

TOSA NEWS

December 2018
Volume 57 No.10

Price: \$2.00

**Come on along to the
December 9th Concert at 2:00pm
as Australia's Duo Musicians**

Tony Fenelon & John Atwell

**play the Christmas Concert
on the Orion Centre Theatre Wurlitzer
Celebrating its 30th Year in this venue**

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TOSA News David & Margaret Badman

Printer Printers of Richmond

President



Members,

Wow! What an absolute cracker of a concert we had with British Wizz, Simon Gledhill on 18 November – and the audience loved every minute of it. I think Simon was pretty pleased too – to be back at the organ he made his Australian debut on 28 years ago. It occurred to me that Simon has probably played for TOSA NSW more than any other international artist – due to his ability to play for us at relatively short notice due to his previous job requiring him to travel to Australia often and “squeezing in a concert or two” whilst here.

Talking about squeezing in – we have one more concert for this year and it is **Tony Fenelon** and **John Atwell** at Campsie on Sunday 9 December – a week later than normal but pushed back to accommodate Simon’s concert.

I hope this allows you to also squeeze it into your schedule AND bring friends along to hear Tony and John once again show us their mastery on Wurlitzer and Yamaha as they take you on a journey of musical delight. This will be our last concert until March 2019 so please come along!

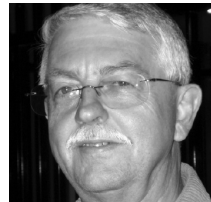
The AGM went well and you can see the results of nominations and voting in this TOSA NEWS. Thank you to the good number of members attending.

We hope you enjoyed seeing a close up view of the Christie console and hearing the luscious sounds from the Celeste rank that was “on wind” as well as spending time chatting with TOSA friends.

Wishing you all the best for the season and I hope to see you at the Orion Centre on December 9.

Craig Keller

Editorial



Hello Members, There was a good attendance at the AGM on 24th November. Several reports are included in this issue and some reports and the minutes of the AGM will be in the Jan/ Feb issue.

I hope you enjoy the Review of Simon Gledhill’s concert at the Orion by TOSA Member Chris Styles. Thanks Chris for getting the review to me in time for this issue.

Please book early for the **30th Anniversary Christmas Concert at the Orion** to help us with catering requirements. Please encourage friends to come along to this final 30th Anniversary celebration concert with our great Australian Theatre Organists, Tony & John. A nice afternoon tea is assured for your enjoyment.

Enjoy the music,

Ernie Vale
PO Box A2322
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editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



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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:

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Ballot for 6 Committee positions for 2018-19

The ballot was determined at the AGM on Saturday 24th November.

Your Committee positions for 2018-19 are:

**Barry Tooker
Pam Lawson
Robert Gliddon
Ernie Vale
Theo Langenberg
David Badman**

The Executive positions remain as for last year being

**President - Craig Keller
Vice Presidents - Neil Palmer and John Weismantel
Treasurer - Geoff Brimley
Secretary - Simon Ellis**

Patron - Dr John Atwell

To Watch Out for

Chris Powell, Ken Double and **Dave Wickerham** booked for next year 2019.

Some maintenance work is planned for an offset chest from Marrickville Wurlitzer over the Christmas holiday break. Players Day participants will be advised when the Wurlitzer will be out of action.

Your Committee look forward to seeing many members at the Christmas Concert at the Orion Centre Theatre, Campsie, where Tony and John have their first opportunity to play the Wurly with its refurbished keyboard.

Once again the enhanced afternoon tea will be available for your enjoyment.

Please encourage friends and students to come along and maybe even consider giving a family member or friend a ticket to the concert for a Christmas present.

Details of 2019 Season Tickets will be available at the Christmas Concert

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 Second Thursday of the Month

December 13th

**Convener is
Craig Keller** on 0418484798

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

**December 24th being
Christmas Eve there will be no
players day in December**

**Convener is
John Batts** on 0420424103
will email you to confirm the day is
available or
Neil Palmer on 9798 6742 after
7:00pm
to confirm availability

Your TOSA Committee for 2018-19



L-R Craig Keller, David Badman, Ernie Vale, Geoff Brimley, Barry Tooker, John Weismantel, Pam Lawson, Simon Ellis, Neil Palmer, Robert Gliddon

President's Report to AGM 2018

Members, thank you for your ongoing support of the society for 2018.

