

t.o.s.a. news

incorporating **THE DIAPHONE**

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

Volume 11 Number 12

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SOCIETY DIRECTORY.

PATRON: Ian Davies

PRESIDENT: Tom Halloran, 66 Flinders Road, Cronulla, 2230
(523-5077)

SECRETARY: John Roberts, 5 Wyleena Place, Punchbowl, 2196
(70-3650)

TREASURER: Alan Misdale, 74 View Street, Gymea, 2227
(525-5554)

TOSA NEWS EDITOR: Cliff Bingham, 98 Old Berowra Road,
Hornsby. 2077

ADVANCE NOTICE:- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The AGM will be held in St. Anne's Church of England Hall, corner Homebush and Beresford Roads, Strathfield on Wednesday, 30th January, 1974 at 8 p.m. It is vital that every member should attend and vote for those Officers whom he thinks will serve the Society best during 1974.

IMPORTANT - Nominations for all positions on the Executive and Committee close on December 19th. Nominations must be signed by two financial members as proposer and seconder, as well as by the nominee. The nominee must have been a financial member for at least six months. Listed over are the current office holders on the Executive Committee and their availability for re-election.

Registered with the G.P.O. for posting as a periodical-
Category B

PATRON: Ian Davies
PRESIDENT: Tom Halloran (Not eligible for re-election)
VICE-PRESIDENTS: Des Russell,
Frank Ellis (not standing)
SECRETARY: John Roberts (Not standing but available for
Committee)
TREASURER: Alan Misdale.
MINUTE SECRETARY: Vacant (Someone desperately needed)
TOSA NEWS EDITOR: Cliff Bingham (not standing)
COMMITTEE: Bill Richards (not standing)
Bill Schumacher.
Cliff Bingham (not standing)
Barry Tooker
Ian Griggs
John Weismantel
HONORARY MEMBER: David Parsons
HONORARY AUDITOR: Oscar Moen.

As you can see, there are a large number of vacant positions available. Every member is asked to carefully consider these factors and to take the appropriate action. Remember, nominations must be in the hands of the secretary by December 19th, 1973.

AROUND AND ABOUT.

Welcome to the following new members:
Mr. and Mrs. W. Gamble of Carlingford.
Mr. and Mrs. H. Spry of Lane Cove.
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Britton of Hurstville.
Mr. R. Booth of East Lindfield.
Mr. A. Langford of Killarney Heights.
Mr. J. Adrian of Chatswood.
Mr. E. Nitschke of Canterbury.
Mr. C. Saunders.

HELP WANTED.

Mrs. Barbara Rowland of 11 St. John's Road, Campbelltown has purchased a new organ and requires tuition for herself and young son within a reasonable car drive from Campbelltown. Can any member help?

Organist Wanted. North Sydney Church of Christ are in need of an organist for one or both of their Sunday services. If any of our membership can help, contact John Reed, 412-3333 bus, or 476-1599 A.H.

FOR SALE

Wurlitzer Church Organ, 61-note manuals, 32 note R. and C. pedalboard, reed tone generators, 11 years old. Cabinetry immaculate, plays well but needs some technical work. Contact Cliff Bingham, 389-7179 bus. hours. Price \$550.

Notice of Motion - That the Annual General Meeting of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (N.S.W. Division) in future be held in the month of November.

Proposed - W.A.Richards

Seconded - F. Ellis.

As our secretary mentions in his memo, he received a letter from English Theatre Organist, Howard White, who for many years played in England under the name of Henri le Blanc. He was resident organist at the "Empire" Leicester Square (Wurlitzer 4/20) in 1938 and was associated closely with Sandy Macpherson. He also did many broadcasts on the B.B.C. Theatre Organ (Moller 5/29). He came to Australia in 1966 and we are indeed pleased to hear from this veteran of the theatre organ.

Once more we would like to acknowledge receipt of \$23 from Richie Willis and Norm Read for the Capitol Organ Fund as a result of the organ party recently, featuring Ian Davies. Richie and Norm have set a wonderful example throughout 1973, holding no less than four such parties. Highlights of these evenings have been the piano and organ duets between Ritchie's Thomas organ (played by an organist) and his immaculate Gulbransen pianola (played by itself).

Change of Address.

Would all members and interstate secretaries note my new address:-

Cliff Bingham,
98 Old Berowra Road,
HORNSBY. 2077

Please send all future correspondence to this address.

MEMO FROM THE SECRETARY

Hello Once Again. Since last putting pen to paper I have had the pleasure of touring interstate. One of my trips took me to Adelaide, where I inspected T.O.S.A's (S.A. Div) Wurlitzer Organ installation. What a beautiful job they have done on this organ, in its restoration. President

Malcombe Patterson informs me that they have a bumper Festival of Music and Fun organised for anybody trekking west for their convention at Easter. All Members will be sent a brochure with the timetables and activities in detail, as soon as their committee has finalised details. SO START PLANNING FOR EASTER NOW!

Members Note - Ray Garrett can supply copies of official recordings of concerts. Please contact Ray on 869-7247.

Delighted to hear Wal Cook is well on the way to recovery at Lidcombe Hospital (Ward31) and we publish a letter from Wal, elsewhere on these pages. A sincere thank you from the Executive and Committee to all who attended David Parsons' concert, to David for donating his services, and all those kind members who donated contributions. I can assure you Wal is deeply appreciative.

Don't forget nominations for Committee 1974!!

