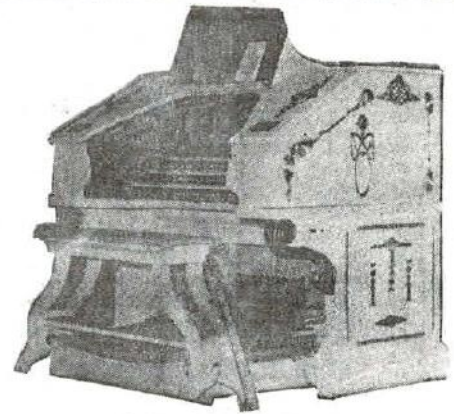


Marrickville Town Hall



Orion Centre Campsie

JUNE 1989

**T
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★ **FREE CONCERT** ★

Featuring

*David Parsons
in Concert*

at the console of the
MIGHTY WURLITZER
Theatre Pipe Organ

Marrickville Town Hall

Sunday, 18th June, 2.00 pm

Volume 28
Issue 6
Price \$1.00

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of Australia (N.S.W. Division) Inc
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Theatre Organ Society of Australia (N.S.W. Division) Inc.

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



CALENDAR

JUNE

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Sunday | 18 | 2.00pm FREE CONCERT - DAVID PARSONS OMA
Marrickville Town Hall
Further details in this issue |
| Wednesday | 7 | 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING |
| Friday | 30 | 1988/89 membership expires
- renewal form in previous issue |

JULY

- | | | |
|-----------|----|--|
| Wednesday | 5 | 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING |
| Friday | 7 | 8.00pm CLUB NIGHT - EPPING BAPTIST CHURCH
Once again we journey to Epping to hear the Christie Organ being played. Ladies please bring a plate for Supper. |
| Sunday | 16 | 2.00pm JONAS NORDWALL from the USA
Orion Centre, Beamish Street, CAMPSIE
Adults \$10 Members & concessions \$8
Bookings open now. |

AUGUST

- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| Wednesday | 2 | 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING |
| Wednesday | 9 | 8.00pm Quarterly Members Meeting
Marrickville Town Hall. |
| Sunday | 20 | 2.00pm John Van Kleef in Concert
Marrickville Town Hall
Bookings open 16 July 1989 |

DON'T FORGET "THEATRE ORGAN HIGHLIGHTS" - 2CBA FM EVERY MONDAY EVENING AT 9.00PM

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Don't forget that all memberships expire at the end of this month. To ensure continuity of membership please ensure that your renewal form is completed and handed in at the free concert or alternatively posted to the Post Office Box.

Secretary, Colin Tringham has asked me to pass on his thanks for the many members who have already paid their subscriptions. Early payment certainly helps to avoid the traditional rush.

HELP HELP HELP

There must be some willing members out there who could help the committee out with various tasks both at concerts and at other times.

Due to major organisational changes this year, some more workers are needed to ensure that normal TOSA services are not curtailed. Please, if you can help in any small way, contact the secretary on the phone number listed at the front of this journal. He will be delighted to hear from you. Remember, a Society the size of TOSA (NSW), needs willing workers for a variety of areas. Join the group of dedicated workers whom most of you already know. It has been great to see some old faces return this year, but we still need more!!!

It has been heartening to see the response from some members who have responded with offers of help on their renewal letters. Rest assured, we will contact you and discuss your kind offer of help.

FAIRGROUND ORGAN TAPES

Following on from the article last month on the Fairground organs there have been several phone calls to the Secretary from members who would like to purchase some tapes of these instruments.

Craig Robson, the owner of the Fairground organs written about in the article, has for sale three different recordings of the "Amsterdam" organ. These tapes are only \$6.00 each plus \$2.00 postage per order.

To take advantage of this special offer you must mention **TOSA NEWS** when you write and place your order.

The address for orders is, Mr C. Robson, Service City, 338 Botany Road, Alexandria, NSW, 2015.

There is also a superb recording called "Bright & Beautiful" which is available from the Vestal Press in New York. We will try and obtain some copies of this recording to stock in the record bar.

CAPITOL ORGAN KEY TABS

These tabs, which were originally a part of the Capitol Theatre WurliTzer Organ, are selling well. Many people have already purchased their very individual and rare souviner. Remember, they are only \$10 each and can be purchased at TOSA concerts.

DAVID PARSONS IN NORFOLK ISLAND

David, accompanied by his wife Beverley and friends from his church, arrived on Monday 3rd April. David had come to give a recital on the Father Willis organ for the Friends of St. Barnabas who are raising funds for the restoration of the St. Barnabas Chapel.

The organ was donated to the chapel in 1880, the original quotation from Willis was given as Pounds Sterling 220 and the cost of the packing cases, lined with Zinc would be an extra 12 - 15 Pounds Sterling.

