

## **APRIL 1989**





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

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IMPORTANT - ALL MEMBERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

PLEASE NOTE THE NEW ADDRESS FOR THE SOCIETY

Address all correspondence to:-

The Secretary,
T.O.S.A. (N.S.W. Division) Inc.
P.O. Box C462, CLARENCE STREET, SYDNEY, N.S.W. 2000



Wednesday 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING

Sunday 23 2.00 pm DAVID JOHNSTON & CAROLE PINCHES

Direct from Melbourne. Orion Centre, Beamish Street, Campsie

Booking form in this issue

2.00pm TWO MINI CONCERTS - TOSA AND THE ORGAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY JOIN TOGETHER. Saturday 29

See this issue for further details.

MAY

Monday 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 9 8.00pm MEMBERS MEETING & CLUB NIGHT

Orion Centre, Beamish Street, CAMPSIE

JUNE

Sunday 4 2.00pm FREE CONCERT

Marrickville Town Hall

Further details next month

Wednesday 14 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING

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

#### **OBITUARY**

Members will be saddened to read of the recent death of Joh Cognert after a long illness. Joh played some 10 concerts for the Society, both on the Capitol Theatre WurliTzer and on the WurliTzer in the Marrickville Town Hall. Sometimes after playing for a Saturday morning concert at the Capitol, Joe would then be asked by the management of the theatre to stay on and play for the children's matinee. Joe was for many years a well known member of Sydney's musical fraternity having owned at least three music shops in and around the Bankstown area.

All members join in sending heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Joh.

## FOR SALE

CONN THEATRETTE 552 - Excellent condition \$2500.00 o.n.o. For further details about this fine instument phone Karen on 963 7322 (bus) or 953 0619 (ah)

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

A warm welcome is extended to the following people who have joined the society.

Edna French, Joan Stuart, Sophia Murray, Jan Tripp, William Findlay, Jack & Betty Rose, David Hatfield, Joy Boon, John & Elizabeth Palmer, Ross Woodley, Stuart Hoare, Kenneth Collien, Craig Stibbard, Lawrence & Dorothy Blackburn

What a list! We hope that your association with TOSA (NSW) is long and enjoyable.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I have received two letters from members that I feel display what TOSA is all about. So often we don't appreciate people for what they do behind the scenes. These letters go some way towards redressing that situation.

## Letter one

Dear Sir,

On Sunday 5th February whilst standing in the ticket queue for the Robert Wolfe Concert I had the misfortune to collapse ending with a 5 day stay at Canterbury Hospital and through you I thought it may be possible to thank those kind and thoughtful people who assisted me throughout this ordeal.

By the way, two of these good samaritans visited the hospital to check me out and I learned that I missed an outstanding and beautiful performance.

Yours faithfully

Gordon Brown

p.s. after another collapse and numerous tests I am still at a loss to know the cause. All I hope is that I don't miss any more concerts.

## Letter two

Rev. V. Turner 2CBA FM Five Dock

Dear sir,

My wife & I thought we would like to congratulate and thank you and your staff at 2 CBA FM for one of the most enjoyable, entertaining and informative programmes we have been privileged to hear.

I refer, of course, to the "Australian Theatre Organ Cavalcade" presented by your station in November and compered by the inimitable Frank Ellis.

My wife and I are two elderly organ music lovers of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia.

We send our congratulations for the superlative reproduction of organ music records, dating back to 1924 and for the composition of the programme that delightfully blended the old with the new. We send our thanks for the happiness we experienced, as we wandered hand in hand down memory lane.

Kindest regards

Ron & Marge Solomon.

## COMING EVENT

#### THEATRE ORGAN AND CHURCH ORGAN

As fortold in an earlier issue we are joining with the Organ Society of Sydney for an afternoon's entertainment on two different organs.

On Saturday 29 April 1988 we will be visiting firstly the Epping Baptist Church where the well known 2/9 Christie Theatre Organ is installed. This will be the first opportunity that many of us will have had to hear the newly installed trumpet rank.

Afternoon tea will be served at the church before we take our leave of Epping Baptist and travel a short distance to St. Alban's church also in Epping. Here we will hear a classicaly voiced church organ played by our members Margaret Hall and Cliff Bingham.

