

# TOSA NEWS

September 2011  
Volume 50 No.8

Price: \$2.00

**Sunday 25th September 2:00pm**

Marrickville Town Hall

**Rob Richards (USA)**

Resident organist at Disney's El Capitan Theatre



plays **"HOORAY for HOLLYWOOD"**

# Directory

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# From the President



Nathan Avakian's show was billed as "Outside the Box" and it certainly was "outside" anything we have experienced. How does such a young man have such a mature attitude and understanding of what makes a good show!

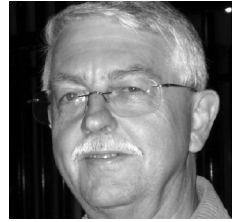
We are again approaching our Annual General Meeting, preliminary details of which are elsewhere in this publication. I would like to emphasize two matters relevant to this. First, please note that this year the meeting will be on a Saturday and will be at St. Columb's Anglican Church, West Ryde to permit members to see where the Christie is to be installed.

Secondly, our organization does require committed people to stand for election. Please see details elsewhere in this issue and give some consideration to nominating either yourself or someone you believe could benefit your Society. I would remind you that all positions are declared vacant and every financial member has the right to nominate for the ensuing year.

Apart from Executive and Committee persons, there is still the need for volunteers with virtually every aspect of the organization requiring some additional assistance. If you can help in any way please talk to me at one of the shows or telephone me on 6351 3122

Happy organising,  
Geoff Brimley

# Editorial



I hope you all enjoy Member Doug Grant's review in this issue of Nathan Avakian's show. Doug has captured the atmosphere created by Nathan and how he uses the many sounds available to the musician from our Orion Wurlitzer.

**Please Note:** The next show on 25 September is at Marrickville Town Hall with Rob Richards at the console. This promises to be a show for the whole family and for those of us who have very fond memories of all that the Disney Studios have created for our enjoyment over the years.

Another interesting article is about Australian theatre organist, Cec Cranefield who played at a number of theatres across Sydney. Cec is still going strong and enjoying the wonderful sounds of his Hammond organ.

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

Enjoy the music,  
Ernie Vale  
PO Box A2322  
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235  
[editor@tosa.net.au](mailto:editor@tosa.net.au)

## 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](mailto:editor@tosa.net.au)

or in writing to:

*The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)*

PO Box A2322

SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

## New Members

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

D Wright

Daryl Badman

Kevin Tetley

M Ingram

## New Service for TOSA

### (NSW) Divn Members

*Theatre Organ Sheet Music  
Collection & Lending Library*

*Further information regarding the  
collection is on [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au)*

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## Emailing of TOSA News

If you would like to receive your TOSA News each month by email it will be in living color as a pdf file which makes it so easy to file.

Please advise the Editor on [editor@tosa.net.au](mailto:editor@tosa.net.au) that you wish to receive TOSA News by email.

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## Members Feedback Please

The TOSA Executive are interested to hear how those of you who attended Nathan Avakian's show at the Orion enjoyed his program.

Please email your response to:

The Editor [editor@tosa.net.au](mailto:editor@tosa.net.au)

or

Post your comments to:

Editor TOSA News

PO Box A 2322

SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235

## ***To Watch Out For***

**Sunday 25 September  
2:00pm**

Disney resident organist  
**Rob Richards** from the USA  
Plays

**"Hooray for Hollywood"  
at Marrickville Town Hall**

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## **Countdown to TOSA (NSW)**

### **AGM**

The date for the AGM is Saturday  
12th November 2011  
at St Columbs Anglican Church  
Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue Ave  
West Ryde at 2:00pm

Nominations for Office-Bearers  
and Committee are now open  
see the nomination form in this  
issue of TOSA News

Completed nomination forms must  
reach the Returning Officer by Fri-  
day 23 September 2011 if by post &  
Sunday 25 September if handed in  
at Rob Richards show at MTH

Notice of any motions or special  
resolutions for the AGM should be  
sent to:

The Secretary TOSA NSW Divn,

230 Spring Hill Road  
Mittagong, NSW 2575

and must reach the Secretary no  
later than Friday 23 September so  
that members can be advised in the

October issue of TOSA News.