The organ has some 500 pipes, a single manual of 32 notes and the pedals are all parallel with one another! The organ was re-built in 1985 by Henry Iv and his wife Barbara.

David's programme was carefully designed to give something to everyone and he played the little organ beautifully. As I had remarked to him the evening before, one does not need a great organ to obtain some great music.

His programme included: 'Trumpet Tune & Air' (Purcell), 'Ballet Egyptienne' (Luigini), 'Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring' (Bach), 'Water Music Suite' (Handel), 'Marche Militaire' (Shubert), 'Les Miserables' (Schonberg), 'Suite Gothique' (Boellman) (but not the toccata - organ organ is not so fitted), 'Sanctuary of the heart' (Ketelby), the 'Hallelujah Chorus' (Handel) and the encore was Handel's 'Largo'.

Taking part also in this concert was Eric Craig, MBE, a brilliant violinist now resident here.

The concert was highly praised and \$437 was raised in a leaving offertory. Not having seen David for some years it was a good get-together.

Peter Irwin.

A WARM WELCOME TO A NEW EDITOR

This is my last issue as Editor and Printer of TOSA NEWS. For some time now I and Treasurer Murray Ries have been planning to relocate to Brisbane (and with the recent weather in Sydney can you blame us!). As a consequence of this, we resigned from committee at the May committee meeting with the agreement that I would produce this issue.

We both wish the society well in the future and look forward to seeing many of you in the future. We have made many friends over the past years and we hope that many of these friendships will continue in the years ahead.

Peter Bidencepe is the new editor and I hope that all members will continue to give him the support that has been afforded me over the past months.

John Rattray

DON'T FORGET "THEATRE ORGAN HIGHLIGHTS" - 2CBAFM EVERY MONDAY EVENING AT 9.00PM

A NEW TAPE RECORDING

The record bar has in stock a very limited number of the inaugural recording from Gordon McKenzie. Gordon is a resident of Melbourne and this instrument is performed on the Morrabin Town Hall 4/23 WurliTzer. A special guest on this recording is David Johnston who accompanies on organ whilst Gordon plays grand piano.

Track Listing: Side A. The Phantom of the Opera, A Tribute to Greece, The Music of Richard Clayderman, Czardas.

Side B. The Man From Snowy River, A Comment On Afghanistan, I Just Called to Say I love You, The Dambusters March.

EPPING CLUB NIGHT

Doesn't time fly! It only seem a few months ago that we last visited the Epping Baptist Church, the home of the Christie Theatre Organ.

In July we will be travelling to Epping on a Friday evening to hear more of this delightful organ. Since we last heard the instrument it has now been blessed with the final specification. The next project is the installation of the toy counter and new console casework. The trumpet installed is a real 'hair-parter'. Some of our members will be playing this evening and so you can be assured of another entertaining time.

Supper will be served downstairs in the lounge at the conclusion of the evening and those attending are requested to bring a plate to share for this time.

NEW MEMBERS - MAY

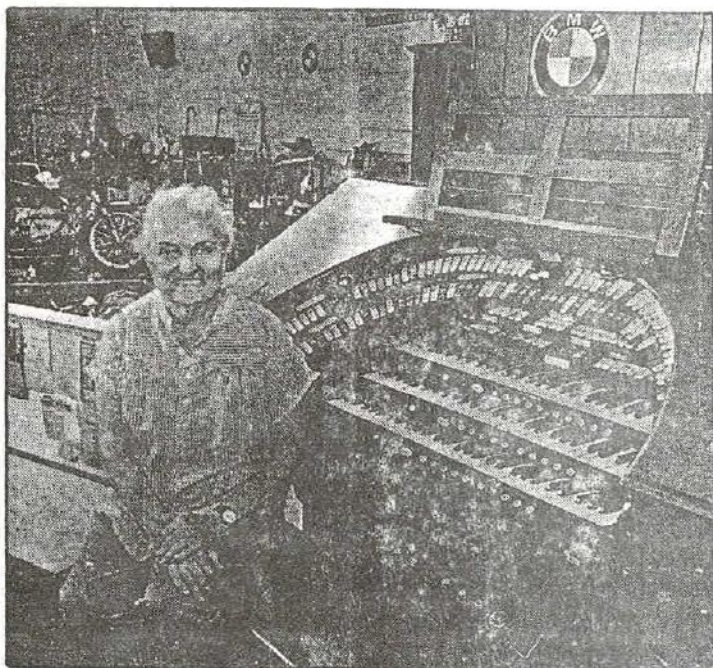
At the committee meeting held in May the following persons were accepted as members of the Society. We welcome them and hope that their time with us is enjoyable.

John Parker, Margaret Sands, Gloria Celarc, Peter Henry, Steve Baker, Douglas Mavay, Henry Lehane, Dorothy and Stanley Collins, Leonarda and Anna Fasuello and Warren Matthews.

