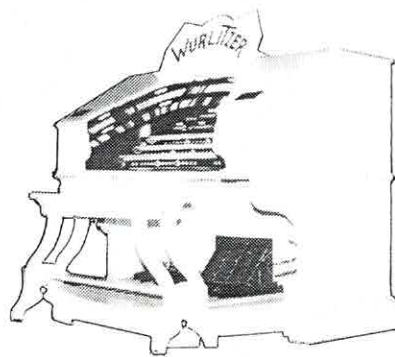
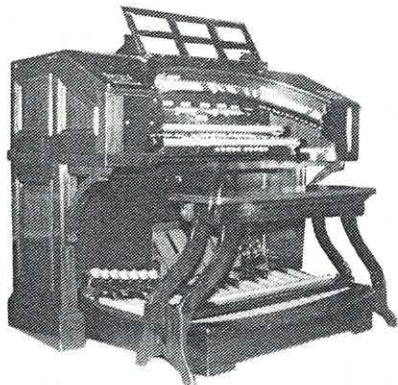
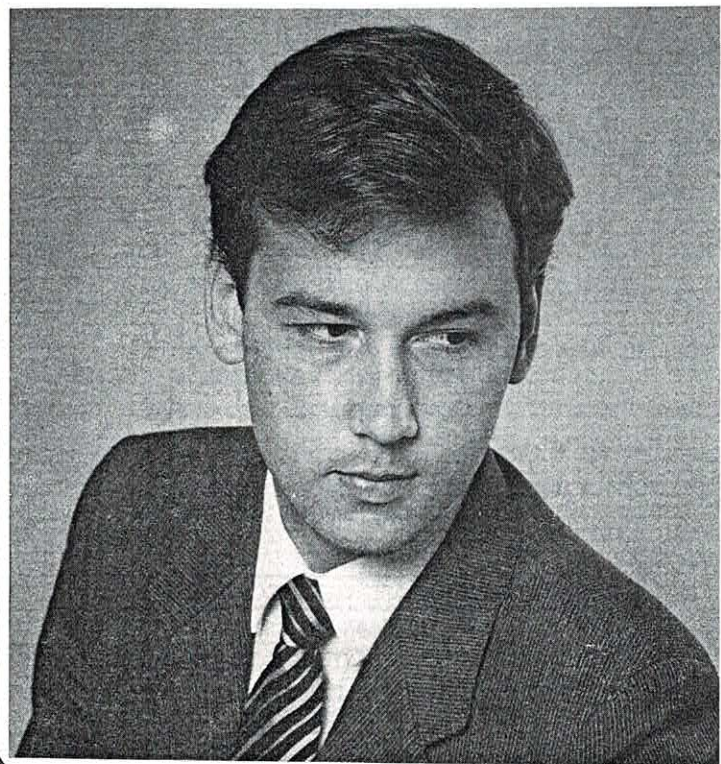


Marrickville Town Hall



Orion Centre Campsie

NEWS



★
**TWO STAR
CONCERT !!**
★

Margaret Hall
Theatre Organist

&

David Drury
Australian Concert Organist

will present
a
varied programme
of
Popular and Classical Music
from the versatile
Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ
in
The Orion Centre
Beamish Street, Campsie
on Sunday 24th June 1990
at 2.00pm

TOSA NEWS

JUNE 1990

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CONCERT RECORDINGS:

Bill Schumacher

PROMOTIONS OFFICER:

Kevin Rowland

Please address all correspondence to:

The Secretary
TOSA (NSW Division) Inc.
P.O.Box C462 Clarence Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000.

COMING EVENTSJUNE

- Mon. 4 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING
- Sun. 24 at 2.00pm DAVID DRURY & MARGARET HALL
These two artists will be presenting a combined concert in their individual styles at the Orion Centre WurliTzer.

JULY

- Mon. 2 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING
- Sun. 22 at 2.00pm WALT STRONGY IN CONCERT at Orion Centre WurliTzer. He will also be drawing the winner for T.O.S.A. Guessing Competition.
- Sun. 29 at 2.00pm Rolls Royce Owners Club Afternoon Tea Dance with The Organ, Dance Band & You!
FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE SEE PAGE 5.