Like most societies or organisations, we too face the ongoing issues of declining membership of the society and declining participation of members.

The decline in membership can, in many ways, be attributed to the change in societal culture and unwillingness to "get involved". The range of factors can include the "bucket list" mentality where people do something once or maybe twice then move on to the next thing. That young adults now don't finish school, get a trade or other work then move on to create a family during their 20s, but often wait until their late 30s before "settling down" is also a challenge. They're too busy experiencing life, touring the world, bungee jumping off bridges and rafting down wild rivers to even THINK about being involved. Then by the time they think about being involved they're too tired to participate.

Our membership is certainly aging as we all do. Look at the committee as an average example. Out of 11 members only two of us are not retired – but the idea is a twinkle in our not too distant future.

How do we attract and maintain members? That is the question that seems to have no answer – whether you're a cultural society like ours, a sports club, volunteer organisation or a service club such as Lions or Rotary. Speaking of which – if you're involved in any other organisation, have you ever thought to suggest a TOSA concert as an event for that club? A few TOSA members have done so to great effect – sometimes with 20 or more people attending.

How do we attract and maintain new audience? Our traditional concert presentation is not that appealing to younger audiences. There is little to attract new audience to come and watch someone's back while they move their hands and feet about and make some music – and often music that the new audience isn't even familiar with or regards as "that stuff my grannie listens to".

TOSA NSW is one of the few theatre organ groups in the world that enhances its concert presentation with live video view and theatrical lighting. That new audience can see the artist's hands and feet in close up does help them to appreciate the ability of the artist but we need to do more. Presenting concert events with an additional non-organist artist or a silent movie or two will have to be tried to attract new audience. Often the additional artist has a following who will come along to hear them, and be exposed to the thrill that is live theatre organ music. Who knows – we may even see a singing organist in the future?

We're probably all familiar with the quote "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Well, we've tried, maybe it is time for change?

But, onto cheerier things. We've had a reduced but good range of concerts this year. Rob Richards, John Giacchi, Scott Harrison and recently Simon Gledhill and of course Tony Fenelon and John Atwell to round out our year of concerts.

Our instruments are in fine fettle thanks to the ongoing dedication of volunteer members. Vice President Neil Palmer looks after his pride and joy at Marrickville Town Hall undertaking maintenance as required – including removing a very dead cockroach from inside a pipe chest. In the next 12 to 18 months we may also see the attachment and activation of the long-awaited

piano. Good things take time.

The Orion instrument is also in fine form following recent upgrades and maintenance with more to come during 2019. Recent works by council to install better and safer power supply to the lift platform has also made our member days and concerts easier to setup.

During 2019 we also hope to hear the first proper playing of the Christie. Again, the vast majority of the work is undertaken by Rob Gliddon and his team of docents as they like to be referred to. By the end of the project they may wish to be called "well and truly retired". Their thousands of hours of volunteer effort over about eight years will be testament to their dedication.

TOSA NSW of course operates on the energy of its volunteers. We have dedicated technical and front of house team members who ensure every concert is presented in the most professional manner possible while staying within budget constraints.

Earlier this year we decided, in conjunction with our anniversaries, to trial not only cabaret style seating at Marrickville, but also enhancing the quality of the afternoon tea service available. The cabaret seating was in some ways successful and in other ways not so. However, the afternoon teas were certainly a "step up" and have been quite popular. Much of this effort was driven by a hard working duo of David and Margaret Badman. Much planning of the layout and preparation of Marrickville was undertaken and then the catering was determined – and it all worked.

The front of house team is ably lead by Pam Lawson and she and the team function very well to not only get our audience seated but managing the serving of afternoon tea too, and then the subsequent clean up.

For the stage presentation our team just "does its thing" and everyone now works together very well setting up lighting, sound, stage setup, video presentations and all the other tasks that go together to make it all seamless to the audience. At the end of the day, they pack it all up again too! We are looking forward to the simplicity of setting up for a concert in this venue when our Christie is ready.

The society cannot operate without its committee though, and looking back through the historical TOSA NEWS items that David Badman has been providing, I see that there are a few constant names appearing in the committee list. One of those is Neil Palmer who, despite the responsibilities of caring for his Mum,

Eunice, is just “there” when we need him.

