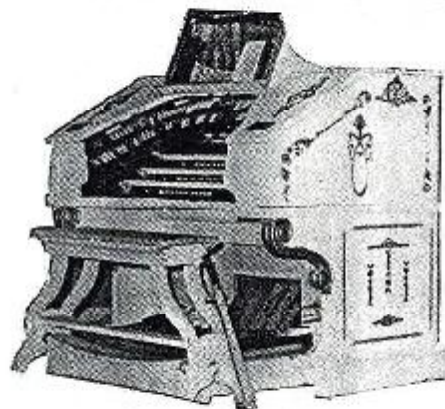




Marrickville Town Hall



Orion Centre Campsie

JULY 1989

**T
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DON'T MISS!
JONAS NORDWALL
Famous U.S. organist!

in Concert
at the
Wurlitzer Pipe Organ
in the
ORION CENTRE

BEAMISH STREET, CAMPSIE

2.00pm Sunday 16th July 1989

Volume 28
Issue 7
Price \$1.00

The Official Publication of Theatre Organ Society
of Australia (N.S.W. Division) Inc.
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Theatre Organ Society of Australia (N.S.W. Division) Inc.

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



CALENDAR

JULY

- | | | |
|--------|----|--|
| Monday | 3 | 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING |
| Friday | 7 | 8.00pm CLUB NIGHT - at EPPING BAPTIST CHURCH
Again we will have the opportunity of hearing the Christie Unit Organ. On this occasion it is to be played by our new Member Colin Adamson. Please bring a plate to share among other Members. |
| Sunday | 16 | 2.00pm JONAS NORDWALL from the U.S.A.
Orion Centre, Beamish Street, CAMPSIE.
Car Parking available at rear of Centre.
ADULTS \$10 Members & concessions \$8
Book Now! Booking form in this issue. |

AUGUST

- | | | |
|--------------------|----|--|
| Date to be advised | | 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING |
| Wednesday | 9 | 8.00pm Members Quarterly Meeting
Marrickville Town Hall. |
| Sunday | 20 | 2.00pm John Van Kleef in Concert
Marrickville Town Hall
Bookings open 16 July 1989 |

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| Date to be advised | | 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING |
| Sunday | 24 | 2.00pm Concert at Orion Centre |

OCTOBER

- | | | |
|--------------------|----|---|
| Monday | 2 | 5.00pm Nominations close for election of
Office Bearers. |
| Date to be advised | | 7.30pm COMMITTEE MEETING |
| Sunday | 29 | 2.00pm CONCERT at Marrickville Town Hall. |

DON'T FORGET "THEATRE ORGAN HIGHLIGHTS" on 2CBA-FM
EVERY MONDAY NIGHT at 9.00pm.

Editorial

Thoughts and Hopes of your New Editor

Our common interest is without doubt the Theatre Organ with its ability to produce such a wide range of emotionally satisfying and stimulating sounds and tone colours.

Younger Members may only recently have experienced the pleasure of listening to the sounds of a Theatre Organ but for older Members, memories frequently go back to the times when these great musical instruments were featured in most of the 'better' theatres in our cities, suburbs and some country centres.

In the late 1930's aged about 8 or 9, I was taken one Saturday afternoon to the 'flicks'. Most likely it was at the "Arcadia" in Chatswood. I still clearly recall walking up the stairs from the foyer and hearing for the first time those unmistakable, magical and captivating sounds of a Wurlitzer. Those sounds gave me great pleasure and it was instant addiction!

During the ensuing years there was the privilege of hearing organs in other theatres such as the Christie in the "Kings" at Gordon, the Marrickville Wurlitzer whilst still in service at the "Prince Edward" and being played by Noreen Hennessy, the late Reubert Hayes at the "Plaza" and "Regent" Wurlitzers. I also recall as a schoolboy hearing the great 4 manual white Wurlitzer in the "State" during a matinée performance. There was also an organ (probably a Wurli) I recall hearing at Manly. It was in a theatre on the Corso.

What pleasure they provided in addition to the films!

Not long after the advent of T.V., with dwindling audiences, the organs were mostly closed down and the organists' services dispensed with. I was greatly saddened with the announcement that the "Prince Edward" was to be demolished for re-development and its organ would be played for the 'last' time.

At that stage it seemed highly likely the sounds of the Wurlitzer and other theatre organs were to become sounds of the past and never heard again.

Fortunately for all of us, there were those early inspired enthusiasts who rallied to save many of the instruments. They had to find storage premises and

then with considerable effort and dedication they began the daunting task of restoration and re-installation into suitable premises, which all too often proved extremely difficult to find.

To those early founders of T.O.S.A. we owe so much; for it is only due to their foresight, their hard work and their dogged determination that those theatre organs of yesteryear can still be heard to-day.

