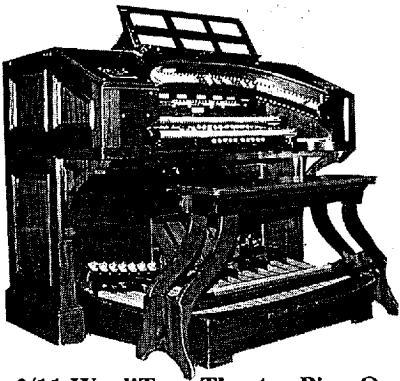
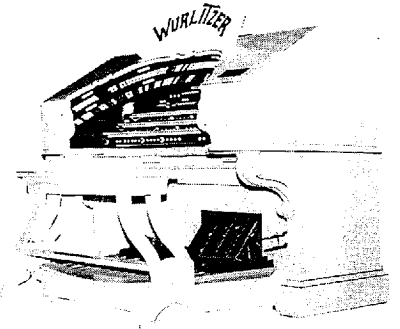


JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1998



2/11 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Marrickville Town Hall

TOSA NEWS



3/17 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Orion Centre Campsie

A Special Afternoon

with our patron

IAN DAVIES

and friends



SATURDAY, 28th FEBRUARY at 1pm
Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL

Volume 37
Issue 1
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TOSA NEWS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY, 1998

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW DIVISION) Inc.

For the smooth running of TOSA, please contact the right person :

General Business - **SECRETARY**
Ticket Bookings - **TICKET SECRETARY**
Membership, Renewals, Change of Address -
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
TOSA NEWS Items, Advertisements - **EDITOR**



COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

Monday 2 at 7.30pm Committee Meeting
Monday 16 at 7.30pm Members' Playing Night
Orion Centre Campsie
Saturday 28 at 1.00pm Ian Davies and Friends
Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL Club

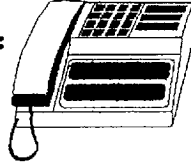
MARCH

Monday 2 at 7.30pm Committee Meeting
Monday 16 at 7.30pm Members' Playing Night
Orion Centre Campsie
Sunday 29 at 2.00pm Russell Holmes Concert
Orion Centre Campsie

APRIL

Monday 6 at 7.30pm Committee Meeting

* DIRECTORY *



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Canterbury Councillor, Ald. John Gorrie

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Neil Palmer 9798 6742

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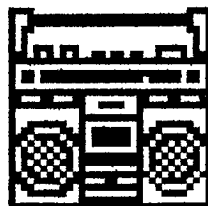
"Soundsational Pipes in Sensational Adelaide"

26th National Convention of the
Theatre Organ Society of Australia
Friday 10th April - Monday 13th April, 1998

Further information from:

The Convention Secretary,
Mrs Gail Ward,
11 Lepena Crescent,
Hallett Cove,
South Australia 5158.

Telephone/Fax: (08) 8387-1554
International +61-8-8387-1554
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Presented by Chris Styles

EDITORIAL

- From the President

Hurry back Colin - all is forgiven - we miss you!
 Yes, our Editor is still staying with relatives at a
 secret overseas rendezvous which I must not reveal
 (starts with F and is next to Spain).

This month's TOSA NEWS is dominated by the reports from
 our Annual General Meeting - please read and be informed.
 We know we can count on your support once you know the
 situation.

As you have already learned, our prices MUST increase if
 we are to remain solvent - and we all want that! So....



COMMENCING 1998, TICKET PRICES:

	<u>Marrickville</u>	<u>Campsie</u>
Non-members:	\$12	\$15
Members:	\$10	\$12
Pension/Concession	\$10	\$12
Family	\$25	\$30
Child	\$5	\$5

FROM 30/06/98, MEMBERSHIP PRICES:

	<u>Previously</u>	<u>Now...</u>
Full Member	\$20	\$25
Pensioner/Conc	\$10	\$15
Country/Interstate/Overseas	\$12	\$15
Magazine only	\$11	\$15

We have been told many times that our prices are lower than at other TOSA divisions. It has been brought to my attention that there ARE other centres with cheaper prices - so we'll go steady on the hype - but we WILL keep giving excellent value for money - cheaper than most!

The 1998 season of concerts starts later than most years, this was not altogether under your committee's control. But we reckon that by the time Russell Holmes plays on 29th March everyone will be concert-starved and will rush to fill the seats! Should be a great performance too.

