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T.O.S.A. NEWS

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

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SYDNEY SOUTH. 2000.

COMING FUNCTIONS!!!

SUNDAY 18th March. CONCERT. MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL. 2.30pm.

This will be our first paid Concert for 1979 and will feature Bill Schumacher, Cliff Bingham and Special Guest Artist Paul Maybury.

This Concert will be prebooked similar to the Tom Hazelton and Tony Fenelon Concerts held during 1978 and, to secure the best seats, you are requested to place your order now.

Prices are as follows:-

ADULTS	:	\$3.00
MEMBERS	:	\$2.50
CONCESSION	:	\$1.50

Please order your tickets now by sending a stamped, self addressed envelope to Ron Wilson, 120 Dennis Street, Lakemba 2195, stating your requirements and enclosing a Cheque made out to the Theatre Organ Society.

Please note:-

Members who purchase tickets at the Members price of \$2.50 will be required to show their current Membership card, at the door to enable them to take advantage of the offer. If a member cannot produce his current card he will have to pay the difference of 50¢ at the door.

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COMING FUNCTIONS!!!..... Continued.

SUNDAY 29th April. CHARITY CONCERT. MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL. 2.30pm.

This Concert will be a joint T.O.S.A./ Selwyn Theatre Group Presentation and will feature the following artists:-

Valda Lang - Organist.

Marie Tyso - Soprano. Colin Gill - Baritone.
Gino Zancaro - Tenor. Erica Witt - Soprano.
Gaye McFarlane - Soprano. Peter Held - Concert Pianist.

The Concert will be in aid of the Handicapped Children's Association to which all proceeds will be going.

The prices for this Concert are as follows:-

Adults	-	\$3.00
Concession	-	\$1.50
Children	-	\$1.00

SUNDAY 24th June. FREE CONCERT. MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL. 2.30pm.

This Concert will be the second Free Concert of 1979 and will feature Mr. Richard James, Miss Margaret Hall, Mr. Noel Smith and Miss Janice Wilson.

Richard James and Margaret Hall are among our younger organists and have had quite an amount of experience, particularly in the more modern type of music.

The talents of Mr. Noel Smith and Janice Wilson are quite well known, particularly to anyone familiar with the St. George and Sutherland Family Organ Club.

TUESDAY 15th May. MEMBERS CLUB NIGHT.. MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL. 7.00pm.

This will be our first Members Club Night at Marrickville Town Hall and has taken some organising so please give us your support.

Various artists will be playing in various styles and questions will be able to be asked concerning the instrument, playing styles etc., in addition, there will be Chamber tours and interested members will be able to see what work has been done to our instrument, particularly in respect of the Post Horn.

Supper will be served by the Ladies Group at a nominal amount.

Please note that this night is restricted to Members only.

WEDNESDAY 20th June. QUARTERLY MEETING. " THE ORGAN STOP " 8.00pm.

Our Quarterly Meeting will take place at 'The Organ Stop' 52 Burwood Road, Burwood at 8.00pm.

Our thanks go to Joh Congert for allowing us to use his premises for this meeting which is open to all Members.

Supper will be served by the Ladies Group and, at the conclusion of business Members will be able to inspect the latest range of instruments.

T.O.S.A. NEWS.Editor.

Some of you may notice that this month the News is quite early, this has been the subject of some discussion for quite some time and, whilst every endeavour is made to get the magazine out as soon as possible, certain problems invariably arise which puts us up that well known creek.

In the February issue, certain photographs caused a slight problem which meant that the magazine would have arrived in your letterbox in the same week as Ron Wilson held his function and this would not have probably given you much of a chance to think about the function. Also there was a bit of a hold up with the Postal chappies and so on.

We try and fit in all that is possible and I notice that certain States combine the issues for January and February.

As we have pointed out in previous editions, the magazine is printed commercially, 'under the lap', for a modest sum and this can mean that we have to accept some delay from time to time.

However, as a result of the last Committee Meeting held on Monday 5th February, it has been decided to bring forward the closing date for any copy to the end of the first week of the month. This means that this issue closed for copy, advertising etc., on Friday 9th March to enable typing etc., over the week-end, getting to the printers the following week and so on.

As a result, this month we will have to miss Mac's Spot which we only commenced in the February issue but we will include this in the following issue.

Other Editors of similar magazines probably also find that dates of coming functions etc., photographs and similar are always arriving either on deadline or just after it. I have only discussed this problem with one other Editor and we both concluded much the same, if only Committees could deliver dates of coming functions and so on at least three months ahead then we could probably get better attendances at the functions concerned.

SPOT THE MISTAKE.

Some of you may have noticed that a gremlin crept into the works last month, we had two Concerts in the same day!! Sunday 29th April we had a Charity Concert and also a Free Concert at Marrickville Town Hall. Sorry, corrected in this issue.