Another name that appears is that of John Shaw who has been a committee member of some sort for at least 30 years. This year John has decided to take a rest to look after his own health – which as we know is the most important, but we owe John a huge debt of gratitude for all he has done, and will continue to do, for the society – so thank you Mr Shaw.

The rest of the committee all have vital roles to play in not only the functioning of the society, so thank you to Ernie Vale, Rob Gliddon, David Badman, Theo Langenburg, Barry Tooker, John Weismantel and my right and left hand men, Simon Ellis and Geoff Brimley.

Whilst not a committee member, I must thank my major supporter, Debra. She travels with me to almost every committee meeting and has become involved in the operation of concerts and is of course an ear I can discuss matters with – often putting a different and valued perspective on the matter being discussed. But of course, the greatest thanks must go to you, our members and our audiences.

Here’s to a great 2019, thank you all.

Craig Keller
President 24 November 2018

Show & Membership Prices

	All Artists
Non-members	\$35
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$30
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 2018-19:

\$50.00 Full membership, \$40.00 Concession, Interstate or

Overseas \$50. \$5 discount if TOSA News emailed to you

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

(02) 4776 2192 membership@tosa.net.au

Associate Membership for a spouse/partner is an additional 50%

Secretary's Report to TOSA (NSW) AGM November 24 2018

Good afternoon, and thank you for your attendance at this year's Annual General Meeting.

I should first like to thank all of the members of, and others periodically seconded to, the Committee for all of the effort that has gone into making 2018 another productive year for our Society. I personally have appreciated the support of the regular Committee members. We also need to take this opportunity, formally to thank all members and volunteers for their patronage and hard work throughout this past year. We need also to recognise again the extreme dedication of that band of experts who maintain, and in the case of the West Ryde Christie, rebuild and install the Society's instruments, ensuring that they can be presented and enjoyed in world class condition.

The conduct of Committee business via email between monthly meetings continues to ensure that most necessary decisions can be quickly and thoroughly dealt with, and that those things that "happen" can be communicated without delay. The use of Facebook for disseminating information as well as advertising concerts and events continues to prove beneficial, and in large measure, thanks especially must go to President Craig for driving this technological bus. In the same vein, thanks must go to Ernie Vale and David Badman for their collaboration in the initiative which has seen members receive email copies of archived TOSA NEWS appropriated to this Anniversary year.

There are three things that I would like to highlight with which the Committee has wrestled this year:

1. As ever, we struggle to find ways to promote the Theatre Organ artform in today's ever-changing entertainment market. This especially exercises our combined mind about how to ensure fresh membership, involvement, and the rise of new players. We need to emphasise again the dependence on all our members to encourage newcomers, and to seek the infusion of "new blood". Without this, TOSA NSW will die a lingering and sad death.

2.The Committee examined closely the possible benefit of seeking accreditation for our Division on the national Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO). Ultimately, with confusing and recent changes to the rules from the Attorney General's Department, and the re-allocation of departmental responsibilities, it was decided that the costs of continuing the accreditation process far outweighed the likely benefits to our Society.

3.The Committee has undertaken a thorough overhaul and rewrite of our TOSA NSW Constitution, as authorised at last year's AGM. This has been a tedious and quite complex process, necessary, however, in order to bring this document into compliance with changes to the Associations Incorporations Act, and especially to accommodate socially inclusive norms, and means of communication which were not able to be envisaged at the time of drafting our original Constitution. Every effort has been made to retain the spirit of all of the provisions of the founding document, albeit with some additions and language changes.

I look forward to another fruitful year, as together we all strive to promote and present music made on these wonderful instruments.

Simon Ellis
Secretary
24 November 2018

**The minutes of the AGM
will be in the January/February 2019 TOSA News**

"Here is that marriage of style and content we look for in all great writing. A shatteringly vulgar and worthless life captured in shatteringly vulgar and worthless prose".