## **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**

September	8th
October	13th

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.

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

September	Monday	26th
October	Monday	24th

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

## **Theatre Organist Cecil Cranfield**

### **Sydney Silent Film Festival**

#### **SILENTS ARE GOLDEN WITH THE KINGS OF COMEDY (USA)**

**Starring:** Charlie Chaplin,  
Buster Keaton, Fatty Arbuckle,  
Hairbreadth Harry,  
Beautiful Belinda and  
Relentless Rudolph

**Duration: 67 mins**

**Accompanist:** Cliff Bingham  
on the mighty Christie theatre  
organ

5 pm Saturday September 17  
Epping Baptist Church,  
1-5 Ray Rd, Epping  
close to Epping train station

Prices: \$25/\$15 concession

**for more details of the  
Silent Film Festival go to**

<http://www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au/>

Distinguished theatre organist, Cecil Cranfield began his career at age 12, when he volunteered to fill in for a church organist who failed to show. Eighty five years later, Cec is still playing the organ, but while he has continued to play church music throughout his life, it is theatre organ music that captured his heart.

Cec first heard a Wurlitzer when his mother took him to Sydney's Prince Edward Theatre. From that moment he was an organ man. "I loved the tone, the fact that you could get more expression than on a piano, and of course, I loved the big theatre organ sound."

Cec studied cinema organ under Knight Barnett, whom he met through Knight's father Ellery Barnett, the manager of the Haymarket branch of the Commonwealth Bank where Cec worked for a time. After Cec was transferred to the Camden branch of the bank, he continued to travel to Sydney for lessons, playing on the Burwood Palatial 3/10 Christie, Auburn Civic 2/13 Wurlitzer and the Gordon Kings 2/8 Christie.

His first solo was a relief position at the Parramatta Astra playing the 2/5 Christie. Unfortunately, war interrupted his blossoming career; Cec volunteered for the RAAF and served in New Guinea. When he was discharged he returned to the bank, but resigned shortly after.

In 1946, he took the position of theatre organist at the Victory Theatre Kogarah, playing the pops of the day with a few light classics on the 2/7 Christie. A year later he started playing for a half-hour theatre organ program on ABC radio, which was broadcast from different capital cities across Australia. Cec recorded for the ABC for a decade, playing the organs in the Victory at Kogarah, the Kings Gordon, the Savoy at Hurstville and the Arcadia at Chatswood.



**Cec at the Arcadia Chatswood**

with Palings until his retirement 17 years later.

Cec says it is difficult to name a favourite organ as they all have their own unique sound. "If pressed, I'd probably say the Wurlitzer at Auburn was my favourite. It was a nice organ and always kept in good condition."



Cec now owns a Hammond X66 organ, which was Hammond's last big organ that successfully mixed tone wheel and electronically generated sound. "It's a very versatile organ, you can get the church, jazz or theatre sound, but I usually play theatre organ."

*By Merv Moore*



With the arrival of television in the mid 1950s, most theatre organ venues were closed or sold. Cec continued as resident organist at the Civic Auburn for eight years. He joined Palings as manager of its new organ section and remained

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## **Wanted**

**YAMAHA FX 20 PARTS OR  
NOT WORKING ORGAN**

**A W Spicer  
Phone 02 6569 0432  
Stuarts Point NSW**



AUSTRALIA'S  
*silent film*  
FESTIVAL

**SYDNEY SCREENINGS**

**Croydon** – 10<sup>th</sup> September, 4pm  
College Hall, PLC Sydney, Boundary St, Croydon

**Epping** – 17<sup>th</sup> September, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm  
Epping Baptist Church, 1-5 Ray Rd, Epping

**Pitt St Sydney** – 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2pm, 4pm, 6pm  
The Lyceum, 220 Pitt St, Sydney

Digital presentations of restored silent film



**Ticket prices: \$20/\$15 concession. Festival passes available.**  
[www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au) / [info@ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au](mailto:info@ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au)

- Alfred Hitchcock • Harold Lloyd • Charlie Chaplin • Buster Keaton • Fatty Arbuckle • Hairbreadth Harry • Fay Tincher • Billy Bevan • Ruan Ling-Yu • Ivor Novello • Janet Gaynor • Charles Farrell • Frank Borzage •



## For Sale

Compton 357 CS organ. Recently has stopped working and one of the rectifier valves in the power supply unit will need replacing. There is also some microphony that comes through the tone cabinet.