PRACTICE SESSIONS. MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL.

On Tuesday 30th January the Money Box was placed in the doorway at the top of the stairs on the Solo Chamber side of the organ.

Would all members now please place their money in the envelopes provided with their name and the date endorsed on the front.

A supply of envelopes is kept in the cheeks of the console for this purpose and this will, hopefully, amount to much more practice money being received by our Treasurer Edna Smith.

Please note that in view of recent events that have been occurring with members not arriving to practice and not notifying anyone at all practice positions will be declared vacant at the end of April.

All members who are interested in practicing and wish to remain on the list in either the position that they now have or wish to nominate for another position should write to the Practice Convener, Chris Palmer, 127 Ernest Street, Crows Nest 2065, without delay.

Some members have not been turning up for some months now and have put other members to what in many cases is inconvenience in the extreme. This is the reason for this action.

If you want to continue practice or be considered for practice, write now!

1979 National T.O.S.A. Easter Convention.

Brochures for the Easter Convention were enclosed with the last issue of T.O.S.A. News and should be completed as quickly as possible and returned to the Convention address as stated. Where possible, our Victorian friends would like the brochures returned, filled in, by 18th March to qualify for the 'package deal' reductions.

Although tickets will be available at the door for Concerts at the Dendy Theatre and Moorabin Town Hall, there will be no tickets sold at the door for the Easter Saturday morning Concert at Cinema North. Tickets for this Concert must be pre-booked to provide for adequate catering for basket luncheon following the Concert. (Cost of luncheon is included in the admission charge,)

Two Ladies, Anita Caine and Kay Foley will join Barry Layton and Malcom Ross in providing a varied programme for this exciting Concert.

Conventioneers who make a wise decision to participate in the trip to Ballarat on Easter Monday will have quite a full but comparatively relaxing day after the excitement at the various entertainment centres in Melbourne.

Travelling via the newly constructed freeway, either by coach, (with pickups at the Diplomat Motor Inn at 9.00am and Melbourne City Centre at 9.30am) or by private car, the arrival time of approximately 11.00am at Ballarat Gardens will provide an opportunity to see the famous begonias, ferneries and statuary for which the Ballarat Botanic Gardens are so well known. Adjacent to the Gardens is attractive Lake Wendouree, where a short cruise can be enjoyed on the paddle cruiser 'Sarah George'. At 12 noon, an excellent three-course hot dinner will be provided at the beautiful 'Pompeii Room' of Lake Lodge Restaurant. Following dinner, visitors will take a short tour of Ballarat, terminating at the Memorial Theatre, to enjoy a musical programme, an inspection of the Compton installation, and a farewell afternoon tea, ending at approximately 3.30pm. The total cost of \$8.00 for the day at Ballarat includes the excellent midday dinner at Lake Lodge. (Coach Fare is an additional \$8.00 return).

Those wishing to prolong their visit to Ballarat may like to stay overnight and spend the following day at Sovereign Hill Historical Park, which warrants several hours to make an inspection of its many unusual features.

Those returning by coach can be dropped off at Tullamarine Airport at approx., 5.p.m., Spencer Street Railway Station at 5.30pm., or returned to the City or the Diplomat Motor Inn.

Ballarat members are looking forward to the pleasure of the company of both local and interstate members.

John Mc Killen.
Convention Convener.

Reprinted from "Vox" January.

CALENDER OF EVENTS. 1979. Victorian Division. Reprinted from Vox. January '79.

MARCH:	Sunday 11th	-	Social afternoon at Dendy Theatre.
	Sunday 18th	-	Ballarat Outdoor Concert.
APRIL:	Wednesday 4th	-	Moorabin Club Night.
	EASTER	-	1979 TOSA National Convention.
	Sunday 29th	-	Annual General Meeting, Cinema North.
MAY:	Wednesday 16th	-	Moorabin WurliTzer 50th Anniversary Concert.
	Sunday 27th	-	Ballarat Concert, Memorial Theatre.
JUNE:	Wednesday 8th	-	Moorabin Club Night.
	Sunday 17th	-	Social afternoon at Cinema North.

Continued Next Page.

CALENDER OF EVENTS. 1979. Victorian Division. Reprinted from 'Vox' January 1979

JULY:	Wednesday 4th	-	Moorabin Club Night.
	Sunday 15th	-	Dendy Concert - Hubert Selby.
AUGUST:	Wednesday 1st	-	Moorabin Club Night.
	Sunday 19th	-	Social afternoon at Cinema North.
SEPTEMBER:			
	Wednesday 5th	-	Moorabin Town Hall, Overseas featured artist <u>RON RHODE. USA</u>
	Sunday 16th	-	to be advised.
OCTOBER:			
	Wednesday 3rd.	-	Moorabin Club Night.
	Sunday 21st	-	Social afternoon at the Dendy Theatre.
NOVEMBER:			
	Wednesday 7th	-	Moorabin Club Night.
	Sunday 11th	-	Concert at Cinema North - John Atwell.
	Friday 16th	-	Annual T.O.S.A. Ball - Moorabin Town Hall.