Other plans for the rest of the year are well in hand. Members' playing nights are scheduled for the Orion again - the first one on **MONDAY** 16th February. Members are welcome to play or listen. Members are also welcome if they wish to book in for playing time on Thursday afternoons or evenings at Marrickville - phone Neil on 9798 6742. An **ORGAN RAMBLE** is planned for the first half of the year, and nine major concerts are set for this year. Some great names coming to play.

See you at the **Ian Davies and Friends** afternoon on Saturday 28th February? Its free!

Finally, wearing another hat, on your behalf I would like to welcome 5 new members:

Ima BALDWIN of Winston Hills,
Joan CRANE of Newtown,
Len CRANE of Newtown,
David CUNDY of Elizabeth Bay,
Marjorie REES of Fullerton Cove.

We wish these folk an enjoyable time as members of TOSA NSW.

Walter Pearce

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

The deadline for each edition of TOSA News is the 12th of the preceding month

Margaret Hall in Concert

Town Hall Chatswood

.....Friday 27th February 8pm

Associate Artists:

Australian Opera's Soprano **Leslie Martin** and Tenor **Dean Sinclair** singing everyone's favourite Nelson Eddy/Jeanette MacDonald duets.

TICKETS \$12 (Special Price for TOSA members) obtainable only by phoning 9417 2987 ASAP, but not between 11th and 14th February.

This concert will be advertised on Radio 2CH with ticket price \$15 plus booking fee.

RECORD BAR NEWS

Powder Your Face With Sunshine Stanley Tudor at the Wurlitzer organ of the Gaumont Theatre, Manchester.

Tracks: Powder Your Face With Sunshine; Selection: Over the Footlights: March of the Redcoats; A Paradise For Two; Gilbert the Filbert; A Bachelor Gay; Alice Blue Gown; Girls Were Made to Love and Kiss; The Rangers Song. Can I Forget You; Spanish Gypsy Dance; Photo Finish; Selection: Strauss Waltztime; Piccolissimo Serenata; Magic Circles; Out of the Wood; Shy Serenade; Selection: Al Jolson Hits: Rock-a Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody; I Only Have Eyes For You; For Me and My Gal; Give My Regards to Broadway; My Blushing Rosie; I'm Just Willd About Harry. Selection: Irving Berlin Foxtrots: Cheek to Cheek; Easter Parade; It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow. The Petite Waltz; The Buzzing Bees (Samba); Jubilee Rag; Selection: George Gershwin Melodies: S'Wonderful; Looking For a Boy; That Certain Feeling; the Man I Love; Oh Lady Be Good; I Got Rhythm; Love Walked In. Selection: Swingtime: Sweet Sue, Just You; Whispering; Some Of These Days; I Can't Give You

FOR SALE: BEALE PIANOLA

This pianola has just been restored by a top restorer and is still in his Sydney workshop.

Cabinet all original, beautiful tone.

Price \$3,999

Sorry no phone, so please write to me: Peter Andersen PO Box 35, DEEPWATER NSW 2371 giving a contact number and I will phone you.

Anything But Love; Nobody's Sweetheart Now. Song of Songs; Love's Last Word Is Spoken; Kashmiri Song; Bosun in the Barn; Selection: Crosby Rhythm Hits: Sing a Song of Sunbeams; It's a Natural Thing To Do; One, Two, Button Your Shoe; I've Got a Pocketful of Dreams; Meet the Sun Halfway; An Apple for the Teacher; Powder Your Face With Sunshine. *A Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust production.*

Compact Disc \$26.00 Cassette \$20.00

Still Available: *Singin' In The Rain* Stanley Tudor at the Wurlitzer Organ of the Gaumont Theatre, Manchester.

Tracks: Signature Tune: Singin' in the Rain; March: Out of the Blue; Westminster Waltz; Salestalk; Selection: Annie Get Your Gun; Down in the Glen; Serenade from "Les Millions D'Arlequin"; Quickstep Medley:

Carolina Moon; Someday My Heart will Awake; Life is Nothing Without Music; Pedro the Fisherman. Genevieve Waltz; Selection: Memories of the Ballet; Tell Me I'm Forgiven; Charmain; Gilbert and Sullivan selection; Tarantella; Stardust; Selection: Top of the Bill; Novelties on Parade: Buffoon; Spring Double; Cockney Capers. Selection: Singin' in the Rain. *A Lancastrian Theatre Organ Trust production. Cassette only, \$20.00*

Available at TOSA concerts or by mail-order from: TOSA (NSW Division) Inc. c/- 304 Parramatta Road, Ashfield NSW 2131

Add \$2.75 postage for Cassette.