**Compton 357 CS**

\$200 o.n.o. and removalist fee.

Contact - Greg Murray

greg.murray@sydney.edu.au

0424 975001



## Show & Membership Prices

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	<b>All Artists</b>
Non-members	\$27.50
Non-member Pensioner/Senior	\$25.00
TOSA Members	\$20.00
Students 15-21yrs	\$10.00
Group Booking for 10 or more Adults	\$20 per person
Group Booking for 10 or more Students	\$8 per person
Child under 15yrs	FREE!

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

Membership enquiries Bob Alleway (02) 9524 7203 [membership@tosa.net.au](mailto:membership@tosa.net.au)

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

# The Troxy Theatre, Stepney UK



**Panorama Left**



**Panorama Right**

TOSA NSW Committee  
Member  
Christopher Waterhouse  
plays the Wurlitzer  
in Linmor Hall  
Hobart Tasmania

### **Waterhouse music humours Hobart**

REVIEW BY ELIZABETH RUTHVEN  
Hobart Mercury 9 August 2011

**Theatre Organ Society**  
**Christopher Waterhouse, organ:**  
**Iostyn Parry, piano**  
**Linmore Hall**  
**St Michael's Collegiate**

THE elegant Linmore Hall was filled to capacity to hear Hobart's Wurlitzer recently.

Elevated centre stage- in contrast to its early days in the theatre pits - the white organ was a vision of buttons and pedals that summoned up all kinds of sound effects.

Bill Brundle introduced guest artist, Christopher Waterhouse (now living in Sydney) as a "visiting Tasmanian Celebrity." Waterhouse was at his most entertaining. The skilled organist and singer generated humour and sentimentality.

His animated delivery of Coward's *Don't Put Your Daughter on the Stage Mrs Worthington* was a hoot.

The long program demonstrated his affinity with the era of musical theatre and also highlighted a suc-

cessful pairing with Iostyn Parry.

Parry's sensitive and nimble accompaniment added lustre to many songs, notably his solo spots in *Stardust* (Parish and Char-michael). *A Foggy Day in London Town* and *S'Wonderful* (both Gershwin).

Other memorable items included *In the wee small hours of the Morn-ing* (Mann and Hilliard), *Night and Day* (Porter) and *Chatanooga Choo Choo* (Gordon and Warren).

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### *JUST FOR FUN*

Don't worry about avoiding temptation. As you grow older, it will avoid you.

*Joey Adams*

Since he started to wear a pace-maker, every time he makes love his garage door opens.

*Stuart Turner*  
from "The Public Speaker's Bible.

All the things I really like to do are either immoral, illegal or fattening.

*Alexander Woollcott*

At my age, when a girl flirts with me in the movies, she's after my popcorn.

*Milturn Berle*

**Next Show**

**Sunday 25th September 2011 at 2:00pm  
featuring from the USA**

**House Organist at  
Disney's historic El Capitan theatre in Hollywood**

**Rob Richards**



**at the Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra  
Playing**

**“Hooray for Hollywood”**

**Music from the movies; Disney, novelty tunes and  
more!**

**Marrickville Town Hall  
303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville**

**Bookings: (02) 9629 2257**

**Visa & Mastercard accepted**

for more information see [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au)

**Rob Richards** has gained worldwide celebrity as a concert and recording artist, and is currently the House Organist at Disney's historic El Capitan theatre in Hollywood. In addition to his international concert schedule, he has performed an astonishing FOUR THOUSAND performances at the El Capitan since 1999, playing the legendary Wurlitzer pipe organ originally installed in San Francisco's Fox Theatre. His combination of technical facility, showmanship and personality has won him fans across America and around the world. **Richards** was named 2005 "Organist of the Year" by the American Theatre Organ Society, coinciding with his thirtieth year of concerts and the Society's 50th anniversary.