"FLASHBACKS"

by Ian Cameron, Research and Archives Officer.

When the term Theatre Organ is used, most people immediately think of Wurlitzers or Christies, because here in Australia, many theatres installed such organs.

During my research, I have come across numerous makes of Theatre Organs, many of which, during the 1920's and 1930's, cornered significant markets in the U.S.A, U.K and on the Continent. Perhaps some of our members can add to this list.

Aeolian-Skinner.	Leatherby-Smith
Barbieri.	Link.
Barton.	Marr & Colton.
Casavant.	Marshall Sykes.
Christie.	Moller.
Compton.	Organestra.
Conacher.	Oskaly Kino Orgel.
Dekker.	Page
Fitton and Haley. (later Binns Fitton	Reuter.
Fotoplayer. and Haley).	Robert Morton.
Gottfried,	Seeburg.
Hillgreen-Lane.	Skinner.
Hill Norman and Beard.	Smith.
Hilsdon.	Standaart.
Ingram.	Strunk.
Jardine.	Uniphone.
Kilgen.	Vincent.
Kohl.	Welte.
Kimball.	Wicks.
Kinestra. (Compton.)	Wurlitzer.

In future issues, I will give further details of some of the little known makes mentioned above, together with photographs of installations and technical data.

MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL. At long last the presets on the Wurlitzer have been set in what we hope will be a pleasantly workable fashion, bearing in mind that most of the people who practice the instrument are of amateur status. Next month we will publish what the various settings are for everyone's benefit.

POPULARITY OF VARIOUS SIZE WURLITZERS.*from 'Console' June 78*

Taking the Judd Walton register of Wurlitzer Organs and going through it and finding out the total number made, (2238) and doing a bit of figuring with a Japanese calculator the following sizes emerge as being the most popular and most manufactured.

This averages out the the large number of tiny organs and the small number of monsters and shows what sizes really influenced the public.

The most number of ranks went into 7 rankers and then these sizes in the order shown:-

6,4,10,9,15,8,11,3,13,20,5,36,32,21,19,58,26 and 21.

AUSTRALIAN SAFARI DUE AFTER 1979 CONVENTION.*from 'Console' June 78*

An organ safari to Hawaii, Australia and New Zealand is due to follow the 1979 ATOS Convention in Los Angeles. The 22 day junket will cost \$2,800 per person and only 35 tourists will be on the trip. There are 11 seats booked at the present time.

Pacific Islands Safari for Theatre Organ Nuts, (PISTONS), is booking the island crawling cruise. Patty Skelding talked about the tour at the Atlanta ATOS Convention following a slide presentation at the Fox Theatre by Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society featuring the attractions being planned for the 1979 ATOS Convention to be held in Los Angeles and San Diego during July. Chairman Bob Power presented the talk slide session.

THE 5/27 MOLLER TRAVELS AGAIN.

Those of you who have purchased the recording 'The Magnificent Moller' recorded on Reginald Foort's original travelling organ will be interested to know that the instrument has now been removed from the Organ Power Pizza and will be installed in the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

The organ came on the market following the closure of the Organ Power Pizza and was purchased by Mr. J. B. Nethercutt as a donation for the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

Mr. J.B. Nethercutt is the owner of the San Sylmar Tower of Beauty and manufactures Merle cosmetics.

This instrument has had a most interesting and chequered career to date. It was built by the Moller Company to the design of Reginald Foort and arrived in England in 1938 aboard the S.S. Aquatania. It was to have travelled on the S.S. 'Queen Mary' but, owing to hostilities the 'Queen Mary' had been requisitioned by the Royal Navy.

The instrument arrived in something like 65 packing crates and was hurriedly set up in the Drury Lane Theatre which was not in use at the time. After the initial testing of the instrument it was repacked and loaded into the four lorries that were part of the entourage.

The instrument travelled around the various theatres in England until two of the lorries were requisitioned by the R.A.F and it was then put into storage where it lasted only until the B.B.C., Compton got blow to bits by an incendiary bomb in an air raid.

Reginald Foort offered it to the B.B.C., and it was installed in a converted Church where it remained until well after the war.

Finally the B.B.C., in it's infinite wisdom, (or, the lack of it!), decided

THE 5/27 MOLLER TRAVELS AGAIN.

(continued).

that the British public had heard enough of the Theatre Pipe Organ and they sold it to a Dutch Broadcasting Studio where it languished for quite some time.

