

TOSA NEWS

October 2012
Volume 51 No.8

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TOSA Annual General Meeting

**St Columb's Anglican Church
Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue Ave, West Ryde**

Saturday 10 November, 2:00pm

Sunday 4 November 2:00pm



Dave Wickerham (USA)

Plays the Wurlitzer at Orion Theatre

155 Beamish Street, Campsie

Directory

Patrons

John Gorrie and John Atwell

President

Geoff Brimley 6351 3122 *president@tosa.net.au*

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John Shaw 9543 3112
Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm)

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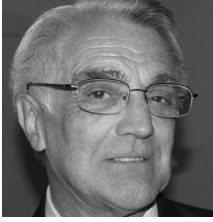
Geoff Brimley 6351 3122, John Shaw 9543 3112

Photography Barry Tooker 9744 1535

Publicity Officer John Shaw 9543 3112

Printing by Rob Gliddon

From the President



Greetings,

Those who attended the Jonas Nordwall concert certainly heard and viewed an extraordinary performance. Many were amazed at the variety of sounds drawn from a two manual Wurlitzer. Also amazing was the way in which Jonas manually added and changed his tonal settings so frequently to achieve the effect he wished to present. I'm sure no one went away disappointed.

Two years ago in this column I advised that the Committee had just entered into discussion with a church with a view to installing the Christie at that location. We had received favourable consideration from their Committee but could not name the church as many other matters remained to be resolved.

One year ago I was able to inform you that finally full agreement had been reached and legal documents executed.

Work on restoration is progressing well, the chambers have been constructed, painted and floor covering laid. Some of the restored items have been transferred to the chambers awaiting installation.

I can provide you with this information, but why not plan to be at the AGM and get to see it for your-

self. Reserve the date now – Saturday 10th November 2:00pm.

Happy organizing,

Geoff Brimley

Editorial



Member Rod Blackmore has provided a report on the Phantom of the Opera Silent Movie showing at the Wesley Centre Theatre in August.

The minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting are included for your information.

We look forward to seeing you at the Dave Wickerham show. Dave performed at the ATOS Convention this year at Balboa Park, San Diego, on the large Spreckels Organ. Please encourage your friends to come along as you are assured of an interesting program.

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

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

or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)

PO Box A2322

SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

New Members

TOSA welcomes new members & wish them a long and happy stay

Mr Alan Best

Mr David Frizelle

The Christie Organ

Work is progressing to schedule on the restoration of the Christie Theatre Organ.

Where restoration of a part of the organ has been completed that part has been moved into the chamber area prior to final installation.

When you come to the Annual General Meeting you will have the opportunity of seeing the chamber area that is accessed by sturdy steps and a hand rail.

Please Note: The next issue of TOSA News will be a combined November/December issue as your Editor will be on holidays when the November issue is due. **Please use the enclosed booking forms for the November show with Dave Wickerham and the December show with Tony Fenelon.**

To Watch Out For

Sunday 4 November

2:00pm

Direct from the USA

Dave Wickerham

plays

The Orion Wurlitzer

Please come along to hear a
fine exponent of the Wurlitzer
and invite your friends and
family

Saturday 10 November

2:00pm

TOSA NSW Divn Inc

**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING**

**St Columb's Anglican
Church
Cnr Dickson Ave &
Bellevue Ave, West Ryde**

Easy access from West Ryde
Station and plenty of parking
near the church

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 Dates
2012**

**The Orion Theatre Campsie
2nd Thursday 1:30pm -
4:30pm**

October 11th

November 8th

Phone or SMS

John Batts on 0420424103

Players and listeners welcome.

Please bring a plate of goodies for
afternoon tea.

Tea/Coffee provided. Parking at
rear off Shakespeare St.

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday evening at 7:30pm**

October 22nd

November 26th

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

**TOSA NSW Divn
Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 10th November 2012, at
St Columb's Anglican Church**

**Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue Ave
West Ryde at 2:00pm**

This is where the

TOSA (NSW) Christie Theatre Organ is being installed

There is plenty of parking near the church and it is also easily accessible from West Ryde train station. If you come by train then you cross West Parade, walk through the shopping centre to the external car park and walk west to Station Street, cross Station Street to Dickson Avenue then walk up Dickson Avenue to the church on the corner of Bellevue Avenue.