Stephen Fry, Paperweight, 1992

**The Last Concert for the Year
at the Orion Centre Theatre**

The Fabulous Musical Duo

Tony Fenelon OAM & Dr John Atwell



**Play
“ The Christmas Concert ”
on this most up to date Mighty Wurlitzer
and
Grand Piano**

Sunday 9th December 2:00 – 4:30pm

2 hours of wonderful music at bargain prices

Orion Centre Theatre

155 Beamish Street, Campsie

Free parking behind the theatre & good public transport access see
www.tosa.net.au

Students have FREE entry to the concert

The Christmas Program will include

A Christmas Overture by Nigel Hess

Many of your Christmas favourites

Waltz in C# minor by Chopin

Prelude in G minor by Rachmaninoff

Tea for Two (arrangement by Adam Carroll)

West Side Story – tribute to Leonard Bernstein on the 100th anniversary of his birth

Dream of Olwen

Dam Busters March – tribute to Richard Gill who died recently.
(Dam Busters was his favourite piece).

Thank you for the Music – ABBA

Concert artists already booked for 2019
Chris Powell UK to play Marrickville in March
Ken Double USA to play Orion in August
Dave Wickerham USA to play Orion in November
Tony Fenelon Aus to play Marrickville in December

Tickets : \$ 35; Conc \$ 30; Members \$25
Family ie 2 Adults including 1 or more children \$65
Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person
Students free on confirmation of student status
Students; Bring your parents along for only \$20 each as a first time patron.

Book securely on line at Trybooking via www.tosa.net.au/events
click on the show title then the trybooking link
or

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

Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.

Treasurer's Report for year ended 30TH June 2018

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you the financial details and results of the past financial year.

The financial statements were audited by C M Pitt & Co, Chartered Accountants and I would like to place on record my appreciation of the assistance always readily available from Mr. Charles Pitt.

Overall a small profit was made which is encouraging. However, the majority of our concerts ran at a loss due, mainly, to the venue hire costs. While these are high, it must be remembered that both are substantially below market prices. At Marrickville we pay the "local" not for profit rate and also receive our free members' practice and social times while at Campsie the fee is very much lower than the normal base weekend rate for the venue. At Campsie we do pay a nominal amount for members' days which is partially offset by the donations of those in attendance. Thank you to those people.

Ticket sales were down by almost \$3,000 and it is clear that more needs to be done by us, the members, to encourage others to attend. Advertising on Facebook was initiated however the results did not justify the cost. Again it is clear that the best advertisement is the personal approach.

Returning to the profit earned, it must be pointed out that without the generosity of several of our members there would not have been a profit. Included in the income were donations towards the Christie project totalling \$2,100; towards the Orion Uniflex replacement, \$3,930 (a further \$450 has been received this financial year to date); and \$960 in unspecified donations.

The accounts do not accurately reflect Membership numbers. While the figures indicate an increase of \$4000 this does not mean a great increase in membership. Unfortunately! Historically membership income has been recorded according to the date renewals/applications were processed, regardless of which financial year they were received.

Expenditure shows a 10% increase overall, the main increase being in organ maintenance which includes the purchase of the Orion Uniflex replacement unit.

We are again looking for the support of members as maintenance on the two Wurlitzers is still required. As you would have read in the latest edition of TOSA News the keyboards from the Orion Wurlitzer have just had major surgery at a cost of \$6,380. There are also further costs to be incurred on the Christie restoration and installation.

Back in 2014, John Wall, the then Treasurer, in his report commented on two bequests which the Society had received in the previous couple of years and concluded with:

“Effectively, the two bequests received over the last couple of years have replenished our cash reserves.”
With reduced profits since then, those reserves are diminishing. Costs to members are kept as low as possible by your Committee. This can really only continue if members are willing to support the activities by their presence and their assistance in promoting those activities.

Having mentioned bequests, could I recommend to you, our members, that consideration be given to including the Society in your Will. This is one practical way of ensuring the Society continues into the future and gives future generations the opportunity to experience the wonderful instruments and their beautiful music that you love.

As always I close with the comment that these are your accounts and you are perfectly at liberty to at any time ask questions or request explanations. I welcome such enquiries (It shows you're interested!)

Thank you.

Geoff Brimley
Treasurer
24 November 2018

Marrickville Organ Report for November 2018 AGM

Good afternoon everyone.

I am pleased to say that the Marrickville Wurlitzer was in fine form for its two 50th Anniversary concerts during the year and it has also served the members well for their practise sessions.