Finally the organ was sold sometime in 1970 or thereabouts to the Organ Power Pizza where it was recorded which is the record that you have.

Therefore, your record is now quite a rarity as it can never be done again just like it is.

SATURDAY 19th MAY. Coach Trip.

Ritchie Willis' Selwyn Theatre Group will be running a coach tour to Warragamba Dam and Lion Park on Saturday 19th May.

The coach will leave Mortdale Railway Station at 9.00am sharp.

Fares, including entrance to the Lion Park, Adults \$6.60 and Pensioners \$6.00.

Bookings available now by phoning 573581 after hours.

Bring your own lunch and have a pleasant day out. Coach returns about 4.30pm.

For any further information please ring 57 3581.

MARCH 1980. Coach Tour,

A Coach Tour of the South Island of New Zealand is being planned for March 1980. The tour will be for 16 days at a cost to be given at a later date.

This will include Return Air Fare, Coach and Dinner, Bed and Breakfast.

Any person interested may phone Ritchie Willis on 57 3581 after hours.

You have 12 months to save for your fare. Being our own tour there will be plenty of photo stops for the photographers in this Scenic Wonderland.

SUPER EFFICIENCY.

Reprinted from Tibia and TOSA Action.

The following is a report of a Scientific Management Consultant after a visit to a Symphony Concert:

"For considerable periods the oboe players have nothing to do, the numbers should be reduced and the work spread more evenly over the whole of the concert, thus eliminating peaks of activity.

All the twelve violins were playing identical notes; this seems unnecessary duplication. The staff of this section should be drastically cut. If a large volume of sound is required, it could be obtained by means of electronic amplifier apparatus.

Much effort was absorbed in the playing of demi-semi-quavers. This seems an excessive refinement. It is recommended therefore that all notes be rounded off to the nearest semi-quaver. If this were done, it would be possible to use trainees or lower grade operatives more extensively.

There seems to be too much repetition of some musical passages. Scores should be drastically pruned. No useful purpose is served by repeating on the horns, a passage which has already been handled by the strings. It is estimated that if all redundant passages were eliminated, the whole concert time of two hours could be reduced to twenty minutes.

The conductor agrees generally with these recommendations, but expresses the opinion that there might be some falling off in box office receipts. In this unlikely event, it should be possible to close sections of the auditorium entirely,

SUPER EFFICIENCY. *Continued.*

with consequent saving of overhead expenses, lighting, attendances, etc.,. If the worst came to the worst, the whole thing could be abandoned and the public could go to a movie instead!! "

SUNDAY 11th February. Home Party at Ron Wilson's. *Editor*

What a tremendous day it was!, the weather was fine except for one brief shower, our hosts could not have treated anyone to a better and more pleasant day.

Most of the members who came took advantage of the pool and gathered around to chat about various things during the course of the afternoon.

At an afternoon such as this members get to know one another a lot better and quicker than they would under ordinary circumstances.

Our Treasurer Edna Smith was there to both collect the small charge that was made and also to remind you that you hadn't yet paid your annual dues if this were the case and, during the afternoon some \$70.00 was raised for the Society.

Ron has just taken delivery of a Lowrey H4 which is the top of the line of the Lowrey and during the afternoon many members were taking advantage of the opportunity to play it. The organ is quite a complex thing and has many lights and buttons as well as the traditional stoprails and has an inbuilt synthesiser and so on. The instrument is identical to the one that Tony Fenelon played at Wollongong recently and is a new model. The instrument is very sophisticated and this seems to be the trend in the upper bracket. Recently other brands have come on the market which seem to be more synthesiser than organ however, that is another story.

Later on the barbecues were set up and we all had our steaks with the salad being supplied as well as sweets. Then, members either went up into the house and listened or played or sat in the back yard talking and quaffing on a tinnie or two and generally being very friendly in what was probably one of the best atmospheres in which to meet your friends.

Namedropping is quite out of order but, sufficient to say, the Society was well represented at all levels from President to newest member. All levels of player were present and the piano was even heard from time to time.

House parties of this type are just what our Society needs to keep membership from simply being a faceless and nameless group of people.

Anyone who missed out on the afternoon does not know just what they have missed. The important thing is that you come along to the next as the spirit of friendship on an informal basis cannot be overstressed.

Congratulations Ron and Phyl on a job well done!!, you were the perfect host and hostess!!

If any other member feels like holding a similar type of function and would like further particulars, please contact Ernie Vale on 798 6816. The Society is trying to get as many of this type of function going as possible.

Well, that is it for another month, I was at Ron Wilson's home party and it was tremendous. I didn't play the organ because I didn't want the guests to go home prematurely and because it looked too complex indeed! I confess to being essentially a Hammond enthusiast and these days I feel you almost need a licence to play the various complex models that are on the market.

bye for now.