

Sunday 13 September 2015 2:00pm

Margaret Hall

together with

Dr Greg Cunningham "Perfect Partners"

play the

Mighty Wurlitzer Theatre Organ

at

Marrickville Town Hall





www.tosa.net.au

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Printing by Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

From the President



Editorial



Greetings,

We are again approaching our Annual General Meeting, preliminary details of which are elsewhere in this publication. I would like to emphasize three matters.

First, please note that the meeting will again be on a **Saturday at St. Columb's Anglican Church, West Ryde.** This will permit members to see where the Christie is being installed and inspect work to date.

Secondly, our organization does require committed people to stand for election. Please give some consideration to nominating either yourself or someone you believe could benefit your Society. I would remind you that all positions are declared vacant and every financial member has the right to nominate for the ensuing year.

Thirdly, our Secretary, Ian Georgeson, has advised that he will not be standing for re-election. **Please keep the 14th November free** and plan on attending. Formalities are kept to a minimum whilst ensuring that all legal requirements are met, thus allowing ample time for a social time around afternoon tea plus an opportunity to see the work on the Christie.

Happy organising, Geoff Brimley Hello Members, as you read this edition of TOSA News you can see that the Executive and Committee members have been quite busy progressing the installation of the Christie, carrying out maintenance on both the Marrickville and Orion organs and progressing restoration of the piano pump to provide up to date connection of the Marrickville Wurlitzer piano.

I have provided a brief overview of TOSA South Australia's 50th Birthday celebrations that proved to be a wonderful event. TOSA Members enjoyed the Balmoral Bijou hearing Simon Ellis play the 4manual 72 rank Allen Theatre Organ.

Because of my coverage of local events and activities I have had to hold over more information about the 2015 ATOS Convention until next issue of TOSA News. I have had the privilege of hearing Margaret Hall and Dr Greg Cunningham practicing for their show on Sunday 13th September and assure you you are in for a treat. Please come along to support these two artists.

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

Tickets for the September Show at Marrickville cannot be purchased at TOSA Member prices unless you are financial with the white members card.

Vale Mary Davies

Mary Davies who was the wife of our patron for many years, the late Ian Davies, passed away on Tuesday 18th August at a nursing home in Maroubra. Ian was an excellent theatre organist and entertainer who not only played many shows for TOSA but also provided the

dance music on the Marrickville Wurlitzer at the many TOSA Cabarets organised by the late Jack Lawson and his daughter Pam. Ian also played a Rogers theatre organ at both Bondi Junction Waverley and Paddington RSL Clubs for TOSA members enjoyment. Mary was very supportive of Ian's involvement with TOSA and his musical entertainment career. She is survived by two daughters, Cheryl, and Wendy, who is married with two children.

from TOSA member Barry Tooker.

Thank you to those members who provided feedback about TOSA shows. To help us provide the type of show/ entertainment that appeals to you next year there will be a survey contained in the program at the September 13th show at Marrickville Town Hall. The current Executive and Committee are conscious of the need to build our audiences for the future survival of TOSA. This includes exposing the joy of the sounds of the theatre organ to younger generations.

To Watch Out for

Nominations for Office Bearers & Committee for the year 2015-2016

Nominations close by the last Australia Post Mail on Friday October 2nd 2015 for TOSA (NSW) Office-Bearers & Committee positions for 2015-16 - See nomination form in this edition.

Completed nomination forms must reach the Returning Officer at Post Office Box 1053, ARTARMON, NSW 2064 by the last Australia Post mail on Friday 2ND October 2015.

Notice of any motions or special resolutions for the AGM must reach the Secretary TOSA NSW Divn, 101 Crinan St., HURLSTONE PARK NSW 2193,no later than Friday 12TH October 2015 so that members can be advised in the November issue of TOSA News.

If any member wishing to attend the AGM at West Ryde Anglican Church requires transport from West Ryde Station to the church, please phone President Geoff Brimley on 6351 3122 or email president@tosa.net.au before Saturday 14th November

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 The Orion Theatre Campsie

Thursday 10 Sept Thursday 8 October These dates have been confirmed by Craig

Craig Keller on 0418484798 Players and listeners welcome.

Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening
at 2:30pm to 7:00pm

To be advised by John Batts

Players and listeners welcome.