Add \$3.15 post for CD

Reports from the Annual General Meeting

On the following pages you will find (with a little editing) the contents of the reports presented at our Annual General Meeting at the Orion Theatre 18th November 1997. If you were not there, these will make interesting reading at this point of TOSA NSW history..... be informed!!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Looking back at the past year, the Society has provided a marvellous schedule of artists for our listening pleasure. Chris McPhee opened the year with our February concert, followed by David Johnson, Neil Jensen, John Atwell, Barry Baker, John Ledwon, Jelani Eddington, Cliff Bingham, John Giacchi and yet to come, our Christmas concert, as ever featuring the perennially popular Tony Fenelon.

We were particularly pleased to be able to secure the services of Jelani Eddington exclusively on this occasion whilst he was in New Zealand on a short working holiday.

With the line-up of top artists listed above, one would have expected attendances to increase - unfortunately not so; in fact the reverse was true. Our membership is at an all time high, but why is it so many of our folk never ever, or hardly ever, make it along to our excellent programs?

As most members are aware, there have for some time been difficulties accessing the Marrickville Wurlitzer since its rebuilding. I'm pleased to report that an offer by Council to allow regular weekly practice time for one afternoon and evening per week has been accepted. Only through dogged determination by Neil Palmer has this happy outcome been achieved. Thanks as always to Neil for his care and maintenance at Marrickville. If you wish to obtain practice time on our original Wurlitzer you should apply now.

Major changes, too, have occurred at the Orion Centre. As you are all aware Canterbury City Council has leased this building for ten years. Thankfully, Council put clauses in the lease which provided access for the Society to continue concert presentations on the Wurlitzer. We are assured by Council of their continued interest in our activities - they are proud to have our famous Wurlitzer in their building.

It must not go unmentioned our vote of thanks to our Joint Patron, John Gorrie, who is invaluable in the Society's negotiations with Council and it is great to see both he and Mrs Gorrie at many of our concerts.

A good working relationship between the Society and Mr Joe Zouki, the new lessee, has been developing and operational difficulties have been overcome by meetings between both parties. We look forward to working with Joe and his team in the future. Special thanks must go to John Parker, who not only keeps the Wurlitzer in concert-ready condition, but also acts as Orion Liaison Officer.

Our concert presentations wouldn't be complete if we could not have a cup of tea or coffee at interval. Thanks are due to all those who provide this important service. Likewise, the record bar which provides a great selection of organ CDs, local and imported.

The Palmer family are major contributors to these enterprises which add to the Society's funds. Eunice Palmer is retiring as convenor of the refreshment areas and our special thanks are due for many years of faithful service, though she'll still be "helping out".

Early in the year we made a request for suggestions for a location for our two manual, eight rank Christie organ, ex the Kings Theatre Gordon and latterly St Columb's Anglican Church, West Ryde. Several members made helpful suggestions, most of which were followed up. I'm pleased to report we've had an offer to place the instrument in a unique location in the inner suburbs where access would be good and the organ could be played and featured regularly - more of this as things develop.

Thanks must go to the Committee for their support throughout the year which, so far as TOSA is concerned, has had more than its fair share of challenges.

Lastly, I must say that the Society continues to operate thanks to the work of a very small band of workers spending many hours often doing work which the average member never sees. Volunteers are always few - is there any way you personally can contribute? Please give this your consideration.

Robert Gliddon

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

TOSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER, 1997

Good evening Ladies & Gentlemen. I'm sorry I cannot be with you at the Annual General Meeting as I am presently in the USA and will be back in time for the Christmas Concert on the 7th December.

TOSA NSW Division has had an interesting year to say the least. We have staged some great concerts on the Orion and Marrickville Wurlitzers including the return of Barry Baker and Jelani Eddington and not to forget our local artists.

You would all probably know by now the Orion Centre lease has at last been signed and the Centre is undergoing a lot of changes. Our last concert with John Giacchi was the first under the new management. Our rent on concert days has been doubled and we now do not have the open access to the auditorium that we previously enjoyed from Canterbury Council.