VARIETY (the show business magazine) wrote that **Richards'** performance at the El Capitan Wurlitzer is "a special added treat." Disney legends (Academy award-winning songwriters) the Sherman Brothers proclaimed **Richards** a "supercalifragilistic talent!"

Film critic Leonard Maltin enthused that **Rob** plays with "musical flair... skill and showmanship." **Rob** has performed for many of Hollywood's most famous celebrities, and shared the stage at events with Julie Andrews and Elton John! **Rob** has appeared on numerous national TV programs. And in 2005, he appeared on ABC-TV's "The View" playing the El Capitan theatre organ.

Career highlights include:

- the (2004) 40th Anniversary Mary Poppins Re- premiere, with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke .
- a concert appearance with famed pianist Liberace .
- playing the famous Radio City Music Hall organ in New York .
- a concert series on the world's largest Wurlitzer pipe organ .
- two years as guest organist at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus .
- a special engagement as soloist: Flagstaff (AZ) Symphony .
- seven international concert tours including England, Japan, Australia & New Zealand

### **Tickets to the show:**

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

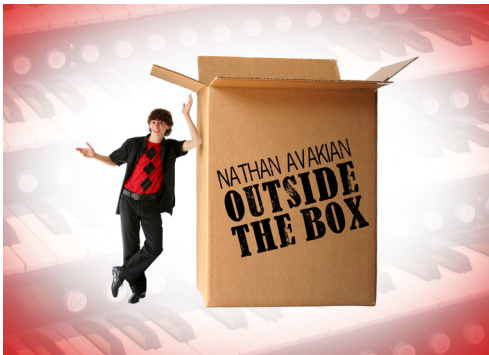
**Student (15 – 21 Years) \$10;**

**Non Member Concession/Senior \$25**

**Students under 15 yrs FREE**

**Group booking -10 or more adults \$20 ea person**  
**Group booking - 10 or more students (15-21yrs) \$8 ea person**

## REVIEW OF NATHAN AVAKIAN'S SHOW



Orion Centre, Campsie  
Sunday 31st July 2011

No doubt, the good roll-up for Nathan Avakian's concert cheered the TOSA(NSW) Committee no end, because very few attending would have had much prior knowledge of this young man and his music. Those who attended the preceding month's concert given by Tony Fenelon, would certainly have been influenced by his very positive comments on Nathan's performances at last year's ATOS Convention in Seattle, - and now it was our turn.

20 year-old Nathan Avakian hails from Portland Oregon in the USA, and has recently completed a 4-week tour of Australia and New Zealand, which involved many shows and master classes from Auckland to Hobart, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne, Bendigo and Geelong, Sydney, and finishing in Brisbane. He is by far the youngest overseas artist to perform for TOSA audiences, but on the basis of his

appearance at the Orion, hopefully his visit will be the first of many.

Emerging from the rear of the console came this smiling svelte young man. He immediately jumped onto the console's seat and commenced his performance with a piece appropriately titled "Fantasmic", with all the portents of a spectacular journey through space and time - a metaphor for Nathan's concert program. "Fantasmic" is a piece composed by Bruce Healey for a long-running live production at the Disney-MGM studios and fun parks, arranged by Nathan for organ - and providing an excellent concert-opener, particularly for showing off the Orion's marvellous trumpets.

Here was no beginner playing the organ, nor a beginner in addressing an audience. Nathan informed us that this was his second-last show of a 4-week tour of Australia and New Zealand, but he was still really looking forward to undertaking a Harbour Bridge climb before returning to the USA.

Still in the Disney vein, his next item on his program was a lovely rendition of "She Loved Me" otherwise known as "Jessie's Song", from the Disney movie Toy Story 2. Making good use of the strings and Wurlitzer Tibias, Nathan demonstrated a pleasing sensitivity and pace in his version.