Maintenance during the year has been mainly attending to dumb notes and the occasional persistent cipher where a pipe continues to sound when the key is released. One particular fault was the intermittent starting of the Vox Humana Tremulant, caused by a cockroach which had gotten inside the action that start/stops the Tremulant and had died, obviously after having a wild ride when the blower was on and the Trem started.

We were once again invited to demonstrate the organ by Marrickville Library as part of the Town Hall tours conducted during the Marrickville Festival. John Batts played at the conclusion of each of the three tours and Ernie Vale was on hand to give a talk and hand out information about TOSA.

My thanks to John Batts, David Badman and Ernie Vale for their assistance during the year.

I move acceptance of the report.

Neil Palmer

Vice President and Marrickville Wurlitzer Maintenance Co-ordinator
24 November 2018

"If one could only teach the English how to talk, and the Irish how to listen, society here would be quite civilised".

Oscar Wilde, An Ideal Husband, 1895

"In England people actually try to be brilliant at breakfast. That is so dreadful of them! Only dull people are brilliant at breakfast".

Oscar Wilde, An Ideal Husband, 1895

Christie report for 2018 AGM.

Since the 2017 AGM:

- Supports for Clarinet made and installed by John Parker and bottom octave of pipes planted to complete the set in the Accompaniment chamber.
- Manifolds for Tibia manual chests windline and tremulant in the Solo completed and installed along with stability bracing for the pipe rack.
- Braces for Accompaniment 8' String pipe supports made and final octave of pipes installed.
- All proposed pipes and effects have now been placed in the Accompaniment chamber.
- Relay follower units made for swell engines and installed along side relevant Uniflex output boards in both chambers.
- Effects unit relocated in Solo chamber to make way for the Orchestral Oboe.
- Tuned Birdwhistle unit wired, tested, and installed on support brackets on Solo chamber rear wall with relay follower unit.
- Pedal clavier, swells and crescendo pedals wired to Uniflex input boards in console.
- Swell & crescendo pedals friction units completed and installed in console.
- Pedal first- and second-touch physical & electrical settings completed.
- Chamber power supplies procured and installed in Solo chamber.
- Console powered up and Uniflex system tested, then chamber interface installed in Solo chamber with WiFi router and tested successfully from the console.
- Solo offset chests wired to relay.
- Air regulator components are being releathered in preparation for installation.
- Members and visitors to the June social day were able to play the 4' Diapason (manual chest) from the console, temporarily fed from the test air connection via a winker and flexible hose.
- Orchestral Oboe chest ready to be installed on the centre wall of the Solo chamber with new top, rackboard and supports made by John Parker.
- Console lid and horseshoe maintenance supports manufactured.

- Regulator springs and other related items recovered from old chambers storage area to be prepared for installation on regulators.
- Three sections of wooden main wind trunking manufactured by David Badman were installed in the Accomp & Solo chambers.
- A right-angle interface between sections 1 & 2 of the wooden trunking was fabricated and 300mm diameter PVC installed between sections 2 & 3 to avoid one of the 16' Violone offsets.
- Complete trunking air tested; only a couple of minor leaks needed to be sealed.
- Pressure test at end of trunking read 19" wg; better than the 17" we expected.
- The blower has now run for nearly 90hrs since installation, for testing as items are installed.
- Krumet chest restoration continues; sanding, flooding channels with shellac, cleaning etc. Pallets, primaries and secondaries have been re-leathered.
- Wind trunking adapter boxes are being fabricated for awkward locations.
- Regulators laid out in proposed positions on trunking to ensure adequate clearances.