Los Angeles Times

Thursday, April 13, 1989

Widow Must Sell Pipe Organ, End Legendary Cycle-Shop Concerts



SARAH M. BROWN

Although she hates to do it, Spud Koons must sell or store theater pipe organ her late husband installed in their motorcycle shop.

By DAVID HALDANE, Times Staff Writer

The seats at Spud Koons' Long Beach motorcycle shop were packed once again last Saturday night.

With BMW and Suzuki motorcycles shoved off to the sides, the audience sat on folding chairs, enraptured by a dizzying array of performers in the grease-stained garage.

The performers were taking turns at one of the few—and one of the largest—theater pipe organs in Southern California. And the resulting sound filled the smelly garage with such gigantic musical vibrations that the audience was swooning.

"We have great talent here," said Hazel Lamoreux, a Torrance piano teacher and cycle shop regular. "More talent than anywhere else I've known."

Said Bonnie Park, a visitor from Utah: The music "just goes right through you."

For 20 years, Koons has been opening up her garage at 1350 E. Anaheim St. to as many as 100 music lovers and assorted musicians every Saturday night. The free concerts—at which anyone can perform—have become almost legendary, drawing people from all over Southern California and as far away as Africa and Europe.

Now the concerts are about to end.

Faced with failing health, declining business profits and a local ordinance that would require her to make expensive modifications to bring her building up to earthquake standards by next year, the 71-year-old widow is selling the place to a group of investors who want to turn it into a retail mini-mall. And unless she can sell the organ within the next month, she says, the elaborate instrument will have to be stored.

The pipe organ has a colorful history, stemming from the early tinkering of Koons' late husband, Joe, who opened the motorcycle shop in 1949. In 1956, she recalls, he traded in the family's tiny spinet Hammond organ for a full-sized instrument and began a lifelong obsession.

Eventually he got interested in pipes, abandoning the Hammond altogether in favor of a 10-rank

Welte organ that once resided in the lounge of the swank Del Mar Club in Santa Monica. Over time, the musical tinkerer added to his home system with parts salvaged from abandoned organs in Barnsville, Ohio, and Sherrard, Ill., as well as at the New Hope Baptist Church and historic Pacific Coast Club, both in Long Beach.

In 1967, Joe Koons moved his musical contraption to the motorcycle shop so he could work on it full time. Today the organ's innards—consisting of more than 2,000 pipes and relays that can simulate the sounds of clarinets, violins, drums, French horns, sirens, sleigh bells, xylophones, fire gongs and boat whistles, among others—are housed in three large chambers covering the entire back wall of the shop's 120-foot-long service garage. The three-tiered console is on a raised platform across the concrete floor.

Spud Koons, who does not play the organ herself, began managing the weekly concerts after her husband died of a stroke in 1978. In the past few weeks, she has made serious attempts to find a buyer with the facilities and resources to maintain the instrument.

Initially, she said, she was asking \$200,000 for the organ. She later reduced the price to \$100,000, and now, she said, she would accept \$75,000. One obstacle to the sale, she said, is that whoever buys the organ will have to spend an estimated \$100,000 more just to relocate it.

She has scheduled the last concert for May 14.

Local organ enthusiasts say that putting the instrument in storage would constitute a grave cultural loss. Once common in silent movie houses and live theaters, they say, pipe organs of this size and quality are now rare, with only a handful still operating in Southern California.

The loss "would be unbelievably sad," said Fernand Martel, a retired opera singer and organist who has been performing regularly at the shop since 1969. "Where else can people go to hear this?"

Amid the passion of the music, most sorrows are temporarily drowned.

Not Spud Koons. "I feel like I'm letting them all down," she said on a recent Saturday night.

"I just wonder if I did the right thing," she said. "I'm going to have to find something else to do on Saturday nights. Maybe I'll stay home and sew."

JONAS NORDWALL - A PROFILE

Excitement is now building as the 1989 national touring artist, Jonas Nordwall, nears our shores. Many members of TOSA have seen and heard this brilliant organist before in Australia. There is no doubt whatsoever that Jonas will return to find a huge welcome awaiting here. What follows is a profile on this remarkable organist. One of the world leaders in his class.

Jonas Nordwall possesses unique talents as a concert organist. His abilities to perform music of both classical and popular schools with equal virtuosity are very rare. He tours the North American continent annually presenting recitals and workshops. Also, he maintains a recording schedule and regular duties as organist for the First United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, a position held since 1971. Mr Nordwall is also the organist for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra with whom he has made solo appearances and has recorded a compact disc with the orchestra on the Delos label. Additional orchestral appearances are with the Vancouver B.C. Symphony Orchestra, Portland Chamber Orchestra and the Portland Festival Orchestra.

