

TOSA NEWS

December 2015
Volume 54 No.10

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**TOSA Executive & Committee
wish all Members & Friends**

a **Merry Christmas**

and

Happy New Year

see inside for the 2016 program
and details for booking Season Tickets

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From the President



What a great show from Tony and John to bring the year to a fitting conclusion. It has been a year where, amongst others, we were able to enjoy two great theatre organ exponents from the US in Jerry Nagano and, on his much awaited return visit, David Wickerham.

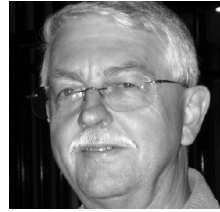
To you who have supported the Society by your membership and concert attendance, thank you. As we approach a new year of shows, I can assure you that your Committee has worked hard to ensure the standard will be maintained. Thank you, too, to those who attended the recent AGM. Ian Georgeson has relinquished his position as Secretary, a position he competently filled for three years. Craig Keller is our new Secretary.

On behalf of the Executive and Committee, I wish you all the blessings of Christmas. May it be for you a time of joy, peace and happiness.

Happy Christmas and a fabulous New Year

Geoff Brimley

Editorial



Hello Members, Craig Keller's comprehensive first hand experience report of the 2015 ATOS Convention continues in this issue.

Many thanks to David and Margaret Badman for offering to accommodate the TOSA Printer, and Computer.

The program of concerts for 2016 appears in the centre of this newsletter so you can plan your diaries and/or calendars. We were unable to access Marrickville Town Hall on the dates suitable to artists for next year so all concerts will be at the New Orion Theatre.

Please note that ticket prices have risen slightly for next year to cover costs. It was pleasing to see a good number of members at the Christmas Show and we encourage you to keep promoting TOSA concerts to friends and acquaintances.

Enjoy the excellent review of Dave Wickerham's concert.

Enjoy the music,
Ernie Vale
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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

Re the Christmas Show

I would like to congratulate the technical team for their comprehensive set up for the Christmas Show at the Orion Theatre. Many TOSA members arrive early to arrange all the equipment and many cables, speakers, cameras, lighting and computer controls to provide a high quality presentation for the audience to really enjoy the music provided by Tony & John. The technical team can obviously accommodate most of any artists requirements.

I particularly enjoyed Tony's

Buddy Cole arrangement of "Have You Met Miss Jones" which as Tony mentioned includes orchestral sounds without the use of tremulants. This shows a style of playing that the Mighty Wurlitzer is capable of and was a joy to hear - thank you very much Tony.

The organ and piano duets were superb as we have come to expect from John and Tony including presentation for the first time in Australia of the piece "Legend".

Thank you Tony and John for another wonderful Christmas Show and thank you TOSA for all your work in facilitating the great presentation.

Happy Christmas,

Kevin Eadie

Vale Ed Wharton

Ex member Ed Wharton passed away 27.10.15 after a long illness in St George Hospital.

He joined TOSA in May 1988 and was Ticket Secretary from 1989-1993.

He was always interested in Theatre and Cinema architecture and organs, was manager at the Ascot + Lyceum (Syd); Queanbeyan Star; State, and Sturt, West (Adelaide).

Also did Her Majesty + Aus Ballet as Ticket clerk before retiring due to ill health.

Sorely missed by his partner of 41 years.

Kind regards

Karl Zipsin

Wurlitzers Preserved

"With the Hope-Jones expertise, Wurlitzer introduced their Unit Orchestra in 1910 and this developed to become the theatre organ range that swept the world. Wurlitzer became a generic name for all types and makes of theatre organs Due to the dedicated effort given to preservation by enthusiasts around the world, the exciting sound of Wurlitzer theatre organs continues to be heard" (Graeme D. Rushworth, Historic Organs of New South Wales Sydney: Hale & Iremonger, 1988, p.361).

