

TOSA NEWS

Jan/Feb 2012
Volume 51 No.1

Price: \$2.00

Sunday 5th February 2:00pm

"The Rhythm of Life"

Chris McPhee & Malcolm Ross

Orion Theatre, Campsie

Sunday 18th March 2:00pm

"In The Groove"

Bill Schumacher & Debbie Fitzsummons

Marrickville Town Hall

Season tickets available for 2012

See what you save

HURRY - DEADLINE IS 5 FEBRUARY 2012

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From the President



A Happy New Year to all.

Thank you to all of our members who have supported our shows during 2011: I hope we see you at each of our shows this year.

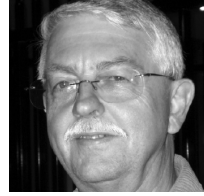
Several people have availed themselves of the Season Ticket option for 2012. This is a new innovation for your Society and brings to members several advantages. First, your choice of seating for the year. Second, one ticket for the year and do not have to worry about booking before each individual show. Third, you get one show free, and fourth, if you are unable to attend a show for some reason, you can lend your ticket to a friend or relative. **This facility can only be purchased up to 5th February, the date of the first show for 2012.**

Members of long-standing will be saddened to hear of the passing of Mr Frank Ellis, a stalwart of the Society. A tribute to Frank appears elsewhere in this magazine.

May I encourage you to plan to be at each show this year. Your Committee has arranged a varied program and yet you will still find many of your favourite Artists with some new faces alongside. Your support is crucial to the ongoing success of your Society, particularly as we move forward with the installation of the Christie at West Ryde.

Happy organizing
Geoff Brimley

Editorial



In this issue there is an outline of the new on-line ticket booking procedure including Questions and Answers. TOSA hope this system makes it convenient for members who use the internet. You are still able to post your ticket bookings as usual.

Further there is details of the Season Ticket booking procedure. Please consider purchase before the deadline of 5 February if you are interested. Contact the Ticket Secretary for bookings. You can't book a Season Ticket over the Internet with the new booking procedure.

TOSA calls upon members to volunteer for additional usher positions to help place our patrons more efficiently at shows. *see details in this issue.*

We look forward to seeing you at the Chris McPhee & Malcolm Ross show.

Deadline for TOSA News is the 12th of the previous month.

Enjoy the music,
Ernie Vale
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

From the Mailbox...



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:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)

PO Box A2322

SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

New Members

TOSA welcomes new members & wish them a long and happy stay

Barry Robilliard

Alan Caradus (Season Ticket)

Member News

Member Geoff Moore from Waratah, a suburb of Newcastle has had a valve replacement to his heart and a double bypass late last year. After several delays, he is now on the road to recovery. Geoff and Don Tyler used to come down from Newcastle to assist with the removal of the Capitol Organ after

TOSA purchased it from Greater Union. He has been a regular patron of our concerts and is looking forward to resuming this as soon as he is capable. Geoff was well known when he was broadcasting on the ABC in Newcastle. We wish Geoff and his wife Diana well and look forward to seeing him again.

Member Jack Rose has also been on the sick list and was in hospital late last year for a serious operation which involved a cut from the neck past the groin and down the leg to his ankle. He tells me he is over the worst of it and is now on the road to recovery. He apologised for missing the last concert, as he and his wife Betty have always been stalwarts in helping with the tea table serving, cleaning and washing up afterwards. These people give generously of their time and miss part of every concert in their volunteer efforts. I cannot tell you how much it is appreciated. Betty has had her own problems, having had a faulty hip operation replaced a second time. She now requires the aid of a walking stick, but still insists on helping. That is the calibre of some of our volunteers.

I think you already know that our ex president Jack Lawson is now in hospital receiving radiation treatment for an incurable brain tumour, which manifest itself quite rapidly at Christmas time. He missed Tony and John's concert because he was feeling unwell, and this proved to be the reason. We all wish Jack a miracle recovery.

From Barry Tooker - Committee

2012 Season Ticket

The Executive and Committee encourage members to purchase a season ticket and invite their friends who are not yet members of TOSA to purchase a season ticket which will include a years membership for them at no extra charge.

**Please contact the
Ticket Secretary, Theo
Langenberg on 0410 626
131 for a Season Ticket &
give him your details**

**HURRAY AS
APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON
5 FEBRUARY 2012**

To Watch Out For

Sunday 5 February 2:00pm

Chris McPhee &

Malcolm Ross *Play*

“ The Rhythm of Life ”

Orion Theatre

Sunday 18 March 2:00pm

Bill Schumacher &

Debbie Fitzsummons

Play

“ In The Groove ”

Marrickville Town Hall

Advertising

Rates in

TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Small bubble = \$11.00

Quarter Page = \$24.75

Half Page = \$49.50

Full Page = \$99.00

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

Members' Playing Dates 2011

**The Orion Theatre Campsie
2nd Thursday 1:30pm -
4:30pm**

February 9th

March 8th

Phone or SMS Craig Keller on
0418 484 798

Players and listeners welcome.
Please bring a plate of goodies for
afternoon tea.