AUGUST

- Mon. 6 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING
- Tues. 14 at 8.00pm Club Night and Members' Quarterly Meeting at Orion Centre.
- Sun. 26 at 2.00pm Free Concert at Marrickville Town Hall.
Artist to be advised

SEPTEMBER

- Mon. 3 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING
- Sun. 30 at 2.00pm A Pay Concert at Marrickville Town Hall.
Artist to be advised

OCTOBER

- Mon. 8 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING
- Tues. 16 5.00pm Nominations close for Office Bearers / Committee
- Sun. 28 at 2.00pm Possible Concert Date
To be advised.

NOVEMBER

- Mon. 5 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING
- Sun. 25 at 2.00pm Possible Free Concert at Marrickville Town Hall
- Wed. 28 at 8.00pm Annual General Meeting at Marrickville Town Hall.

DECEMBER

- Mon. 3 at 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING
- Sun. 9 at 2.00pm Tony Fenelon Concert at Orion Centre, Campsie.

REMEMBER TO TUNE-IN TO 2CBA-FM

EVERY MONDAY NIGHT AT 9.00pm -
For "Theatre Organ Highlights"

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT 7.30pm -
For "Careers of Australian
Theatre Organists"



Articles in this journal need not represent the views of the committee or editor.

JUNE 1990

OBITUARY - Ruby Findlay

Many members will be saddened to know our former member Ruby Findlay, aged 76½ and sister of Pearl Lawson, passed away in the early hours of Thursday 24th May following her recent stroke and illness.

Ruby joined T.O.S.A. in the 1970's and was well known to many members as she attended most concerts whilst she was able.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Pearl and the Family at this time.

50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Members Marge and Ron Solomon recently celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. Your executive & committee have passed on their congratulations and best wishes on behalf of members generally and may you be around to celebrate many more anniversaries in the future.

KAWAI CONCERT GRAND

We are most grateful to KAWAI AUSTRALIA for providing to us, free of charge, the magnificent grand piano used at the Tony Fenelon & John Atwell duo-concert held at Marrickville Town Hall on Sunday, 29th April, 1990.

Tony Fenelon highly praised the fine quality instrument!

T.O.S.A. once again would like to extend its warmest thanks to KAWAI AUSTRALIA for its continued support. An audience of almost 600 people enjoyed and were enthralled with the talents of Tony Fenelon and John Atwell at the KAWAI concert grand piano together with our very own Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ.

John M. Shaw
Vice President

T.O.S.A. GUESSING COMPETITION

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this competition by buying &/or selling tickets, especially those who have requested extra supplies.

Would all members who have not yet sent in the proceeds from their ticket sales, or those who are holding tickets they cannot sell, please return the funds with completed butts or in the case of unsold tickets, they should be sent, with butts attached, to:

T.O.S.A. Guessing Competition Secretary
P O Box 510
HURSTVILLE NSW 2220

If you have any queries, please phone the Guessing Competition Secretary in evenings on 502 3279.

THANKS FOR DONATIONS

We would like to express our thanks to two of our members for their recent donations to T.O.S.A.

Dean Munro - \$50 & Mr. L.S.Jerome \$10.

A VISIT TO
NOREEN HENNESSY & BARRIE BRETTONER

By Frank Ellis

Last year, when 2CBA's Rev. Vernon Turner asked me to present a new series of broadcasts on the careers of some of Australia's theatre organists, he pointed out to me that little had been done to record their careers for preservation in the National Film and Sound Archives, and this was a situation which needed to be remedied. It was with this in mind I was persuaded to record the series for presentation on 2CBA-FM, after which the tapes would be despatched to the Canberra archives.

In 1968, I interviewed 14 of our well loved theatre organists, and these were published in TOSA NEWS during the six years I was the Editor. Sadly in 1990, only 5 of those 14 organists are still with us. They are Ian Davies, Denis Palmistra, Jean Penhall, Noreen Hennessy and Barrie Bretttoner.

After I wrote the scripts for the series, I either showed them or read them to each organist over the phone. Ian, Denis and Jean all gave me their approval. However, in the case of Noreen and Barrie, who are both in nursing homes, I did not present the script to them before recording the series.

I had visited Barrie several times in the last few years, on one occasion taking his old friend Denis Palmistra to see him, but I did not know which nursing home Noreen was in. Barrie was in a nursing home at Hurstville, and through my old friend Bill Schumacher, I learned the name of the home which Noreen was in at Manly.

In the last three weeks, I have visited both of them, and the pleasure that my visit gave them was both a rewarding and humbling experience for me. The fact that they are still remembered with great affection by T.O.S.A. members, and that their names so frequently come up in conversation amongst our members, touched both of them very deeply. It is a sad fact of life that even in the very best of nursing homes, patients can feel lonely and forgotten perhaps, and there was no doubt in my mind that my visit and chat with them about the golden days of their careers, brought back many happy memories for them.

