

T.O.S.A. NEWS

INCORPORATING *The Diaphone*

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

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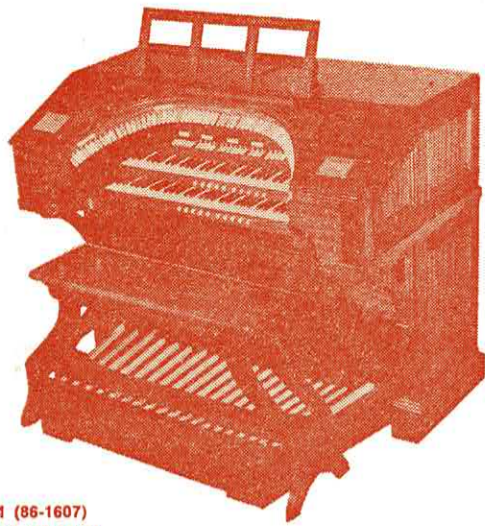
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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER AT 7 P. M. - TOSA XMAS PARTY AT ELIM RECEPTION CENTRE, 83 SHAFTSBURY ROAD, BURWOOD.

Bookings for this function are now closed - this notice is merely a reminder of the date for those who have made reservations. In last month's News, it was incorrectly stated that magician SID DALGLEAGH would be appearing. It should have read CEC DALGLIESH and we apologise for the error.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ELECTION

The annual general meeting and election of officers will take place on January 31st 1973 at 8 p.m. It will be held in St. Ann's Church Hall at Strathfield (the same location as last January's AGM).

PLEASE NOTE Members must be financial before the meeting commences in order to have a vote in the elections. The same streamlined voting system successfully used at the last AGM will again be used and a ballot paper will appear on the last page of the January TOSA News. Members should fill this in before attending the meeting and place it in the ballot box which will be at the entrance doors on the night of the meeting. Nominations for all positions on the Executive and Committee will close 6 weeks before the AGM - on December 20th. Nominations must be signed by two financial members as proposer and seconder, and the nominee must have been a financial member for at least six months. The person nominated must also sign indicating his willingness to be nominated. Every member is asked to attend the AGM and vote for the officers of their choice in order that the Society can continue to grow and flourish in the coming year.

It should be noted that our Treasurer, Oscar Moen, and our Secretary, Betty Randall, are both not available for nomination in 1973, and the Society looks for nominations from those experienced in these two most important fields.

TOSA CAR STICKERS

Those popular car stickers for the rear window of your car are again available from the Treasurer at 25 cents each. Displaying the console of the Adelaide Regent Theatre's Wurlitzer organ, they proudly announce that you are a member of TOSA. They look great and often excite interest in our Society. Get yours SOON and be a "WITH IT" TOSA Member - 25 cents ONLY.

THE 1972 ORGAN SPECTACULAR by (Frank Ellis)

The Waratah "Organ Spectacular" staged in Sydney Town Hall on Tuesday 3rd October was, once again, a huge success and a credit to TOSA and all the organ retailers who participated in this annual function now firmly established as a part of the city's Waratah Festival. Compered by T. V. personality, Jim Dibble, a TOSA member for many years, the show was considered by many, to be the best one we have yet presented. The installation of the instruments was expertly carried out despite the fact that the various technicians involved worked under extreme pressure due to insufficient time being allowed for them to carry out their installations, and thoroughly test same. It was entirely due to this lack of time for testing that distortion in the speaker system of one of the organs was not able to be

detected before the show commenced, and it is hoped that the Town Hall will be made available to the Society much earlier in the day for future occasions. The installation of \$30,000 or more of complex electronic equipment is not something which can be accomplished at the wave of a magic wand and organ retailers cannot be expected to loan and install their product unless sufficient time is allowed to bring their installation to peak efficiency otherwise it is inevitable that odious and unfair criticism of a well respected brand will result.

The programmes presented by all six organists showed that each one had devoted a great deal of effort in the selection of a program of sufficiently wide variety to appeal to an audience ranging in age from 16 to 60 and whose musical tastes could be expected to be as widely separated as their ages. That they were able to successfully please all the audience was very apparent from the applause, and reflects their musical good taste.

David Parsons opened the programme at the Grand Pipe Organ and he was followed by Eric Smith at the Yamaha EX42, Cliff Bingham on a spinet model Thomas instrument, Reuhert Hayes at the Conn Organ, Pat Quinn at the Wurlitzer electronic organ and finally Ray Thornley at the Lowrey organ. Each one was outstanding in his own inimitable way - each one showed his command of the instrument featured - and each one received an equally warm tribute from a most enthusiastic audience. The Society thanks, and congratulates organists and retailers for another top class Waratah Festival Organ Spectacular.