To Watch Out for

All reports from the 2015 AGM are available upon request to the Secretary at secretary@tosa.net.au

"The great thing about making cognac is that it teaches you above everything else to wait - man proposes, but time and God and the seasons have got to be on your side."

JEAN MONNET (1888-1979)

Advertising Rates in TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Quarter Page = \$25

Half Page = \$50

Full Page = \$100

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

Members' Playing Dates The Orion Theatre Campsie

**Thursday 14 January
Thursday 11 February
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
Not on Monday 28 December
which is a public holiday**

Players and listeners welcome.
Please contact John Batts
0420424103 or Neil Palmer on
9798 6742 after 7:00pm
to confirm availability

REVIEW OF DAVE WICKERHAM'S CONCERT – MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL – SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2015

Three days short of the third anniversary of his previous visit to Sydney on the 4th November 2012, a 'select' group of TOSA(NSW) members and visitors, were about to be 'blown away' by the 2011 American 'Theatre Organist of the Year' Dave Wickerham. For his 2012 performance, I was asked to review the program, and on checking I found that I wrote: "I left the concert both drained and exhilarated. I was drained because I found myself concentrating so hard to detect and identify the numerous counter melodies and embellishments the artist had woven into his astounding arrangements. I was exhilarated because I had been a party to one of the finest performances of theatre organ I had heard in a long time, and per medium of an instrument equal to the demands of the performer". I am very happy to say that the most-recent concert produced in me, exactly the same reactions, and moreso, I was amazed at the 'behaviour' of the little 2 manual 11 rank 'refugee' from the Prince Edward Theatre. All in all, the concert was a breathtaking experience.



Right from the start we were observing a performing technique involving fingering accuracy, lightning speed tab and piston changes, pedal-skating, keyboard 'hopping', theme-blending, and a supreme mastery of harmony and counterpoint. It has often been said that Dave Wickerham performances are never the same twice. It is clear

that his mind is always thinking of new and different ways of varying his performances, during those performances, and suddenly 'unleash' familiar themes to blend with, or overtake the prime choice.

He seated himself at the console, opening with 'It's Going to be a Great Day', 'On a Wonderful Day Like Today' and 'I Want to be Happy', and pretty soon demonstrated 'all of the above'.



Dave has previously indicated he is a great fan of rag-time music, and his next item demonstrated that preference with 'The Temptation Rag', a 1919 composition of Henry Lodge. A piece like this demonstrated his having a lot of fun on an instrument capable of responding accordingly, and as he puts it, helps him 'warm up the fingers'.

It was then on to one of those 'never twice the same' interpretations with an Irving Berlin medley comprising 'There's No Business Like Show Business', 'What'll I Do?', 'Cheek to Cheek', 'I'll be Loving You', 'Blue Skies', 'Puttin' on the Ritz' and 'Alexander's Ragtime Band'. One of the delights of a Wickerham recital, is the ingenuity and musicality of the segues. I think Dave enjoys keeping his audience guessing as long as possible, to just what will be the forthcoming item.

It was at this time that the apparently obligatory 'obligato' for organ and aircraft occurred, as a Jumbo jet took off from Mascot. Its flight-path seemed to aim directly for the Marrickville Town Hall, just before the artist was about to commence his contribution. Not to be fazed by this intrusion, Dave launched forth extemporizing with 'On a Jet Plane', until the intruder had 'moved right along'.

A most charming contribution to the 'mix' for the day was Dave's choice of two well-known songs by different composers, but linked by

the interpreter of the respective works – Bette Midler. First came 'The Rose' from the 1979 film 'The Rose' composed by Amanda McBroom, which was sung by Bette during the closing credits. Bette also popularised the Jeff Silbar and Larry Henley composition 'Wind Beneath My Wings' performed in the 1989 movie 'Beaches'.

A very thoughtful and sensitive semi-classical introduction led to the flutes providing the immediately recognisable theme of 'Wind Beneath My Wings'. The transition to 'The Rose' was achieved by a gentle sustained 2-note 5th interval taken up by the delightful theme. A totally satisfying rendition of both themes by Dave Wickerham ending in a gentle similar 5th interval in the lower register. This would be my first choice for the day, for sheer musicality, not requiring virtuosity.