If you would prefer a lift from West Ryde Station to the church then please phone President Geoff on 6351 3122 at least a week before the AGM to arrange for transport from West Ryde Station to the church.

Please come along to the AGM to view the location of the Christie Theatre Organ and to hear about the program that has been planned for next year.

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW Divn)
Incorporated

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

St. Columbs Anglican Church
Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue Ave
West Ryde

Saturday 5th November 2011

1. PRESENT: 20 - Please refer to Meeting Attendance Book

2. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS: President Geoff Brimley opened the meeting at 2:00pm and welcomed attendees. Jack Lawson, being unable to attend, David McMullan was substituted as Returning Officer.

Moved and seconded John Andrews/Barry Tooker **Carried**

Scrutineers - Michael Mortimer and Ray Russell

3. APOLOGIES: Jack & Betty Rose, Jack Lawson, Ernie Vale, Theo Langenberg, Sharon Weismantel, Bob & Jean Alleway, John Batts, Tom Barber, Ian Georgeson, Freda Thompson, Alma Jones, Basil Kaplan.

4. CONFIRMATION OF 2010 MINUTES: (Printed in November 2011 TOSA News).

It was moved and seconded that the 2010 Minutes be accepted.

John Weismantel/Peter Held **Carried**

5. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Presented and subsequently published in the December 2011 issue of TOSA News. The original is filed with the Minutes.

It was moved and seconded that the President's Report be accepted.

Craig Keller/Robert Gliddon **Carried**

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT: Presented and subsequently published in the December 2011 issue of TOSA News. The original is filed with the Minutes.

It was moved and seconded that the Secretary's Report be accepted.

John Andrews/Barry Tooker **Carried**

7. TREASURER'S REPORT: Presented and members subsequently advised in the December 2011 issue of TOSA News that full copies were available on request.

Moved and seconded by Neil Palmer/Peter Held

Carried

8. MARRICKVILLE REPORT: As published in the November 2011 issue of TOSA News.

It was moved and seconded that the Marrickville Report be accepted.

Moved and seconded by Craig Keller/John Weismantel

Carried

9. ORION REPORT: As published in the November 2011 issue of TOSA News.

It was moved and seconded by John Weismantel/Peter Held

Carried

10. NOMINATION OF PATRONS 2012:

1st nomination - John Shaw nominated John Gorrie to be reappointed for the ensuing 12 months.

2nd nomination - John Shaw nominated John Atwell to be co-patron for the ensuing 12 months.

It was moved and seconded by Neil Palmer/Ruth Brimley

Carried

11. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR FOR 2012:

Geoff Brimley proposed that Charles Pitt be reappointed as TOSA Auditor for 2012.

12. DECLARATION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2011-12:

Michael Mortimer officially declared the results of the nominations, all positions filled and unopposed.

(1) President	Geoff Brimley
(2) Vice President	John Shaw
(3) Vice President	Neil Palmer
(4) Secretary	Deirdre McMullan
(5) Treasurer	John Wall
(6) Committee	Barry Tooker.....42
	Robert Gliddon..... 43
	John Weismantel.....43
	Ernie Vale.....40
	Craig Keller.....43
	Theo Langenberg.....31

All of the above are elected for the year 2012

13. DEMONSTRATION OF PROPOSED ON-LINE BOOKING SYSTEM

Presented by Craig Keller

How it will be used.

When it will be used.

Where it will be used.

Why being used.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS:

John Andrews - Mentioned income, including donations and suggested we cancel the Building Fund and incorporate any money into the Christie Restoration Fund.

John Shaw - Suggested that donations and bequests in previous years were structured to the Building Fund but now could be used in the Christie Restoration Fund.

John Andrews - Asked the question - how much in the fund - answer - \$44,284.

Robert Gliddon - Mentioned that the project at the present time has no firm budget.

John Andrews - Suggested that we canvass those members who had made donations to the Building Fund, to ensure they had no objection to

Show & Membership Prices

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	All Artists
Non-members	\$27.50
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$25.00
TOSA Members	\$20.00

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$20 per person

Annual Membership Fees are now: \$35.00 for Full membership,
and

\$25.00 for Concession, Country, Interstate & Overseas.