During my two hour visit with Noreen, she asked countless questions about the Society, the Prince Edward organ and its condition today, where all the theatre organs had gone to, and she was stunned to learn how few of the organists she had known personally or by reputation, were still alive. As I left her she said she had enjoyed a most exciting morning and thanked me many times for my visit.

Returning to Barrie Bretttoner now, he told me he would have to find another nursing home and asked if I heard of a vacancy somewhere to let him know. Through my friend Wal Lockwood, whose wife is in a nursing home at Guildford, we were able to come up with a place for Barrie in that same nursing home, and he has now been transferred there. I visited him a few days ago and he has settled in admirably and was well pleased with his new home.

Restoring my contact with both Barrie and Noreen has not only been a rewarding experience for me, but has also served to remind me of that poignant phrase "Lest We Forget".

TOSA NEWS

JUNE 1990

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Once again we are pleased to welcome new members to our ranks during the past month. These include:

Joan and Harry Hart, M/s G.Baker, M/s Y.Orchard, M/s Mavis Robertson, Mr R.Jackson, Mr J.Misfud and Mr Raymond McCaffery.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NOW DUE

Our Membership Secretary would like to remind all members their current membership will expire on 30/6/90 unless renewed beforehand.

To remain financial (and receive your copies of TOSA NEWS from July on) it is essential you complete the enclosed renewal form and forward it with a cheque or money order (sorry no credit cards) direct to:

T.O.S.A. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

P O Box 56

ASQUITH N S W 2077

Membership Rates:

FULL MEMBERSHIP - Single/married member with spouse
\$16-00 incl. 1 vote + 1 TOSA NEWS

PENSIONER CONCESSION - Same as above but Social
\$ 8-00 Security Pensioner No. must be
quoted on renewal form.

COUNTRY, INTERSTATE & OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP
\$10-00 - Single/married member with spouse
incl. 1 vote + 1 TOSA NEWS

Note For spouse voting add 50% to appropriate fee.

SPECIAL REQUESTS FROM MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

- 1) Please state clearly on the enclosed Membership renewal form whether you should be listed as: Mr., Mrs., M/s, or Miss, as we have not always known the correct title.
- 2) Please show surname clearly in BLOCK LETTERS.
- 3) Please state if more than one member, i.e. husband and wife.
- 4) Membership category, i.e. Full, Pensioner Concession, Country, Interstate, etc. should always be shown. [We would like to be mind readers, but this is not always possible].
- 5) Please renew your membership promptly to avoid a last minute rush, your new membership card will then be enclosed with your July issue of TOSA NEWS.
If you are late in renewing, you could miss out with your July TOSA NEWS.
- 6) In case of dual membership, please state to whom TOSA NEWS should be addressed.
- 7) Please ensure correct Post Code No. is quoted as some areas have changed their numbers.
- 8) Always quote your Pensioner Entitlement No. otherwise Pensioner Concession will not apply.
- 9) If uncertain about anything feel free to call Membership Secretary, Ian (or Barbara) Somerville on (02)476 4991

Your assistance would be greatly appreciated

Ian Somerville
Membership Secretary

WELCOME AWAITS VISITORS

T.O.S.A. (Tasmanian Division)
HOBART

If any members of T.O.S.A. (N.S.W. Div.) are contemplating a visit to the 'Apple Isle', they can be assured of receiving a welcome in Hobart. They now have their 2/10 WurliTzer installed and operating in the Collegiate School [School for girls] in South Hobart.

If you are planning a visit south, it would be wise to check beforehand with either:

Nigel Bills - [President] - Phone (002) 25 2029
Albert Hudson [Secretary] - Phone (002) 27 8711

You may also write to the Secretary:

Address - 223 Channel Highway
TAROONA Tasmania 7006

WANTED TO BUY

George Wright recordings on reel-to-reel tape or record, especially 'Hi-Fi' or 'Dot' releases from 1950's & 60's. Any condition, but will pay top prices for recordings in mint condition!

Contact Nick Lang - - 579 5790 after 6.30pm

FOR SALE

ALLEN Model 423 "Music Scene"
Digital Computer Organ with 3 tone cabinets including gyrophonic projector and card library.

\$12,000 or near offer.