The cost of staging future concerts at the Orion is a great worry for the committee. The audience numbers at concerts are falling compared to a couple of years back. A lot of hard work by a few people, of which most are not committee members, goes into arranging and staging concerts and it is all wasted when we draw small audiences and lose money on the day. Maybe we have too many concerts and our customers are picking and choosing which concerts they support.

I would liked to see a greater support of concerts staged at Marrickville Town Hall. I know we don't have the facilities that we enjoy at the Orion Centre but the 2/11 Wurlitzer is acclaimed as one of the world's best and let us not forget that without Marrickville, the Society would never have had the money to purchase the Capitol Wurlitzer.

At this time I must once again thank our long-time helpers, Jean & George Newell, Eunice & Merv Palmer, Ruth Brimley, Edith & Frank Rohanek, Tracy Parker, John Atkins and Carl Zipsen for the continued great effort they put in to make our concerts possible. None of these people are committee members and we really appreciate their support. Thanks also to the people who help with ushering and refreshments on concert days.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year and look forward to the members' support of our concerts in 1998.

Bill Schumacher.

TREASURER'S REPORT

This year's figures show some rather drastic differences when compared with the figures for the year ended 30th June 1996.

This is due, largely, to a revaluation of the Marrickville and Orion organs as at 30th June 1997 to \$289,000.00 and \$597,000.00 respectively.

Sales from trading, i.e. recordings, afternoon teas and candy bar, totalled \$17,730.06 which resulted in a profit of \$4,201.75.

From the Profit and Loss Statement you will note income totalled \$59,457.78 which included the Trading Profit just mentioned and Ticket Sales of \$38,320.50. Against this, there was Expenditure of \$71,243.19 of which the major items were Artists Expenses \$11,974.10, Depreciation \$10,032.00, Organ and Piano Maintenance (including tuning) \$10,206.90, and the final costs associated with restoration of the Marrickville organ \$8,271.89. The final result is a net loss of \$11,785.

Cash on hand at the end of the financial year, including cheque accounts and money lodged "at call" totalled \$15,603.87 and money lodged on term deposit totalled \$41,664.15. (Today these figures are \$14,372.74 and \$42,109.20 respectively and I am pleased to advise that we recently passed the \$10,000 mark in our Building Fund.)

Regarding the future. Costs at this venue have risen substantially. Our last concert cost us an additional \$862.50 in increased rent and setting up costs. The cost of having seats unstacked and put in concert order is still uncertain and we may also have to pay to have them removed after each concert. In addition, the average attendance at the last three concerts here was 320, well below previous years. It is obvious that ticket prices will have to increase in the new year and possibly membership fees later in the year. At the present time our membership and ticket prices are less than any of the other major Divisions of TOSA. Your Committee spent a considerable amount of time at their last meeting considering options available, and as costs become more definite a decision on the necessary increases will be made and then publicised in TOSA NEWS. Be assured, increases will be kept to the minimum whilst being realistic.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask: these accounts are your accounts.

Thankyou.

Geoff Brimley.

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MARRICKVILLE ORGAN REPORT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 1997

Two concerts were featured on the Marrickville Wurlitzer during 1997, both of these unfortunately only drawing a low attendance.

On a more positive note, I am pleased to announce that the resumption of the members' practice sessions commenced on the first Thursday of this month after approximately twelve months in waiting for the Council to make a decision. Hopefully, this will generate renewed enthusiasm towards the Marrickville organ.

The instrument is in good working order with only minor problems occurring from time to time. The good thing now that practice has recommenced, it is being played once a week instead of sustaining long periods of silence.

Neil Palmer

- ORION ORGAN REPORT -

1997 has been a quiet year for the Orion organ. There have been numerous concerts but work on the organ has been minimal - which is to be expected from a rebuilt instrument.

Developments during the year regarding the future of the Orion Centre, saw a delay in installing the new computer system.

The system is still in its boxes, but a new cabinet has been constructed for installation back stage, to house the new computer.

With the change in management of the Orion, I was asked to be the liaison between the TOSA Committee and the new management. This I have done with a level head and appreciation of concerns on both sides.

In these early stages..... I believe our TOSA relationship with Mr Zouki and his staff is off to a good start with no major problems apparent - now - or in the foreseeable future. I am pleased that certain members of the committee saw fit to request my representation in this regard as I have - to a certain extent - been the "face" of TOSA here at the Orion since 1987 and imagine I will be for some time to come.

