

**Sunday 19 October 2014 2:00pm** 

Dwight Beacham USA plays

" A Musical Bouquet"

at
The Orion Theatre, Campsie
Wonderful 3 manual
Wurlitzer





www.tosa.net.au

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Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm) Craig Keller 0418 484 798

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**Printing** by Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

### From the President



### **Editorial**



Greetings,

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 again be on a Saturday at West Ryde Anglican Church. Transport from the West Ryde Railway Station will be available. You will have the opportunity to see the progress in the restoration and installation to date of our Christie organ.

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 or want further information, please talk to me at one of the shows or telephone me on 6351 3122.

Happy organising, Geoff Brimley Many TOSA members from interstate and in Queensland had a wonderful weekend of musical fellowship in Brisbane over the weekend of August 29 - 31 this year. It was a great opportunity to catch up with TOSA members as well as theatre organists who provide us with our shows. It was a rare opportunity to hear Walt Strony entertain us in Australia.

I have included a pictorial oversight of the 50th Anniversary celebrations in this addition with many thanks to Barry Tooker's Photography skills.

President Geoff Brimley will contact those members who have not renewed for the 2014-2015 financial year in case they wish to continue enjoying TOSA News and supporting TOSA NSW.

The ATOS Convention is based in Philadelphia next year so start planning now to go and hear some unique organs.

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

### 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 them and wish them a long and happy stay

### Letter to the Editor.

I just recently attended the 50th Anniversary of TOSA Queensland over the weekend of 30th and 31st August. As a one of 132 participants, I can only say how well organised it was.

Queensland TOSA are lucky to have a venue as large as it is which enhances the Christie Organ and provides plenty of space for the cabaret style of seating, which was a very friendly way of allowing mixing of the various State's groups, something we tend to lack elsewhere. They also have generous side room facilities for food preparation and a large foyer to assemble in and listen to the various electronic organs on display.

The only comment I had from a Queensland member was that they don't have air conditioning, something not noticed on the weekend as we had perfect weather of around 24 degrees every day.

We were treated to major concerts by Walt Strony and Tony Fenelon OAM on the Christie, A silent movie accompanied by the Regent Theatre organ now installed at GoMA, and numerous other elite organist including Bill Schumacher on the Hammond A-405SP providing pre-dinner music.

On Saturday night we had a big band evening with the Kate Street Mob band alternating with guest organists.

One other event worth mentioning was a Master Class with Walt Strony. He tested us on our "ear" for various ranks and showed how individual ranks with tremulant on or off can be useful solo stops. He also showed how he arranges his thumb pistons. One trick he pointed out was if you group pistons together in like sounds, when you miss a piston you want and get one close by, it will probably sound OK to continue. It was all very informative. He like many other professional organists always advises keep changing the registration or style to keep the interest up.

We were also given a special 50th Year souvenir booklet which

contains a lot of valuable information on the Weekend, and history of TOSA Qld.

I want to repeat how well TOSA Queensland arranged everything and cheerfully helped all of us enjoy the weekend. I have been to quite a few Conventions and this is one of the best.

Regards, John Wall

### To Watch Out For

### Nominations for Office Bearers & Committee

Nominations close by the last Australia Post Mail on Friday October 10 2014 for TOSA (NSW) Office-Bearers & Committee positions for 2014-15 - See nomination form in this edition.

Completed nomination forms must reach the Returning Officer at Post Office Box 1242, EASTWOOD, NSW 2122 by the last Australia Post mail on Friday 10 October 2014.

Notice of any motions or special resolutions for the AGM must reach the Secretary TOSA NSW Divn, 101 Crinan St., HURLSTONE PARK NSW 2193,no later than Friday 10 October 2014 so that members can be advised in the November 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 The Orion Theatre Campsie

There will be some players days in 2014 - but not every month. Craig Keller will notify members by text when the dates have been confirmed for 2nd Thursday of the month.

Craig Keller on 0418484798 Players and listeners welcome.

Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening
at 2:30pm to 7:00pm

Monday 22 September Monday 27 October

Please contact Neil or John Batts to confirm availability John Batts 0420424103

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



Theatre Organ Magic
Australia's Silent Film Festival
@ Epping Baptist Church 1 Ray Road Epping
Saturdays @ 3pm: 20 September and 18 October

# Saturday September 20 Silents are golden! With John Batts on the mighty Christie theatre organ

@3pm

THE BATTLE AT ELDERBUSH GULCH (1913) D W Griffith ROUNDERS (1914) Charlie Chaplin and Roscoe Arbuckle HIS TRYSTING PLACES (1914) Charlie Chaplin NEIGHBOURS (1920) Buster Keaton

### **Saturday October 18**

Silent comedies?.....priceless. With **John Batts** on the mighty Christie theatre organ

### @3pm

LAUGHING GAS (1914) Charlie Chaplin GERTIE THE DINOSAUR (1914) Winsor McCay animation THE HAUNTED HOUSE (1921) Buster Keaton ANGORA LOVE (1929) Laurel and Hardy

### **Tickets**

\$25 per adult/\$20 concession

**VENUE:** The screenings will take place at the Epping Baptist Church, 1 Ray Road Epping **CONTACT DETAILS:** 0419 267318 info@ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au www.ozsilentfilmfestival.com.au

### **TOSA MEMBERS' EVENING AT MARRICKVILLE - July**

TOSA members' meeting at Marrickville Town Hall on the 4th Monday in July (28th) attracted seven players. On this occasion we were able to celebrate the end of the impingement on our time at the Hall by a pleasantly extended session that began at 2.30 p.m. and continued until 9.00 p.m. In this we were encouraged not least by the donation of a large pizza at an appropriate moment in proceedings (thanks Graeme!).

The day drew seven players. Those who enjoyed their opportunities at the Wurlitzer were: **Tom Barber, Graeme Costin, Kevin Eadie, Ian Georgeson, Kath Harding, Basil Kaplan** and **John Batts.** 

Actually one of our number claimed cold feet at the last moment; no matter. The longer period meant that TOSA was able to accommodate a little coming and going between times: the demands of work, the concerns about peak-hour traffic, etc. Overall it seemed there was a satisfactory time at the console for each player. And we did not lack for nibbles and munches either.

And please don't forget that all members of TOSA(NSW) are most welcome on Players' occasions. A phone-call or email to Neil or me will confirm that the event is about to take place. Another reminder: you don't have to play, we are quite social and even sociable!

### **TOSA Players' Events in August: Campsie & Marrickville**

TOSA members met at The Orion Centre, Campsie on Thursday afternoon, 14 August, thanks to cooperation of Canterbury Council personnel. We began pretty well on time.

Five members who enjoyed their time on the bench: **Tom Barber, Kevin Eadie, Ian Georgeson, John Griffiths,** and **John Batts.** A word of thanks to the thoughtfulness of those who remembered to bring along something to eat.

Monday, August 25th, despite an unprepossessing weather forecast tempted players only to the TOSA Afternoon/Evening event at Marrickville Town Hall from 2.30 p.m. onwards. The Style H Special Wurlitzer (Op. No. 875) has recently been tweaked in members' favour thanks to the ministrations of Neil Palmer who has removed the Clarinet from the second-touch on the Solo pistons numbers 1-4. This is of great help when that rank is off-colour and blurts out when finger-pressure is too much.

This day there were no listeners. However, those who enjoyed the additional time at the Wurlitzer were: **Tom Barber, Graeme Costin, Ian Georgeson,** and **John Batts.** This time the refreshments available reached new heights of delectation. Thanks to all involved who contributed to this success.

Reports from John Batts, Players Day Convenor

# The TOSA Queensland Division's 50th Anniversary Celebrations - 2014 Kelvin Grove State College Auditorium

Congratulations to TOSA Queensland for putting on a most enjoyable weekend of music, dining, refreshments, visits to music venues around Brisbane and the opportunity for TOSA members & friends from around Australia to catch up for a chat in a very convivial atmosphere.