Next item was just the first in Nathan's play-list demonstrating the fact that here is a young man offering his audience new sounds from the organ, and at the same time displaying a virtuosity not often experienced by most theatre-organ concert-goers. He played

his arrangement of "Blue Rondo a la Turk" by Dave Brubeck. Nathan mentioned that when he was going through the processes of seeking licensing clearances to perform Brubeck's composition, he had contacted Mr. Brubeck who was amazed that here was someone who wanted to play his piece on a pipe organ. Nathan's arrangement, at the same time, carrying Brubeck's incredible 9/8 time signature and the 4/4 swing section, also introduced new and interesting registration combinations, breathing new life into this 52 year-old jazz standard.

'Moving right along' he embarked on the anthem for the rebellious youth of the 1950s, "Rock Around the Clock". Dare I suggest that in this piece we could hear the influence of one of Nathan's teachers, Donna Parker? This was a full-bodied toe-tapping rendition, complete with a modicum of syncopation a-la-Nathan, in the closing bars.

Nothing could stop him now – before the audience applause had died away, Nathan embarked on a brilliant performance of Jack Fina's "Bumble Boogie". For this piece, the audience was introduced to a further example of Nathan's musical-innovation as he activated a lap-top computer situated on top of the console. The computer contributed an electronic rhythm accompaniment to this most complex piece (which started life as Rimsky Korsakoff's "Flight of the Bumblebee"). The fingering dexterity was matched by incredible foot-work throughout this fast-paced arrangement, and Nathan built-up the excitement right up until a most incredible finale. The audience

responded accordingly with cheers and applause. One could only say that the Orion's Organ Technician, Neil Palmer must have been very proud of the performance of the instrument which responded faultlessly in the hands of a master musician.



By way of a sweet turnaround, the American composer Joseph Clokey's "Jagged Peaks" was selected by Nathan to demonstrate the sweeter, quieter sounds of the organ. This seldom heard (in this country) piece is a totally lovely composition belieing the formidable nature of its title. Nathan showed in this piece alone that he is equally adept at both bravura and sensitivity. The artifice of activating the tremulants in the closing bar was brilliant and absolutely charming.

A further change in mood and style lead to "Waltz in Swing Time" from the 1936 film Swing Time starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Nathan commented on the fact that Fred and Ginger performed the sequence faultlessly with a single unedited 3-minute film shot. [I am reliably informed by Rob Gliddon that the successful 'take'

was the 83rd after which Ginger's feet were red raw – Ed.]. Nathan's performance drew upon the sweetness of the Tibias contrasted by the use of the Glockenspiel, Xylophone and Marimba Harp, retaining the infectious swing of this Jerome Kern favourite.

Whomever would have dared to suggest that Nathan's performance would be without variety and contrast, was by now eating his/her words as Nathan selected another charming little piece titled "Capriccio on the Notes of a Cuckoo" written by the legendary organist of the Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Richard Purvis. This little piece is characteristic of many of Richard Purvis' quirky little compositions and provided a delightful addition to Nathan's concert. Incidentally, Donna Parker began her classical organ training under the tutelage of Richard Purvis, and Nathan Avakian began his formal organ studies under Donna's tutelage – a nice little musical association.

Nathan introduced his next item with the explanation that he had decided during his time in Australia he had "fallen deeply and madly in love" with Ginger Beer, and he had decided to adopt during his Australian tour, an alternative title for Billy Joel's "Root Beer Rag", as the "Ginger Beer Rag". For this item he moved across to the Yamaha grand piano and again demonstrated his versatility when it comes to this alternative to his musical modes of performance. His playing was crisp and generally accurate, and was well received by the very enthusiastic audience.

Following this brief sojourn at the

piano, Nathan returned to the Wurlitzer to perform a real tour-de-force dating from 1914, by the French organist and composer Louis Vierne titled "Carillon". This piece called for virtually full organ at the opening and involving some very nimble pedal-work. With a gentle reprieve in the mid-section, there followed a return to the full organ bravado finale. I'm sure many theatre-organ officianados would have been amazed and literally 'blown away' by the sheer power and classical-organ sound from the 3/17 Orion Wurlitzer.

