

# TOSA NEWS

November 2017  
Volume 56 No.8

Price: \$2.00

***TOSA's World of Entertainment  
brings you***

**Nathan Avakian - USA  
playing  
Australia's Biggest Little Wurlitzer**

Sunday 5th November 2017

**Marrickville Town Hall**

Cnr Marrickville & Petersham Rds

Marrickville

**2:00pm - 4:30pm**

 Find us on  
Facebook

**/tosansw**

# Directory

## **Patron**

Dr John Atwell

## **President**

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

## **Vice Presidents**

Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm)  
John Weismantel 0435 258 287 *whitecoats@bigpond.com*

## **Secretary**

Craig Keller *secretary@tosa.net.au* 0418 484 798  
7 Aldinga Ave., Gerringong NSW 2534

## **Treasurer**

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

## **Membership Inquiries**

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**PO Box 589 RICHMOND NSW 2753**

## **Committee**

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John Shaw 9543 3112

Robert Gliddon *christieorg@bigpond.com*

Ernie Vale 0415 626 064

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

Simon Ellis 0403 548 354

## **TOSA NEWS Editor**

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P.O. Box A2322, Sydney South, NSW, 1235

## **Marrickville Players Convenor**

John Batts 0420 424 103  
Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm)

## **Orion Players Convenor**

Craig Keller 0418 484 798 phone or SMS

## **Ticket Secretary (Concert Bookings)**

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 before 8:00pm

## **Artist Liaison Officer**

Craig Keller 0418 484 798

**Photography** Barry Tooker 9744 1535  
**Publicity Officer** Ernie Vale 0415 626 064  
**Printing** by Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

# President



Greetings,

It is with a sense of nostalgia that I put pen to paper, or more precisely fingers to keyboard. After 11 years I am relinquishing the position of President due to personal family reasons and have nominated for the position of Treasurer.

I want to thank those who comprised the Committees over those years for their support, help and constant work for the good of the Society. To members who have written, phoned and emailed with encouragement, support and ideas I say a special "thank you". I wish the incoming President and his team the very best and ask that you, our members, continue to support them as they manage this great Society.

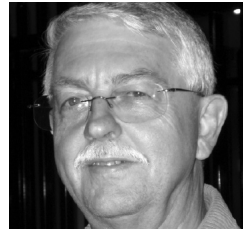
Thank you to those who have contributed financially to the upgrade of the Orion system. To date, \$1,400.00 has been received : it is not too late to assist this urgent need.

Remember, this is **your** Society, and we need **your** membership, **your** attendance at concerts, and **your** assistance in growing.

Thank you all, and happy organising,

Geoff Brimley

# Editorial



Hello Members,

The River Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest was a very interesting and relaxing holiday. Everything went smoothly including the flights with Singapore Airlines.

Please see the Orion Update information in "From the Mailbox".

The new Uniflex system is ready to be fitted at the Orion Theatre in November and along with the recently installed power point on the hoist will make opening up the Wurlitzer much quicker.

A number of members have not yet renewed for the current financial year and a letter from the President is included with this TOSA News as a reminder in case renewal is an oversight. It would help your Executive and Committee if non renewing members would provide some feedback to the Secretary as to why they have chosen not to renew.

I hope to see you at Marrickville Town Hall on November 5th to hear one of America's more creative Theatre Organists, Nathan Avakian.

Enjoy the music,

Ernie Vale  
PO Box A2322  
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235  
[editor@tosa.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:editor@tosa.net.au)

or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)

PO Box A2322

SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

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## **Urgent Update on the Orion Wurlitzer**

The new system is to be installed in November before our next Orion concert which with some other tweaks will ensure a trouble-free experience for organist, attendees - and Committee.