Membership enquiries Geoff Brimley (02) 6351 3122

membership@tosa.net.au

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

the change of Policy.

Geoff Brimley - Mentioned Season Tickets and described the laminated card.

Graham Glendenning - Suggested a shorter version of the On-line Booking procedure at the next show.

Phillip Bongers - Congratulated TOSA for moving the Christie back to St. Columb's Church.

Robert Gliddon - Showed a display of selected parts of the organ and commented on the past year.

John Andrews - suggested we need a Budget for the Christie project.

Robert Gliddon - Replied that alterations come first.

Heather Finch - Contributed to General Business with reference to the local area.

15. CLOSING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN

Geoff Brimley thanked everyone for being present, being interested and becoming involved as a member. We have a hard working friendly Committee which is tight knit and enthusiastic, wanting to get things done and determined to having an A1 TOSA Christie organ in Sydney. Thank you for coming.

16. MEETING CLOSED at 3:37 pm

Have you had a look at the new TOSA NSW Facebook site

Our TOSA Web manager has created the TOSA NSW Facebook site

<https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

Wow!!! has this site generated some interest. There are a lot of historical photos and comments by people who have been involved with TOSA NSW over many years.

I highly recommend this Facebook site to members. (Editor)

Some notes from the 2012 ATOS Convention

*from Theatre Organ, September-
October 2012*

ATOS Theatre Organ Student of the year

"It is with great pleasure that I announce that **Stephen Kucera**, of Kansas City, Kansas, has been selected 2012 ATOS Theatre Organ Student of the Year. At 18 years of age, Stephen has demonstrated exceptional skill, talent, and enthusiasm for music and the theatre organ. In addition to making great strides as a student, congratulations are in order for his performance in this year's Young Theatre Organist Competition. Young artists like Stephen provide reassurance that the future of theatre organ is in good hands."

-Nathan Avakian, ATOS Youth Representative.

From Stephen Kucera:

My introduction to the theatre organ began in the fall of 2009 when my music pastor invited me to attend a theatre organ concert in downtown Kansas City. Throughout the concert I had trouble following and understanding the various music pieces that had been popular long before I was born. The last piece that the organist played, however, was a beautiful patriotic medley. It sparked my interest to attend the next concert in January 2010 which had open-console time afterwards. I played an organ postlude that I had used recently

for church, and I remember noticing the many "listening ears" and peoples' interest in my casual performance of a relatively easy piece.

In the spring of 2011, still with only a beginner's knowledge of the philosophy of the theatre organ, I turned to Scott Foppiano, the 2007 ATOS Organist of the Year, for guidance and began an intense study of the theatre organ.

The highlight of my young theatre organ career has been playing in the YTOC concert at the 2012 ATOS National Convention in Los Angeles, the quality of my performance, and the warm reception that my music received. Throughout my convention week experience, I made numerous notes and notations and acquired the materials and experiences to help further refine my style.

ATOS Scholarship Awards for 2012 were distributed as follows:

- Stephen Kucera, Kansas City, Kansas: \$1,300
- Justin LaVoie, Canton, Michigan: \$1,200
- Daniel McCollum, Sumterville, Florida: \$1,500
- Mary Ann Wooten, UK: \$650
- Grant Nill, Ft. Wayne, Indiana: \$1,200
- Peter Rudewics, Tyngsboro, Massachusetts: \$900

The next show

Sunday 4 November, 2012, 2:00pm – 4:30pm

Direct from the USA



Dave Wickerham

plays the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ (Unit Orchestra)

Orion Theatre

155 Beamish Street, Campsie

Free parking behind the theatre

Wheelchair access at the entrance

Dave Wickerham was born in Encino, California in 1962. He began playing the electronic organ at the age of four and had his first pipe organ experience at age 10. His musical education started at age 7.

When he moved to Arizona in 1976, he became Associate Organist at the famous Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson. While in Arizona, he continued his musical studies with Roseamond Crowley, one of the few remaining descendants of the Louis Vierne line of organists. He attended the University of Arizona in Tucson on a full scholarship, pursuing classical organ studies for six years with Dr. Roy Johnson.