The Christie Theatre Pipe Organ sounded perfect in the Kelvin Grove Auditorium which certainly lends itself to both concert and cabaret presentations.

Photos courtesy of Barry Tooker TOSA NSW



The Console looks absolutely brand new



Walt Strony opened the weekend on Friday evening
His program included selections from Kismet and Carmen

### **Show & Membership Prices**

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

|  | All Artist |
|--|------------|
| Non-members                              | \$32.50    |
| Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder | \$27.50    |
| TOSA Members                             | \$23.00    |

ts

### All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status All Children FREE

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$20 per person Annual Membership Fees are now: \$35.00 for Full membership, and

\$25.00 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%



TOSA QLD Secretary, Brett Kavanagh, was one of the organists who played a bracket of numbers on Saturday Night



**President Lance Hutchinson at the console** 



Sue Whitehouse plays on Saturday night



John Fuhrmann Western Australia on Saturday Night

# The Next Performance International Musician from the USA Dwight Beacham



## " A Musical Bouquet"

### at the **Orion Centre Theatre**155 Beamish Street, Campsie

Sunday 19 October 2014 2:00 - 4:30pm

### A selection of music from the following:

You are my Lucky Star; 26 Miles across the Sea; In the wee small hours of the morning; Hands across the sea; Hi Lili Hi Lo,; Jazzin' the blues away; Hawaiian Paradise; Riff Song; Moment musical; I don't stand a ghost of a chance; Something's gotta give; Count your blessings; Moonstruck Medley (includes music from Puccini's La Boheme); Until Then; It is Well; Be careful it's my heart; Sugartime; Taxpayer Medley; Rainbow on the River.

### **Dwight Beacham**

**Dwight Beacham** has been playing theatre organ concerts for over 45 years starting with his concert on the 4 manual 37 rank Kimball theatre organ then in the Wiltern Theatre in Los Angeles, California. Concerts all across the US and England have included such venues as the Coronado Theatre, Rockford, IL (4 manual 17 rank Barton); the Auditorium Theatre, Rochester, NY (4 manual 23 rank Wurlitzer); Mundelein, IL (4 manual 19 rank); Berkeley Community Theatre (4 manual 42 rank Wurlitzer); the Palace Theatre, Hilo HI (4 manual 20 rank Morton) and many others.

He has 7 recordings to his credit. In addition, **Dwight** was featured organist for over 20 years in a series of Community Band with Organ programs in the Allentown, PA area. However, most of **Dwight's** contributions to the organ world have been "behind the scenes." He was employed by the **Allen Organ Company** for over 30 years and was the driving influence for their continued interest in theatre organ. As Vice President of Product Development he was able to create projects like the George Wright Signature Series.

**Dwight** has been a theatre organ enthusiast for as long as he can remember. Growing up in Los Angeles afforded **Dwight** the opportunity to see and hear many theatre organists perform live in concert. George Wright, Lyn Larsen, Gaylord Carter, Bill Thomson, Del Castillo, Ann Leaf, Buddy Cole, Loren Whitney – those were "heady" days – and this does not even include the numerous "out-of-town" visiting theatre organists. As a teenager he even convinced his parents to let him fly up to San Francisco to attend the Farewell to the Fox George Wright concerts prior to the Fox theatre becoming a parking lot! All these experiences had some degree of influence on Dwight's style and the "sound" he expected from a great theatre organ.

He studied with theatre organist Lloyd del Castillo and got his degree in Music from Chapman University in Orange, California. Dwight and his wife Gini live in Sun City, Arizona. He is currently organist at Belevue Heights Church.

Tickets to the show: Members \$23; Non-Members \$32.50; Non Member Pensioner/Senior \$27.50 Group bookings for 10 or more adults \$20 per person Students "Free" on confirmation of Student Status Children "Free" accompanied by an adult

Bookings: Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 14 Warrah Place, Greystanes 2145,
Please include a stamped self addressed envelope for return of tickets
Visa & Mastercard accepted

### Indianapolis Convention a Grand Success. . .

review by Jamie Snell from an article in the August 2014 issue of Pipeline PSTOS.