At this point in time, work is still in progress on the expansion of the organ here in the Orion. During the year, numerous pipe chests, tremulants and pipes themselves, have been restored pending future installation.

The situation here at the Orion has altered in that our hirerage fees have doubled in cost. Some of you might feel animosity toward Joe Zouki and his staff for these changes.....? That should not be the case..... Joe is faced with the same problem we are..... covering new costs!

My dealings so far with Joe Zouki and his staff show me that he is a businessman who is prepared to give us a fair and reasonable deal. Already he has offered us a discount rental price - considerably lower than that of his other customers.

Joe has to run the place 7 days a week, whereas we only require it one day a month more-or-less..... and he has to pay his rent!

As you can see tonight, the Orion is undergoing its change. With this particular transformation, TOSA must also change and to a certain extent accept the inevitable.

This whole business has been on the cards now for years. I for one have never wanted to even think about it - knowing how changes to the building may affect the musicality of the organ..... and more, perhaps, the presentation of our performances.

The Orion is still a fine performance venue..... all we have to do is accept the change and maybe simply adopt the attitude that we are beginning here from the start..... all over again.

The decor is certainly changing. There is carpet being laid in the auditorium and it is to be repainted and draped. You have seen the changes in the foyer..... we have to accept that we don't have the space available to "spread" ourselves out as we have. A major plus of the renovations is that at last there will be Ladies' and Gentlemen's toilets in the foyer!..... a "must" obviously deemed unnecessary by council planners in refurbishing the building in the 1980's. We are also grateful that negotiations enabled the retention of one of the box office spaces for our use.

To conclude this report I would like to make a personal comment - one that I believe is shared by my colleagues on the committee.....

In view of our new situation at the Orion, I suggest that the society seriously look into an increase in concert ticket prices.

For many years during my travels both around this country, and back home in New Zealand, I have been surprised to realise, that although NSW is the largest TOSA division, it is in fact charging the lowest ticket prices.....! Maybe this is due to the fact that we have had it too good for too long?

We have to look at raising our prices to at least take into full account increases in artists' fees, travel, accommodation..... and not to forget - new rental prices.

The NSW prices have changed little since 1987 when I arrived in Sydney, and in those days Marrickville was the major venue..... No Security Parking..... no air conditioning..... no comfortable toilets..... no curtains to block the 3 o'clock sun..... no spectacular lighting show, and no presentation such as we have been able to provide at the Orion..... a very fine little organ though!!

On the other hand, I have to state most clearly that the countless number of successful concerts at Marrickville - paid for the Orion organ and its restoration - this must never be forgotten!

I would like to express my personal thanks to those who have assisted me throughout the year with either organ maintenance or tuning: Steve McDonald, Robert Gliddon, Margaret Nelson, Neil Palmer and Cliff Bingham.

I would also like to thank the TOSA committee for accepting my apologies for the number of meetings I have had to miss during the year, due to my work commitments and ill health on occasions - I hope that I have been able to make it up through time with the artists on the two days spent at the Orion prior to every show.

Three weeks ago I contacted our co-patron Cr. John Gorrie regarding our new situation here at the Orion. This was largely due to the Canterbury Theatre Guild receiving a great deal of press coverage about their "unfair" deal from council. Many of you will realise that John Gorrie was the former mayor of Canterbury - and in 1984 was the major force on council committed to seeing the Wurlitzer installed.

John attended a meeting with the General Manager of council last Friday to represent the Canterbury Theatre Guild and their problems. As a result of our phone conversation he "sprung it" on the GM that he was also representing TOSA - as their co-patron.....

I would have loved to be a fly on the wall as I believe it was quite exciting, but the gist of it is..... that it is intended that TOSA be granted "a rem relief" from council - for every concert.

No figures have been confirmed at this stage, but I believe that our co-patron must be thanked most sincerely for his thought and dedication to our cause.....

John W. Parker
Organ Builder.

Since the Annual General Meeting, work has continued on the Orion Centre, and John has sent us this news piece: . .

JANUARY ORION UPDATE

An unscheduled visit to the Orion Centre on 31st December saw many changes since our last concert on 6th December. Although we will always remember the building as it was since 1988 when we held our first concert, the transformation it is presently undergoing is very tasteful.