CONTACT - Cliff Bingham - - - - - 708 6566
To arrange a demonstration

HAMMOND AURORA CLASSIC, Model 232172

(The largest Spinet Hammond makes)

Excellent condition and has the following features:
Rhythm, One Finger Chords, Melody Maker, Polyphonic Strings, Auto Chords, 5 Piston Presets, Fascinating Fingers, In-built Leslie, plus a host of other features too numerous to mention.

Ring Ted Dunk - - - 043 32 4658 \$3000-00

HAMMOND MODEL B2 with PR40 Tone Cabinet.
3 notes on lower manual not operating, but otherwise in good condition.

Ex Church - - - - - Best Offer

CONTACT: Mr Bill Waite - - - - - (049) 48 8374

YAMAHA ELECTONE ORGAN, Model No A-55NF

Hardly used and complete with stool.
2 x 37 note manuals - single octave pedalboard
10 stops - Bass 16' & 8', Flute 8', Horn, Solo, Flute, Trombone, Clarinet, Oboe, and String.

5 rhythms - Tango, Bossanova, Rhumba, Mambo, and Samba.

Plus a number of other features.

CONTACT: Mr R.Ladd - - - - -Phone (02) 99 3801

JUNE 1990

NEW FACES CONCERT

Held at Marrickville Town Hall 1st April 1990
(Reviewed in May issue of TOSA NEWS)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,

Col Tringham in his review of the New Faces concert (TOSA NEWS April) made some comments about Frank Ellis, the Concert Presenter, who he seemed to regard as a bit of a disaster. But was he ?

It looks as though the ground is being prepared to give Frank Ellis "the push" so as to make way for someone else. But Who ? Anyone we know. ?

Sorry there is no prize for guessing the correct answer.

Russell Robertson

Photographs of the three new artists who performed at this concert, have just been received from the society's photographer Kevin Rowland.



CHRIS STYLES



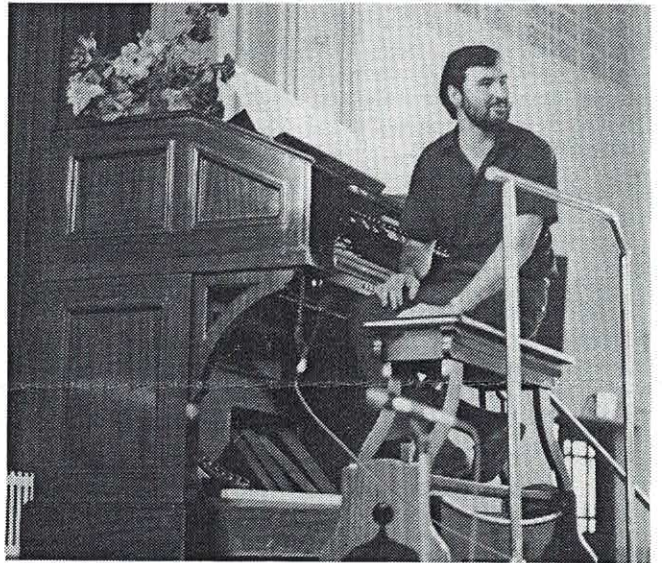
WENDY HAMBLY

COMMITTEE RE-ACTIVATES FORMER 'REVIEW' POLICY

At the last meeting of your Committee it was decided to re-activate a policy agreed to by two previous committees, namely that 'reviews' of Society functions should be published in TOSA NEWS as factual 'reports' and are not to be critical reviews.

The reviews of the recent Melbourne 1990 Easter Convention, appearing in this issue, have been published in accordance with that policy.

Editor



COLIN ADAMSON

ROLLS ROYCE OWNERS CLUB
AFTERNOON TEA DANCE
at Orion Centre, Beamish Street,
CAMPSIE

2pm - 7pm Sunday 29th July 1990

featuring:

Organ, Dance Band & You!

A leading Dance Band will be augmented by the Mighty WurliTzer and prizes will be awarded for Best Dressed Couples of 20's, 30's & 40's eras. There will be a complimentary bottle of champagne per table, as well as bar facilities, off-street security parking and 'High Tea' will be served in the traditional manner.

Cost - including afternoon tea \$25 per person.

Bring your friends and have a fine afternoon.

