

Volume 26 Issue 1 Price 50¢ January 1987

TOSA NEWS

The Official Publication of the Theatre Organ Society
of Australia, N.S.W. Division
Address - Box 474 Sutherland 2232
Registered by Australia Post - Publication No. N.B.H. 1038

**A SUPER
START
TO 1987**

**DIRECT
FROM
THE USA**

LANCE LUCE
in
Concert
At the Console of
the Mighty
Wurlitzer



SUNDAY 1st. FEBRUARY 1987 at 2pm.
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

DIRECTORYTHEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (N.S.W.DIVISION)

PATRON Ian Davies

PRESIDENT Ian Somerville (476 4991)

VICE PRESIDENTS Phyllis Wilson (759 6050) Cliff Bingham (476 2363)

SECRETARY Bob McMinn (542 3937)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY Pam McMinn (542 3937)

TREASURER John Rattray (517 2247)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Bob McMinn (542 3937)

RESEARCH AND ARCHIVES Ian Cameron

PRACTICE CONVENOR Bob Staunton (607 8925)

COMMITTEE Bill Schumacher, Neil Palmer, Ron Wilson, Jack Lawson

Margaret Hall, John Shaw

MINUTE SECRETARY

TOSA NEWS EDITOR Ron Wilson (759 6050)

TOSA NEWS PRINTING Ron Wilson

PHOTOGRAPHY Barry Tooker

CONCERT RECORDING Bill Schumacher and Ron Wilson

CONCERT HIRING Neil Palmer (798 6742)

HOME PARTIES Andrea Harrison (520 8632)

Address all correspondence to:-

The Secretary, T.O.S.A. (N.S.W. Division)

Box 474 P.O. SUTHERLAND N.S.W. 2232

NEW MEMBERS

December meeting.

A cordial welcome is extended to the following new members.

Roger and Leigh Tuck

Leslie and Myrtle Moore.

FOR SALE

For sale.

Organ - Conn model 552 theatre colsole.

2 - 26 note keyboards - 13 pedals.

Leslie - Vibrato - Sustain.

Attack percussion - Repeat percussion.

Rhythm section - stereo expression.

Chorus control - Voiced fun master.

Excellent condition - \$2500 or O.N.O.

For further details, ring (02) 887 4421.

FOR SALE

For Sale - Pipe Organ (Leggo Tubular pneumatic stop and key action).

St. Mark Anglican Church
GRANVILLE

Consider selling in early 1987 - almost complete or in parts. Bellows overhauled 1982.

Offers. (02) 631 6459 A.H.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

The February edition of TOSA NEWS, along with your membership card, will be available to members at the Lance Luce concert to be held on 1st February 1987.

**HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR
MEMBERSHIP YET?**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY 1st at 2.00pm.
LANCE LUCE IN CONCERT
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
 Admission: Adults \$8 Members \$6
 Concession \$5 Children under the age
 of 15 admitted free.

MONDAY 2nd at 7.30pm.
COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18th at 7.30pm.
QUARTERLY MEMBERS MEETING
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

MARCH

SUNDAY 1st at 2.00pm.
FREE CONCERT
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
 Featuring Clinton White, Andrea Harrison
 and David Riley.

MONDAY 2nd at 7.30pm.
COMMITTEE MEETING

SUNDAY 29th at 2.00pm.
RAY THORNLEY IN CONCERT
 Admission: Adults \$8 Members \$6
 Concession \$5. Children under the
 age of 15 admitted free.

APRIL

MONDAY 6th at 7.30pm.
COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 8th at 7.30pm.
CLUB NIGHT

FRIDAY 17th - MONDAY 20th
NATIONAL CONVENTION
ADELAIDE

MAY

MONDAY 4th at 7.30pm.
COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 20th at 7.30pm.
QUARTERLY MEMBERS MEETING
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

SUNDAY 24th at 2.00pm.
2CBA-FM CONCERT
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
 Admission Adults \$8 Members \$6
 Concession \$5. Children under the
 age of 15 admitted free.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL SUNDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 1986

Unlike previous Christmas Parties that have been held over the past years, the Committee decided to hold the 1986 Christmas Party in the afternoon instead of at night to give those members and their friends who don't like to travel at night, a chance to enjoy themselves without the worry of getting home safely at night.