Robert Gliddon and John Weismantel
Christie Project Leaders

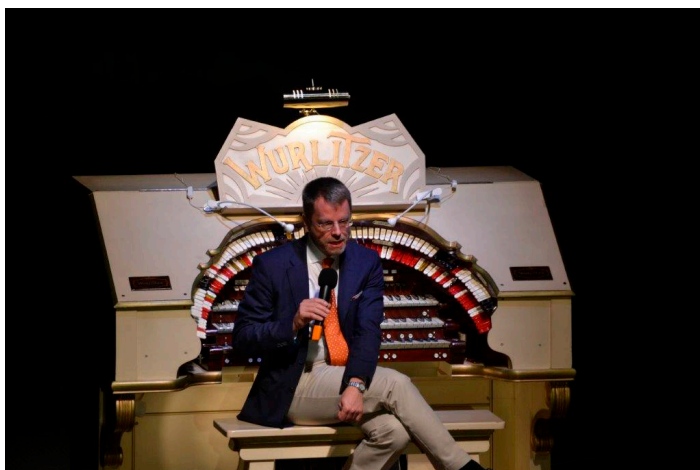


Phil Bongers, TOSA Member and Organist at WRAC at the AGM

Review of Simon Gledhill Concert Sunday 18th November, 2018

Simon hails from Halifax in West Yorkshire. Can't say I've been to West Yorkshire but my partner Dominic and I have spent time in North Yorkshire at the beautiful Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Harlow Carr and in the most wonderful city of York with its cobbled streets. Before I commence my review, those of you who have access to YouTube will probably already have seen the stunning duet with Simon at a 4 manual Compton theatre organ and Richard Hills at the piano with the Edward White composition "The Runaway Rocking Horse". This piece is taken at breakneck speed and in a wonderful acoustic that shows it off to the best advantage. Wonderful to view this video again and remind myself of the great talent Simon is at the organ.

I've been writing reviews for TOSA News readers over many years. Whilst it is easy to write reviews for such talented artists as Simon Gledhill, something has always nagged me as I review my skills, or lack thereof, as a reviewer. Some of you will know that I play our wonderful Wurlitzers and have been called upon over the years regularly to play at various churches for their services. I do have to admit to being something of a fraud when it comes to calling myself an organist, especially when I have mostly been self taught. I often tell the story of being thrown out of my first music teacher's class (around the age of 9) due to my bad habit of not reading the music but playing the tune from memory. Nice to have a musical "head" but not good to become a competent musician.



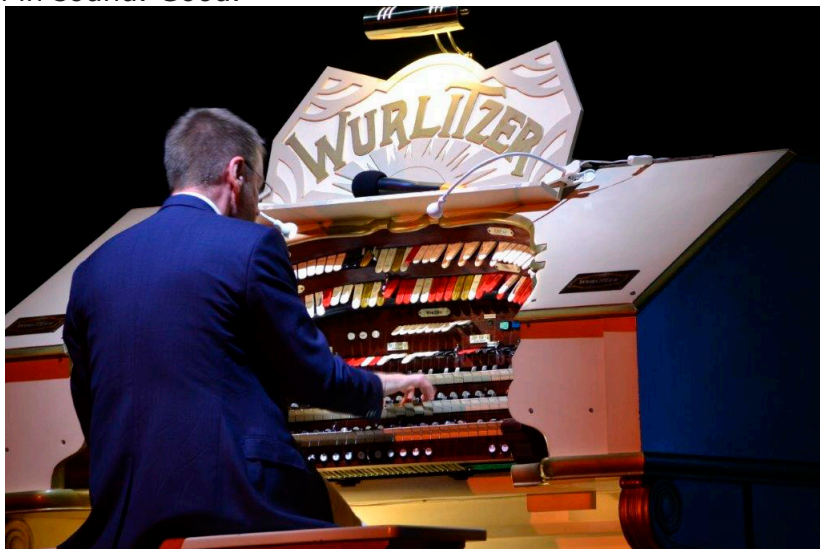
On with the review, and you will now understand that my comments are purely from an amateur's point of view. Simon opened proceedings with *On the sunny side of the street*. He had a version of

this on You Tube some years ago which I tried to emulate in my clumsy way and failed spectacularly! Simon's interpretation though was (as I will quote often in this review) edge of your seat stuff with a smashing key change towards the end.

Simon greeted us and told us why we were having a November concert as he had the chance to escape the UK's awful November weather – cold, wet and dark at 5.00pm. Ah, yes, being an Anglophile I've often wanted to spend many months in the UK but the gardener restricts me to one month every two years.

Simon next played *Poupee Valsante* by Poldini, translated as The dancing doll. This piece a beautiful contrast to the opening number. On to some Henry Mancini. A lovely medley of well known Mancini tunes including *Le Jazz Hot*, *Days of wine and roses*, *Baby elephant walk* and of course *Moon River*. To the music of Lerner and Loewe's *Camelot* and *If ever I would leave you*. One of the things that proves to me a top quality organist is one who can make a very familiar tune sound fresh and new. Simon certainly did that with this number. Beautiful harmonies.