Early bookings are essential, write to:

Tea Dance Secretary

R R O C

G P O Box 2754

SYDNEY 2001

or Phone 808 3329 or 680 2371

TOSA NEWS

JUNE 1990

REVIEW T.O.S.A. EASTER CONVENTION 1990 Melbourne - Victoria

OPENING DAY (Friday 13th April) at Cinema North

After the registration session, highlighted by smiles, cheery greetings with old friends, and happy meetings with new ones, we adjourned to the theatre proper and the Blackett and Howden, Christie for a musical interlude.

Richard Hore, popular N.Z. organist opened with an appropriate choice, the "Old Comrades March", and during his various appearances at the console, delighted his audience with such numbers as "It's only a Paper Moon", "The Lady is a Tramp", "Masquerade" and many others, including music from a new musical "Aspects of Love". During the afternoon, four young Australian organists also entertained us.

Kylie Mallett, from South Australia, played "So What's New" and selections from "South Pacific". It is obvious this talented young lady is benefiting from frequent playing of South Australia's own theatre instrument.

Glenda Kubler from Queensland gave us "Serenada" and an interesting arrangement appropriately called "All Aboard, Anything Goes".

From Terry Georgeou, a young Melbourne lad, a spirited "Invercargill March" and a very nicely registered "In a Monastery Garden".

A Ballarat member, Brett Anderson opened with "Smoky Mokes" and then used the organ in excellent theatre style with a Richard Rodgers composition "Victory at Sea".

The theatre organ will always stay alive while there are young musicians of this calibre playing for us.

Following a delicious buffet dinner the convention was officially opened and the opening concert introduced. Four organists, Carole Wyatt (Pinches), Sean Henderson, Bruce Ardley, and John Ferguson playing a feature segment in each half.

Their individual styles provided a bright and entertaining opening concert, the accent being on popular, toe tapping music. I have not attempted to list all of the numbers played but, being an 'oldie' I liked Bruce Ardley's opening piece "We'll All Go Riding, Riding on a Rainbow" and his lively selection from the 1920's.

Carole Wyatt was very expressive with "Answer Me", and her George Wright type "Jealousy" was very well received.

Sean Henderson, not yet 12 years old, showed an amazing ability to handle the theatre organ. I liked "Baby Elephant Walk" and his "Victor Toccata" brought the house down.

John Ferguson, a bright bubbling personality, entertained us with many lively numbers, among them being "Coronation Rag", "Take the A Train" and the old "Boston Two Step". I also enjoyed "Salute d'Amour" by Elgar.

All in all the day was a very nice start for the coming week end.

Alan Misdale

MAIN CONCERT - Featuring Dan Bellomy at Moorabbin Town Hall 4/22 WurliTzer Organ (Saturday 14th April)

The absolute highlight of the week-end was Dan Bellomy, International Artist from Portland, Oregon. The job of reviewing his concert was easy:- "in the bag" as one might say.

Dan played the Moorabbin WurliTzer with flair and pizzazz befitting his reputation. The first four numbers were played in traditional Theatre Organ style of the highest standard. It was well into the programme before we discovered Dan's first love of music, namely Jazz. His Jazz rendition of "Lullaby of the Leaves" in the first half had me in no doubt that, "this man knows his stuff". His use of the Grand Piano with untremmed Reeds and untremmed Diapason was only the beginning --- his harmony and subtlety of phrasing in the Ballad from "An American Tale", - "Somewhere out There" with Tibia, Vox etc. was something to make you know why we like the sound of the Theatre Organ, and why it is so worthwhile to travel so far, 1750 km to hear these sounds.

The first half was also filled with such gems as Tony Fenelon's arrangement of "Cosi Cosa", the "Shadow Waltz" (open voiced harmonies), "Lambeth Walk", "La Danza". From "La Cage aux Folles" came "Song on the Sand" (very slow with tender loving care ending with strings vox etc.). In "Second-time Around", his use of the pedalboard as a string bass was as authentic as any sounds could be. The first half concluded with a medley from "The King and I", "I have Dreamed", "Getting to Know You", "Kiss in the Shadow", "Shall we Dance", "Hello Young Lovers", "Whistle a Happy Tune", "Something Wonderful". "Something Wonderful" was exquisite, with his slow build up using a tonic pedal point in the final bars to the climax. What a high we were on to go out to interval!

The second half began with "Waltzing Matilda" played first as a march, then as a slow ballad; a George Shearing and Mel Torme inspired version of "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square", with beautiful handfuls of chords. Then came Duke Ellington's "I'm beginning to see the Light", featuring the piano with bourdon in the pedal, just to show how the organ in the Sydney State Theatre could sound.