This afternoon will show how the different kinds of music are designed to be played on a particular type of instrument. It should prove to be a very interesting day and will give us an opportunity to meet members of the other Sydney society which is designed to promote, like us, the 'King of Instruments'.

We will meet at Epping Baptist Church at 2.00pm and afternoon tea will commence at around 2.45pm.

We are due at St. Alban's at 3.45pm and the mini concert will finish at around 4.30pm. There will be a small admittance fee of \$2 per head to cover costs on the day and attendees are asked to please bring a plate of something for afternoon tea.

This will be an enjoyable day so please don't miss out. The artists are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible. And we can't let the Organ Society have more people present than us, can we.

#### CONCERT REVIEW

# FREE CONCERT

#### CLINTON WHITE AND MAUREEN DAWES

Marrickville Town Hall Sunday 5 March 1989

This afternoon proved to be quite rewarding for just over 400 people who came to hear the two visiting artists from the A.C.T.

Our first artist was Maureen Dawes, who is a shy and softly spoken young lady, who was brave enough to get to a rather unfamiliar instrument and come across with some very listenable renditions. There's no doubt that, with experience, Maureen will become quite an accomplished artist and our audience warmed to her as the program progressed.

I would be looking forward to hearing Maureen again in the future and, with perhaps another year behind her, it will be interesting to notice how far she has advanced.

Our second artist, Clinton White, produced a program which to me, was ideal in its selection for a one hour time slot. Clinton's familiarity with the instrument was a great help and he achieved some very pleasant tonal intonations with excellent phrasing. Outstanding to me was 'I just called to say I love you' which commenced with a Tuba solo, 'Blue Bayou' (Orbison) which included some exquisite percussion inserts, and the Bach Sonata rendition of 'Solitaire', very sensitive.

Clinton White is always popular with audiences and of course his dress was (as usual) - impeccable.

Thanks to Maureen and Clinton for a very pleasant Sunday afternoon.

Doug Smith.

Editors note: It was great to see Doug & Norma Smith at this concert. Thanks to Doug for doing the review of the event. Perhaps we can get some articles on the events in the TOSA Gold Coast Chapter?



TOSA (SA) is presenting in concert, on Sunday 16 April, Ray Thornley at their newly restored St. Peter's College WurliTzer. This will be the first concert on the organ since the fire which nearly claimed the life of the organ which began its life as the Melbourne Regent Theatre's 3/15 WurliTzer.

TOSA (SA) has formed a Junior subcommittee. The members, all aged 25 years or less, will be charged with organising social functions and clubnights thus assisting in removing some of the heavy workload that presently rests on the main committee.



ACT

TOSA (ACT) is about to be heard on the airwaves with the compere being their Vice-President Clinton White.

Radio CSPR will be conducting test transmissions on FM 103.1 (Canberra) from Friday 7 April until Sunday 16 April. TOSA (ACT) will be heard on two 90 minute programs at 9pm on Saturday 8 and 15 April. Best of luck for the new station. Let's hope that the station can win the battles and stay on air with a proper licence. This is a great way for the public to be exposed to the mighty theatre organ.



TOSA (QLD) has almost completed the rebuild of the wiring of their Christie Theatre Organ. After almost 15 years in service since it's opening in 1975, it was decided that the antique switching and cabling should be replaced with electronic multiplexing and that the mechanical components should also be overhauled. Some 2,000 man hours has been expended on the project since only November last year!

#### MORE SOCIETY NEWS

Following on from the success of the Robert Wolfe dance and concerts in February, we advise that we have already booked the Orion Centre and made approaches to Robert for a return visit in February 1990. Watch TOSA NEWS for more details.

We are also delighted to announce that we have arranged for one of our most requested artists to return to Marrickville Town Hall. John Van Kleef will be returning from Brisbane to play a concert on the Marrickville WurliTzer on Sunday 20 August 1989 at 2.00pm. In John's concert last year, members were impressed by his easy listening style and his superb renditions of both old and new music. This concert will be a most enjoyable one so watch TOSA NEWS for more details.

#### STOP PRESS

Long time TOSA supporter and Sydney organist, Eric Smith passed away early in the morning of 22 March 1989. This information was received only minutes before printing this issue. More details and a tribute to Eric will follow next month. The Society sends sincere condolences to the family and friends of Eric.