The afternoon entertainment started with a twenty minute dance bracket played by "The Club Men", followed by Committee man Neil Palmer playing background music on the Wurlitzer as table numbers were called for people to help themselves to the hot or cold entrees as they so desired, and then return for their choice of meats and salads for the main meal.

During the afternoon, we were entertained by Treasurer John Rattray, who sang several songs accompanied by Margaret Hall on the Wurlitzer, followed by more dance music, which included the ever popular Barn Dance.

Committee members John Shaw and Bill Schumacher then played duets (which were completely unrehearsed) with John on piano and Bill on the organ.

Following more dance music, we were then entertained by soprano Marie Stronach who was accompanied by Bill Schumacher playing the Wurlitzer. After Marie's performance, Bill played a few solo numbers on the organ which were well received.

Following another dance segment, we were entertained by President Ian Somerville, who played a selection of old favourites followed by the Society's Patron, Ian Davies, who played a short bracket of popular evergreens on the Wurlitzer, as only Ian can do.

Like all good things, they must come to an end, and before we realized what time it was, the PARTY was over. To all those who helped in making this function a great success, to Committee man Jack Lawson, who compered the afternoon festivities, and his crew of willing helpers who worked all day Saturday on decorating the hall, and to Jean Tomlin for organizing the raffle, many thanks.

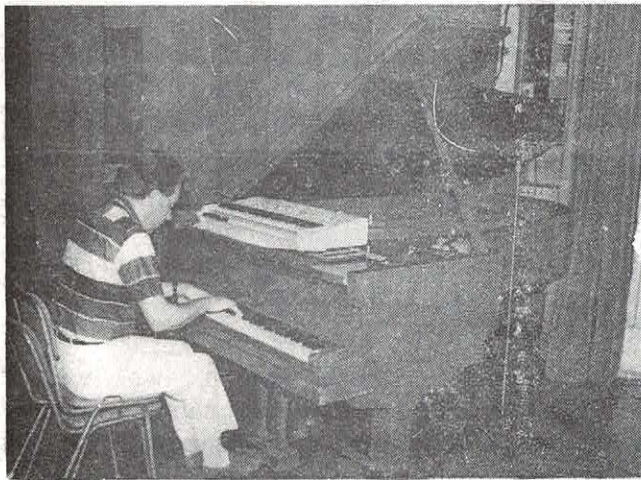
(see photos on page 4)



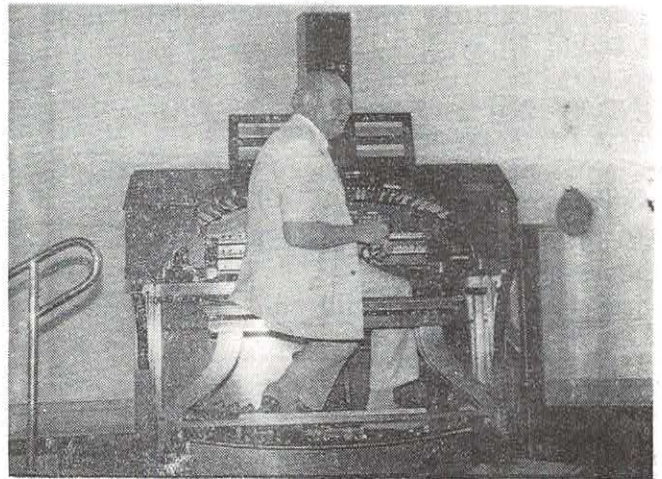
ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS
PARTY
MARRICKVILLE
TOWN HALL
SUNDAY 23RD
NOVEMBER 1986