T. O. S. A. Negotiates with WILLOUGHBY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
re CHATSWOOD TOWN HALL WURLITZER ORGAN

Negotiations between Willoughby M. C. and TOSA have been in progress and The Council wrote to TOSA offering the use of Chatswood Town Hall for TOSA Functions and functions in conjunction with the Council, in return for which TOSA would be responsible for maintenance of the Wurlitzer Organ installation.

Clarification of some aspects is now awaited but it is hoped that TOSA will present a Subscription series of four concerts and three free concerts and that maintenance by a professional would be arranged.

Further details will be announced as soon as finality is reached.

HIGHLIGHTS OF TOSA (N. S. W.) 1973 PROGRAMME

- JANUARY - A. G. M.
- APRIL - 21st and 22nd - NATIONAL CONVENTION.
- JULY - VIC HAMMETT.
- SEPTEMBER - TONY FENELON.
- OCTOBER - ORGAN SPECTACULAR.
Also JONAS NORDWALL
- DECEMBER - XMAS PARTY.

Some Details remain to be finalised and will be announced later.

EX. CAPITOL THEATRE ORGAN PROJECT

1. HURSTVILLE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL is investigating costs associated with the possible installation of the organ in the Amaroo Hall at The Civic Centre Hurstville and further discussions await their decisions.
2. A letter was written to the Management of the DENDY THEATRE, CROWS NEST, at their Melbourne headquarters but to date no reply has been received.
3. A project to re-construct the ASTRA THEATRE - DRUMMOYNE awaits DRUMMOYNE M. C. approval and the Syndicate involved has written to TOSA advising interest in the installation of The CAPITOL THEATRE ORGAN in the proposed Theatre.
Further discussions will be held once approval is received from The Council.

RE-LEATHERING GROUPS

Group meetings have been held to train key members in the techniques of covering pneumatic motors (bellows) with Perflex.

Once competence has been attained groups are to be organised in several localities.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following list of names represents the new members recently joined our Society and we extend a friendly and sincere welcome to them all. We hope that you will form many new friendships among our many members from all walks of life, who, like yourselves, have a consuming passion for the sounds of the mighty theatre organ, so you have something in common with your fellow members right from the start. We say hullo to: Mr. and Mrs. M. WADE of Merrylands - Mr. and Mrs. R. Gilmour of Wahroonga - Mr. and Mrs. S. Wang of Eastwood - Mr. Richard Cooper of Manly Vale - Mr. Colin George of Tamworth - Mr. and Mrs. G. Shaw of Collaroy Plateau - Mr. David Bruce of Ermington - Dr. Leslie and Dr. Lois Dunlop of Ashfield - Mr. and Mrs. H. Sofer of Sylvania - Mr. and Mrs. R. O'Toole of Punchbowl and Mr. Jack Lucre of Panania.

FOR SALE

Early type Hammond organ (approx. 35 years old). Two full manuals and pedal board. 12 Stops and 22 Draw-bars. Tone generator in separate cabinet. Has separate 21" speaker. Very suitable for the technically inclined member as some work is required although the instrument is mechanically good. \$350 or near offer.

Contact J. McDONALD 528.6247

DAVID PARSONS PLAYS THE BIG ONE

There was a reasonably good roll up of members for an 8 A. M. concert by David Parsons at the State Theatre Sydney on Saturday 4th November. David, (our Honorary member for 1972) had obviously taken great pains to prepare a programme which would appeal to all tastes and he presented it in his customary musicianly manner. He also introduced his numbers with a wealth of information about them thereby creating interest in each item from the onset. Opening with a lengthy selection from "Jesus Christ Superstar" he continued with "Falling In Love With Love", "I Hear A Rhapsody", "Swedish Rhapsody", and the ever popular, "Alexander's Ragtime Band" as his final offering before the interval. The second half included selections from "Annie Get Your Gun", "Solemn Melody", "My Love To You", "I'm Getting Sentimental Over You", "Sentimental Journey", "Light Cavalry Overture" and "Battle Hymn Of The Republic".

David received a warm ovation for his concert which very obviously had been enjoyed to the full by all those present and from the comments heard in the foyer, most would agree that he did indeed get the most out of the instrument. One comment was that the Tibias sounded as sweet as clotted cream and this might well be - they certainly had the lush sound that we have come to expect from the State Theatre's Wurlitzer.