Tea/Coffee provided. Parking at
rear off Shakespeare St.

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday evening at 7:30pm**

February 27th

March 26th

To be sure there is no last
minute cancellation at
Marrickville please ring Neil on
9798 6742 after 7:00pm
the Friday before.

VALE FRANK ELLIS

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of one of the Theatre Organ Society's most prominent figures, Frank Ellis. Long time members will recall Frank as the compere of many TOSA concerts, a role he would fulfil for nearly three decades. Always neatly attired in that well presented dinner suit complete with bow tie, Frank was the symbol of the Theatre Organ Society in New South Wales.

Frank was born in Manchester, England in 1917. His family migrated to Australia in 1925. They ultimately settled in Melbourne and it would be here that Frank would be introduced to the world of the theatre organ at Melbourne's Capitol theatre, in the halcyon days of the silent movie. The first site of the organist rising out of the pit coupled with the wonderful sounds of the mighty Wurlitzer would strike a chord with Frank. This experience would generate in him unbounded enthusiasm for the theatre organ, something that would stay with him for the remainder of his long life.

In the 1930's, Frank took to retailing as his occupation working at Foy and Gibsons in Melbourne and later for the Tarax company which used to operate a number of beverage outlets in Melbourne. Frank was later sent to Sydney to manage the one and only Tarax store in Pitt Street, but the Sydney venture met with little success. The year was 1939 and the Second World War was upon us. Frank enlisted in the

army and was sent to Greta camp near Newcastle. Later his war service would see him serve in Townsville, New Guinea and Singapore. At the end of the war, Frank and his family had moved to Sydney where they ran their own business, the local grocery shop at Wentworthville.

Despite being a long way from the city, Frank did not have far to go to hear the theatre organ as the local independent cinema, the Regent theatre at Wentworthville, possessed a small 2/7 Wurlitzer, played in those years by Les Denley. Frank was also no stranger to many of the suburban theatres around Sydney.

Of course the theatres which he spent a great deal of time in were those that had theatre pipe organs installed - both in the city and suburbs.

The Roxy at Parramatta, Melba at Strathfield, Savoy Theatre in Hurstville Arcadia at Chatswood to name a few of the shows in the suburbs. Then there was those great movie theatres in the city, the Regent, Capitol, State, Plaza and Prince Edward. Frank knew them all very well, and many organists knew him, even a few he had served with in the Army. He forged friendships with many of them in those years. The friendships continued with several of those gentlemen well and truly after the theatre organ had ceased to exist in theatres. The names of those organists included Denis Palmistra, Wilbur Kentwell and Reubert Hayes to name just a few.

In 1955, Frank moved to Lidcombe and by this time the grocery business had been sold. Frank went to work for Farmer and Co. in Sydney (later to become Myers department store). Thus began a new career in his life. Frank would become a familiar fixture at this store for the next 25 years as the manager of the Tie section which was located on the ground floor. Over time, it came as no surprise to those who knew him, the Tie department at Myers became the font of knowledge on all things to do with theatre organs! It was not uncommon to notice a former or current musician chatting to Frank over the counter on one's visit to this store.

In 1962, Frank Ellis joined the very young Theatre Organ Society. In those days, there were still several theatre organs around in Sydney in their original venues, but only the 2/10 Wurlitzer at the Prince Edward theatre was still played regularly by Noreen Hennessy.

The early 1960's would be the beginning of the decade that the Theatre Organ would resurface, this time in a state of long term preservation through the efforts of volunteers in the T.O.S.A. movement. Frank, with his enthusiastic demeanour and theatre organ encyclopaedia in hand, went onto become not only Editor of TOSA NEWS, but also as a very long term committee man and Vice-President of the Theatre Organ Society in NSW.

It was during those years that his vast knowledge of theatre organ

and its organists would be shared amongst like minded people in the theatre organ scene through his years as Editor of TOSA NEWS. An interesting aspect of his journalistic skills was the great deal of effort and trouble he would pursue to obtain interviews with many of the organists from that golden age. Sometimes this would involve travelling interstate to arrange an interview. His series of biographies of the many Australian theatre organists over time have become interesting reading for the historian.

It was also well known that Frank Ellis had a great interest in radio and compering. He was great friends with Walter Elliot, radio announcer from 2CH and in later years a personal friend of Geoff Moore, retired announcer from ABC radio in Newcastle. It was his interest in the medium that would lead him onto compering concerts, and in later years, becoming a radio announcer himself, with his very own theatre organ programme presented on behalf of TOSA.

Frank became a long serving committee man in the 1960's as well as compering concerts. Before the Society owned its own organs, Frank would be compering those fondly remembered concerts at the Capitol Theatre and the State theatre in Sydney. From November 1968, Frank was at the microphone on the occasion of the official opening of the Marrickville Town Hall organ rescued from the long since demolished Prince Edward theatre. In 1988, Frank was again

VALE Dr Max Lang

The late Dr Max Lang was the husband of Valda Lang who played several shows for TOSA over the years. Max was very supportive of Valda's musical talents. Valda wrote the following reflections on her life with Max and has kindly consented for it to be printed in TOSA News.