In 1984, **Dave** moved to the Chicago area to become Staff Organist at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. In addition to his performance there, he concertized frequently, as well as ministering musically and serving at various churches.

August of 1990 found the Wickerham family – **Dave**, his wife and two young children - moving to Wisconsin, where he was one of the featured Staff Organists at the Piper Music Palace in Greenfield, a position he held for 10 years.

In the spring of 2000, **Dave** ushered in the new millennium with a limited special engagement, as a featured organist at "Roxy's Pipe Organ Pizzeria", part of a \$26,000,000 expansion phase at the FIESTA Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The **Wickerham's, Dave, Rhonda, and now three great kids**, spent a year and a half there before returning back home to Wisconsin in August of 2001... For the next three years, **Dave** resumed his position at the Piper Music Palace and was also the Principal Organist at Williams Bay Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva, WI.

He enjoys concertizing frequently to many audiences including various chapters of the American Theatre Organ Society. **In April of 1999, he took great pleasure being a feature artist in Melbourne, Australia for the convention of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia for which he received rave reviews.** He returned "Down Under" for a six-week concert tour in New Zealand and Australia during the summer of 2003 and has been asked to come back to repeat the same complete tour in October of 2012.

Dave also enjoys recording and has recently "sold out" his fourth CD "Sounds of Music" recorded on the famous 5 Manual, 80 Rank Theatre Organ at the Sanfilippo Residence in Barrington, IL. There are two NEW recording projects that are soon to be completed and released.

After seven years as Organist - Curator with the legendary Milhous Collection in South Florida, Dave and his family currently enjoy living in Upper Michigan where he has accepted the position of Organist in Residence at Crystal Theatre in Crystal Falls. This venue is a regional Performing Arts Center and houses a 3 manual, 21 rank Moller theatre organ that **Dave** also looks after.

Tickets : Members \$20;

Non Member Pensioner/Seniors Card \$25

Non-Members \$27.50;

All Children FREE. Students FREE entry on confirmation of student status by phone booking a ticket prior to the show or download the Free entry form from www.tosa.net.au and send it in

Group booking for 10 or more adults \$20 per person

for the best paid reserved seats
book early and securely online at trybooking.com

Visa & Mastercard accepted

*Go to www.tosa.net.au click on Events, then the artist name,
then scroll down to **trybooking.com** and complete your
booking by selecting your preferred seat*

or

book by phone to Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

Visa & Mastercard accepted

Item by TOSA member Graham Glendenning of Castle Hill:

A 'ROXY' SORT OF CHILDHOOD – FURTHER RECOLLECTIONS

Six years ago 'TOSA NEWS' generously published some of my childhood recollections of cinema, theatre pipe organ and picture theatre culture of suburban Sydney in the 1950s. I reviewed that article recently and after reflection felt a need to record some more thoughts.

At ten years of age, the 'Duke of York' picture theatre at Eastwood seemed an important place - a palace of cinema, theatre organ music, architecture, technology, fashion, cuisine, organisation and culture. My father was a part-time usher at the theatre. Things are quite different now (as is the author), so I'd like to tease out those perceptions and try to describe them in a comparative way.

Picture theatres were a significant part of the local community. At four storeys, the 'Duke of York' theatre at Eastwood was the tallest structure in the street. It had a 'Christie Unit Organ'. The foyer and lounge area, though functional, were moderately luxurious. Theatre managers were considered prominent people and if you worked at a theatre you might be seen as presentable, mature and trustworthy. Theatres were often used as public halls - being the only, or the biggest auditorium. Younger locals saw Johnny

O'Keefe there for the first time and our primary school used to celebrate 'Empire Day' at the theatre. Theatres were part of the cultural glue that helped hold communities together – it was a family treat, you could 'go out' and see the latest movies, hear the latest music, watch the latest news as well as observe other people's behaviour and apparel. Going to the pictures was frequently the only mass entertainment that ordinary people experienced. So, in a normative sense, attendance at theatres helped to hone expectation and taste for cinema, music, architecture, fashion, cuisine and public behaviour.