Photos by Barry Tooker

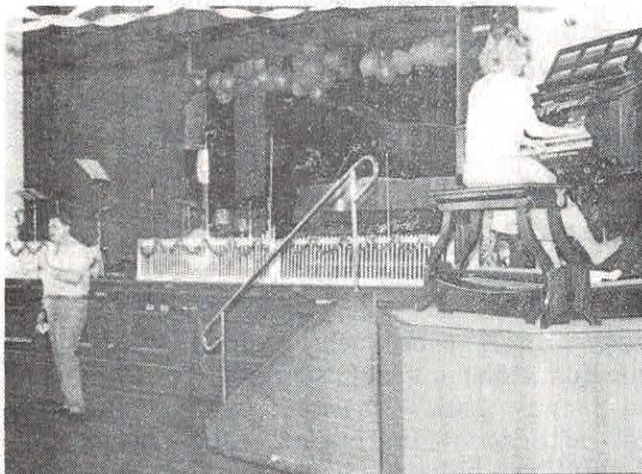
Members taking a break between dance brackets.



John Shaw at the piano



Ian Davies seated at the Wurlitzer



John Rattray being accompanied by Margaret Hall on the organ



Marie Stronach being accompanied by Bill Schumacher on the organ

CONCERT REVIEWCLIFF BINGHAMANDJOHN CRAWFORD

News source . . TOSA ACTION

A review by Bill Hoffman which appeared in the Canberra Times on 2nd of December.

Interest in Pipe Organ Unabated.

The final concert for the year presented by the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, ACT, in the Albert Hall on Sunday afternoon, featured two Sydney musicians in a program of music for organ and piano.

Cliff Bingham playing the Compton Theatre Pipe Organ was joined by pianist John Crawford in such pieces as variations on "Obla Di Obla Da", the "Love Theme from St Elmo's Fire", and an arrangement of the "Song of Joy" from Beethoven's "Choral Symphony". John Crawford was also featured in a fine performance of Schumann's "Widmung" (Dedication), with organ obligato backing the piano solo.

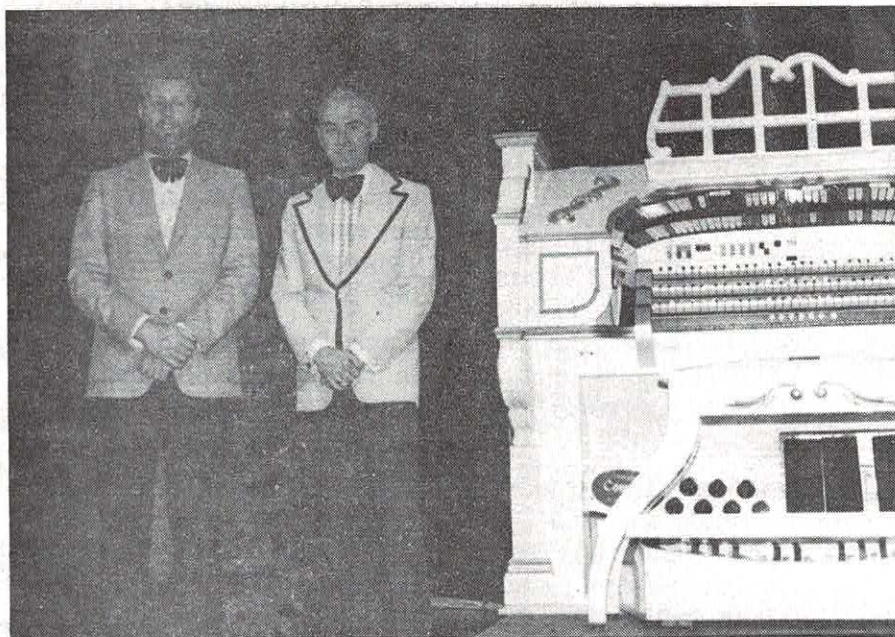
But the best came at the end of the program with the playing of two arrangements for piano and organ by Tony Fenelon - "Ghost Riders in the Sky" and the "Theme from the Apartment" which very effectively utilised the different tonal capabilities of the two instruments and which were given most attractive performances.