"My Romance" was in typical lush Theatre Organ style; followed by "Willow Weep for Me" with its Post Horn opening, followed by Buddy Cole type sounds from Diapasons and Tibias. You must be made of tough stuff if this did not melt your insides.

Next was George Gershwin's "Someone to Watch over Me", and "Lady be Good", then "The Night is Young", and the concert finished with "It's Today". The first Encore was "Undecided"/"Moonlight in Vermont"/"Cosi Cosa". The second, "Swinging Shepherd Blues", showed off the organ's variety of sounds, albeit quiet and restrained, but large in number of ranks.

T.O.S.A. EASTER CONVENTION 1990 - Melbourne - Continued



DAN BELLOMY AT THE MOORABBIN 4/22 WURLITZER CONSOLE.

Photograph supplied by John Atkinson

We must congratulate the people responsible for arranging for us to hear first hand this talent. Dan's flair with his use of full chords at breakneck speeds was remarkable; chords so unusual that a simple touch on a note not intended would have broken the magic. But the magic flowed through a concert programme that will be hard for any artist to better. We heard unusual combinations from an American organist, which also included much use of solo sounds. These were always taste-

fully used, and that big "Hammond Sound" which Dan produced with the pipe organ during some of the Jazz numbers, can only be described as "Wow!" Yes we certainly were treated to a renaissance of organ playing. For me, the whole Convention was worth the trip just for this one concert.

Congratulations, Dan Bellomy.

John Atkinson

DALLAS BROOKS HALL - EAST MELBOURNE

Featuring Tony Fenelon & John Atwell
(Sunday 15th April)

This evening concert featured musicians Tony Fenelon and John Atwell in Organ and Piano solos and duets.

The layout of the hall is not unlike that of our own Opera House and it has superb acoustics. The organ has an attractive 3 manual Compton Console and pipework assembled from many different organ makers. It presently has 13 ranks with 6 more to be added.

The concert got underway with a duet of "Tonight" from 'West Side Story'. This was followed by the "Tritsch Tratsch Polka". John Atwell took over for a short bracket playing "I feel a Song Coming On" and "I've got the World on a String". Tony then took his place at the console and moved Wright into "Bojangles of Harlem", followed by "Sophisticated Lady".

At this stage some problems developed in the organ and it was difficult for the artists to get registration variety.

John returned to the console and started with Reginald Foort's arrangement of "Destiny Waltz". This was followed by a Medley of Richard Rodgers' tunes and Jesse Crawford's arrangement of "It all Depends on You". The Xylophone intermittently sounded on its own account during these pieces.

Tony then appeared on stage and did a piano solo on the beautiful Steinway grand, an instrument worthy of his talent.

Continued on Page 8

TOSA NEWS

JUNE 1990

DALLAS BROOKS HALL - EAST MELBOURNE - Continued

John reappeared at the organ console for some duets to close the first half. These were "An Affair to Remember" and the rarely heard Gershwin piece "By Strauss" which was cleverly interwoven with Strauss music.

During interval the kiosk facilities were not open to delegates.

Tony opened the second half with Cole Porter's "From this Moment On" and then a pretty arrangement of "Skylark", followed by "People" from 'Funny Girl'. Tony then announced he was going to play the piece that Rossini stole from the "Lone Ranger". Yes, the "William Tell Overture". He said he had not practiced it on this particular instrument, but gave us a thrilling rendition of it.

John Atwell came back to the console and played a medley of Harvey Warren Songs, Tony came

back to the piano for some more duets. "Mazurka" by Khatchaturian, a Mozart influenced arrangement of "They can't Take that Away from Me" was next followed by "Cavatina" from the film 'The Deer Hunter' and the Whitney Houston hit "All at Once".

The finale was Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No 2 in which Tony did a brilliant job of the solo parts and John provided some very orchestral accompaniment to it. A sustained applause brought them back on stage for "Little Rock Getaway".

I found out later that most of the piano/organ duets were arrangements by John Atwell. Hats off to John for a job well done.

All in all this was an excellent performance which I would gladly sit through again on a different organ.

Nick Lang

CONVENTION DINNER & FORMAL CLOSE -
At John Hancock's Entertainment Centre,
Sandringham

(Monday 16th April)

Still suffering the shock of a car break-in, and its aftermath of a head cold/sore throat, I arrived into the warm cosy atmosphere of "Hancocks", and suffered the rigours of some 12-year-old Dewar's very early in the evening. I very soon forgot my troubles and settled into the old world charm and intimacy surrounding me (actually, I had no choice - the tables were so close to each other that I had no chance of escape - at least, not without disturbing a lot of people!).