### "Tony Fenelon 2014 Organist of the Year:

Following Ken Double's concert came the cocktail reception and closing banquet with the presentation of awards. Numerous awards were presented, but perhaps the highlight was the award of **Organist of the Year to Tony Fenelon of Australia**, who unfortunately was not present to receive it."

### Correction to this article:

Vice President, Craig Keller (who was at the Indianapolis Convention) advised me on reading this article in the August TOSA News that in fact **Tony Fenelon of Australia** was inducted into the **American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) Hall of Fame** - he being the first Australian Theatre Organist to receive this honor.

In Tony's absense Walt Strony accepted the Award on his behalf to be presented to TONY at the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of TOSA Queensland in Brisbane.



Photo by Barry Tooker

Walt Strony presents the plaque to Tony Fenelon in Brisbane



Photo and details courtesy Barry Quick

Aussie attendees at the recent ATOS Indianapolis convention in company with Walt Stroney who accepted a plaque on Tony Fenelon's behalf, commemorating Tony's Induction into the ATOS Hall of Fame. Pictured at the Indiana Roof Ballroom Convention Dinner, L to R are Pam and Barry Quick (ACT), Craig and Deborah Keller (NSW), Alan Brooker and Ray Russell (NSW), Walt Stroney (USA) and Kingsley Herbert (President TOSA ACT).

Pipe Organ and Drums
Gentle Ballads to Discotheque!
1940s - 1980s
24 rank Hill Organ (Graeme Costin)
Roland V-pro drums (Andy Skarda)
3pm Sunday 12th October
StStephens Anglican
211 Mowbray Road, Willoughby 2068
Admission \$5 Students \$2

### Some Notes from TOSA Queensland Division 50th Anniversary Celebration Weekend 29 - 31 August 2014

### The Wurlitzer in the Gallery of Modern Art, South Bank

The mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ was delivered new to the Regent Theatre, Brisbane in September 1929 from USA, and was known as a 3 manual 15 rank with a model 260 Special with a Frenchstyle console, Opus 2040. It had the special order Diaphone pipes---a deep bass rank played by the pedals. Specification included a grand piano as well as the "suitable bass" Wurlitzer effect.

Twelve of the largest Diaphones, up to 32 feet long, were housed in the ceiling on a purpose-built suspended floor above the proscenium. Special modification using strengthened steel supports were needed to support the extra 4 tons of pipe work and the vibration caused during playing. The two organ pipe chambers, solo and main, were located up behind the royal boxes, either side of the stage.

The French style of the console was characterised by the large tombstone-shaped end pieces, capped with large carved timber mouldings. Fine ormalu timber mouldings embelished the various panels on the polished rosewood console. A double-bolster stop rail with white, red, amber and black stop keys controlled the 15 ranks of pipes, while combination pistons were set along the front of each keyboard. Toe pistons controlled the many pedal and sound effects as well. The whole instrument was controlled by compressed air in combination with electro-magnetic contacts at the console, the relays and in the wind chests. More than 15 cwt of sterling silver was used in the electrical contacts.

Around the time of 1943, the console was moved to centre stage on the orchestra hoist and painted white with gold trim. The chrysoglott and grand piano would join it on the orchestra hoist which had just been mechanised. Later, the chrysoglott was returned to its chamber and the grand piano was placed on the original organ hoist. It stayed in this configuration until its removal in late 1963, when the organ was purchased by Dr Keith King in the Blue Mountains, NSW.

The Wurlitzer fell silent for several spells during its life at the Regent. The many live revues and performances often took preference over organ music, forcing residing organists to take extended breaks. During the Second World War however, the Wurlitzer was never more popular and made Reubert Hayes a household name throughout Australia. His popular "sing-song" show every Sunday evening was broadcast over 35 radio stations in Australia, providing soothing and morale-boosting songs for families and the forces alike. The organ was serviced by Whitehouse Bros during its time there and they kept it in playing order, providing endearing musical memories to patrons for over 30 years.