Please contact John Batts
0420424103 or Neil Palmer on
9798 6742 after 7:00pm
to confirm availability

Theatre Organ Magic

Australia's Silent Film Festival

Epping Baptist Church 1 Ray Road Epping

Epping has one of Australia's finest theatre organs, a Christie, possessed of strong cinema dna going back to an historic Eastwood cinema.

At 3pm on Saturday September 26, we shall present four classic silent shorts, 1909-1928, all accompanied on the mighty Christie theatre organ by John Batts, one of Sydney's premier silent film accompanists.

The details are below and at the Festival website.

Saturday @ 3pm 26 September

Silents are golden! With John Batts on the mighty theatre organ

The Pet (1921) Winsor McCay animation

Fatty and Mabel Adrift (1916) Roscoe Arbuckle and Mabel Normand



Teddy at the Throttle (1917) Gloria Swanson and Teddy, the wonder dog!

Two Tars (1928) Laurel and Hardy AUSTRALIA'S SILENT FILM FESTIVAL

Website: www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

Phone: 0419 267 318

Email: info@ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

Silent Movie Presentation in aid of the Wesley Fair project, Mums and Kids Matter.

SAVE THE DAY! 2PM Matinee SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER. Charlie Chaplin in support of Wesley Fair.

Join us for Charlie Chaplin in The Gold Rush arguably Charlie's greatest performance and accompanied by acclaimed theatre organist, David Bailey playing the Christie Theatre Organ.

Tickets \$25/\$20 at Festival website www.ozsilentfilm-festival.com.au or call 0419 267 318

The annual fundraiser co-presented with the Wesley Mission is in aid of the Wesley Fair project, Mums and Kids Matter.

Notes from under the wind chest

I normally try to avoid appearing in photos but I think these photos show an interesting perspective of the difficulties involved in replacing the secondary pneumatic motors 'in situ' on the Orchestral Oboe chest on the Marrickville Wurlitzer. We were starting to get reliability problems with the Oboe chest due to failure of the leather on the secondary motors. This is a 73 note chest and although the Orchestral Oboe comprises of 61 pipes, this chest also contains the top 12 pipes of the 4ft Tuba Clarion.

I had to squeeze in between the underside of the the Vox Humana and Krumet chests and regulators to access the Oboe chest. Fortunately TOSA NSW had acquired some secondary motors from interstate that had been stripped out of other Wurlitzer organs. These needed to be re-leathered so we were able to prepare almost enough motors in advance to do the complete chest. Half the chest was completed prior to the John Atwell show in April with the remainder of the chest being completed in August.

It was a two person job with me under the chest and the other person applying the hot hide glue and passing the item to me to glue into the chest. After stripping out the old motors and gaskets, the new gaskets were applied first. These acted as an alignment guide for the replacement motors. Kangaroo skin was used to re-cover the motors as it is slightly thicker and should last for many years.

My thanks to Ernie Vale, John Batts and John Weismantel for their assistance. Some of them drew the "short straw" on more than one occasion!

from TOSA NSW Vice President Neil Palmer

I am happy to report that the Oboe Chest performed perfectly for **Margaret Hall** and **Greg Cunningham** when they were practising for their show on Sunday 13th September. **Greg** is enjoying playing the organ and will play a medley of tunes from the Sound of Music on the Wurlitzer. **There are only two piano solos in the whole program** - the remainder featuring the Wurlitzer. *Editor*



Neil Palmer under the Oboe Chest at Marrickville Town Hall cleaning off the old gasket before replacing a secondary motor

Show & Membership Prices

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	All Artis
Non-members	\$32.50
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$27.50
TOSA Members	\$23.00

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status All Children FREE accompanied by an Adult

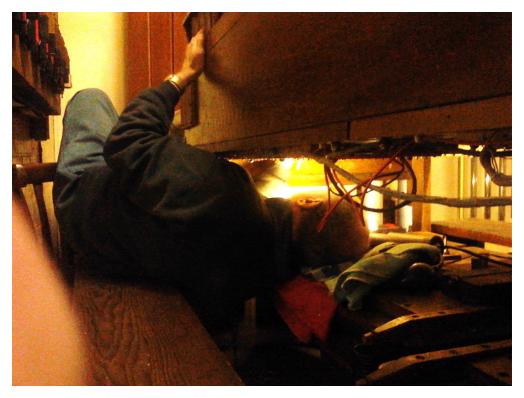
Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$20 per person
First time Adult \$10 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office
Annual Membership Fees are now: \$35.00 for Full membership,
and

\$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%



Neil Palmer balances on a walk board and regulator under the Oboe Chest whilst gluing in a secondary motor.