The last item before interval was yet another example of the inventiveness of this 19 year old, in adapting the Mancini music to provide sounds exploring and exploiting the capabilities of the theatre organ. His charming little entre-acte using the Marimba Harp for "Dear One" contrasted dramatically with a pseudo-gothic interpretation of the theme from 'Charade', before an appearance of the cheeky little theme from the Pink Panther, with a variety of embellishments. A brief return to the gothic atonality before a charming entry to "Moon River", gently and sympathetically straight, before concluding the medley with a full-bodied registration providing a thrilling finale.





Returning from the interval Nathan opened with the stunning little "Rondo in G", attributed to the 16th century British composer John Bull, but arranged and popularised by the renowned US organist Richard Ellsasser. The feature of this piece is the 'string' of triplets in the right hand with a steady 4/4 rhythm in the left hand and pedals – sounding not unlike an Irish jig. Nathan's interpretation was a demonstration of fast and precise playing with superb registrations.

The old warhorse "Napoleon's Last Charge" was explained by Nathan as being written by Edward El-llis and arranged by Edward Taylor Paull, depicting the preamble and disastrous (for Napoleon) outcome of the Battle of Waterloo. The piece commenced with the bugle call and the response, then it was away in true march style, but with a charming little mid-section for 'rest and recreation', before proceeding to Napoleon's fateful cavalry charge – sounding more thrilling than the sound of defeat. A real toe-tapper this one, well 'executed'.

Back to the piano for Nathan for an Oscar Peterson composition "Love Ballade". One could easily gain the impression that the piano would be Nathan's preferred instrument of choice, such was the sensitivity and expression he imparted to this delightful piece of music composed by the great Canadian jazz pianist. Peterson was a big man, not unlike the great classical pianist Jorge Bolet, but the sensitivity and precision of their respective performances was extraordinary - and was amply replicated by Nathan in his rendition of "Love Ballade". This

was my favourite for the day.

Plucking an 'old faithful' from the reproducing roll cabinet, Nathan returned to the Wurlitzer to play the "Les Violettes" waltz by Emil Waldteufel, dating from 1876, appreciatively setting heads bobbing and feet tapping by many in the audience to its many variations. It has been said that Waldteufel's waltzes 'used subtle harmonies and gentle phrases, unlike Strauss' more robust approach', a feature no doubt influencing Nathan's decision to include it in his program.

Then followed a quantum leap in time, mode and resources, with an item with the unlikely title of "Grace Kelly". As Nathan explained, the music stems from a song by the Beirut-born English singer Mika, who has freely admitted that the tune was loosely based on the main melody line of Rossini's "Figaro, Figaro, Figaro ..." from The Barber of Seville. Nathan's arrangement for the organ (and lap-top) provided an imaginative intimate sound with a pumping bass rhythm and a largely chordless melody line. For the life of me I still can't see where the 'Grace Kelly' title comes from!

No one would dare to suggest that Nathan's concert was anything but an eclectic mix. For the next item(s) he explained his involvement with the Youth Silent Film Festival which is associated with the annual Portland Rose Festival in Oregon USA. Nathan had composed a number of 3-minute tracks to which aspiring film-makers under 20 years of age, were required to produce films with plots evoked by Nathan's sound-track(s). The project was

'designed to engage youth in the creation and celebration of silent film, and to raise awareness for an appreciation of the artistry of live film music'. Nathan brought along DVD recordings of three of the prize-winning entries, and proceeded to accompany those tracks with his original music. The filmed examples were very well put together, considering the relative youth of the competitors and the camera equipment at their disposal. Nathan's accompaniments evoked all the atmosphere of the silent cinema – a tribute as much to Nathan as it was to the young film-makers. This was altogether a very unique contribution to a very unique concert. Well done to all involved.

"Joy to the World" was Nathan's following item – a piece dating from 1970 and made famous by a group called Three Dog Night. Nathan's first theatre organ teacher Donna Parker would have been proud of his full-bodied treatment of this very successful song with the strangest of words, e.g. the first line being "Jeremiah was a bullfrog, was a good friend of mine..." – not at all like the original 1719 Christmas Carol by Isaac Watts!

The penultimate item in Nathan's concert was the John Barry composition "Somewhere in Time", from the 1980 time-travel romance film of the same name. Nathan's arrangement delivered the degree of restraint and sensitivity that is demanded from Barry's richly romantic piece.