Reflections on my life with Max.

Written - November 2011

Max and I married on 12th May 1956. I had played piano duets as a child with Max's younger sister Betty and I knew Max slightly. However, it was when returning from the Conservatorium on the bus one evening, that I met up with Max again. He had just purchased one of the first reel to reel tape recorders imported into Australia. That interested me very much, because I thought it could be a useful tool for my music studies. Max brought the tape recorder to my home one evening. He spent some time explaining to me how to use it and generously loaned it to me, because he could see how helpful it was going to be for me. That was the beginning of our wonderful friendship. I often joked that Max had to marry me in order to get his tape recorder back!

I had told Max when we were engaged that my dream was to live in a house with a grand piano and a lovely view. During our more than 50 years of marriage, we have lived in three houses, all of which have

at the microphone for the opening of the transplanted Capitol Theatre Wurlitzer organ at the Orion Centre (Orion Theatre) at Campsie. There was even a stint compering at the Orpheum Theatre at Cremorne for a special theatre organ concert.

Frank Ellis was also on the organising committee for a number of those famous TOSA Conventions and was back on the Committee again in the 1980's and 1990's for another long term. It was from 1985 that Frank also presented his regular weekly theatre organ programme on 2 CBA FM. This task he performed admirably for a few years until 1988. This was the period in which theatre organ music reached a very large audience around the Sydney area. It was advertising money could not buy.

Frank retired from compering in the late 1990's, but returned in 2003 to comper one last concert at Marrickville Town Hall. After that time, he continued to be seen regularly at the many concerts at the society's venues until recent years when he fell ill.

In addition to being a long serving member of TOSA, Frank was also one of the founding members of the Australian Cinema and Theatre Society in 1982 and continued to undertake an active roll in that group as well. His contribution to promoting theatre organs and the Theatre Organ Society was monumental. Frank passed away on December 22nd 2011 at the age of 94.

Ian Hanson

had a grand piano and a wonderful view. Immediately after our marriage we moved into our first home in Randwick overlooking Coogee Beach. After purchasing that house Max worked tirelessly on it, painting and decorating and even making much of the furniture. He used to work on the house until quite late in the evenings, even though he was working in an Optometry practice as well as lecturing part-time in the School of Physics at the University of NSW. We lived in the Randwick house for 16 years before moving to Castle Cove where our home was on middle harbour and our final move was to Leura with the magnificent view of the Jamison Valley and beyond.

During the early years of our marriage Max continued to work very long hours and I was busy teaching and performing.

In 1960 we suffered the sorrow of losing twin sons who were stillborn. In 1962 our daughter Julia was born. Julia was a beautiful

healthy baby who developed well until the age of 15 months when she started suffering epileptic seizures. After some time she was diagnosed as suffering from tuberculous sclerosis, symptoms of which include intellectual disability. Her childhood was difficult with Julia frequently suffering as many as 150 seizures a day.

Life was not easy for us at that time, but Max was incredibly supportive and caring of his beloved daughter. He frequently drove around the streets at night trying to calm poor Julia. That was as well as working long hours during the day and writing his Ph.D. thesis in the evenings.

Julia lived at home with us for eight years and then became a resident of Rainbow Lodge at Woodford. We visited her every week and Max and I both worked tirelessly for the Handicapped Children's Centre NSW. Max was a Board member for 13 years, which included serving as Vice President for 7 years. Later, Max and I were both awarded

Show & Membership Prices

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	All Artists
Non-members	\$27.50
Non-member Pensioner/Senior	\$25.00
TOSA Members	\$20.00
Students 17-21yrs	\$10.00

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$20 per person

Group Booking for 10 or more Students \$8 per person

Child under 17yrs FREE!

Annual Membership Fees are now: \$30.00 for Full membership, and \$20.00 for Concession, Country, Interstate & Overseas.

Membership enquiries Geoff Brimley (02) 6351 3122 membership@tosa.net.au

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

Honorary Life Membership of that organization which is now called the Sylvanvale Foundation. I have often stated that nobody with a severe intellectual disability could have had a more loving, caring, compassionate father than Julia.

The care which our precious Julia has received from the staff of the Sylvanvale Foundation while residing at Woodford, Wentworth Falls and Katoomba has been wonderful and has allowed us to pursue our interests as well as continuing to love and support Julia. Our special appreciation is extended to all of her carers who are wonderful people with compassionate hearts. We are particularly grateful to our dear friend John Cretney for his support and his continuing interest in Julia's welfare.

Max enjoyed a very satisfying academic career at the University of New South Wales in the Department of Applied Physics and Optometry. He made a great contribution in the field of Low Vision and was awarded Honorary Life Membership of the Royal Blind Society (which is now called Vision Australia).

The 23 years which Max and I have spent in Leura have been good despite the problems which aging has brought in recent years. Living in this beautiful peaceful place with our magnificent view of the Blue Mountains wilderness has brought us much pleasure. The beautiful garden on the escarpment which Max began developing soon after we moved to Leura has

been a source of great pleasure and delight. Wonderful times spent enjoying the vista with family and dear friends have been memorable. The time which Julia has spent at home with us has brought all three of us much happiness and joy.