We were offered quite a choice on the menu and although I didn't eat anything that night, I have been assured that the food was quite satisfactory.

Soon the show was underway. Rod McLennan led a cast of five (including two ladies), plus D.J. at the Roland keyboards, and we were treated to a variety of entertainment ranging from Beach Boys to Grease to Billy Joel and even to "PVCVinylweatherboardcladding". This (at times) rather risqué show had everyone laughing in spite of themselves. Particularly noticeable for his merriment was Captain Jim Murdoch, who nearly lost his seat with laughter, especially in the ship skit!

David Johnston then displayed his true entertaining spirit as the recipient of a "Fat-O-Gram". From all aspects this woman was bounteous and at times obliterated the president almost completely!

Interval came and there was still more entertainment. Eric Wicks was presented with his own special poster - "Erik The Viking", which resided proudly on the wall above his head. The raffle tickets which had been "issued" earlier in the evening (the only free raffle tickets I've ever received), were drawn by Adelaide "Flash", John Thiele. Mrs Roxy - the one and only Margaret Sands - presented the lucky winners with a bottle of genuine Leeton Channel Water, vintage 1990, and among those lucky winners was our special guest artist from the U.S.A., Mr Dan Bellomy, who found this the ideal opportunity to exchange a kiss with the Lady Herself!

Yet another feature of this night was the auction of the remaining Compton stop-tab-key-rings by Gordon McKenzie. The key rings were fetching very high prices, so I missed out on the "Black Reiterater" (which I'd had my eye on all night!), and ended up with a 12th 2/3 for \$12-00.

The evening ended all too soon, and there didn't seem to be time to say goodbyes the way they should have been said. One interesting feature that was noticeable by its absence was the customary speeches that are usual at these occasions.

All in all a good time was had by everyone, but it was a pity that there was not enough room for dancing, or for the social "mingling" that should happen on one of these evenings.

Hopefully the Slide Presentation will inspire everyone to come to Sydney in Easter 1991!

Andrea Harrison

EDITOR'S NOTE

There were several other items listed on the programme, however reviews were not written, but I would like, on your behalf, to thank the contributors of the foregoing reviews.

Peter Bidencope

SYDNEY CONVENTION UPDATE



PHIL KELSALL at the Tower Ballroom
Wurlitzer console, Blackpool, England.

PROFILE OF PHIL KELSALL

Resident Organist at Tower Ballroom
Blackpool, England.

Born on Friday 13th July 1956 in Warrington, Phil Kelsall's first memories of Blackpool are as an 8 year old listening to the legendary Reginald Dixon.

He took no great interest in music till his secondary school years in Southport, where he opted for piano as an extra "artistic" study. A family move to Blackpool at the age of 15 saw Phil attending Rossall School studing for "O" levels in academic subjects.

Leaving school at 18, Phil made his way in the world as a clerk at Barclays Bank, but studying for his ALCM privately. Reginald Dixon's successor Ernest Broadbent was established as Tower organist at this time and it was he who introduced Phil to the Tower Company's musical adviser. This led to a post, playing electronic organ for the Blackpool Tower Circus.

It was not long before Phil was deputising for Ernest Broadbent and in 1977 at the age of 21, Phil was appointed resident organist of the Tower Ballroom on Ernest's retirement.

THE SECOND OF OUR
TWO TOP BRITISH ORGANISTS
FOR
T.O.S.A. EASTER CONVENTION 1991.

No-one could have guessed the extent to which Phil Kelsall's career would blossom in successive years. Radio and television appearances have been crowned by national accolades such as the title "Organ Personality of the Year" and being voted 'Patron of the Theatre Organ Club' no fewer than four times - three of them in the last three years.

As well as eleven best selling albums, he has consolidated his fame by becoming one of the first non-pop artists to seize on the potential of the video age as a means of show casing his dramatic and highly visual performance.

Every winter Phil Kelsall tours all over Britain. He has also travelled to Holland and is soon to visit the U.S.A. From Worthing to Glasgow, and from London's West End to Norfolk, his personal appearances are now among the most eagerly awaited events on the concert calendar.

Many of his concert appearances now feature Phil performing on his own electronic organ, which has added an exciting new dimension to his playing.