The purchase cost was just under A\$6,800.00 and to date there have been donations of \$1,400. Thank you members for your contributions. Members

are again invited to donate towards this cost. Any amount, large or small, will be gratefully received. Donations can be made in any of the following ways:

1. Cheque or Money Order payable to TOSA and forwarded to:-

Acting Treasurer, TOSA,  
26 Maple Crescent  
Lithgow NSW 2790

2. Direct Deposit to the Society's account through any branch of the ANZ Bank (there is no cost using this system)

Details required are:

BSB 012430,

Account No. 2321 40985,

Account name Theatre Organ

Society of Australia (NSW

Division). Reference 6800

3. Cash or cheque payment at the November concert - please see Geoff Brimley: a receipt will be issued.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Geoff Brimley

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A sure sign of middle age is when you start sentences with "Now -- when I was young..."

*Pam Brown Born 1928*

## ***To Watch Out for***

### **Ballot for Committee Members for the year 2017-18 to be finalised at the AGM on Saturday 18th November**

As there have been eight (8) nominations for six (6) Committee positions there will be a ballot for financial members to select their preference for six of the people nominated.

A Ballot Paper is included in this TOSA News for those receiving it by mail. For those receiving TOSA News by email the ballot paper will be an attachment to your email. Please note the instructions for sending your completed ballot paper to the Returning Officer.

Completed Ballot forms must reach the Returning Officer at Post Office Box 1053, ARTARMON, NSW 2064 by the last Australia Post mail on Friday 17th October 2017. Alternatively your Ballot Form may be placed in an envelope with **Member Number on the back** and handed to the Returning Officer at the Annual General Meeting up to 15 minutes after the start of the meeting.

## **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 2nd Thursday Morning 10:30am to 1:30pm**

**November** *No players day*  
*Update work day*  
**December 14th**  
**Convenor is**

Craig Keller on 0418484798

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**Marrickville Town Hall**  
**4th Monday afternoon/evening**  
**at 1:20pm to 9:00pm**

**November 27th**  
**December** *No Players day*  
*as it is Christmas Day*  
**Under the Inner West Council**  
**the time and dates may change**  
**John Batts & Neil will keep**  
**members informed**

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

## RECENT TOSA MEMBERS' EVENTS September/October, 2017

### TOSA(NSW) MEMBERS' AFTERNOONS IN SEPTEMBER 2017

September members' meetings at both venues were enjoyed by those who attended.

At Campsie on the morning of 11th September, the console was brought up to stage level. Controlling the lift to make it stop exactly at hall level is not easy, so the stage is simpler. The Wurlitzer piano went up first and was pushed onto the stage; away from the lip it is surprising how its sound seems muted because when the piano is on the wooden floor at hall level its output is immediate and noticeable. The new coiled wind-lead allows the once noisy motor to be placed well away from the console and the piano. No major difficulties were experienced by those at the console, though some quirks were audible on some of the channels. The new Uniflex control-system is yet to be installed, but expectations are that this will be available by the time of the Christmas show at the Orion.

That Thursday, the players who took their turns on the Wurlitzer bench were: **Tom Barber, Graeme Costin, Craig Keller, and John Batts**. The exclusive listener of that day was **Kevin Clancy**.