Max and I were privileged to enjoy a great deal of overseas travel for many years and we cherished memories of those adventures. Max's great passion for photography and skill in that area has meant that he has left a great legacy of photographic records of our travels.

In recent years our involvement with the Presbyterian Church at Wentworth Falls has brought Max and me comfort and inspiration.

I am also extremely grateful for the wonderful care which Max received at the Buckland Nursing Home during the final weeks of his life. Having the support of the nursing staff gave me the opportunity of spending quality time with Max, reminiscing about our shared experiences and looking at photographs of beautiful places we visited and wonderful friends we have known and loved through the years.

Thank you, my dear Max for being a wonderful husband and friend and for being such a loving father to our precious Julia.

Goodbye my love, until we meet again.

TOSA Needs Members to usher at our shows.

In order to seat our patrons quickly and efficiently TOSA would appreciate more members to volunteer to perform as ushers at our shows at the Orion Theatre and Marrickville Town Hall please.

Usher duties require you to have a torch (LED is perfect). A knowledge of the seating layout at each venue will be provided by TOSA.

Currently tickets are checked and the stub removed at the entrance then each patron is directed to the appropriate aisle for best access to their seat number. This procedure will continue.

Two additional ushers would be located at the entrance to each row at the Orion Theatre (6 members required) and at Marrickville Town Hall (8 required).

To allow for the situation where an usher cannot be at a show it is desirable that TOSA has a Team of 10 additional ushers to enable some flexibility. Ushers can then be rostered on by a Team Leader Usher to ensure smooth running of our shows.

Please consider this important role to make seating of our patrons run smoothly.

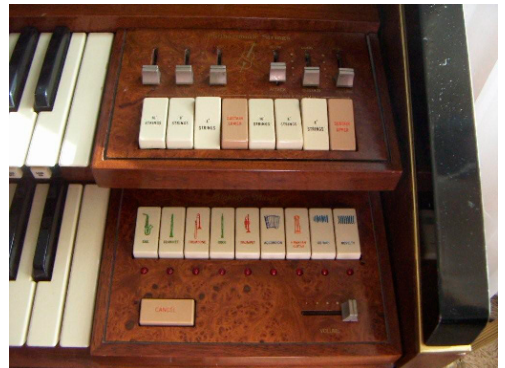
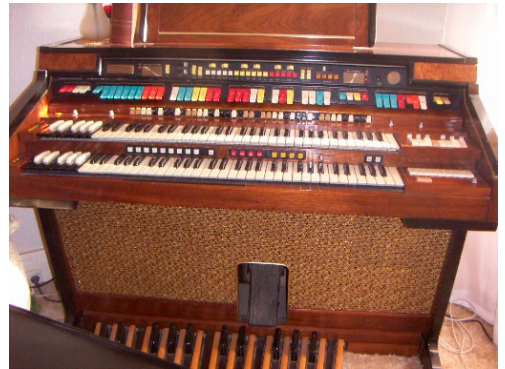
Please contact the TOSA Secretary, Deirdre at secretary@tosa.net.au or phone 4878 5179

Organs available to a good home

Hammond Elegante 340100
complete with Hammond Guide

located at North Strathfield.
Leonie says she would accept any reasonable offer.

Phone Leonie Latimer
(02) 9746 9754



These tabs relate to the strings on the top row and to the percussions on the bottom row.

Next Show

Sunday 5th February 2012 at 2:00pm
Featuring

Australia's Popular Keyboard Artists
Chris McPhee & Malcolm Ross



**at the Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra & Grand Piano
Playing**

“ The Rhythm of Life ”

Orion Theatre
155 Beamish St Campsie
(Disabled access available at the entrance in Beamish St)

Bookings: 0410 626 131
Visa & Mastercard accepted

You can now also book on-line at www.tosa.net.au

for more information see www.tosa.net.au

Chris is in regular demand for shows around Australia and overseas, including New Zealand, United Kingdom and the USA. In mid 1999 he was featured in the American Theatre Organ Society's National Convention held in London, performing on the legendary Buddy Cole Wurlitzer.

Back home in Adelaide **Chris** is a popular artist at the prestigious Adelaide Town Hall and Festival Theatre pipe organs, performing for the Lord Mayors Christmas Concerts and Morning Melodies series. **Chris** is also a regular featured organist at the Capri Theatre.

Whilst a solo artist of renown, **Chris** has had the privilege to perform with some of Australia's top entertainers, including Tony Fenelon, **Malcolm Ross**, Rosemary Boyle, Carolyn Burgess, Tasso Bouyessis, Anna-maria Beni, Rosanne Hosking, JC Jazz, Brett's New Internationals (Auckland), The Bay Big Band and Adelaide Harmony Choir, to name just a few...

Malcolm has performed extensively throughout Australia giving concerts and recitals in his own right, accompanying a vast array of singers and instrumentalists and making regular appearances on radio and television. Over the years he has developed a love of musical arranging across a diversity of genres and in this capacity has acted as musical director and arranger for a variety of shows and musicals.