The foyer has had new marble and granite tiles laid and the bar is soon to be finished in painted "marbling" with black granite bar top. The foyer toilets have also been completed. The effect of the light marble floor tiles, combined with the lighter painted walls - gives an impression of space in the foyer, although the construction of the bar has in fact lessened the floor area.

The auditorium carpet is to be laid on or about the 13th January and all painting of the walls is now complete. Two curved staircases have been built leading up to the stage - both of these on castors and able to be moved for our concerts. A new lighting and sound booth has been built on the rear wall of the stalls to enable tiering of the balcony for tables and chairs. Drapes will soon be hung around all exit and other doors in the auditorium. It is certainly a change, but I believe it will work well for our programs.

John W. Parker

Report on Tony Fenelon's Concert

Sunday, 7th December by Wendy Hambly Orion Centre Campsie

Its our Christmas concert at the Orion Centre and a capacity crowd is eagerly awaiting Tony's arrival. As John Parker said in his introduction, "One of Australia's finest!" I couldn't agree more.

The first sounds we heard this afternoon were sleigh bells and every other sort of bell on the organ playing a very bright and joyful rendition of "Sleigh Ride" which moved very smoothly through various key changes. The console rose to loud applause, but where was Tony? Were we going to be entertained by remote control? The organ looked rather lonely, playing all by itself. I wonder if Tony missed Santa's sleigh from Melbourne? Not to worry, here comes Tony running in from the side entrance, probably had trouble parking the sleigh outside. Tony then slipped onto the organ bench and after conducting the organ for several bars, joined in. Have you ever tried playing a duet with yourself? What a fun way of commencing what would be a very memorable afternoon of music. Everyone found this novel approach highly amusing.

Next came a medley from "My Fair Lady". Tony informed us that he had played this at the Regent Theatre, Melbourne, and that he had waited 27 years to play the organ up from the pit. "It was magic!" he said. First came the Overture with full organ and percussion; "On the Street Where You Live" using tibias and strings with underlying runs and counter melody using second touch; "I Could Have Danced All Night" with full organ and reed, also good use of glock for accent. Also good bridging and key changes and use of piano. Did you notice the key change from major to minor and back to major key at the end? Very effective.

Next came an organ lesson! As Tony prepared to play the music of Eric Coates we were treated to a mini-lesson on musical form. Tony then proceeded to play "Calling All Knightsbridge Dambusters?!?". Both marches were cleverly intertwined using Tony's unbeatable bridging and every key known to science. Playing one phrase or section from

Knightsbridge and then one from Dambusters was certainly an innovative way of doing things. An excellent arrangement with good use of second touch for clear melodies and a sprinkling of counter melodies which really grabbed my attention from start to finish.

Slowing the pace now with "Cry Me a River" in Buddy Cole style. Ethereal sound, like autumn leaves blowing along. Miles Perry on lights even managed to put some autumn leaves on the curtains. Reed single note melody right hand, shimmer using fractional tibias left hand - oh how wonderful! Good use of piano in middle section for counter melody - I heard three distinct melodies during this number and I thought Tony only had two hands! An untremmed reed section with a 6/9 chord to finish made this number the most memorable of the day for me.

"Let's shake out the dust and use the kitchenware", says Tony. "Spanish Gipsy Dance" commenced with an untremmed full organ fanfare with reiterating percussion and full chords right hand, reducing to a lighter reed sound for middle section. Clarity of melody line is essential for dances such as this and Tony executed this to perfection, as always. An exciting build up of registration with key changes for a big finish made this piece a favourite with the audience.

It's almost like "Falling in Love" with Theatre Organ to hear Tony play pieces like this one. Fractional tibias with right hand and harp left hand with good use of second touch for counter melody. Full tibias/flutes for one phrase only and I can still hear that counter melody clearly in the background, fading away to a single note tibia finish, with harp arpeggio.

Waltz time now - Tony learnt this one when he was six years old. I think this arrangement has been slightly enhanced since then, with all manner of embellishments; good clean runs and theatre styling. Different instruments took the melody line in each section and as I closed my eyes I could almost see the orchestra before me. A very catchy melody and good fingering

was required for this exacting piece.

Why not have a piano and organ duet? As Tony moved to the grand piano on stage, I couldn't help but marvel at the computer technology which allows us to do these duets.