Concluding the scheduled part of his concert, Nathan chose a medley of items from the 1936 movie 42nd

Street, with music by Harry Warren. A big opening with the minor key chords of "42nd Street" soon gave way to the jaunty little "Shuffle off to Buffalo", complete with a pseudo calliope-sounding registration, the piano, and even the Glockenspiel. A change of pace and time-signature with the largely untremmed introduction to the "Shadow Waltz", plus embellishments now recognised as characteristic of Nathan's arrangements. These included resort to Cathedral Chimes, Marimba Harp and the Xylophone. "We're in the Money" was heralded by trumpets, then it was away with a vengeance with the main theme. Another simple lingering introduction heralded "The Lullaby of Broadway".

This developed into a full-on swing version of the main melody with a solid bass vamp (even the wooden blocks were detected). A slow recapitulation of the introduction to "42nd Street gave way to the main melody complete with piano and full organ, before a brief waltz-time variation on the theme lead to the finale, preceded by a few untremmed bars of the menacing main theme, and a big-finish at fff. A clever arrangement by Nathan which was enthusiastically applauded by the audience.

An encore was certainly in order as Nathan chose to play "The Sabre Dance" a piece by the great Armenian composer Aram Khachaturian. Nathan told me after the performance that although his ancestry is Armenian, it was a sheer coincidence that he chose a work by Khachaturian. Needless to say, Nathan provided an arrangement

which provided the essence of the excitement and pulsating rhythms of this dance music from the last act of the ballet *Gayane*.

Some final thoughts on Nathan Avakian's inaugural concert for TOSA(NSW). Here was a young man who is clearly well on his way to becoming a leading exponent of the theatre organ, and one who has demonstrated not only an amazing empathy for the theatre organ's musical heritage, but also an ability and inventiveness to adapt the genre in his own particular way, and in a way that audiences of all ages can enjoy. In his own words, he hopes to: "promote interest in the theatre organ among people of all ages, to ensure that the instrument is preserved and kept alive for future generations." I feel very privileged to have enjoyed his music 'on my own turf' and will watch his progress with great interest.

*Doug Grant, Sydney  
August 2011*

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## **CALLING ALL MEMBERS New TOSA Ticket Secretary required Urgently**

### **TOSA TICKET SECRETARY KATH HARDING HAS DONE A GREAT JOB IN PERFORMING THIS VERY IMPORTANT ROLE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS.**

Kath has advised TOSA Executive that she feels it is time she pursued some of her other interests. The position of Ticket Secretary is a most important role in taking bookings for our shows.

President, Geoff Brimley asked in his column in the August TOSA news if any member could assist your Society in this role or whether a member could recommend someone suitable. It is preferable to have a computer and be familiar with current computer communication techniques.

## **Ticket Secretary SUMMARY**

- 1. Take phone and mail bookings.**
- 2. Allocate seats on seating plan.**
- 3. Deliver or post tickets to Canterbury Council when show is at Orion Campsie.**
- 4. Order tickets for the next show (the one after the one you are taking bookings for).**
- 5. Post out the tickets for bookings requesting return by post.**
- 6. On show day place reserved signs on booked seats.**
- 7. Set up with float and tickets for current and next show, for door sales and booking pick-ups.**
- 8. After the show day reconcile money and tickets.**
- 9. Get authorisations from the Bank for the credit cards.**
- 10. Bank all credit card receipts, cheques and cash.**
- 11. Replenish the float.**
- 12. Email Ticket Sales form and Remittance Advice to Treasurer**
- 13. Start back at #1.**

# PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

*The music & lyrics of Irving Berlin*

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2011



FROM LIFE AS A SINGING WAITER TO TAKING HOLLYWOOD AND BROADWAY BY STORM,  
IRVING BERLIN IS DESCRIBED BY MANY  
AS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SONGWRITER OF ALL TIME.