Another of those aural delights came with an amazing arrangement of 'Puff the Magic Dragon' - as you've never heard it before (and no doubt, as Dave has never quite played it before) – such is his ability to improvise 'on the fly'. We had examples of kettle drums, a jig rhythm, classical pedal virtuosity, culminating in a 'big finish' which Peter Paul and Mary could never equal.

Dave commenced his next item with one of those pieces which sound tantalisingly like a number of songs. I had to ask Dave during the interval just what it was. He informed me that it was a gospel song 'In the Garden' by the American song-writer C. Austin Miles, a song that was even performed by Elvis Presley on his gospel album 'How Great Thou Art'. Another of those marvellous morphs took us via a most convincing bag-pipe simulation with 'Amazing Grace', proceeding 'down the glen' into a stunning blending of musical 'thoughts' with 'The Carrillon of Westminster' by Louis Vierne, together with 'Amazing Grace', before a contemplative conclusion returning to 'In the Garden' – amazing artistry.



The last item(s) before interval were 'The Theme from the Bridge on the River Kwai', otherwise known as the 'Colonel Bogey March' by the UK Bandmaster Lt. F.K. Ricketts, (no- not John Phillip Sousa), followed by the 'Dam Busters March' by Eric Coates . Towards the conclusion the two items came together in another of those incredible Wickerham feats of blending melodies. The lightning speed of tab and piston-changing was clearly seen, thanks to the two video screens in use on the day.

Just after the interval, President Geoff Brimley invited Dave's wife to draw the prizes for the day. She made the comment "I'm not the one with the accent – you all have!"

Into the second half of the concert with 'Varsity Drag' from the trio Lew Brown, Buddy DeSylva and Ray Henderson for the 1927 musical 'Good News' – a good rollicking number to open the second half of the program.

This was followed by another medley, this time celebrating the music of Richard Rodgers per medium of the collaboration with Oscar Hammerstein 2. The selection included 'Oklahoma', 'Oh what a Beautiful Morning', 'Surry with a Fringe on Top' from 'Oklahoma', 'This Nearly was Mine', 'I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair', 'Some Enchanted Evening' from 'South Pacific', and 'My Favourite Things', 'Edelweiss', 'Doh Re Me' , 'The Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music', 'The Wedding March', 'How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?', and 'Climb Every Mountain', from 'The Sound of Music'. The respective selections

Show & Membership Prices

| | All Artists |
|--|--------------------|
| Non-members | \$35 |
| Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder | \$30 |
| Family 2 Adults incl 1 or more children | \$65 |
| TOSA Members | \$25 |

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE accompanied by an Adult

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$22 per person

First time Adult \$15 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office

Annual Membership Fees : \$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%

enabled Dave to exploit the range of 'voices' possible from the organ including most of the tuned percussions. What a feast of truly musical reminders of the great shows of Rodgers and Hammerstein!

Another of those superb renditions of familiar songs opening in a semi-classical form, Tony Hatch's 'Down Town', the Petula Clark's hit, followed by an intriguing lengthy *segué* culminating in 'Georgia on my Mind' in a bluesy mood, leading to a full organ diminishing to no tremulants, and a tempo virtually zeroed – an amazing performance.