Fortunately we are now at the stage where our Society has not just one, but two Wurlitzer organs in excellent working order.

We as members are now in the long awaited, fortunate and happy position of being regularly able to enjoy hearing a wide variety of both local and overseas organists performing on our organs as they play various concerts each year.

In addition to T.O.S.A., others have similarly been inspired to undertake restoration projects, either of their own, or in some cases on behalf of other organisations or concerns, such as churches, commercial, community, or private installations. Many of these are also now operational and help complement the overall organ scene.

Over the last decade or so, I personally have been able to enjoy hearing more and better theatre organ music than ever before. I have also had the opportunity of meeting more individuals with similar interests than was ever possible when the organs were still in theatres.

So much for the positive side of our pleasures and achievements. Since joining T.O.S.A. over a decade ago, I have also become aware in some quarters of rivalry and counter efforts by some, which I believe does not help our overall cause. Counter efforts, in my opinion, most frequently result in loss of Members' enthusiasm and dissipation of precious human resources. Members become disenchanted or disheartened at the retardation of the Society's progress.

What of the future? - We as members of T.O.S.A. possess a wide range of abilities and talents. Is it not too much to hope we can re-direct our energies and thoughts to work to meet the challenges of the future as a united group. With a common purpose, hopefully we will go on to achieve even better things in the future.

Peter Bidencope

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

At the committee meeting held in June the following persons were accepted as members of the Society. We extend them a warm welcome and hope that their time with us will be enjoyable.

George Lowndes, John Cowling,
Gladys Chuck, Maree Nelson, Alan Danby,
Geoffrey Bryceson and Colin Peet.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The Secretary wishes to advise all Members that they should by now have received their new 1990 membership cards - on a blue background. If you have NOT received your card, please renew your membership straight away, or telephone the Secretary - Colin Tringham - on 957-5539 any evening after 6.30 pm or during the day at the same number on Mondays, Fridays and weekends. Those Members who do not have their blue cards, and have therefore not re-joined, will not receive further copies of "T.O.S.A. NEWS."

HELP WANTED

The Secretary of T.O.S.A. - Colin Tringham - would like to know if any Member can assist him by making two tools for re-pinning Music Box Cylinders. He has all the details, but the work involves drilling two holes only thirteen thousandths of an inch diameter into a steel 'handle'. Colin does not have the facilities to do this and would like to hear from anyone who could help; he is willing to pay for the job, but cannot find anyone commercially to undertake this project. Please telephone him on 957-5539 after 6.30 p.m. if you can assist.

MUSIC WANTED**CAN ANYONE HELP PLEASE ?**

Does any Member know the music "Spanish Gypsy Dance" by MARCARNO. Is it obtainable ?

If any Member has a copy it would be greatly appreciated by:

Mrs. V. Page
5 Toona Close
TAREE WEST N S W 2430

Payment is assured.

TRANSPORT HELP NEEDED

We have been contacted by a Member from Baulkham Hills who joined T.O.S.A. last year, advising that she and a friend have been unable to attend concerts at Marrickville or the Orion Centre, because she cannot drive in heavy traffic.

There may be others who are similarly affected.

Is anyone able to help please or make any worthwhile suggestions as to how the problem can best be overcome.

If so, please phone the Secretary - Colin Tringham on 957 5539 any evening after 6.30 p.m. or during the day at the same number on Mondays, Fridays or at weekends.

**ORGAN SOCIETY OF SYDNEY
SYDNEY ORGAN COMPETITION**

Monday 3rd July - Thursday 6th July
TICKET PRICES

Whole Series \$20
Individual Evenings \$7

PROGRAM

Monday 3rd July at 7.30pm
JUNIOR SECTION to be held at:
"All Saints"
Ocean Street, WOOLLAHRA.

Tuesday 4th July at 7.30pm
INTERMEDIATE SECTION
to be held at:
"All Saints"
Ocean Street, WOOLLAHRA.

Wednesday 5th July at 7.00pm
BAROQUE OPEN SECTION
to be held at:
"Mary Immaculate Church"
280 Bronte Road, WAVERLEY.

Thursday 6th July at 7.00pm
ROMANTIC/MODERN OPEN SECTION
to be held at:
"St. James Church"
King Street, SYDNEY.

PLEASE NOTE:

Bookings for competitors are now full, however visiting listeners/spectators will be most welcome at all venues.

ENQUIRIES

Please contact Mr. Bill Chapman
(during office hours) at 260 6404

THE ORION ORGAN THE BEST IS GETTING BETTER!