Burst Secondary Motors from Oboe Chest



Replacement
Secondary
Motors covered
with kangaroo skin
for the Oboe Chest at

Marrickville Wurlitzer

CHRISTIE RESTORATION REPORT - SEPT. '15.

Some good progress on several fronts during August.

- * The vestry ceiling which replaced the suspended one when the workshop area was constructed has been painted in accordance with our promise to the Church. Thanks to Barry and Graham for a good job.
- * 16' Violone chest which had to be divided was returned completed from John Parker and is now installed in the Main Chamber together with pipes. Theo has done an excellent job of making the scallops to retain the pipes against the walls.
- * The power point behind the 16' Violone on the back wall of the Main Chamber is being relocated to make it useable again.
- * Winding and testing of swell shutter mechanisms has been carried out.
- * Final racking of the 16' octave of the Tuba is underway.
- *8 of the 16' Diaphones are in their racking.
- *The 16' octave of the Tibia is racked.
- *Wiring of the Celesta, a difficult job, is underway.

The Next Show is at Marrickville Town Hall

"Perfect Partners"
Margaret Hall and Greg Cunningham





perform music from Berlin to Broadway on the Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra and piano.

Program includes music from Cabaret, Les Miserables, and The Sound of Music plus popular light classics and evergreens to delight and entertain

Marrickville Town Hall
Cnr Petersham & Marrickville Roads
Marrickville
Sunday 13 September 2015 2:00pm - 4:30pm

Margaret Hall

Margaret has made a name for herself as "Australia's First Lady of the Theatre Organ" performing concerts throughout Australia and New Zealand, and also in England and the United States. She began learning popular electronic organ at the age of nine and by her early teens was playing theatre organ professionally for Mecca Theatres. In 1977, Margaret performed her first concert for the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW).

A graduate of the NSW State Conservatorium, **Margaret** gained her Bachelor of Music majoring in classical pipe organ. Her versatility in both the classical and theatre organ genres brought opportunities to play on the iconic organs at the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Town Hall, plus engagements with the Sydney Symphony and Sydney Youth Orchestras.

From 1995-2000, **Margaret** entertained busloads of visitors in Alexandria at the "Service City Antique Mechanical Music Collection" (now known as "Fairground Follies"). From 2000-2004, she had her own 90 minute show of theatre organ and picture palace nostalgia at "Margaret's Music Room". "Kitten on the Keys" is the title of **Margaret's** very successful recording made on the Orion Centre Wurlitzer.

Margaret has enjoyed concert collaborations with ragtime saxophonist Owen Watkins, the Auckland-based 1930's dance band "Brett's New Internationals" and keyboard colleagues *Tony Fenelon, John Atwell, Neil Jensen, Bernard Walz* and *Greg Cunningham* with whom she returns to perform on the Marrickville Town Hall Wurlitzer in 2015.

Greg Cunningham

Dr Greg Cunningham is the Director of Teaching and Learning and Chapel Organist at Barker College, an Anglican independent co-educational school in Hornsby, Sydney. His major teaching subject is English, where his doctoral research focused on visual literacy.

Prior to migrating to Australia in 1996 from South Africa, **Greg** was a student of Barbara van Wyk, achieving an LTCL performer's licentiate in piano. He broadcast regularly for the South African Broadcasting Corporation as a piano soloist in the light music department, appeared as piano soloist with various orchestras, and also performed regularly with his piano jazz quartet. In Australia, **Greg** was an organ student of Peter Kneeshaw AM, the Organist Emeritus of St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. He was made a Fellow in organ performance of the Trinity College of Music (FTCL), London, in 2004. **Greg** has performed with **Margaret Hall** in several piano and organ duo concerts and also as an organ recitalist in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and London.

Tickets: \$ 32.50; Pensioner/Senior \$ 27.50; TOSA Members \$23
Group bookings for 10 or more adults \$20 per person Students Free on confirmation of Student Status; Children Free accompanied by an adult;

First Time Patrons to a TOSA Show, \$10 by completing a Voucher and paying at the box office on the day of the show. See www. tosa.net.au

Bookings: Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 – Visa & Mastercard accepted

For the best reserved seats you can book securely on trybooking. com by going to www.tosa.net.au then Events, click on the Artists name/show title then scroll down to the text to buy your ticket, click on it, select your preferred seat/s and complete the purchase.