Then it was on for 'young and old'! At the interval, Dave had asked members of the audience to list their requests for what has become a 'staple' segment of the Wickerham performances. Dave tackled an amazing number of items from a wide variety of sources, and seemed to be able to provide totally appropriate *segués* between the respective items. Just note the number and variety of the items: 'The Sheik of Araby', 'Frankie and Johnny', 'The Girl from Ipanema', 'Take 5', 'Jealousy', 'Begin the Beguine', 'Singing' in the Rain', 'The Bells of St. Marys', 'Rhapsody in Blue', 'In the Hall of the Mountain King', J.S. Bach's Toccata in D Minor, 'Tico Tico'(partly a la J.S. Bach), 'Misty', 'The Toccata from Widor's 5th Symphony', themes from 'The Phantom of the Opera', and very appropriately for an American, 'The Battle Hymn

of the Republic'. The pièce de résistance of the selection (in my opinion) was the 'The Toccata from Widor's 5th Symphony' which 'prised' out of the 'refugee from the Prince Edward Theatre', the brilliance and majesty of Widor's composition, with all the virtuosity and musicality demanded by Widor. Who could have ever believed the sound emanating from the Marrickville Town Hall Wurlitzer 2/11?

The 'perpetrator' of a thoroughly entertaining afternoon, Mr. Dave Wickerham was given a standing ovation and was not even allowed to leave the console. 'Reluctantly' he provided an encore. Once more, the audience was delighted to see and hear a stunning performance of a piece with which I was unfamiliar, but had similarities to the Brazilian samba 'Tico Tico' with, amongst many variations, a bossa nova rhythm. With amazing fingering, lightning-fast tab and piston changes, incredible pedal work, and sheer musicality, Dave Wickerham ended a thoroughly memorable performance on the Marrickville Wurlitzer at Marrickville Town Hall.



TOSA(NSW) again provided a thoroughly entertaining afternoon, with a completely professional artist 'at the helm'. It has been three years since Dave Wickerham honoured us with his talent and generous spirit. It is to be hoped that he may be able to renew acquaintances with all of us again soon.

Many congratulations are due to the TOSA(NSW) team responsible for not only the management of the performance of the day, but also for the long hours of dedication behind the maintenance and tuning of the organ, a feature recognised by Dave in his comments on the quality of the instrument.

Doug Grant

November 2015

With special thanks to Barry Tooker.

Photos by Barry Tooker

Show dates, artists and venues for 2016

- 1.Sunday 28 Feb - 2:00pm at Orion - David Bailey Queensland
- 2.Sunday 17 April - 2:00pm at Orion - Tony Fenelon Melbourne
- 3.Sunday 5 June - 2:00pm at Orion - Chris Powell UK
- 4.Sunday 31 July - 2:00pm at Orion - David Gray UK
- 5.Sunday 4 September - 2:00pm at Orion - Chris McPhee South
Australia
- 6.Sunday 9 October - 2:00pm at Orion - Martin Ellis USA
- 7.Sunday 4 December - 2:00pm at Orion -
Tony Fenelon & John Atwell both Melbourne

The dates, venues and artists have been confirmed to date. In the event of any change this will be notified on the TOSA web site, and to members through TOSA News.

Season ticket prices and Application Forms:

7 concerts for the price of 6 available until 28 February 2016

Members \$150; Conc \$180; Non Members \$210; Family \$390

Season tickets cannot be purchased on Trybooking

Season Ticket Application Forms

The application needs to be completed and mailed to the Ticket Secretary 14 Warrah Place, Greystanes 2145

Please Note: There has been a slight increase in the price of individual tickets for 2016

Please keep the above details in a safe place (on the fridge perhaps) and note your 2016 calendar and diary so you don't miss a Mighty Wurlitzer concert.

To obtain a Season ticket Application Form
Please go to www.tosa.net.au or contact
the Membership Secretary on phone (02) 6351 3122

David Bailey

Since discovering the cinema organ in 2001, **David** has become increasingly interested in the rare and vast tonal and dynamic abilities of this most interesting instrument.

Through performing for many organ societies in Brisbane and interstate, **David** has acquired invaluable knowledge on every aspect of the cinema organ. He is now keen to venture down new musical avenues and bring the seldom heard voice of the cinema organ to a new audience.

David has played several concerts for TOSA in Sydney on both the Orion Wurlitzer and Marrickville Wurlitzer. **David** has developed his own style of playing that has often introduced new and interesting registrations within his repertoire. The Executive and committee of TOSA NSW highly recommend that you come along to hear **David** in concert as his performances have been most enjoyable.