Cliff Bingham also provided a number of solo items which again demonstrated the fine sound and wide versatility of the Compton Theatre Organ. In such lively numbers as "Get Happy", which opened the program, and "Let's Face the Music and Dance", there was the distinctive theatre organ sound as remembered from the great days of the cinema in the past, while in the quieter pieces such as George Wright's arrangement of "Quite Village" and the "Elizabethan Serenade" the more expressive qualities of the instrument and, in particular, the flute and tibia stops were delightfully demonstrated.

This was another very pleasant concert which again attracted a good audience and showed that interest in Canberra's Compton Theatre Pipe Organ is not abating; its installation in the Albert Hall has certainly widened the variety of musical fare in the city.

Photo below:

John Crawford (left) Cliff Bingham.



A T.O.S.A. SCOOP!
STATE WURLITZER ORGAN
Campaign for restoration.

(By Ian Hanson)

Following the completion of a study on the 4/21 Wurlitzer pipe organ at the State Theatre in Sydney, those people concerned have decided to pursue the prospects of raising the necessary funds. This is despite a setback from the Bi-Centennial Authority, who rejected an application for part funding on the grounds of the current economical climate and on the basis that the funding for Bi-Centennial projects has now been stopped. The project has been undertaken by the "State Wurlitzer Restoration Committee" - a special committee set up expressly for the purpose of exploring ways of arranging a full restoration of the instrument, which is extremely dilapidated and now has only a very limited life, (somewhere between 2-4 years).

The four man committee comprises of representatives from Greater Union Organisation, Heritage Council of N.S.W. and Australian Theatre Historical Society.

A detailed report has been prepared by the committee and it is anticipated that this will be available generally in early 1987. The draft copy comprises of 22 pages on the organ plus a further 8 pages on the theatre with illustrations. It is divided into two sections. The "Statement of Significance" gives an interesting insight into the organ's history and uniqueness.

The second part deals with the organ's present condition and how it came to be in that state.

The State organ has suffered extensive water damage, most of it in recent years. At one time in the late 1970's, there was no less than 16 holes in the ceiling of the organ chamber, and during heavy rain, water cascaded down onto the organ chests.

As part of the process of the report, the committee called tenders, and as was expected, restoration would be very expensive. The committee has since set a target of \$150,000 which is the price tag to have the organ restored somewhere to its 1929 state.

Greater Union have yet been undecided as to what their contribution will be, as the State Theatre no longer functions as a full time cinema. Current plans see a potential for organ restoration and the owners are actively participating in this project.

For those people who may not be aware, the organ in the State theatre is only operating on 11 of its 21 ranks and only a very few percussions. It is the only theatre organ still in its original home in the country. The Heritage Council have placed it on a register of historic organs and it is the only theatre organ to be listed as such.

If nothing else, the committee is certainly tackling a difficult problem in more ways than one. Apart from the monetary problems, there is also the problem of dealing with people who are totally ignorant of just how bad the State organ really is. In addition, a lot of convincing has yet to be done to the people who control the purse strings, as to the benefits of a restored organ, especially as one as large as the States, but we're working on it.

NOTE: Ian Hanson is a T.O.S.A. member, and has been appointed secretary of the "State Wurlitzer Restoration Committee".

HELP WANTED
POSITION VACANT

TOSA is seeking an enthusiastic member to take up the position of minute secretary. This position requires he or she to attend the Society's monthly committee meetings and to take down the necessary notes of the happenings. Typing would be an advantage, but not a necessity.

Your help would be greatly appreciated in filling this position.

Please contact the Secretary, Bob McMinn if you can help, or if you need further information.