Over the life of the theatre it was a significant employer - managers, cashiers, booking clerks, projectionists, ushers, lounge staff, tray boys, musicians, organ tuners, cleaners, maintenance staff etc. The whole business district benefited from the presence of a picture theatre – advertisers, milk bars and cafes in particular.

Just beyond the façade of chrome, terrazzo, etched glass, mirrors and smartly-dressed staff lay a different world - of painted plaster, enamelled stucco, fibrous cement, corrugated iron and outside toilets. One got the impression that this tired building might not survive in a wealthier, more sophisticated society. When television started to affect audience size, it was clear that the theatre's days were numbered. Our family couldn't understand why people didn't want to go to the place we thought was so special. On reflection, I think it's because nearly every household had a television before us.

Live culture was present at the theatre in the form of the very visible well-dressed organist playing the big musical machine – the theatre pipe organ. Who couldn't remember those magical, thunderous sounds that even your bones could feel.

I think that's one of the reasons we love theatre organs, why we reminisce about them and why we do our best to preserve them.

Pictures of the Duke of York Theatre taken from State Library of NSW and National Library of Australia appear on the next page.



"Duke of York" Theatre facade



Theatre Interior Duke of York



***Ticket Box
and Foyer
Duke of York
Theatre
Eastwood
Sydney NSW***





**Two pictures of Jonas Nordwall conducting a Master Class
at Marrickville Town Hall, Sydney, August 2012**

**REVIEW OF JONAS NORDWALL'S CONCERT
AT THE MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL, SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA,
ON SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST 2012**

Nearing the end of a 5-week tour of Australia and New Zealand, it was Sydney's turn to be delighted by the artistry and personality of Jonas Nordwall from the USA. The venue was the Marrickville Town Hall, home to the Opus 875 Wurlitzer organ, shipped to Sydney in 1924, initially installed in the "Theatre Beautiful", the Prince Edward Theatre in Sydney till 1964, then removed and reopened in its current home in 1968. The organ, a 2-manual 11 rank Wurlitzer, is a far cry from the classical organ with which Jonas is more associated, a 4 manual 107 rank 'behemoth' at the First United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon. However, as he remarked, that playing it was like the comparison with driving a Mini Minor or a B-Double – you drive to suit the parameters at your disposal. 30 years ago, the organist Hector Olivera dubbed the Marrickville organ one of the finest little organs in the world. Now, 30 years later, Jonas Nordwall has reiterated those remarks with the additional comments, that changed winding and alterations to the stop list, have enhanced the performance and reputation of the instrument.

Opening the proceedings was 'Cheek to Cheek', Irving Berlin's 1935 'Top Hat' hit with its first line: "Heaven, I'm in heaven" which was surely a metaphor for the reaction of the audience for the rest of the program, because here was an artist displaying an impressive degree of ease in his control of the instrument in negotiating the keyboards, the tabs and the pistons quite irrespective of the superb musicianship. The mid-section of 'Cheek to Cheek' broke into an appealing $\frac{3}{4}$ waltz tempo with a style reminiscent of Strauss' 'Acceleration Waltz'. Then back into 4/4 for an impressive finale.

Jonas prefaced his opening remarks to the audience with the revelation that it was on this organ that he performed his first concert in Australia, 38 years ago!! And he added that the instrument in the intervening period, has become "very spectacular".

Next bracket of items came from the 1960's - "old music" as he described it, - the 1967 hit for 'The Association' - 'Windy', a 'Fifth Dimension' tune 'Goin' out of my Head', and from 'Jersey Boys' the musical, 'Can't Get My Eyes Off (of) You'. This was a melange of very well-known favourites, but each with the unique Nordwall touch, taking the music from the somewhat bland to the spectacular. Particularly so with the second item which had this reviewer struggling to work out from just where did the accompaniment's harmonies come? I suddenly remembered that they came from the opening bars of Gershwin's 'Prelude No. 2'. A brilliant arrangement mixing 'Goin' out of My Head' with Gershwin. The Nordwall segues are in themselves something to hear, and this bracket of numbers proved to be no exception.

'Misty' by Erroll Garner provided a wonderful opportunity for Jonas to exploit the Vox Humana and Oboe to provide a dreamy gentle introduction, and a similar ending to this wonderfully laid back 32-bar jazz standard.