After studying piano for 10 years and classical pipe organ for 5 years he obtained all his formal qualifications and also won many musical awards along the way. **Malcolm** went on to win the National Yamaha Competition after which he represented Australia at the International Competition in Japan and then toured the USA and Canada giving piano and organ concerts in many major cities.

Originally from Victoria **Malcolm** lives in South Australia and he and his wife, soprano Rosemary Boyle, are much in demand for concerts, cabaret and corporate functions.

Tickets to the show:

Members \$20; Non-Members \$27.50;

Student (17 – 21 Years) \$10;

Non Member Concession/Senior \$25

Students under 17 yrs FREE

Group booking -10 or more adults \$20 ea person
Group booking - 10 or more students (17-21yrs) \$8 ea person

Online Ticket Sales for TOSA NSW

Your committee has recently undertaken steps to enable tickets to TOSA shows to be sold online – that is via the internet. The committee understands that this may come as a surprise to some of our members and general audience, however we have provided the “best of both worlds” so as to accommodate the traditional ticket buyers while opening up new purchase methods.

Starting with our first show in February 2012, tickets to TOSA NSW shows will be able to be purchased online. By going to the TOSA NSW website www.tosa.net.au and clicking on the Events link at the top of the web page you will see the next show or shows listed. Clicking on the show of your choice you will also see a link to the online sales. By following the link you will be able to purchase your tickets to the upcoming show using your credit or debit card.

Some of the reasons we are implementing online tickets sales are:

Attracting a new audience by increasing impulse buy from advertising;

Ease of purchase;

Reduced workload for ticket sales secretary;

Implementing modern technology

Some “questions and answers” were also discussed and they are listed below for your information.

Question and Answers

How will this affect traditional TOSA ticket buyers?

Not at all. If you wish to purchase the traditional way you still can – via Ticket Secretary

Can I choose my own seat using online service?

Yes – part of the booking process requires you to choose your seat/s

How will traditional ticket purchasers be assured of their booked seat?

The ticket secretary will be able to block seats from online sales when a ticket is sold by the traditional method

How will this affect season ticket purchasers?

Purchasers of season tickets will have their seats blocked from online sales by the ticket secretary upon confirmation of the season ticket sales – based on their indicated seating preference. This will include Marrickville and Orion shows.

What are the ticket prices?

The normal range of ticket prices will apply and anyone claiming concession or member prices must show proof of this when presenting their tickets at the door

How much does it cost for the online ticket sales purchase?

For each ticket bought, the buyer is charged an additional 30 cents. That is if you bought 2 tickets of any price you pay an additional 60 cents. This is equivalent to that charged now by TOSA for postage of tickets. The 30 cents per ticket is charged as part of the online

ticket transaction.

TOSA NSW pays the service provider 2.1% of the total transaction value + 50 cents per transaction. This is in-line with current bank fees charged to TOSA when we process credit card transactions.

How do I get the tickets?

When doing an online booking you will go through the payment process and when complete you will be presented with an option to print your ticket/s. Bring the printed ticket/s with you to the show

What if I lose my ticket?

A door list is generated and will be available at the Ticket desk for each show. See the ticket secretary as soon as you arrive at the venue if you have lost your ticket/s

What if there is a dispute over someone sitting in my seat?

The door list held by the ticket secretary is the source of information to resolve seat disputes

Can I still buy tickets at the door on the day?

Yes – but all door sales will be unreserved seats

When will tickets be released for online sales?

The tickets for the next show will be available for sale on the evening of the previous show (eg Show is on Sunday 4 December, tickets for February show will go on sale on-line that night)

How will online credit/debit card purchases appear on my credit card statement?

If you purchase tickets using the new online service, they will appear on your statement as coming from Trybooking. You will be notified of this during the online booking process

Can I pay for online ticket purchases other ways? Cheque, BPAY etc?

No, a valid credit or debit card is required to make an online purchase

Can I just reserve a seat online and pay for it at the door?

No. If you wish to pay at the door you must use the traditional method and pay at the door. The online process will only complete if you complete payment with a credit/debit card

Can "first time TOSA show" attendees get their free tickets via the online booking service?

No. If someone wishes to make use of the first time free tickets they must use the traditional method and go via the ticket secretary.

How does TOSA NSW Inc receive the funds for ticket sales?

Upon completion of each show, a transaction process at Trybooking.com will calculate the money due to TOSA NSW and credit it to our nominated bank account.

How does TOSA NSW know about ticket sales?

A comprehensive range of reports is available from the trybooking.com website

How do I contact the ticket secretary via email?

Our ticket secretary, Theo Langenberg, can be contacted via email at tickets@tosa.net.au

We have recently discovered that other organisations similar to TOSA NSW are already successfully using the service offered by Trybooking. This gives us encouragement that we will also have successful results for TOSA NSW.