Received a letter from long time British Theatre Organist Howard White (Alias Henri Le Blanc) who wishes to make contact with old friends in Australia. He enclosed a photo also.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Executive and Committee to wish all members and friends near and far, A Very Holy Christmas, and a Joyous and Prosperous New Year. We fervently hope that the Society can go from strength to strength, and that we can offer members a New Year that will have exciting dimensions for sharing our common love of the Theatre Organ. We need every member in some way, to participate and make this Society a must to belong.

A deep vote of thanks to the Concert Committee for their hard work and unselfish efforts. We hope that next year we can give bigger and better concerts. But without YOU our Dear Member, we can't do anything. Think about it!

Thanks to all those members who have assisted me through the year in my task and helped to ease the burden. Owing to pressure of business I am forced to step down from this position, however, if I can fill a place on Committee, and do my little bit for the cause, I am well honoured.

J.L.R.

LETTER FROM WAL COOK TO OUR SECRETARY.

Ward31,
Lidcombe Hospital.

Dear John,

Firstly I cannot express my gratitude for the fine gesture made by yourself, the Committee, David Parsons, Frank Ellis, W.H.Paling Pty.Ltd. and everyone concerned in the arrangements of this concert for my behalf.

As a member of TOSA for the past ten years, I have seen our numbers grow and have tried to make myself available whenever the need arose. I look forward, when my health allows, to doing the same again.

I hereby acknowledge receipt of cheque for \$468.20.

Thanking you all,

WAL COOK.

REVIEWS.

WAL COOK BENEFIT NIGHT.

On Wednesday, 26th September, the Society held a benefit night in aid of member Wal Cook who has been in hospital since early this year. Wal has had one leg amputated and has been seriously ill for some time with a chance that he may even lose his other leg.

For this concert we are indebted to Palings Pty.Ltd. who supplied, free of charge, the new Hammond Regent theatre organ. A radical departure for Hammond, this model features a horseshoe console and is completely electronic - no drawbars.

David Parsons donated his services and even took time off work to familiarise himself with this new instrument. He capably played the kind of concert we have come to expect from him, playing everything from Pops to Classics. All features of the organ were demonstrated including stops, rhythm unit etc. and those who didn't like previous model Hammonds found this one much more impressive.

The Weismantel family supplied stage backdrop, coloured lighting and spotlights, Frank Ellis compered and the catering committee Pam Tooker, Gwen Adams and Mrs. Harmer sold tea, coffee and biscuits.

All told \$468.20 was raised including \$21.20 from refreshment sales. Donations also were included in this total.

We would like to thank all those who made this benefit such a success.

B.T.

CLIFF BINGHAM AT CHATSWOOD TOWN HALL.

Wednesday, 24th October, saw a disappointingly small (again) audience enjoy a real treat of popular organ music from the capable fingers of committeeman Cliff Bingham. This concert was conducted by TOSA in association with the Northside Arts Festival. Cliff opened his program with "There's No Business Like Show Business" which proved appropriate as one of the notes on the organ decided to stop playing in the middle of it. John Weismantel was very quickly on the job, however, and it was "on with the show" again. Cliff's selections included Errol Garner's "Misty" and "Raindrops Keep Falling on my Head" which proved that "jazz organ sounds" are possible on a Wurlitzer pipe organ. A well-fingered "Clarinet Polka" was followed by the "Colonel Bogey March".

Cliff seems to have a real talent for selecting his associate artists and 19-year old Denise Johnston was no exception to this rule. As well as having a beautiful soprano voice, her appearance would brighten any stage. In her first bracket she sang "I Don't Know How to Love Him" and "There are Those", during which she was ably accompanied by Cliff at the Wurlitzer. The first half of the concert ended with a rip-roaring, full organ "Ob la di, Ob la da".

After interval, compere Bruce Menzies from Channel Nine was assisted by Denise in drawing out our lucky record winner. The musical program continued with a wistful "Yesterday" followed by the waltz "Lover". Due to some communication problems, with the Arts Festival Committee,

the audience was "treated" to a bracket of poetry from the Pacific Islands. (Perhaps the less said about this the better).

Denise Johnston presented her second bracket of two numbers at this point and they were a beautiful ballad called "Say I do" and a magnificent arrangement of "Amazing Grace" that absolutely "brought the house down".

Cliff's final numbers were "Teddy Bear's Picnic", "Jealousy", an amusing "Rubber Duckie", a swinging "Call Me" and concluding with the finale, the "Dance of the Comedians" which Cliff really does play superbly. The prolonged applause assured an encore and Cliff responded with "I'm on my Way".

From the variety of registrations used by Cliff, it was obvious that much work has been done on this organ over the past few months to transform it from the ill-tuned, cantankerous beast it has been to something like a well-kept theatre organ. Much work is still to be done but the overall improvement is outstanding. Congratulations to Cliff, Denise and the organ maintenance crew for a fine night of entertainment.

CONCERT COMMITTEE COMMENT. Out of a total audience of some 400 people at this concert, there were ONLY 64 TOSA MEMBERS from a total city membership of 280. Several other organists such as Bill Schumacher and John Atwell had similarly disappointing audiences during 1973. These artists are all top musicians and their programs were first-class. Why the lack of support?

If you feel that the programs are lacking in any way, please tell us why by writing to the committee care of the TOSA NEWS editor, with some constructive criticisms. If we can't run our present concerts on a profitable basis, what hope do we have when (or even if) the Capitol organ is ready for concert use. Fellow members - we need your practical interest and support.