**Graeme Costin at the Orion Wurlitzer**

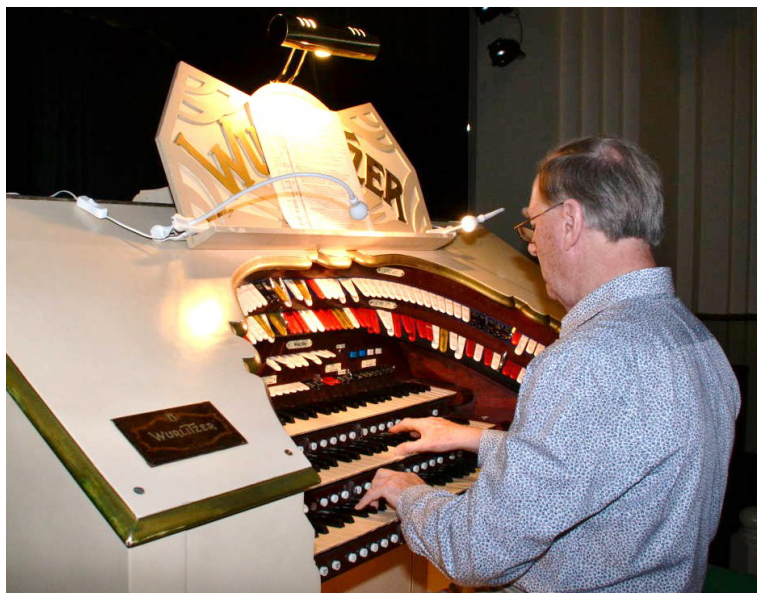


**Graeme is always on the lookout for a musical gem**



**Craig Keller at the Orion Wurlitzer**





**John Batts at the Orion Wurlitzer**



**Visitor, Ron Enever at the Orion Wurlitzer**

He learned about the players day at the Orion when he attended the Tony Fenelon Concert at Marrickville Town Hall.



Monday 25th September brought out a few more members. I had expected someone to remind us of the haunting strains of Kurt Weill's "September Song" but it was not heard. We also welcomed a young fellow studying music at the Sydney Conservatory, **Steve Comminos**. With a keen interest in jazz, Steve was alerted to the possibilities of Wurlitzer music through the good offices of member **Kevin Eadie**. Organists who played that afternoon were: **Tom Barber, Steve Comminos, Graeme Costin, Kevin Eadie, Ian Georgeson**, and **John Batts**. That most knowledgeable of listeners that day was a faithful supporter of members' events, **Kevin Clancy**.

TOSA is grateful to those who brought along some goodies to eat, especially because **Margaret** and **David Badman** were out of state this day. However, fortified by Wurlitzer music, we all knew that we would not starve!

**(John S. Batts),**

Presenter of Theatre Organ Magic on RNB-FM from Sydney, NSW, Australia 88.7 FM and 90.3 FM (locally) at noon every first Sunday of the month and at that precise hour only streamed to the world-wide web via [rnb.org.au](http://rnb.org.au).

The "live" first Sunday shows are usually re-broadcast on subsequent Sundays of the month at noon, and also streamed.

## Show & Membership Prices

	<b>All Artists</b>
Non-members	\$35
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$30
Family 2 Adults incl 1 child up to 19 yrs age	\$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 \$20 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office

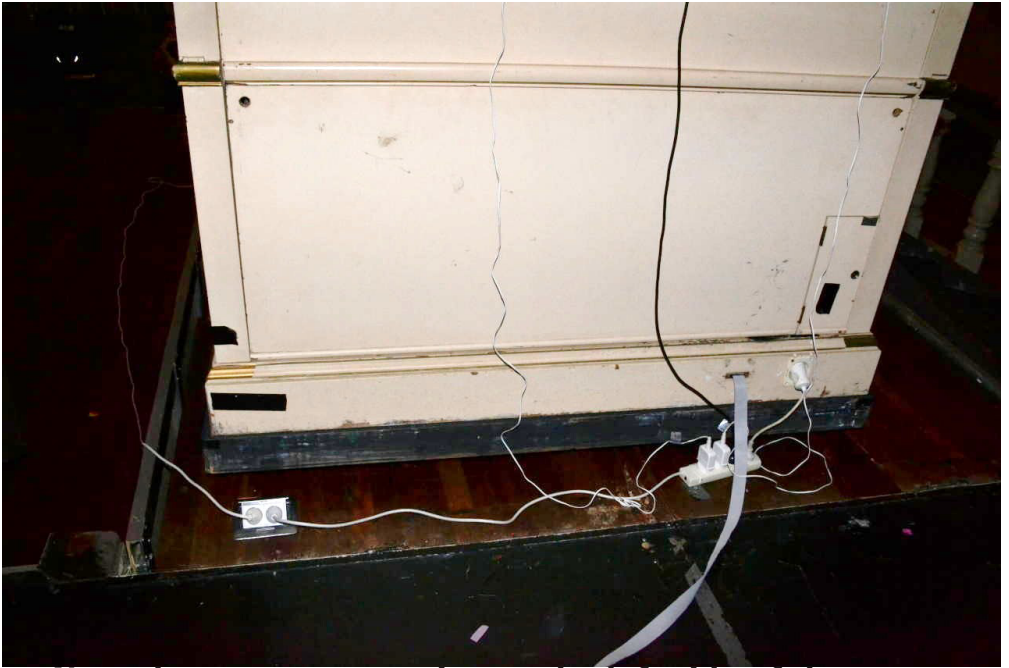
### **Annual Membership Fees 2017-18:**

\$45.00 Full membership, \$35.00 Pensioner Concession, Inter-state or Overseas \$45. \$5 discount per membership if TOSA