REVIEW OF TONY FENELON AND JOHN ATWELL'S CHRISTMAS 'SHOW' – 4TH DECEMBER 2011

This will be a 'Claytons' review – the sort of review you have when you don't have a review. It was decided after the event, that a review (of sorts) would be worthwhile, so that a very entertaining 'concert/show' wouldn't go 'missing in action.' I suggested to my adjacent audience pair of ears and eyes, Chris Styles, that we collaborate in providing comments on the event, rather than a review as such. He readily agreed to cooperate, much to my relief because it becomes very difficult to recall in sufficient detail, the huge amount of material that our soloists provided. It has become virtually a tradition that Tony Fenelon, and our very own Society co-Patron, John Atwell, should venture north from 'south of the border', to provide their very own form of Christmas cheer to near capacity audiences. The Orion Theatre was the venue for the ubiquitous 'Christmas Show'. A very satisfactory number of members and visitors attended, which must have cheered the TOSA Committee and artists alike.

President Geoff Brimley invited the audience to welcome Tony, but whoops, he needed a small prompt from the Fenelon part of the duo to remind us that both Tony and John were our artists for the day. Tony and John appeared from 'stage-right' and proceeded to the Yamaha grand piano and the organ consoles respectively, and they straightway launched into a rollicking version of Irving Berlin's 'I Love

a Piano'. It is this reviewer's belief that the choice of this item was probably Tony's because later in the show he mentioned that "the piano was my first love". The piece also included use of the Wurlitzer piano played from the console by John as Tony 'worked' on the Yamaha. The immaculate pairing of Tony and John was clearly demonstrated with this old favourite and augured well for a thoroughly entertaining afternoon.

After this, John, following a little altercation with the mic's on/off switch, welcomed the audience to the Christmas Show.

The next item on the program was a pairing of the duo, Tony at the Yamaha grand-piano and John at the console of the 'Unit Orchestra' with the Oscar Hammerstein 'I'll Take Romance' from 1937. As always, Tony's crisp assured pianistic style was well complemented by John's able accompaniment. We couldn't help noticing that John was experiencing some difficulties at the keyboard, an observation clarified later by his explanation that he has graded-lens contact lenses which cause enormous disorientation when scanning the length and breadth of the multiple keyboards. He was forced to resort to ordinary glasses for this performance which produced difficulties with focussing in their own right. I can sympathise with John, having similar problems with tri-focals.

John left the stage as Tony 'migrated' from the piano to the organ and played a very full selection of Rodgers and Hart items including 'With a Song in my Heart', 'Isn't

it Romantic?', 'Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered', 'Blue Moon', 'Mountain Greenery', 'Lover', 'I Wish I was in Love Again', 'This Can't be Love', 'Thou Swell', 'I Could Write a Book', 'My Funny Valentine', 'Poor Johnny One Note', 'The Lady is a Tramp'. As Victor Borge once commented, "He not only filled the bill – he overflowed it". A marvellous selection, well crafted and cleverly segued.

John's turn to go solo now as he started off with the lovely little 'Destiny Waltz' by Sydney Baynes, then moved onto his medley of 'Here's to the Ladies'. John threw out a challenge to identify the ladies, which I managed to do with 'Maria', 'Marie', 'Liza', 'Louise', 'Sweet Georgia Brown', 'Jean', 'Sweet Gypsy Rose', 'Mame' and 'Bess' – a veritable harem, well arranged and presented.

A pairing again as Tony on piano and John on the organ played a charming version of 'The Last Spring' from Edvard Grieg's 'Elegiac Melodies, Opus 32 No. 2'. This is one of those arrangements that Tony and John produce that are so unexpected as piano and organ duos, but with the Fenelon touch and the Atwell sympathetic and superbly-crafted accompaniment, they pair magnificently.

Finally (before interval), the pièce de résistance, the first movement of the Grieg A Minor concerto for piano and 'organ'. This is the piece that Tony performed with the Victorian Symphony Orchestra in 1956 aged 15 whilst still at school, in the Victorian Finals of the ABC's Concerto and Vocal Competitions – and won!!! Now 55 years

on he performed the piece again, and as he remarked: "It is one of those things that remain indelibly implanted in your mind, no matter how long ago it was first performed." The task confronting John was ably performed as he took the role of the accompanying symphony orchestra. A remarkable performance and amply rewarded by the audience response.

Post interval, the show was opened with Tony on piano and John on the 'Unit Orchestra' with a number from 1940 in the difficult years of the Second World War with 'Calling All Workers' the music to the BBC program 'Music While You Work.'

This was followed by Mischa Levitski's charming little 'Waltz in A Major', as a very appealing arrangement for piano and organ.

John took over the solo reins on the organ for a tribute to Dorothy Fields, the great Broadway lyricist who wrote popular songs for revues, films and shows for nearly 50 years. John's medley consisted of 'The Sunny Side of the Street' (a collaboration with Jimmy McHugh), 'A Fine Romance' (with Jerome Kern), 'I'm in the Mood for Love' (Jimmy McHugh), and 'The Way You Look Tonight' (Jerome Kern).

Tony returned to the organ for a selection from the wonderful 'Brigadoon', initially a stage show from 1947, with music by Frederick Loewe. He included the wistful opening 'Brigadoon', and 'I'll Go Home with Bonnie Jean', 'The Heather on the Hill', and ending with 'It's Almost Like Being in Love'.