David is a very active member of TOSA Queensland in promoting and presentation of their Christie Cinema Organ.

Tickets : \$ 35; Concession \$ 30; Members \$25

Family ie 2 Adults including 1 or more children \$65

Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person

Students up to 25 years Free on confirmation of student status
First Time Patrons to a TOSA Show, \$15 by completing a Voucher
and paying at the box office on the day of the show. See www.tosa.net.au

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 buy your ticket, click on it, select your preferred seat/s and complete the purchase. Visa & Mastercard accepted.

ATOS Convention 2015 – It Certainly Was Something Big!

Part 2 of a report by Craig Keller

Sunday July 5 started with, yes you guessed it – another bus trip – and group A had to be the first to leave from 8am! This time we headed north out of Philly towards a modern day theatre organ mecca. We were going to Macungie, Pennsylvania to the Allen Organ Company's headquarters. We took the scenic route and saw some of the beautiful Lehigh Valley. The route gave our bus drivers some challenges but they handled it with aplomb.

On arrival at the venue, which is not the factory (sadly) we were ushered into the Jerome Markowitz Memorial Museum (Mr Markowitz was the founder of Allen Organs Co in 1937). There were numerous important instruments, devices, tools and inventions on display that we could have a better look at later.

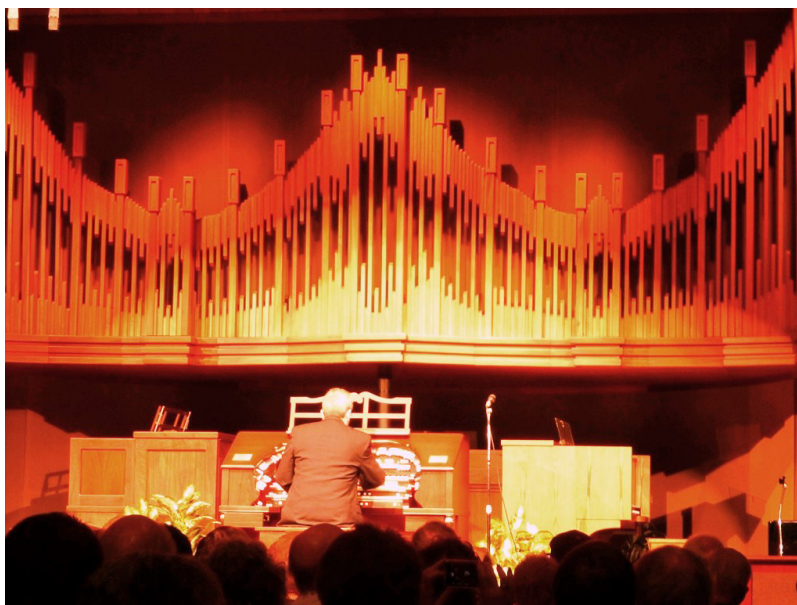
Barry Holbern (VP of Allen Organs) was waiting to introduce Lance Luce in Octave Hall where Lance was to play the Allen T321Q-SP.



The Allen T321Q-SP

Lance opened with *Give my regards to Broadway* then onto tunes from "Cabaret" and a wide variety of other show, movie and popular tunes. All were presented with great style and dexterity and not a hint of a cipher.

The live video presentation provided by the technical team at Allen (working on Sunday) was top quality, and during interval I took a chance to check out their cameras. Of course they have the resources to do the best and had two high mounted but remote control (zoom, tilt etc) Sony HD cameras plus a human controlled tripod mounted camera at the rear of the octagonal room. There was also a professional control booth operating the presentation. Allen Organs record videos and upload to the internet (Youtube) for access by the public and do a superb job at their vision and audio. It made me dream of what we could do to enhance TOSA NSW concerts...