JOIN PIANIST/VOCALIST/ENTERTAINER

**MATHEW LOESER**

IN A NOSTALGIC TRIBUTE TO TIN PAN ALLEY'S "KING OF RAGTIME"  
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DINNER AND SHOW \$60 P/P - BOOKINGS: (02) 8915 1899

DOOR OPENS AT 7PM

SHOW ONLY \$20 9PM

*ONE NIGHT ONLY - AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED!*

Slide - Bar, Restaurant & Club - 41 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst, Sydney, 2010

*Slide*  
bar - cabaret - events

## **TOSA NSW**

\* 2011 - OUR 51ST YEAR \*

Rob Richards (USA)

at Marrickville Town Hall, 303 Marrickville Road, Marrickville  
Sunday 25 September, at 2:00pm  
details in this issue or go to [www.tosa.net.au](http://www.tosa.net.au)

## **TOSA South Australia**

Tuesdays and weekends TOSA (SA) members play the  
4/29 Wurlitzer in their Capri Theatre, Goodwood Road,  
Goodwood (08) 8272 1177

## **TOSA Western Australia**

John Leckie Music Centre 3/12 Compton  
Contact: Pat Gibbs (08) 9450 2151 [patgibbs@tadaust.org.au](mailto:patgibbs@tadaust.org.au).  
October 17th John Atwell

## **TOSA Gold Coast**

Club Musical Afternoon on the 3rd Sunday of each  
month (except December)  
Contact: Rosa Free 5575 3295

## **TOSA Queensland**

Secretary: Mike Gillies (07) 3279 3930

## **Stirling Productions**

Karrinyup Community Centre, Perth, Western Australia  
All concerts are on Sundays at 2pm. Prior bookings are  
essential with John Fuhrmann on (08) 9447 9837

## **TOSA Victoria - mto**

Contact Margaret Sutcliffe on (03) 9891 7227

## **Warragul Theatre Organ Society**

Events Contact: Bee Mellor (03) 5122 2131

# **TOSA NSW Divn Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 12th November 2011  
at St Columb's Anglican Church  
Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue  
Ave  
West Ryde at 2:00pm

**Nominations** for Office-Bearers and Committee are now open, see the nomination form in this issue of TOSA News.

Completed nomination forms must reach the Returning Officer by Friday 23 September 2011 if by post & Sunday 25 September 2011 if handed in at Rob Richards show at MTH.

**Notice of any motions or special resolutions** for the AGM should be sent to:

The Secretary TOSA NSW  
Divn, 230 Spring Hill Road,

Mittagong, NSW 2575

and must reach the Secretary no later than Friday 23 September so that members can be advised in the October issue of TOSA News.

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## **TOSA MEMBERS AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL: 26 July, 2011.**

TOSA(NSW) Members' Evening at Marrickville Town Hall was an enjoyable evening for those assembled on Tuesday, 26th July; in synco-pated fashion (one off the regular beat!) TOSA access this month was been Tuesdays rather than Mondays.

Those who took their turns at the console of our 2-11 Wurlitzer were **Tom Barber, Graeme Costin, Craig Keller, Deirdre McMullan, Walter Pearce** and **John Batts**. On hand also were **David McMullan** and **Rhonda Furner**.

As always, it seems, David listened faithfully, provided help with organising the console and laying out cakes, biscuits, plus tea/coffee. Once more we were all grateful for Deirdre's refreshments.

Between playing slots, some took a moment to look at the newly painted artists' changing-room backstage.

## Members Diary

September

Monday 5th Committee 7:30pm Burwood RSL

\*\*\* **Sunday 25th 2:00pm**\*\*\*

Disney resident organist **Rob Richards**

will entertain you playing

**“Hooray for Hollywood”**

**at Marrickville Town Hall**

*Google Rob Richards for more information*

October

Tuesday 4th Committee 7:30pm Burwood RSL

**Home Organ Party at Michael’s Place**

**13 Greygum Place, Gymea Bay NSW 2227**

**Sunday 9th October 1:30 for 2:00pm**

**Lowrey Promenade with magic genie**

**to book phone Michael on**

**02 95247835 Mob: 0405442005**

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](http://www.tosa.net.au)

[www.theatreorgansaust.info](http://www.theatreorgansaust.info) (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

[www.sydneyorgan.com](http://www.sydneyorgan.com) (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

[www.ATOS.org](http://www.ATOS.org)

# TOSA NEWS

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