PIANO PUMP FOR MARRICKVILLE ORGAN PIANO RESTORED

Committee engaged one of Sydney's foremost piano technicians, Paddy Lelliott, to restore the piano pump to be used on the piano with Marrickville Wurlitzer. The pump is of a compact and complex design requiring expertise in setting up the bellows after being recovered. Paddy has done an excellent job.



The piano pump before restoration

As you can see the belows are set very close to each other so it is critical to reinstall them very acurately.

I was born in 1962, true. And the room next to me was 1963. JOAN RIVERS , B . 1933

Woman are most fascinating between the ages of thirty-five and forty, after they know how to pace themselves. Since few women ever pass forty, fascination can continue indefinitely.

CHRISTIAN DIOR (1905-1957)



The Marrickville Wurlitzer piano pump after restoration. As you see it is a very compact unit.

There follows a little light reading, though I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the author's claims:

"Sometimes, in early days, films would be shown in old disused churches, and it is supposedly through this that the employment of an organ for accompaniment in larger cinemas became general. The first exponent was probably Thomas Lalley, who in 1905 built a theatre with organ specifically for the screening of movies in Los Angeles. It was soon discovered that such an organ could be made to do many things an orchestra could not: it could fit music instantaneously to changes of action, and simulate doorbells, whistles, sirens and bird-song, as well as many percussive instruments. On one later make of organ an ingenious device of pre-set keys made available no fewer than thirty-nine effects and even emotions, including Love (three different kinds), Anger, Excitement, Storm, Funeral, Gruesome This last effect ... must have been awesome indeed"

[Ivan Butler, Silent Magic: Rediscovering the Silent Film Era (London: Columbus Books, 1987) pp.28-9].

From member John Batts

TOSA Members afternoon at the Balmoral Bijou

On a sunny winter afternoon a large group of TOSA Members drove down to Balmoral Village to visit the Balmoral Bijou Music Room as quests of Simon Ellis, Anna his wife and Harriet their daughter to hear Simon play "Big Al", his 4 manual 72 rank Allen Theatre Organ. Simon and family had put considerable effort into dressing up the music room by hanging black curtaining in front of each bank of speakers behind the organ. This gave the effect of having a right and left chamber. They had also acquired a most ornate clock that now hangs on the wall between the chambers. You may recall, as I do, that theatres in the 50s and 60s usually had a reasonably large clock in the auditorium that was lit up so patrons would know the time. The Balmoral Bijou clock set off the Music Room very nicely. Simon played a nicely balanced program and it demonstrated how well Simon had tuned the various ranks and voices on Big Al. Members were invited to play the organ and several took up the challenge. Afternoon tea was quite a spread of delicacies thoroughly enjoyed by all present. Anna provided her specialty of butterfly cakes that were very popular. There was so much afternoon tea provided by members that everyone was provided with a takehome plate. Thank you Simon and family for a most enjoyable afternoon.



Simon Ellis playing "Big Al" 4/72 Allen Theatre Organ



TOSA Members at the Balmoral Bijou afternoon



TOSA Members enjoy a chat at afternoon tea time Balmoral Bijou Music Room

TOSA SA 50th Birthday Celebrations 21 - 24 August 2015

Several members of TOSA NSW Executive and Committee along with TOSA members from interstate, as well as New Zealand, travelled to Adelaide for a fun time to join in the celebrations. It was another great opportunity to catch up with friends from other TOSA Divisions and to chat with the organists playing at the celebrations as well as other organists who play for us around Australasia. South Australian Division ran the program very well and the Capri Organ is both visually exciting as well as interesting to hear with its unenclosed percussians and toy counter. It was a privilege to again hear the former Adelaide Regent Theatre Wurlitzer at St Peters College played by Dr John Atwell.



Dr John Atwell at the St Peters College Wurlitzer
The organ sounds much better since the Hall has been refurbished
and slightly modernised to allow the organ to speak much
better into the room. Great to hear a Wurlitzer in its original
specification complete with dimming console stop tab lights when
fuller organ is applied.

John explained that the Regent Theatre, Adelaide, Wurlitzer was where he first caught the bug of the sound of theatre organ. He learned to play on the Regent Wurlitzer in the theatre and from Knight Barnett as well as listening to Knight's radio programs of theatre organ on a Sunday night.