News emailed to you

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

(02) 4776 2192 [membership@tosa.net.au](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au)



**Note the new power point on the left side of the organ hoist. This saves having to run a power cable across the stage.**



**The power cable coils underneath the hoist**



**The power cable attaches below the power point**

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## **Advertisement**

**Clearance at Bargain Prices**

**Theatre Organ CD's (mostly new)**

**OGDEN, MARTIN, GLEDHILL, SHARP, COXAM  
WOLFE, RICHMOND, SEAL, MIDGLEY**

**DVD's BOB RALSTON at Denver Paramount**

**WANAMAKER ANNIVERSARY CONCERT**

**VIDEO - "MIDNIGHT PIPES" Wurlitzer at Belshaw home  
Denver**

**LP's Various**

**Peter, PO Box 35 Deepwater NSW 2371**

TOSA Presents  
Sunday 5th November 2:00pm - 4:30pm

# Nathan Avakian USA



*on his second Australian Tour playing*

## **"Synthesis,"**

celebrating the collaboration of the organ with other instrumentation and promoting a spirit of innovation

**on**

## **The Marrickville Wurlitzer**

Selections will include music from Slumdog Millionaire, Somewhere In Time, Newsies, and hits by Queen and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra.

## **Nathan Avakian**

*Listeners are in for a unique experience as Nathan combines the timeless sound of the pipe organ with 21st century virtual instrument technology to produce a signature sound no other collaboration of instruments and musicians can produce.*

**Nathan Avakian** is the 2009 overall winner of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) Young Theatre Organist Competition. His fascination with the theatre organ began at the age of four with a visit to the Portland Organ Grinder restaurant. He began formal organ studies with *Donna Parker* at age eleven and has also studied with *Jonas Nordwall*.

As a concert artist, **Nathan** performs internationally for various organizations and organ preservation societies. Scholarships from ATOS, Columbia River Theatre Organ Society, and Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society have helped fund his lessons and trips to organ workshops in Colorado, Illinois, and Arizona.

***Come and Join us - you won't be disappointed!***

**Book securely at [www.tosa.net.au/events](http://www.tosa.net.au/events)  
trybooking**

**or**

**Phone Theo Langenberg on 0410 626 131  
before 8:00pm please**

Tickets : \$ 35; Concession \$ 30; Members \$ 25  
Family ie 2 Adults including 1 or more children \$ 65  
Adult Group of 10 or more \$ 22/person;  
First time patrons \$ 20 by Voucher at the Box Office  
Students up to 25 years Free on confirmation of student  
status.



**TOSA Members Home Party Visit  
To the Balmoral Bijou Music Studio**  
in Balmoral Village, Southern Highlands  
on Saturday 21st October

**Photos by Barry Tooker**

On this fine Saturday 18 TOSA members took the pleasant drive down to the Balmoral Bijou for another opportunity to hear the only theatre organ of this model in Australia. Four manuals and 72 ranks of Allen Organ fondly christened by Simon Ellis as "Big Al".



Since my last visit Simon had enhanced the ambience of the room by adding lamps sitting on the console either side of the music rack. The organ was sounding even better thanks to Simon continuing to fine tune ranks so they sound very close to a real theatre organ.



The afternoon started on time with Simon inviting playing members to play several items each and so **David Badman** was first up on the organ bench.



Next up was **Craig Keller** with a fine selection from the Readers Digest collection



Our players convenor, **John Batts**, then took to the bench



John was followed by **Graeme Costin** who is a regular at players days



**Peter Robinson** was next on the Bench



Then **Chris Styles** gave us some background music whilst we enjoyed afternoon tea and a chat



**Chris Styles** on the bench whilst John Batts watches on



**Simon Ellis** finished the afternoon with an interesting selection of numbers as well as demonstrating some of the interesting voices available to the organist.