Then came Tony's return to the piano for a performance of

Hoagy Carmichael's 'Stardust', a piece which appeared in many different guises before graduating to the lovely sensuous piece we know best today. Tony's performance amply demonstrated his preference for his first love – the piano. As if to unleash the emotion, a pair of collaborations courtesy of the computer-assisted organ, Tony let loose with 'Nanette' by Adam Carroll, and 'Ain't That a Kick in the Head', calling for some remarkable synchronisation between the piano and the pre-recorded organ track. With the arrangement at the Orion with the piano located at the side and back from the proscenium, and the organ speaking out from ahead of and under the stage, a great degree of skill and musicianship is needed. Tony performed admirably under these difficult circumstances.

For the finale segment John returned to the organ to join Tony at the piano for the '18th Variation on a Theme of Paganini' by Rachmaninoff. Tony initially demonstrated the fact that the theme is actually the inversion of the melody of Paganini's theme. He indicated that the A Minor Paganini theme is played 'upside down' in D Flat Major. Got it??? Whatever – the end result was superb.

The last 'official' item of the afternoon was the 'Beatle's Rhapsody', a very clever and utterly musical variation on a number of well-known themes written by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The audience response to this contribution was such that Tony and John 'had to' return to the stage for an encore, "Sleigh Ride" by Leroy Anderson. This item dates from 1946

and curiously, although an extremely popular piece, the lyrics never mention any holiday or religion. It would be lovely at some future time to include some of W.G. James' Australian Christmas Carols in the program.

It is always a delight to have Tony Fenelon and John Atwell perform for TOSA(NSW), either together or independently. TOSA(NSW) members know that the standard of the performance they will hear will be high, and Tony and John's cheery personalities are always a bonus.

Doug Grant

Chris Styles

December 2011.

At long last John Thiele's book "WHEN THE MIGHTY WURLITZER REIGNED IN THE REGENT" has been published. It is due to be officially launched at The Capri theatre in Adelaide on March 12 this year.

This amazing book is the "culmination of almost a lifetime of collecting, and years of research." Many people have assisted and provided the encouragement to persist with this almost at times overwhelming project. No stone has been left unturned in his efforts to obtain photo's, references, and more importantly permission from the copyright owners of these items, for their inclusion. This proved to be a mammoth task in itself.

From the concept of the Regent design, to the ultimate building of

possibly the largest chain of one style of theatres in the world, it is all researched and documented. This covers all of the Regent's in Australia. With over 330 photos, including at least 10 in full colour, plus 200 illustrations it features many movie adverts and posters. Pictures of the delivery of the Mighty Wurlitzer by a parade of horse drawn wagons lined up in Rundle street Adelaide, show how Hoyts exploited all avenues to promote the arrival of this mighty instrument.

Many references are made to other theatres including the Sydney and Melbourne Capitol's, with photos.

A comprehensive history of all the organists who played the Regent as well as many of the picture circuits around Australia is included. Some of our members may remember names such as Knight Barnett, Eddie Horton, Eddie Fitch, Charles Tuckwell, Clarence Black, Ray de Clemens, Owen Holland, Des Tanner and Penn Hughes. Many more are included with stories and photos of all of them.

This book covers a major part of the history of the picture palaces and their organs, in Australia, and is a very good historical reference archive.

With a Preface written by no less than Tony Fenelon and loads of historical facts, this book would be a valuable addition to anybody's library.

My copy was a pre publication purchase as I could not wait that long for its release.