John's program included the following numbers:

"I'll Never Find Another You"; "Blame it on the Bossa Nova"; A medley from "Showboat"; A Souza March; "Lover Come Back to Me"; A 1928 number - "Doin' The Racoon"; "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines".

Then he played numbers from "The Bandwaggon":-

"That's Entertainment"; "You and the Night and the Music"; and "Dancing in the Dark"

Maintenance Day at the Orion Wurlitzer

The following was achieved at the Orion today. Those in attendance: Craig, Ernie, Barry, Neil.

Solo String - two notes not playing: one caused by debris in the mouth of the pipe. The other caused by a faulty I.C. on the driver board. Replaced by Craig.

Orchestral Oboe - two notes not playing: One caused by the magnet cap gasket which had partially come detached. Wind was lifting the gasket baulking the armature. The gasket was re-glued to the magnet.

The other dead note was caused by a dead magnet coil which was replaced.

After reinstalling the bottom board and testing, another dead note was revealed (D#1). This had played earlier on in the day. Two steps forward and one back. A job for another day. From Vice President Neil Palmer



L-R Chris McPhee accompanied Carolyn Ferrie and Rosanne Hosking at the Capri Theatre Console

What a wonderful afternoon of music. I believe this one of the best performances by Chris at the theatre organ. His solo numbers were perfectly executed with fine registrations on the Capri Organ. Carolyn and Rosanne were an absolute delight to hear - particularly their duets. Their performance of the "Meow" song was a hilight of the show.

Tony Fenelon OAM and The SA Police Band

Wow! what a great band. The only group missing from the band is a string section which Tony provided at the organ. Tony demonstrated great rapport with the conductor of the band to present another fine evening performance. The band took up the whole of the stage area including two Tubas out front. In view of the spread of the band across the stage I was unable to take a photo of them in the darkened theatre. The audience applauded loudly at the end hoping for an encore and the band responded.



Jelani Eddington at the Capri Theatre Console He played the final concert on Sunday afternoon

Jelani's program included:

"Get Happy"; "My Funny Valentine"; "The Orb and Ceptre March"; a wonderful medley of tunes from West Side Story; a very enjoyable arrangement of "Take Five"; the "Star Wars Symphonic Suite"; "The Petit Waltz"; "Not While I'm Around"; "Me and My Girl"; "Somewhere Over The Rainbow"; "The Back Bay Shuffle"; and "The Bacanal" from Samson and Delilah.

Jelani's registrations were absolutely spot on and together with his playing technique and arrangements of the music he gave us a wonderful demonstration of the sounds of the Capri Organ. The toy counter and percussions being unenclosed made for a very interesting visual aspect of the performance as well. I was delighted that he used every device on the toy counter including triangle. Ernie Vale Editor.

TOSA NSW Divn Annual General Meeting

Saturday 14th November 2015, at St Columb's Anglican Church Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue Ave West Ryde at 2:00pm

This is the location of the installation of the TOSA (NSW) Christie Theatre Organ

Nominations for Office-Bearers and Committee are now open, see the nomination form in this issue of TOSA News.

Please note that the Secretary, Ian Georgeson, has advised he will not be standing for re-election

Completed nomination forms must reach the Returning Officer at Post Office Box 1053 ARTARMON, NSW 2064 by the last Australia Post mail on Friday 2nd October 2015.

Notice of any motions or special resolutions for the AGM should be sent to:

The Secretary TOSA NSW Divn, 101 Crinan St., HURLSTONE PARK NSW 2193, and must reach the Secretary no later than Monday 12th October 2015 so that members can be advised in the November issue of TOSA News.

Members Diary

Monday 12th October Committee 6:00pm

St Columb's Anglican Church, West Ryde

Sunday 13 September 2:00pm - 4:30pm

"Perfect Partners" Margaret Hall & Greg Cunningham play

Music from Berlin to Broadway on the Marrickville Wurlitzer

Book at www.tosa.net.au - Events Or Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

Radio FINE MUSIC 102.5 "Colours of the King" (program of the Organ Music Society of Sydney) 2nd Saturday of each month, 6pm till 7pm

Theatre Organ Magic on RNB - FM from Sydney, NSW, Australia.
88.7 FM and 90.3 FM 12 noon first Sunday of the month for one hour

Web Sites of Interest: https://www.facebook.com/tosansw

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

www.omss.org.au (our sister society, Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)
www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

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