His international appearances have included three trips to Australia where he was the first organist to broadcast a solo recital in FM Stereo from the famed Sydney Town Hall on the magnificent 1888 Hill Concert Organ. This year will include another return tour of Australia continuing on to England and France. In all locations he will be playing both classical and popular programs.

A native of Portland, Mr Nordwall received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1970 from the University of Portland studying with Arthur Hitchcock.

Additional study was done with Frederick Geoghegan, the noted English/Canadian organist. As a teenager, Jonas had the privilege to study with Richard Ellsasser, one of the greatest virtuoso organists of this century. Also at the age of 15, Jonas had the pleasure to play for Sweden's King, Gustav Adolph, performing on the accordion, which was the first instrument he learned to play.

Jonas is a major contributor to the Renaissance popularity of the theater organ as a recital instrument. He has recorded some 15 albums in addition to his

concert schedules at major Performing Arts Auditoriums. For ten years he was the senior staff organist for the Organ Grinder Corporation which had large custom designed Theater Organs in restaurant locations in Portland, Oregon and Denver, Colorado. He has been a featured recitalist for national conventions of the American Theater Organ Society since 1966 and has performed theater-popular concerts for many Regional Conventions of the American Guild of Organists.

As a clinician, Mr Nordwall teaches musicians about the fine arts of hymn playing, choral accompaniment, and especially the art of registration, which is the creation of appropriate sounds on the organ for the music being played. Here, he is recognized as one of the most innovative organists. He is always looking for different but musical sounds to enhance the meaning of the music he is playing.

The correct but meaningful performance of liturgical music has always been of paramount importance for Jonas. He has been long recognized as one of the finest hymn players and accompanists. In 1976 he was selected as the head organist for the General Conference of the United Methodist Church and has served as organist for large convocations for different denominations.

The design and manufacturing of both pipe and electronic organs have been a passion for Jonas. Since 1966 he has been affiliated with the Rodgers Organ Company in many capacities. He is a frequent recitalist and clinician; a design, manufacturing and marketing consultant, and most recently the organist to develop the control concepts for the classical organ-world to enter the 21st Century via the use of MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface). This includes the incorporating of the MIDI with pipe organs, combination pipe/electronic organs as well as electronic organs. He has been consulted on many organs by various builders and

was selected to supervise the installation of the former Carnegie Hall Custom 5 manual Rodgers Organ into its new home, the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland. Jonas was the first artist for both the solo and orchestral inaugural concerts of this famous organ.

Critical acclaim has been earned by his performances as they bring fresh vitality for both the new and old listener, allowing the organ to speak as the "King of Instruments".

JUST FOR THE RECORD

Bruce Ardley of Victoria has written and advised TOSA NEWS that the theatre organ featured in the movie 'Brief Encounter' was not a 'Ramsay Special' as was reported in last month's article on Theatre Organs in the Movies but was, the 3/10 WurliTzer installed in the Metropole Cinema, Victoria, London. It was played by the resident organist James Whitebread.

FREE CONCERT

Marrickville Town Hall

DAVID PARSONS OMA

The concert to be held in June will feature David Parsons at the console of the Marrickville Town Hall WurliTzer. David will be playing a concert the likes of which have not been seen in Sydney organ circles for quite some time.

The first half will be 'David in Concert' playing as only David can play - sheer entertainment and enjoyment are two words that come to mind. But, come the second half, it is your turn as David will play this part of the afternoon 'by request' - from you!

Now isn't that a great way to ensure that everybody that attends goes home hearing something that he or she really enjoyed?

Don't miss this concert as it promises to be refreshingly different. Mark the diary now, Sunday 4 June 1989 at 2pm.

REVIEW

DAVID JOHNSTON & CAROLE PINCHES

Our reviewer for the above concert was Cliff Bingham. As you are aware, Cliff has recently completed another concert at the Epping Baptist Church. Preparation for this concert precluded him from completing the review in time for this issue. However, don't despair, a review plus some photo's will appear in the new edition.

MEMBERS' TAPE LIBRARY

The tape library is constantly being added to as each concert is transferred to cassette. The library has recently undergone a major resurgence in interest from members. Have you recently availed yourself of this service? Costs for being a user are very reasonable when one compares the listening pleasure derived from borrowing the tapes. Ever missed a concert? When join the tape library and hear what you missed.

MEMBERS' BOOK LIBRARY

As well as the tape library, TOSA also operates a book library. This covers issues such as the history of theatre organ, musical theory, factory photo books and organ sales catalogues. Also included are some books covering the history of some of our early cinemas. See the Secretary at the next concert for further details on this service.

DON'T FORGET TO MARK YOUR DIARY

JOHN VAN KLEEF IN CONCERT

Marrickville Town Hall

SUNAY 20 AUGUST 1989, 2PM

Tickets go on sale at the Jonas Nordwall concert