He introduced his next item as coming from the pen of Manuel de Falla, and which until the 1960s had been 'locked-up' in copyright as an orchestral piece. Later as a piano version, an accordion version, and then arranged by one of Jonas' teachers, Richard Ellsasser. This "fire breathing little piece" was the 'Ritual Fire Dance'. Playing at a cracking pace with unerring accuracy, Jonas allowed the Wurlitzer to display her 88-year old brass components to advantage. A stunning performance overall.

Jonas reported having toured the Sydney Opera House the day before with his wife and sister-in-law, and noticed an advertisement stating that the "Count Basie Band is coming to Sydney in October", which reminded him of an arrangement he used to play "a long long time ago when I was infected with the Basie concepts" - a Basie arrangement of the Hank Williams country and western tune 'I Can't Stop Loving You'. Minus a piano stop on the organ, he played a wonderfully percussive arrangement in the Basie style, even utilising the Marimba Harp, Chrysoglott and Glocken-

spiel stops to effect.

The next bracket of numbers was from the 1964 musical 'Fiddler on the Roof'. Specifically, Jonas chose to play 'Matchmaker', 'If I Were a Rich Man', 'The Wedding Song – Sunrise, Sunset' and the title song 'Fiddler on the Roof/Tradition'. A full 'throttle' bass Tuba heralded the opening number 'Matchmaker', but with a gentle ensuing arrangement involving some amazing fingering. A move into Tevye's invocation 'If I were a Rich Man' displayed some of the humorous side of Jonas' arrangements - bass Tibia interjections. 'Sunrise Sunset' was an arrangement of total sensitivity and with lovely registrations. The finale allowed Jonas to build the pace and frenzy of the 'Fiddler on the Roof/Tradition' title theme to dramatically convey the characteristic music of the Ukraine. The audience applause to Jonas' arrangement of the chosen pieces, was amply demonstrated.

As Jonas commented, the next item was just "a little bit of relief", somewhat associated with Elvis Presley, but originally a French folksong dating from 1874. Hector Berlioz arranged the song for orchestra in 1859. Today it is known as 'The Pleasures of Love' ('Les Plaisirs d'Amour'). Opening with a gentle Piccolo and Celeste registration, the familiar tune was repeated in various other registrations, all sympathetic to the sentiments of the song, ending with the Celeste/Piccolo combination – a lovely arrangement.

As the last item before interval, Jonas chose a piece based on Johan Sebastian Bach's Chorale 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' emanating from a short-lived British group 'Apollo 100', who produced a hit recording called 'Joy' around 1972. The amazing aspect of 'Joy' was the pace at which it is played (around three times that of Bach's original composition). In spite of the 'sacrilege', the resultant was a 'joy' to hear, calling for the highest degree of manual and pedal dexterity, with an instrument capable of responding with the degree of clarity demanded – both aspects amply delivered by artist and instrument.

Doug Grant
Sydney, Australia
September 2012.

This Review will be continued in the next TOSA News



Quiet riot ... clockwise from left, Lon Chaney in *The Phantom of the Opera*, Harold Lloyd in *Safety Last!*, Buster Keaton in *The General* and Cyril Ritchard in Alfred Hitchcock's *Blackmail*.

Silent treatment begins for fans of classics

TONIGHT at the Wesley Theatre in Pitt Street it will be at once silent, and really rather noisy, as Australia's Silent Film Festival screens a restored digital version of the great silent movie thriller *The Phantom of the Opera*. "We do a number of sessions but this premiere is a special fund-raiser for disadvantaged youth," festival director Ronnie Farran said. "The film has been restored by the leading [US] silent film restorer David Shepard, and it's just wonderful. And

we have a very talented theatre organist, David Bailey, accompanying." The festival runs on and off throughout the year in different venues. Among the upcoming sessions will be a series of five matinees at the old Roseville cinema in September, which will include Alfred Hitchcock's *Blackmail* (1929), which features the Sydney-born actor Cyril Ritchard as the baddie. Tonight's screening is at 6.30pm and tickets are \$20/\$15, at the door or at www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