By John Parker and Colin Tringham

A consistent comment from all who have played our newest Organ is that it is among the very best in Australia - if not THE BEST in this part of the world. Members may think that the Organ is in fact completed, but that is not quite correct. The constraints of time and money meant that even though the Organ sounds terrific now, there are still items to be improved.

The first improvement will be only slight to the listener, but will improve the players confidence no end. There are two missing pipes, one, a Kinura in the middle octave has been missing for years at the Capitol Theatre, and a replacement has been ordered from TRIVO in the U.S.A. In addition a trumpet boot in the tenor octave is missing - although the expensive resonator is quite intact, and a replacement for this too has been ordered from TRIVO. These two pipes should be operating in time for the next Concert.

Two extension chests were made for the opening, but time dictated that these be installed at a later date, and once more these should be operating by the time you read this. The ranks to be extended are the Quintadena - 12 pipes, and the Solo string, 24 pipes, whilst in the main chamber, the diapason is being extended by 12 pipes. For members who are not technically inclined, the reason for the extra pipes follows. Many pipes ranks are of 61 pipes - for instance the Trumpet and the Quintadena. This is no problem while the 8 foot stops are in use, but if say a 16 foot Trumpet is played, the lowest octave will be dead - simply because there are no corresponding pipes to play. In the case of the Quintadena rank (a pleasant accompaniment stop with a prominent fifth sound, hence its name) this problem only occurs at the top of the keyboard, press the 4 foot Quintadena tab and the top octave of the keyboard is dead!. The extra pipes will eliminate this. In the case of the

string rank, two octaves are needed as this rank is available at pitches up to 2 foot. By the way, the Diapason rank is already at 73 pipes, so the 16 foot Diapason goes right down to the lowest note on the keyboard, and now the 4 foot diapason will go right to the top of the keyboard!

Members will also realise that the Organ specification was 3 manual, 15 ranks in the Capitol while we have added a Post Horn - a worthwhile addition - to make it into 16 ranks. However provision was made for 17th rank, a SOLO string, but when time came to insert the pipes into the chest it was found that the string pipes had been badly damaged whilst in storage and transit (they are small and VERY thin) so that our four ranks of string pipes had to be cannabalised to get three ranks working properly. Now friends of TOSA in the U.S.A. have located a suitable Solo String rank at a VERY reasonable price and this is now in transit to us.

The next step - when finances permit, will be to have new brass resonators made for the seven which are missing from the bottom octave of the trumpet rank, however the cost of these pipes - approximately \$180.00 each plus freight etc. - means that we will have to have two or three very successful concerts before the Committee feels confident enough to order them.

One day we would like to replace one of the existing string ranks with a really good one, and distribute the pipes which would then be free among the other two string ranks to improve the voicing of one or two which only just make the grade at the moment.

We will probably have a rest before we take the next gigantic step - to make the 32 foot Diaphone rank, located under the floor, operate. At the moment there is no access to these pipes and wind channels will have to be cut through solid concrete. As far as we know the pipes are still each in several pieces, and working in the limited under-floor space is NOT going to be a job anyone will relish!

CONCERT REVIEW

DAVID JOHNSTON & CAROL PINCHES AT ORION CENTRE, CAMPSIE

On Sunday 23rd. April we heard well known Melbourne artists, David Johnston and Carol Pinches, present an afternoon of music and comedy at the Orion Centre, featuring organ (David and Carol), grand piano and bagpipes (David).

Opening with a "love" medley with Carol on organ and David on piano, we were treated to a lively "What the World Needs Now", "Love is in the Air" and "Love Boat". Unfortunately, due to the console being placed well back on stage, the organ tended to be over loud - a lesson for future organists.

The highlight of the program for the writer was Carol's next selection which included a fine arrangement of "My Funny Valentine".

From then on the afternoon consisted of comedy spots (somewhat laboured at times), a selection from "Man From Snowy River" from David on piano and Organ (Courtesy of Devtronix,) a Scottish selection featuring David on bagpipes, "My Fair Lady" and "Charlie Chaplin" selection from David and another well played group of songs from Carol.

The "Carol's getting married" and "Dad and Dave" items, frankly, the writer could have done without.

To sum up, a mainly entertaining afternoon that could have had less talk and more good music (especially from Carol).

Cliff Bingham

40th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Congratulations to our President, Jack Lawson and his wife Pearl.

They celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary without our knowing on 11th June.