Our thanks are due to the maintenance crew at the State for the long hours of work put in on the organ's care and to Jack Lawson for the operation of the spotlight (with colors) which added so much to the console's new paint work. The compere, was, as usual, Vice-President Frank Ellis.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Only one letter again this month - from our American friend Billy Nalle who sends Christmas greetings to our members, and Colin Tringham in particular who he met in New York a few months ago. Billy is very busy and is fully booked throughout December and January. Incidentally a new edition of "The Best Remaining Seats" by the late Ben Hall has been recently printed, and it is confirmed that the hitherto nameless organist shown is actually Billy Nalle.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Planning is now well advanced and details will be announced in the near future.

We are interested to see that The South Australia Division is looking at the possibility of hiring a bus to bring a party to the National Convention - What about the other States?

A warm welcome is assured for all visitors - busloads or otherwise!

The Second National Convention, which is the FIRST such National event to come to Sydney, will offer five concerts by four of Australia's top organists plus an American star who has not been heard in Australia before. A novel innovation will be a 2 hour harbor cruise during the afternoon and will provide a break, and a breath of fresh air following two daytime concerts with a third one to follow. The two day Convention will also include a Convention dinner and coffee and farewells following the final concert. N. S. W. members should remember that it will be 3 or 4 years before another Convention will be held in Sydney due to our policy of holding the Annual National Convention in a different capital city each year. EVERY N. S. W. member should plan to attend this BIG EASTER ORGAN EXTRAVAGANZA because it will be a long time before it will take place in Sydney again. The full Convention programme details are expected to be announced in the JANUARY TOSA NEWS according to Vice-President, Frank Ellis, who is Chairman of the Convention Organisation Sub-Committee.

THIS CRAZY WORLD !!

I was stunned to learn that a teenage employee where I work had paid in excess of \$12 for two seats at a pop concert in the Hordern pavilion at the Showground. Before taking his girl friend to the show, he took her to dinner in the city and in grandiose manner hailed a cab to take them out there. Cost of the evening was about \$20, or about half his week's salary. And this lavish spending spree was for a mere pop concert !!

That same amount of \$20 would cover 1 years membership in TOSA for a man and his wife and enable them to attend about half of a full years concerts - concerts which are played by qualified musicians with years and years of study, practise and experience behind them, something which most pop guitarists and screamers lack completely or have only a minimum of. It certainly proves that TOSA membership offers real value for money in this crazy world ! (Frank Ellis)

CAPITOL ORGAN FUND

The Society gratefully acknowledges the receipt of \$20 to the Capitol Organ Fund from Victorian Division member, Roy Preston who, said, in his letter he considers it highly desirable to support all schemes for saving and preserving theatre organs. A noble sentiment Roy, and thank you very much for your generous donation. We also gratefully acknowledge donations of \$10 each from the following members:- Geoff Moore - Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hayard - Mr. Maurice Berkeley and Mr. Max Murphy. An anonymous member also forwarded \$10. From Mr. R. Reed, and recently joined members, Mr. and Mrs. S. Wang, donations of \$5 have been received. Thank you indeed for your generous donations to the Capitol Organ Fund. We will be delighted to receive donations from any member who has perhaps not yet contributed. All donations will be acknowledged in the pages of TOSA News.

AN ORGAN IN SEARCH OF A HOME !!

A good home is required for an Italian Reed Organ of outstanding construction. Ring OL. BRAICO of 12 ORARA STREET, WAITARA (PHONE 47-1749) for more details.

REGINALD PORTER-BROWN.

"Lovers of the theatre organ received the reward of a lifetime..... those who love the organ were confirmed in that love, those who were interested were converted, the doubters had their doubts removed....his sheer artistry, his agility and speed....." Bay of Plenty Times, New Zealand.

On Friday 10th November 1972 RPB made a second recording for Troubadour Records this time all on Marrickville; on 11th he played at the Clark Brick Carol Service - a great success.

Farewell parties have been given for him and on Sunday 12th at a party in Waitara he was presented with a fine brief case; amongst those present were Keith Miller and Ernie Toshak.

This tour-de-force included the following statistics:

- 30 recitals
- 41 different organs played
- 9 television appearances
- 9 radio appearances
- 10 press conferences
- 2 broadcast recordings made in New Zealand
- 2 L. P. discs made
- 10 complete recitals recorded by the A. B. C.