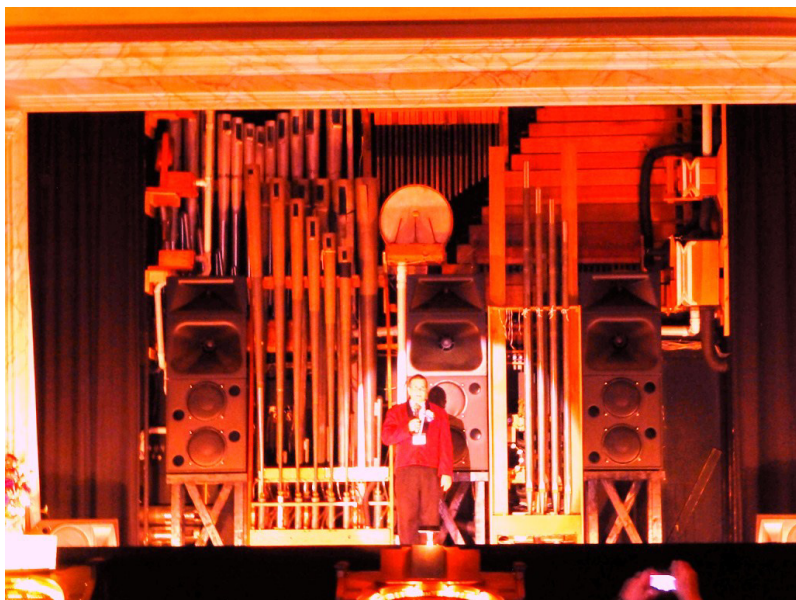


Octave Hall - Lance Luce at the Allen

The second half of Lance's concert presented some more modern tunes including *Somewhere out there* and *Ease on down the road*. Lance's version of *Ol' man river* was quite stirring and made great use of the ranks available on the Allen and the fantastic speaker system.

We were then ushered back into the expansive museum area and swapped places with group B who had been there for a short while having arrived from the venue that Group A was heading to. Group B were about to see and hear Lance's concert. We couldn't all quite fit into Allen's Octave Hall at the same time. Anyway, we spent a good amount of time going through the well presented museum. Wives getting a bit bored, husbands

obsessively discovering technical surprises. Sort of a reverse shopping trip and there was not a shoe store within cooee! Then it was back to the buses as we received another box lunch and headed to the Grand Theater in East Greenville, Pennsylvania. This charming 1924 theater is privately owned and run and does so at a profit. It is also the home of a two console Marr and Colton theatre organ. During the presentation the movie screen was raised and one of the proscenium screens swung open to show us what would have to be the tightest TPO installation you could imagine. Well done!



Grand Theatre Marr and Colton Theatre Organ

John Barratta presented an interesting program using old fashioned slides as the audience sang along. We also experienced Buster Keaton's "Go west" – pretty cheesy but we chuckled along in the right places. Overall it was a quite authentic 1920s experience.

Then it was onto the buses again as we headed to Sunnybrook Ballroom in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. This is a venue that has hosted all sorts of famous performers over the years including Tommy Dorsey, Glenn Miller and Louis Armstrong. It also has a US Pipes theatre organ installed that Dick Smith (no, not the Aussie!) was playing as we entered. The ballroom has a long concave ceiling and this certainly helped carry the sound of this partially exposed installation.

Unfortunately the venue perhaps didn't understand that 470 thirsty conventioners were about to descend so the drinks queue was quite long and slow moving. People were looking forward to a couple of drinks over the gala awards dinner, but some were lucky to get one.

After dinner it was time to present awards and recognition. Of particular mention are:

Dick Wilcox of Uniflex for his ongoing support and development of this popular digital relay and capture system for pipe organs plus his and Linda's continued support of theatre organs in general. As our friend Bernard Tilley from the UK was accepting the award on the recipient's behalf, and he asked me to video the presentation, I already knew that Lew Williams was being inducted into the ATOS Hall of Fame.