"When Love is Gone" - theme from "Bilitis" is one of those lovely melodies which flows so well. Soft organ, allowing piano to speak clearly with main melody. Organ took the melody line for several phrases with tibias and flutes with a piano arpeggio to end.

Piano solo now - Schumann's "Dedication" - a favourite classic piece superbly executed. "If the power goes off, I can still play the piano. I just can't help myself!" says Tony. Chopin next - light and jaunty, showing superb technique - one wrong finger and the whole thing would fall apart. Listening to Tony's playing is like being taken on a beautiful musical journey - almost dream-like. It's hard to come back to reality when it's over.

"Hungarian Rhapsody No.2" now - "Tom and Jerry" theme. This was certainly a 'cat and mouse' duet with untremmed full organ to start with a softer middle section and also use of triangle. A very dramatic piece with contrary motion runs. Use of octave couplers and second touch to build up to a big finish.

After interval came "Keep Your Sunny Side Up". A great choice for an opener with full theatre organ and second touch adding interest. A march now with plenty of 'statement/response' between piano and organ. An untremmed classical style fanfare too. A very busy piece. "Autumn Nocturne" was next, using untremmed diapason left hand and single note melody on piano. Exceptional modern arrangement using higher interval chords and fractional tibias which gives that lovely 'autumn gold' sound. Harp arpeggio to finish.

From "Les Miserables" - "I Dreamed a Dream". Soft tibias and flutes with a clear melody line, then add soft reed and full chords. Then an emotional build up with a return to plaintive tibias/flutes. The last phrase returned to full organ with a change of key upward, then a sudden cut-back to plaintive combination with glock to finish - very dramatic.

Now a medley from "The King and I". "March of the Siamese Children" - untremmed organ with definite beat to give effect of children marching - clear melody line with tuba; "Hello Young Lovers" - luscious 'hollow' tibia/flutes with subtle use of fragment chords (tension/release mechanism - Tony thinks of everything) - a slow and dreamy piece; bright and cheery now for "I Whistle a Happy Tune" with selective use of glock and finally "Shall We Dance?" with percussion and some second touch thrown in for good measure.

Let's have a real fun time in "Chicago" - one phrase full organ, the next, glock only. A change of time too - waltz time using untremmed 4ths and silent picture sound effects. Then return to full chords both hands with a 32' pedal to finish - what a wild imagination with a musical sense of humour!

Tony donned a Santa hat with a blinking light and commenced his traditional Christmas medley. First came Debussy's "The Little Shepherd" - untremmed piccolo right hand. Left hand joins quietly with diapason. More stops are gradually added left hand, but the piccolo is always clearly heard. A hauntingly beautiful piece. Then came "Good Christian Men Rejoice"; "What Child is This?" (untremmed four part harmony); "Winter Wonderland" (with sleigh bells of course); "White Christmas"; "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer"; "God Rest, You Merry Gentlemen"; "O Holy Night"; "Joy to the World"; "Angels from the Realms of Glory"; "Santa Claus is Coming to Town"; "It's a Small World"; "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"; "Jingle Bells" and finally, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

Has the concert really come to an end? This master musician has cast his spell on all of us and no-one wants to leave. Enthusiastic applause returns Tony to the console for his mandatory encore. He decides to leave us as he came - playing "Sleigh Ride" with "Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye" in there somewhere. I think I've been to musical heaven. You just can't improve on perfection.

Thankyou for your Christmas visit Tony. Don't stay away too long.

OUR NEXT EVENT

Members' Afternoon - Saturday, 28th February, 1998

Ian Davies at Bondi

Our Patron, **Ian Davies** has invited all **TOSA** members to a special **FREE** afternoon at the club where he regularly plays. The date is **Saturday, 28th February**, at 1.00pm and the club is the **Bondi Junction-Waverley RSL Club**. Several of our leading player-members will be playing the **Rodgers "Trio" Theatre Organ** including, of course, **Ian** himself.

The club is at 1 Gray Street, **Bondi Junction** and is very close to **Bondi Junction Railway Station**. Parking will be available in the **Grace Bros** car-park until the end of the afternoon's great entertainment. Come along and enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the Club, being entertained by these first-class performers. No bookings necessary, just be there by 1.00pm!

A Profile of Ian Davies

Our patron, **Ian Davies**, started to study music at a very early age. He began piano lessons under the tutelage of his mother. Two years later, he became a pupil of **Miss K. Cox** and continued with her for 3 years.