Phantom of the Opera

Accompanied by David Bailey at the Christie Theatre Organ

23rd August saw the Australian premiere of the digitally remastered, *The Phantom of the Opera*, originally made in 1925 and starring Lon Chaney as The Phantom. This event was held at the Wesley Theatre, Pitt Street, Sydney which is magnificently equipped for such an occasion, enhanced

by the fact that the theatre retains the Christie theatre organ that had been installed in the former Lyceum theatre on the same site in 1930. The movie was admirably accompanied by organist David Bailey of Brisbane who performs similarly and frequently on the Wurlitzer organ in the Queensland Gallery of Modern Art Cinematheque. Access to the venue by Australia's Silent Film Festival was a boon, being a mid-city auditorium, and held at 6.30pm, a time convenient to people who had been in the city during the day and concluding at a time not too late to get transport home.

Proceeds of this showing were donated to Wesley Mission's Mt. Druitt street youth project. The event received good publicity in the Sydney Morning Herald and on the ABC.

The Phantom, runs for 93 minutes. Among the dozens of screen and stage adaptations of the 1910 French novel, it stands out as the most successful and popular early production with Andrew Lloyd Webber's 1986 musical being the only other world famous adaptation.

Filmed in late 1924 when cinema was rapidly becoming a sophisticated form of both art and entertainment, the Phantom of the Opera boasts great performances, elaborate sets, attention to detail and an enthralling story.

Although categorized as a horror film, the only truly horrific scene is when the phantom's mask is ripped off, revealing a grotesquely de-

formed face. It was this scene that caused members of the audience to scream and even faint at its original premiere because the real face of the phantom had been kept secret until then.

Chaney's role as the Phantom is similar to other roles he played in films such as The Hunchback of Notre Dame, in which he is an ugly or otherwise unsavoury character who yearns for love that is never returned. In the Phantom of the Opera, his love interest is the aspiring young opera singer, Christine, whose career he fast-tracks by manoeuvres and tactics behind the scenes of the Paris Opera where he lives in forgotten basement rooms. By causing people to believe that the Opera is haunted by a malevolent phantom, he can manipulate the managers and thereby promise Christine's career as a new diva.

Details of other coming venues and attractions of the Australia's Silent Film Festival may be found on www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

From TOSA Member Rod Blackmore

You have to stay in shape. My grandmother, she started walking 5 miles a day when she was sixty. She's ninety-seven today and we don't know where the hell she is.

Ellen Degeneres

TOSA NSW

* 2012 - OUR 52nd YEAR *

Dave Wickerham Sunday 4 November at 2:00pm
Orion Theatre, Campsie

Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

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

Currently Members days first Sunday of the month at 2pm in the
Dalkeith Hall using a Kawai Organ

Contact: Pat Gibbs (08) 9450 2151 patgibbs@oneseniors.com.au.

TOSA Gold Coast

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

Contact: Rosa Free 5575 3295

TOSA Queensland

Executive Secretary: Brett Kavanaugh 0412 879 678

Stirling Productions

Karrinyup Community Centre, Perth, Western Australia
All concerts are on Sundays at 2pm. Prior bookings are
essential with John Fuhrmann on (08) 9447 9837

Interstate TOSA Members are welcome to a 50% discount to
concerts on presentation of their membership card

TOSA Victoria - mto

Contact Margaret Sutcliffe on (03) 9891 7227

Warragul Theatre Organ Society

Events Contact: Di Yuill (03) 5623 3301

Members Diary

October

Tuesday 2nd Committee 7:00pm Burwood RSL

November

Committee 7:00pm Burwood RSL

***** Sunday 4th 2:00pm Orion Theatre, Campsie *****

**Dave Wickerham from the USA
Plays the Wurlitzer Theatre Organ
(Unit Orchestra)**

Book on-line at trybooking.com see www.tosa.net.au **or**

Complete the enclosed booking form or
Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

**Saturday 10th NOVEMBER 2:00PM
TOSA (NSW) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
St Columb's ANGLICAN CHURCH, West Ryde**

December

Tuesday 4th Committee 7:00pm Burwood RSL

***** Sunday 2nd 2:00pm Marrickville Town Hall**

Tony Fenelon plays the Christmas Show

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

Web Sites of Interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

www.theatreorgansaustralia.info (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

www.sydneyorgan.com (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

www.ATOS.org

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