertainment."

REPORT FROM THE CONCERT COMMITTEE:

A check on attendances at the last few concerts has revealed some interesting statistics. A split-up of attendances with respect to promotional source is as follows:-

	<u>Parsons M'Ville</u>	<u>Bingham Chatswood</u>	<u>Fenelon M'Ville</u>	<u>Hammett Chatswood</u>
TOSA MEMBERS	90	51	159	114
MAILING LIST	42	51	37	106
"HEARD FROM MEMBER OR FRIEND"	55	36	Not Available	49
S. M. HERALD	15	19	42	37
PREVIOUS CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT	7	30	17	N/A

Your Editor and Concert Committees have been endeavouring to increase the numbers in the first two groupings. It is in the third grouping that development depends almost entirely on the individual member. A conscious effort on the part of each member, to mention the society and its concerts whenever the opportunity arises, could significantly increase attendances and, consequently, membership.

To this end, the back page of this issue, when carefully removed, will cut into two posters. Each member is asked to display these posters wherever a maximum number of people will see them (e.g. the local shop window or office notice board). It is hoped by this means to greatly increase publicity for this concert, at minimum cost to the society.

Further copies of the notice may be had by 'phoning Kevin Eadie on 299-2187 (Business Hours) or Ron Wilson on 759-6050 (After Hours).

Thank You - Marrickville Concert Committee.

CLASSICAL ORGAN RECITAL

The Organ Society of Sydney are presenting a recital by European organist, Wilhelm Krum-bach, on the new organ in the Great Hall, Sydney University, on the 23rd February, 1974, at 8.00 p.m. He will play works by Bach, Handel, Liszt, Guilman and Charbonnier's symphonic poem on the French Revolution written in 1792. This is an unpublished novelty piece of the highest interest to classic organ enthusiasts.

A REQUEST FROM TASMANIA

I received a letter from the Editor of the TOSA (Tasmania) magazine asking for helpful advice from any N.S.W. members who have had experience at or have built a pipe or electronic organ on classical lines. If so, he would like to hear from you. Write to David Ponsonby, 78 Brushy Creek Road, Lenah Valley, Tasmania 7008.

RECORD IMPORTS

Just released in England are two 12 inch L.P. records of Reginald Porter-Brown at our own Marrickville Wurlitzer made during his Australian tour. If members are interested in obtaining these records (which would sell for around \$4.00) please contact Peter Irwin, 21 Campbell Drive, Wahroonga, 2076 - Telephone: 48-5030, and he will arrange to import them.

REVIEW - FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT TOSA WURLITZER

Wednesday evening, 28th November, 1973, saw a good-sized, enthusiastic crowd of organ-music lovers enjoy a variety of good organ music provided by our very talented member, David Parsons.

The program opened with a "sing" medley, "I'd like to teach the world to sing" and "Sing a song", followed appropriately by a very "Parsons" "Happy Birthday". The "Light Cavalry Overture" by von Suppe again demonstrated David's particular feeling for this type of music. A selection of the three most popular request numbers from his past concerts followed - "Lara's Theme"; Handel's "Largo" and "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring". Reginald Foort's "Nightmare in the Mosque" was perhaps the highlight of the afternoon. Those of you who have heard the original recording of Foort will no doubt marvel at David's ability to duplicate this magnificent piece of improvisation. A swinging Mozart's 40th was followed by a medley of songs featuring girls' names. The march "Blaze Away" ended an enjoyable first half.

After a refreshing intermission, David opened up with "Die Fledermaus" overture by Strauss and followed up with a lively "Best of Bacharach" medley. Two items from Wagner's "Tannhauser" - the "Pilgrim's Chorus" and "O Star of Eve" preceded another improvisation by Reginald Foort, "Dust Storm", which really highlighted the vast range of tone colours in our Wurlitzer organ. For the purists, David then played Bach's "Prelude and Fugue in C Minor". Ponchielli's "Dance of the Hours" and a rip-roaring "Wish Me Luck" concluded an enjoyable afternoon of theatre organ music. In response to prolonged applause, David played two encores, "Cherokee" and the "Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1".

The only comment one could offer is that the program was a little too biased towards the