What was a real surprise for many of us was that a popular recent visitor to our Aussie shores had flown in from Chicago that day. It really has been a fantastic year for this young man, as he had only recently graduated from the Royal Academy of Music with a Master of Arts Degree in piano performance and a raft of awards. David Gray added another one this night as he was announced Organist of the Year and he was given a rousing cheer and applause by all. Obviously his skills and personality are loved in the USA too!

More socialising ensued and soon enough it was time to board the buses again to head back into Philadelphia and some well-earned rest for another big day tomorrow. Of course the queue for the lifts is often long as three or four buses arrive at once, so you sometimes have to sit on a handy stool near a high top round table. Any proximity to the hotel bar and some friendly chat is purely coincidental – honestly.

Monday, July 6 was seminar morning with a variety of presentations given. I attended the session with ATOS Journal Editors Mike Bryant and Don Feely about how to write for and submit photos to "Theatre Organ". A most informative session both to understand what they require and how the excellent journal is produced.

Meanwhile in a nearby room a large group had assembled to listen to Dr Bill Coale present some information about his discoveries while preparing an upcoming book about the legendary George Wright. This book is coming out in 2016 and it is already possible to pre-order. Sounds like there is some fascinating material from the comments I heard.

Then it was time for a quick self-sourced lunch and back to the buses (sounds like a 1960s British sit-com). We were all heading back to Dickinson High School to hear the famed Hector Olivera. I had never heard a recording nor seen Hector play, but senior TOSA NSW members still reminisce about the famous Hector concert at Marrickville in the 1980s – so I knew this was going to be good. The concert opened with a huge classical organ sound using a range of sounds from this 66 rank wonder-machine. It just got better and better. A wonderful tribute to Buddy Cole was next titled *Buddy and soul*. There were some wonderful improvisations amongst the medley and it moved everyone in the fairly packed auditorium.

Next Hector mentioned the recent passing of composer James Horner and played an awe inspiring arrangement of the music from the movie *Titanic*. From the simplicity of a ship's bell, sounds of the Belfast dockyard, the voyage at sea, even the collision with the iceberg and the resulting terror. During the fantastically orchestrated and played mayhem, we even heard correct Morse code signal replicating that sent from the radio room of the doomed ship. A truly moving experience for audience and player alike. Well-deserved extended applause and cheering ensued. Next it was time to bring us back into the room to hear a beautiful dedication to his daughter by way of *Thank Heaven for little girls*. I was intrigued by Hector's banter style between tunes. We are all used to the artist standing next to the console or at least swivelling on the bench to face the audience – not Hector. He held the microphone in one hand, chatting merrily to us, whilst keeping an eye on the console and getting setup for the next tour-de-force. An interesting way to keep our attention and keep the performance moving along and obviously well practiced.

We also saw during this performance something that we had seen the night before with Dave Wickerham – musician and instrument becoming one. A remarkable tribute to the instrument when the artist is so engrossed in it.

Hector continued to amaze and delight us all with his continued program of classical and traditional theatre organ pieces. A patriotic American medley flowed forth including *America, the beautiful*, *Tennessee Waltz* and *Johnny comes marching home*. The closing piece was his fugue based on *The trolley song* and it brought the house down.

Now it was time for a little more rest and we were back to the buses and early dinner. Group A headed to the Wilmington and

Western Railroad, whilst Group B headed to their dinner, by bus, at the other end of the railway line.

Group A got to the station and boarded historic carriages being hauled by an original steam engine for 10 miles through the Red Clay Valley. There was live commentary to inform us about the sites we saw along the way. We crossed multiple bridges and roads – and every time we crossed a road there was a pattern of bell ringing and whistles blowing to warn possible oncoming road traffic. Just what a rank of theatre organ enthusiasts needed – more whistles! We loved it!



Our journey arrived at Hockessin after a picturesque and gentle journey through the valley and we clambered down from the train for a very short walk to the nearby Memorial Hall as group B left to head to the train for their journey back the other way.

Inside the well air-conditioned hall we found seats, ordered drinks and then joined the buffet queue for a delicious meal. Then it was onto the buses again...