Phil Kelsall has literally rocketed to the pinnacle of his profession, and has firmly established himself on the coveted bench of the Tower Ballroom Wurlitzer organ. Thousands who hear Phil play during his Tower seasons will tell you exactly the same thing the Mighty Wurlitzer and the legendary Reginald Dixon are in safe hands for years to come.

N.S.W. Division is proud to announce that we have secured Phil Kelsall as one of our two international guest artists for the 1991 Easter Convention.

OUR NEXT CONCERT AT ORION CENTRE

Sunday 24th June at 2.00pm.

PROFILES OF OUR TWO ARTISTS

MARGARET HALL

Born in 1963, Margaret Hall began learning popular organ at the age of nine. After three years she moved on to classical piano and organ studies.

Since then Margaret has enjoyed a diverse musical career. For four years she was resident organist for Mecca Theatres in Sydney, presiding over a three manual eight rank WurliTzer from the time she was fourteen.

Margaret first performed for T.O.S.A. in 1977 at Marrickville Town Hall and since then has performed on numerous occasions. At the National Theatre Organ Convention in Sydney in 1980, Margaret's concert at the Mecca Theatre at Kogarah was very favourably received and from that time on, her name became familiar in the contemporary theatre organ world in Australia.

From 1981-1983 Margaret resided in Auckland, New Zealand and soon became involved in the restoration of the WurliTzer organ now installed in the Hollywood Theatre in Avondale, Auckland. At the opening concert of this instrument in November 1982, and again in July 1983, Margaret was the associate artist with Tony Fenelon, performing both solo items and piano and organ duets.

Margaret returned to Sydney to begin her Bachelor of Music in 1984. Four years later she graduated 'with merit' majoring in classical organ. Her tutors, whilst studying at the Conservatorium, were Robert Ampt and David Rumsey.

In the classical sphere Margaret has performed with the Sydney Youth Orchestra both at the Opera House and at the Sydney Town Hall. She has given recitals for the Festival of Sydney and the Sydney Organ Society and has been a prize winner in two of Australia's major organ competitions.

Whilst maintaining a church position and teaching organ and piano, Margaret is now increasingly in demand for Theatre Organ concerts around Australia. She was one of the four artists who participated in the opening of the Orion Centre WurliTzer in October 1988, and has now performed solo concerts in Adelaide, Melbourne and Canberra. Later this year she makes her debut in Perth.

DAVID DRURY

David James Drury was born in 1961 in Coolamon, N.S.W. He gained the B.Mus Degree in organ performance from the N.S.W. State Conservatorium of Music in 1984. At that time he played the Poulenc Organ Concerto with the Elizabethan Sydney Orchestra in the Sydney Opera House. He also worked with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as well as appearing as soloist in the Sydney Youth Orchestra Prom' in 1983. Later he was awarded the 'Vasanta' Scholarship for overseas study and subsequently went to London to work with the Professor of Organ at the Royal Academy of Music, David Sanger.

David Drury has been a prizewinner in a number of competitions: Brisbane Pipe Organ Prize (1983), Wollongong Organ Competition (1984), English Organ Festival, London (1985). In 1987 he became the first Australian to win the coveted 'Tourne-mire Prize' (for improvisation) at the St.Albans International Organ Competition. He was also joint winner of the first Sydney Organ Competition (1988).

In his three years in Europe, David Drury was much in demand as a counter-tenor and choral accompanist and gave many recitals on well known organs including St.Paul's and Westminster Cathedrals in London and Notre Dame, Paris. Also during this time he earned the Associate Diploma in organ and the Choir-Training Diploma from the Royal College of Organists.

In the United States, he has toured as a recitalist, tutor, accompanist and choral director. He has also given masterclasses and performed on U.S. radio and television.

David Drury's repertoire reflects his special interest in 19th and 20th century French and English organ music. Improvisation is also a feature of his concert programs.

Since his return to Australia in 1987 David Drury has appeared at the Melbourne International Festival of Organ & Harpsichord, the Sydney Opera House, Sydney Town Hall and has broadcast for the A.B.C. and other F.M. radio stations. He is organist at Christ Church St.Laurence, Sydney. In August 1989 he again gave recitals in the U.S.A., U.K. and on the Continent.

During May 1990, Mr. Drury made the first compact disc on the Sydney Town Hall organ. This is due for release by the A.B.C. later this year, and will mark the centenary of the 1890 William Hill & Son organ.

In 1989 Mr. Drury instigated a lunchtime series of organ recitals at Christ Church St.Laurence which are held every Tuesday at 1-10pm.