FOR SALE

Gulbransen Spinnet Organ

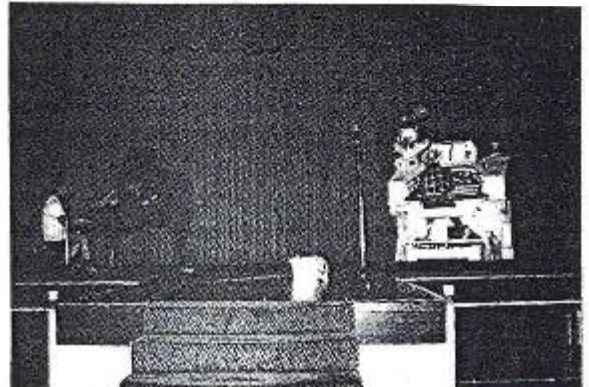
Brian Begg of Padstow wishes to sell his Gulbransen Spinnet Organ which only needs small repairs to its Leslie motor and main amplifier. It would suit an electronics enthusiast.

Brian will accept best offer and then donate all proceeds back to T.O.S.A.

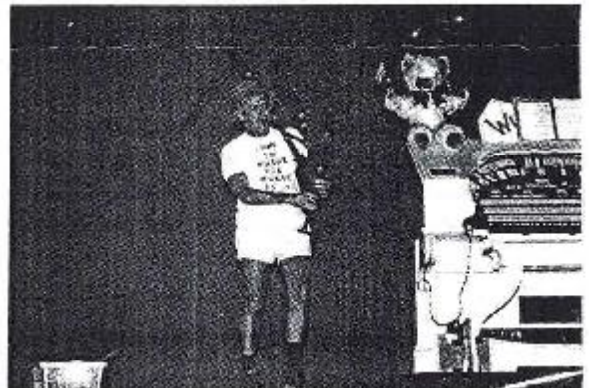
Contact Brian direct on 773 3864



FUN AT THE CONSOLE



DUET! David at the Grand & Carol at the Wurlitzer



DAVID & HIS BAGPIPES



TAKING THEIR BOW

REVIEW

THE DAVID PARSONS CONCERT
Sunday 18th June at Marrickville.

Is there another musical instrument which is capable of such a wide range of sound and amenable to an amazing array of playing styles? There are organists who can amaze with their dexterity and bravuro, those who can set your teeth on edge with a discordant chord which will bring relief to the pain when they resolve themselves some time later, and then there are those organists who can play music which is perfect for a relaxed and musical winter afternoon in Sydney.

Certainly the packed house knew that they would enjoy David's playing and they had plenty of opportunity to show their enthusiasm which they did in no uncertain manner.

The concert was introduced by Jack Lawson in the absence of Frank Ellis who is unfortunately unwell. With very few words, Jack introduced David who then announced his own numbers. The concert was a lesson to all those who think that a Wurlitzer should be played with "all stops out" as David again and again played beautiful melodies on just a few superbly chosen stops. Many selections made use of only two ranks of pipes for the melody, but David was not afraid to use Full Organ when the occasion called for it - such as one or two Sousa Marches.

The first half of the program was David's own selection and it was hard to pick out specific melodies for comment, all were well thought out, well played and exceptionally well registered.

Some numbers which I particularly enjoyed were The Rag Trade Rag - with well chosen percussions and the theme from the new T.V. series G.P.: David had been practicing his "Weather bracket" to match the dreadful weather we have been experiencing. I know that David drove to Marrickville to practice on at least two freezing evenings with driving rain, it was a quirk of nature that his selections of Stormy Weather etc. were played on such a warm and sunny day.

His Orchestral spot with seven movements from the NutCracker suite were again a great indication of just what beautiful sounds can be obtained from a Wurlitzer without having the instrument overwhelm the audience. My favourite selection was the excellent choice of pieces from Les Miserables, "Castle in the Clouds" "Master of the House", "Bring Him home" and "Do you hear the people sing". This bracket was very moving.

David then invited his audience to write down, during interval, the names of items which they would like played in the second half. This resulted in three pages of requests. As all were played on the spur of the moment, and naturally without music, some of the polish shown in the first half was missing, but all pieces were credibly played with the melody always coming first and lovely registrations. Of course this reviewer and Music Box collector loved "The Music Box Dancer" with its very good effect of a Music box running down. Other pieces which stood out were a good "Ebb Tide" a rousing version of "The Invercargill March" and "The Syncopated Clock" with a great use of the Toy Counter. "Onward Christian Soldiers" allowed David to demonstrate some of his great pedal work and "Jean" showed off his talent for playing smooth ballads.

In case you have not read between the lines, I will sum up by saying this was a very enjoyable Concert, and although there may be technically more spectacular players, there are few who can match the restrained but excellent musicianship shown by David.

Review by Colin Tringham.

NOTE: Photographs taken at the David Parsons Concert are expected to appear in August issue of T.O.S.A. News. Ed.

THANKS FROM T.O.S.A.

The Committee of T.O.S.A. would like to thank Mr. L. Oliver for donating back to the Society the prize which he won in the raffle at the David Parsons concert for use at a future occasion. This generosity is very gratefully accepted.