Tonight we were in for a real treat. There are not many locations in the world where you can hear a proper duet concert played on a theatre organ. Dickinson HS is one of those rare locations as it has two three manual consoles. Tonight, for added value, DTOS had imported two of the finest theatre organists from the UK – you may have seen or heard of them- Richard Hills and Simon Gledhill.



Dickinson High School Auditorium for Richard & Simon's concert

It was interesting to note that tonight the crowd was larger as locals who were not convention attendees were rapidly buying door tickets. The hall seated around 900 people and I guesstimate there were about 700 there.

Soon enough the final concert of the convention series kicked off with a console each side of the stage front and two black grand piano sitting nearby. One was attached to the organ and playable from the consoles, the other was a normal piano.

Richard conducted from the console to our left and kept everything under his tight control. The visual communication between both he and Simon sitting some 10 metres away to his right was interesting to watch.

We were expertly entertained with an opening of *MGM Jubilee Overture* including classics such as *Over the Rainbow*, *Singing in the rain* and *Donkey Serenade*. You could tell who was playing which parts and the true orchestral nature of this wonderful theatre organ was demonstrated. It was not a note for note copy playing session but true use of four hands and four feet and a mass of brain power.

Poodle Parade was next Simon informed us that it is only possible to properly play this piece live with two organists and consoles due to its complex counter melodies.

Both artists played solo segments during the concert. Richard played his *Rodgers and Hart Medley* including *There's a small*

hotel, Mountain greenery and Where or when.

Organ and piano duets also ensued including Richard on piano while Simon played organ for *Caribbean dance*. Then it was back to two consoles with Wagner's *Ride of the Valkeries* and wrapping up act 1 with *The Dam Busters March*. The best version I have ever heard – and I've heard many. After a well-deserved interval it was back into the hall for acknowledgement of the DTOS crew for all their efforts and on with the show. Being British they had decided to present a tune from that great British Sci-Fi series *Thunderbirds*. It was excellent but sadly went over the heads of the USA crowd as it seems *Thunderbirds* was either never seen by the US or was so long ago that most didn't remember. The Brits and Aussies in the crowd enjoyed it.

Simon then gave us his *Hello Dolly* medley – by request from Richard. Then we were treated to a live performance of *Spectre on a Spree* – a well known organ and piano medley that they both recorded on a New Year's eve a few years ago and is well viewed on Youtube.

To wrap up this outstanding concert we were treated to *March and Cortège of Bacchus* by Delibes from the ballet *Sylvia*. Then after much applause and cheering, the pair returned for a stunning encore of *Tico Tico* with Simon on organ and Richard at the grand piano.

We learned too that Simon and Richard had worked for over sixty hours preparing this amazing concert. I think it is fair to say that the transcriptions used were probably all hand written by Richard. What would some people give to get their hands on those valued pieces of music?

The audience reluctantly left the hall probably just as exhausted as this evening's performers. A stunning end to a week of performances. But for some we had one more day to go....

to be continued

We're moving home,
and can't take our Digital Orchestral Piano with us !

So we'd like it to go to someone who can utilise
the amazing capabilities of this
Technics SX-PR305 piano that can emulate
musical instruments from organ to orchestra.
This is it.....



...but to really appreciate it, see and hear it for yourself
by visiting these links
(you'll need a good audio system or headphones)...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jufSDIYeorA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUJoZnk8Q3Y>

**...and then, if interested, please call 0419 428 796
to discuss seeing it at Bexley before we move
or...just listen and enjoy.**

Members Diary

Monday 14th December Committee 6:00pm

St Columb's Anglican Church, West Ryde

Sunday 28 February 2016
2:00pm - 4:30pm

David Bailey QLD
plays

**A musical variety concert
on the Mighty Wurlitzer**

**at the air-conditioned
New Orion Theatre
155 Beamish St., Campsie**
**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.theatreorgansaustralia.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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