Simon was able to enjoy the sound of Big Al as he sat in various parts of the music room whilst members played giving him a rare opportunity to hear the instrument as the audience does.

Big Al sounded the best I have heard it and Simon is to be complimented for the time he has spent in perfecting the theatre organ sound.

Craig Keller thanked Simon, his wife Anna and daughter Harriet for inviting us to the Bijou to enable TOSA members to experience the George Wright 4/72 Allen Organ.

Graeme Costin brought along a musical quiz which required you to identify the movie in which the music that Graeme played was used, who wrote the music and who wrote the lyrics. There were four movies and John Batts was the winner with Craig Keller coming a close second.



## Promotion

### Macquarie Singers 50th Anniversary Concert

**4pm Saturday 11th November**

#### **Turrumurra Uniting Church**

10 Turrumurra Avenue, Turrumurra

A rare double bill of Purcell's romantic operas,

### **Dido & Aeneas** and excerpts from **The Fairy Queen**

with soloists from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music  
and a Baroque band

**Featuring Ashlee Woodgate,**

**Evan Kirby, Samanta Lestavel, Jessica Blunt,**

**Georgia Melville, Jiayao Sun,**

**Tristan Entwistle**

**and conducted by  
Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith**

**Tickets: \$40/\$30/\$20**

**[www.trybooking.com/321633](http://www.trybooking.com/321633)**

**or**

**02 4730 6932**

## **The Travelling Editor Continued**

Another Great Holiday in Europe  
River Cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest

One of the many highlights was a visit to the Cathedral of St. Stephen in Passau which is considered to be the 'Venice of Bavaria'. The Cathedral is located at the highest point of Passau's Old City. This mighty three-aisled basilica is the largest 17th-century Baroque building to be found north of the Alps. With over 17,000 pipes and 233 registers, its organ is regarded as the world's biggest church organ.



**The organ has five Divisions including an echo chamber high in the roof**

From May to October, this remarkable instrument can be heard in a half hour concert beginning daily at noon.





**A view of the ceiling and note the dark small circle in the centre of the middle ellipse where the echo chamber speaks into the church**



**The Golden Pulpit**

**TOSA NSW Divn  
Annual General Meeting**

**Saturday 18th November 2017, at  
St Columb's Anglican Church  
Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue Ave  
West Ryde at 2:00pm**

**Account details will be available at the meeting.**

**Please bring a plate of goodies for Afternoon Tea to follow the meeting to allow members to mingle and chat to the Executive and Committee members about your Society.**

If any member wishing to attend the AGM at West Ryde Anglican Church requires transport from West Ryde Station to the church, please phone Editor, Ernie Vale on 0415 626 064 or email editor@tosa.net.au before Saturday 18th November to arrange where to pick you up near the station.

The Returning Officer advises that there has been only one nomination for the positions of:

President, each of 2 Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer

These positions have been filled unopposed as follows:

President: Craig Keller,

Vice Presidents: Neil Palmer & John Weismantel

Secretary: Simon Ellis      Treasurer: Geoff Brimley

**Ballot for Committee Members for the year 2017-18 to be finalised at the AGM on Saturday 18th November**

As there have been eight (8) nominations for six (6) Committee positions there will be a ballot for financial members to select their preference for six of the people nominated.

A Ballot Paper is included in this TOSA News for those receiving it by mail. For those receiving TOSA News by email the ballot paper will be an attachment to your email. Please note the instructions for sending your completed ballot paper to the Returning Officer.

## **Members Diary**

Next Committee Meeting - Monday 11th December at  
7:00pm West Ryde Anglican Church

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**Sunday 5th November 2:00pm - 4:30pm**

# **Marrickville Town Hall Nathan Avakian - USA**

**on his second Australian Tour  
Plays**

**Australia's Biggest Little Wurlitzer**

*see centre pages for details*

**Book your reserved seats through the TOSA web site  
[www.tosa.net.au/Events](http://www.tosa.net.au/Events) - trybooking  
or by contacting  
Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please**

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Radio FINE MUSIC 102.5 "Colours of the King" 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>

# TOSA NEWS

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