6990 Miles travelled in Australia and 2375 miles for the New Zealand visit.

Reg has been invited to visit Australia again, for a more selective tour, in about 18 months.

TPI

A FINE ENDING TO 1972 MARRICKVILLE SEASON !

A long queue of patrons stretching down the steps of Marrickville Town Hall delayed the start of the final Wurlitzer concert of the 1972 season on Wednesday 15th November. The concert, the first one by Cliff Bingham on this organ in a long time, drew a large and more than usually responsive audience. The Wurlitzer, was in excellent voice, obviously betakening "mint" condition, and complimented by Cliff's admirable registrations, was a joy to hear.

Cliff Bingham is a professional musician - his approach to a concert is thoroughly professional in every facet of his rehearsal and his presentation. He can always be relied upon to give a performance of a high standard, and this occasion was no exception. His guest artist, obviously chosen with his own high standards in mind, was a splendid choice and a most deservedly popular one. Margaret Robertson possesses a lovely and unusual voice, well disciplined to suit her style and quite capable of being heard distinctly in the hall without the aid of a microphone, even against a fairly heavy registration on the Wurlitzer. She too received a splendid ovation.

The programme opened with an up-tempo "That's Entertainment" and continued with "42nd Street Overture", selections from Lehar's "Merry Widow", "Piccolino" from Top Hat, "There's A Small Hotel" from On Your Toes and "It's All Right With Me" from Can Can. Margaret Robertson, continuing the music from the shows theme, sang "Climb Every Mountain" from TSOM and "You'll Never Walk Alone" from Carousel. Cliff continued the show tunes theme with "Lady Be Good", "Love Is A Many Splendoured Thing", My Fair Lady selections, Theme from "A Summer Place", "Tonight" from West Side Story and "Superstar". In a second appearance, Margaret sang "I'll Walk With God" and "The Impossible Dream" which concluded the first half of the program.

After intermission came "Married I Can Always Get", "San Francisco" medley and "Knightsbridge March" after which Margaret sang "More" and "I Gotta Be Me". A brief segment displayed Gospel Music from "Go To Whoa" and found Cliff and the audience having fun with the sound of a reed organ after some impressive cathedral tones had filled the hall. Margaret Robertson made her final contribution singing, "I Looked For Love", and an usual arrangement of "The Lord's Prayer". Cliff's final items were "Parade Of The Wooden Soldiers" and "Granada".

In response to prolonged applause he encored with the favourite march "Blaze Away".

Summing up - a first class nights entertainment and a most impressive ending to Marrickville's 1972 season.

(Frank Ellis).

VERY WILLING WORKERS

Mrs. Pam Tooker and Mrs. Pearl Lawson, with the help of their respective husbands, Barry and Jack, came up with a great idea for the Cliff Bingham concert at Marrickville. They set up a soft drink counter with the profits going to TOSA. As the night was warm, they did excellent business and they now propose expanding the scheme further for future functions. They provided a much needed service to our patrons, making it unnecessary for them to leave the hall in order to seek refreshment and furnished the Society with what promises to be, a good income spinner. For their self imposed work as well as the bright idea, we sincerely thank them all.

NEW REGINALD DIXON RELEASE

Seen in one or two record shops in the last week or so, is a new release by our former patron, Reginald Dixon. Entitled "This Is My Song" its number is SCXO 6496 on the EMI Columbia label. Reg is back at a Wurlitzer again !! This time its the BBC Theatre Organ in Manchester.

ENGLAND'S THEATRE ORGAN CLUB

Our member, Peter Held, loaned TOSA News a copy of the August-September issue of the Theatre Organ Club's Newsletter which comes out every two months. Concerts listed in the English Newsletter for the months of August, September and October numbered no less than fourteen during that particular ten week period and included such famous names as - Ena Baga - Len Rawle - Charles Smittor - Bobby Pagan - Vic Hammett - William Davies - Reginald Dixon and Robin Richmond. There are a number of Theatre organ broadcasts regularly on the BBC these days including "The Organist Entertains" and the "As Prescribed" hospital request series. Makes one a little envious and focuses attention on that famous line, "Oh to be in England now that spring is here". Thanks to Peter Held for loaning the Newsletter of our English theatre organ friends.

(Frank Ellis)

FINALLY

The Executive and members of the Committee extend to all members, their best wishes for a Merry Xmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. They hope to see lots more of you at our concerts and organ parties in 1973.