It was at this point that the pipe organ made its entry into **Ian's** life. His mother frequently played the organ at **St Joan's Presbyterian Church at Essendon, Victoria**. **Ian** persuaded her to give him lessons and after 6 months he became a pupil of the organist of the church.

Ian began his professional theatre organ career in **Melbourne**, playing the **Plaza, Regent** and **Capitol Wurlitzers**, and the **Hammond** organs at **Brunswick** and **Albert Park**.

During the war, while serving in the R.A.N. overseas, **Ian** was guest organist at the **Regal Theatre, Grays Forum Theatre, Liverpool**, and the **Bristol Theatre, Avonmouth, Wales**.

Upon arriving back in **Melbourne**, he returned to the **Hoyts** circuits, his last theatre organ season being at the 3-manual, 15 rank **Wurlitzer** at the **Capitol Theatre**, where he held a 5 year residency. He then moved to **Sydney** and spent some years in the showrooms of **Rees Wills Pty Ltd**, demonstrating **Lowrey** and **Rodgers** organs.

His magnificent opening recital at the 1965 Convention of the **Theatre Organ Society of Australia** was long remembered by those who attended. He was also the featured opening organist at the 1966 Convention on the **Capitol Wurlitzer**. These are but two of the many memorable programmes he has played and which made **Ian Davies** so popular with **TOSA** members. He played over 90 concerts for the **NSW Division** during his long association with **TOSA**, always drawing a large crowd of devoted fans.

For many years **Ian** has been resident organist at the **Bondi-Waverley RSL Club**, playing each Friday for an hour in the club's auditorium for the pleasure of the club's members and guests.

In 1972 following the retirement of **Reginald Dixon** from the **Blackpool Tower** and from the position of patron of **TOSA NSW**, **Ian** was elected to the position and to this day he remains faithfully still as our patron.

He has always been ready to give of his many talents for the members of our **Society** and we are sure that many members will appreciate the opportunity to hear **Ian** play again at the **Bondi-Waverley RSL Club**, in the company of some of our other player members. Come along and bring a friend to this special event. The last **TOSA** visit to **Ian's** club was enjoyed greatly by all those who attended.

OUR NEXT ARTIST :

Russell Holmes

Although only 23 years of age Russell Holmes, from Derbyshire, is a young man with quite exceptional talent. At the age of 13, Russell played his first theatre organ. He made his first appearance on local radio at the age of 14 and on national radio at the age of 17. In 1993 he made his first television appearance. In 1994, competing in California, he won the International Young Organists' Competition organised by the American Theatre Organ Society. This capped five years of musical successes beginning in 1989 when he made his first international appearance in Detroit.

Since then Russell has been in continual demand on the concert circuit and he has delighted audiences all over America, in Holland, Germany and throughout the U.K. His appearance in Florida in 1995 attracted 2000 concertgoers! Last year, Russell's concert schedule included appearances in Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas, Denver and a special engagement to play the inaugural concert at the magnificent, newly-restored Hawaii Theatre in Honolulu. Russell also made another visit to Germany. This time he was invited to play two concerts for the Hamburg International Organ Festival. Russell's concert schedule for 1997 has included 2 tours of the USA as well as concerts in New Zealand, Australia and Germany. His cassette recordings have been broadcast regularly on national radio and BBC Radio Two has recorded his playing on the 3/8 Wurlitzer at Burton Town Hall. Russell has again been engaged to tour Australia, America, Germany and Holland in 1998.

Apart from being a concert-organist on both pipe and electronic organs, Russell is also a professional cocktail-pianist and has been featured playing piano by some of the country's leading hotel groups. Currently, Russell is resident pianist at the Best Western Midland Hotel in Derby. When time permits, he is also organist at his local parish church.

In 1995, Russell made two highly-acclaimed cassette recordings, one on the fiery 3/18 Wyton House Wurlitzer and the other being 26 Great Piano Standards, played in nostalgic cocktail-piano style.

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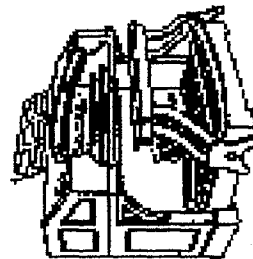
TOSA NEWS

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TOSA NEWS

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