The Wurlitzer has since been purchased by the Queensland Government, restored and is installed in the new *Cinemateque* at the South Bank Gallery of Modern Art. It debuted to accompany the restored 1906 Ned Kelly silent film in March, 2007 with noted theatre organist Tony Fenelon at the console. *Photos by Barry Tooker* 





David Bailey accompanies the French silent movie Prix de Beaute at the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA)

### The Kelvin Grove Christie Theatre Pipe Organ

The Christie was built by the respected English organ builders Hill, Norman and Beard to specification by respected theatre organist Harold Ramsay. This organ was one of the last theater organs, being delivered in 1933, Opus 2911 with 144 stops. The ranks of this organ were: Tibia, Tuba, Diapason, French Trumpet, Flute, String, String Celeste, and Vox Humana; and wired for piano to be played from the organ console.



Tony Fenelon played the final performance on Sunday afternoon and included a silent film of a rollercoaster ride accompanied by him on the Christie playing "Rollercoaster"

The timing was impeccably matched to the length of the movie. Tony played this movie for a school group the previous Thursday.





The Kate Street Mob Big Band entertained us on Saturday night with some great swing music



A former student of Kelvin Grove State College proved to be an excellent Jazz singer, confidently performing with the band





TOSA Qld President, Lance Hutchison, plays the Klais Grand Organ - 4 manual, 6,500 pipes in QPAC Concert Hall, South Bank whilst Robert Weismantel and others look on

### TOSA NSW Divn Annual General Meeting

### Saturday 22nd November 2014, at St Columb's Anglican Church Cnr Dickson Ave & Bellevue Ave West Ryde at 2:00pm

This is the location of the installation of the TOSA (NSW) Christie Theatre Organ

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 at Post Office Box 1242 EASTWOOD, NSW 2122 by the last Australia Post mail on Friday 10 October 2014.

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

The Secretary TOSA NSW Divn, 101 Crinan St., HURLSTONE PARK NSW 2193, and must reach the Secretary no later than Friday 10 October so that members can be advised in the November issue of TOSA News.

### ORGAN FOR SALE

Large Technix model SA electronic organ.

Two full manuals plus generous pedalboard. 100% in working order. Owner unable to play on account of age.

Available immediately from house on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

Price negotiable.

Please call Jim at: 9999-4017

### **TOSA NSW**

\* 2014 - OUR 54th YEAR \* 3/17 Orion Wurlitzer, 155 Beamish St., Campsie 2/11 Marrickville Wurlitzer, Marrickville Town Hall Events contact: Geoff Brimley (02) 6351 3122

### **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**

TOSA Western Australia, John Leckie Music Centre 25 Melvista Ave, Nedlands. 3/12 Compton. Member's days first Sunday of the month at 2pm. Contact: Rodney 08 9294 3887.

### **TOSA Gold Coast**

Club Musical Afternoon on the 3rd Sunday of each month (except December)
Contact: Bill Schumacher (07) 5524 2749

### **TOSA Queensland**

Executive Secretary: Brett Kavanaugh 0412 879 678

### **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

Interstate TOSA Members are welcome to a 50% discount to concerts on presentation of their membership card

### **TOSA Victoria - mto**

Contact Margaret Sutcliffe on (03) 9891 7227

Warragul Theatre Organ Society

Events Contact: Di Yuill (03) 5623 3301

### **Members Diary**

Monday 15 Sept Committee 6:00pm followed by Planning meeting for 2015

St Columb's Anglican Church, West Ryde

**Sunday 19 October 2:00pm - 4:30pm** 

International Musician

# Dwight Beacham USA plays

### "A Musical Bouquet"

### On the Orion Theatre Wurlitzer

155 Beamish Street, Campsie

Book at www.tosa.net.au

Or Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

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:**

https://www.facebook.com/tosansw www.theatreorgansaust.info (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

 $\label{eq:continuous} \mbox{ http://www.omss.org.au (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)}$ 

www.ATOS.org

# September 2014 Volume 53 No.8

PRINT POST

100004836

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

Official Publication of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc. 101 Crinan St., Hurlstone Park NSW 2193

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