Simon recalled something that I have also known for years. When we first get to sit at a Wurlitzer or other theatre organ, we are carried away by the huge sounds that can be made. It isn't for some time that we learn that the organ has beautiful soft sounds. Why I take to Simon as an organist is partly because his programmes provide a wide variety of music and after the piece from *Camelot*, Simon introduced us to the English Composer and theatre organist born in 1899, Frederic Curzon, and his composition *Galavant*. Noticeably British in sound. Good.



Show time again and this time a selection from Gypsy composed by Jule Styne. Styne was born in 1905 and lived almost to the age of 89. Simon introduced the numbers by recalling the show had been on in London's West End last year and he felt had a great number of gorgeous tunes including *Let me entertain you* and *Everything's coming up roses*. He proceeded to present a great medley of them including the above. Dominic and I were fortunate this year to be in London's West End at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane to see the fabulous musical *42nd Street* with Lulu in the cast. This show was also reputed to have the largest cast of any musical on the London stage. Wow! was the only way to describe being there.

A French composer again this time (see Poldini above), one well known to us for his *Symphony No. 3 (Organ)* and the third movement thereof, referred to at my church as *The God Music*. Saint Saens by name and the music to take us up to interval *Marche Militaire Francaise* or French Military March. As Simon reminded us, Saint Saens was one of the organists at the famous Paris Church of La Madeleine.

After the interval Simon commenced Part 2 with a lively *Jeepers Creepers*, a composition by Harry Warren and performed by, amongst others, Frank Sinatra. More music, next by a British composer Reginald King, and a sweet *Serenade for my lady*. Now to music by Anthony Newley, he who wrote amongst other shows, *Stop the world I want to get off* and *Willy Wonka*. We sampled *On a wonderful day like today*, *Who can I turn to*, *Good old bad old days* (the theme music we used on the theatre organ programme presented on the then 2CBA-FM in the eighties and nineties), *What kind of fool am I* and *Pure imagination*.

Music of Cole Porter next. As Simon again reminded us, Porter wrote both music and lyrics. Simon also told us that Porter was told he couldn't write simple music and when requested to write a song with only three words he composed a beautiful *I love you*. Simon said he was going to show off the refurbished keyboard and that marvellous Wurlitzer second touch. Good to have Simon next introduce the music of Englishman Wally Stott, he who was very much a part of fifties BBC radio, *The Goon Show*. *Rotten Row* was the piece Simon played. I do recall the wonderful music played as breaks in *The Goon Show*, all heard in the many replays of the show on ABC Radio.

More British music, this time by Sir Edward Elgar, he whose memorial we saw this year in Worcester Cathedral. The composition *Chanson de Matin* (in English - Morning Song). What next? How about a wonderful medley from that Irving Berlin musical *Annie get your gun*. Can we ever forget Ethel Merman belting

out that shows songs with a voice that would shatter glass but perfectly in tune. One of the TOSA committee (no names, no pack drill!) can do a wonderful impersonation of Ethel. We heard amongst others: *I got the sun in the morning*, *Doin' what comes naturally*, *You can't get a man with a gun*, *The man that I marry*, *They say that falling in love is wonderful* and of course *There's no business like show business*.

Concert time drawing to a close and, as Simon does on occasions, plays an overture to conclude the concert. No, not The Thieving Magpie, but the Russian composer Mikhail Glinka's *Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla*. This was played at breakneck speed and a very exciting finish to a superb afternoon of music making. No way would we let Simon disappear without an encore and, as we were over time to vacate the Orion Centre (now thankfully unadorned in its tulle) we had *Hurrying Home*.

Sincere thanks again to all the work John Parker did in the refurbishment of the keyboards of our wonderful Wurlitzer and to have it all ready in time for Simon's wonderful concert was great timing. The organ as usual, sounded fabulous.



Great to have Simon in Australia again and the five concerts he performed here in Brisbane, Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide and lastly, Sydney. A stunning afternoon's entertainment and so good that we could have Simon's vast talents right here in Sydney and the rest of Australia.

Chris Styles
November, 2018

Members Diary

Next Committee Meeting - Monday December 3rd

West Ryde Anglican Church

Sunday 9th December 2:00pm

Come to celebrate with

Tony & John

playing the Orion Wurlitzer

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

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