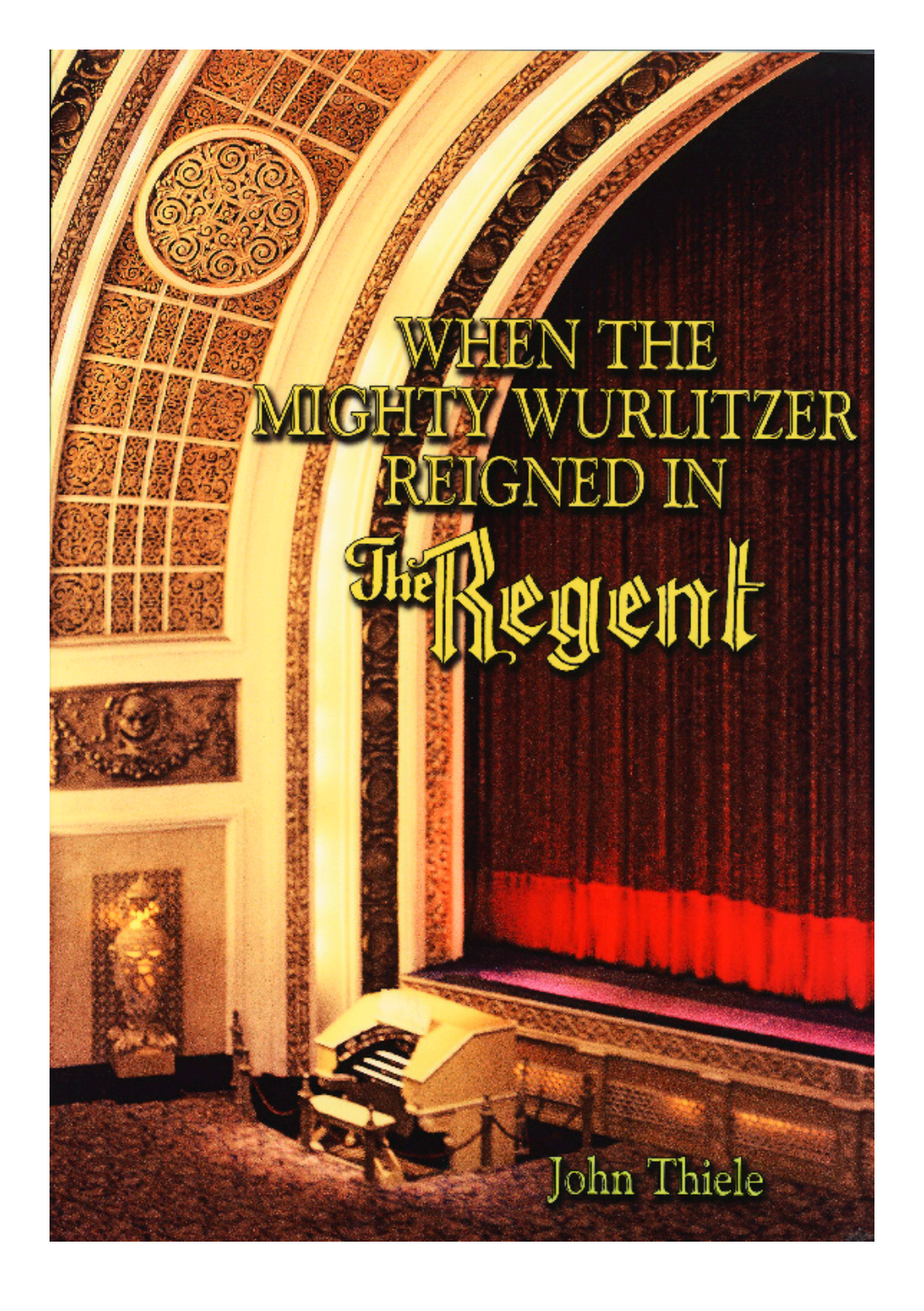
For those who are interested, pre-publication copies may be obtained by sending a cheque or money order made out to John Thiele, for \$45 + \$12.50, a total of \$57.50 at

JOHN THIELE
PO BOX 1061
CAMPBELLTOWN SA 5074

Barry Tooker

For those who don't know John Thiele, he is an accomplished, should I say famous photographer who taught art at Enfield SA high school and produced many movies with his pupils. He is always on call to produce slide shows some in 3D on theatres, organs, nature, you name it, for TOSA and others.

He has built his own Regent theatre at his home where he regularly screens films with an organist on the 3 manual Conn. It is the full presentation as was done in the heyday of the picture palace, with curtains, scrims and an usherette to guide you to a proper theatre seat. Dual 16mm projectors provide for film changeovers plus slide projectors. Entrance is past the ticket box and up the marble staircase as you enter the auditorium with all the atmosphere and decorations as in the real Regent theatres. From this you may realise how passionate John is about his hobby.

The background image shows a grand, ornate theater interior. The ceiling is a high, vaulted arch with intricate, golden-brown decorative patterns. A large, multi-paned window with a circular medallion is visible on the left. In the foreground, a classic white Wurlitzer piano sits on a patterned carpet. To the right, a stage is partially visible, featuring a red curtain and a dark stage floor. The overall lighting is warm and dramatic, highlighting the architectural details.

WHEN THE
MIGHTY WURLITZER
REIGNED IN

The Regent

John Thiele

TOSA NSW

* 2012 - OUR 52nd YEAR *

Chris McPhee & Malcolm Ross at Orion Theatre, Campsie
Sunday 5 February at 2:00pm

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John Leckie Music Centre 3/12 Compton
Contact: Pat Gibbs (08) 9450 2151 patgibbs@tadaust.org.au.

TOSA Gold Coast

Club Musical Afternoon on the 3rd Sunday of each
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Karrinyup Community Centre, Perth, Western Australia
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Interstate TOSA Members are welcome to a 50% discount to
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Members Diary

February

Tuesday 7th Committee 7:30pm Burwood RSL

**** Sunday 5th 2:00pm Orion Theatre, Campsie****

The Rhythm of Life show

with

Chris McPhee & Malcolm Ross

March

Monday 5th Committee 7:30pm Burwood RSL

**** Sunday 18th 2:00pm Marrickville Town Hall****

In The Groove show

with

Bill Schumacher & Debbie Fitzsummons

Radio 2MBS-FM 102.5 "Colours of the King" (program of the Organ Music Society of Sydney) 2nd Saturday of each month, 5pm till 6 pm

Web Sites of Interest:

www.tosa.net.au

www.theatreorgansaust.info (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

www.sydneyorgan.com (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

www.ATOS.org

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