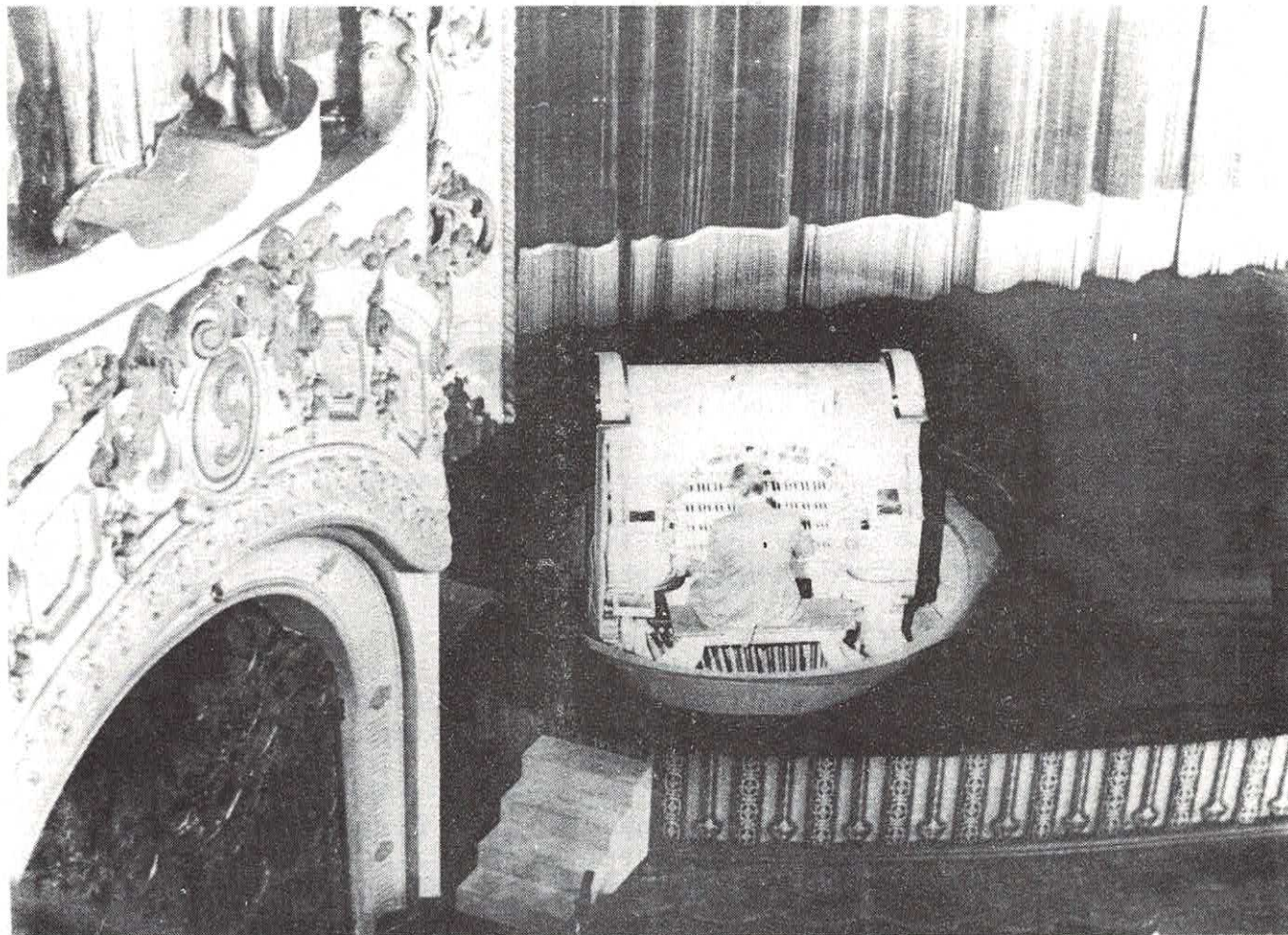


Photo above: Ian Davies at the console of the Sydney State Theatre Wurlitzer organ. Photo was taken during 1976.

CONCERT REVIEW - TONY FENELON

MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

SUNDAY 14th DECEMBER 1986

(By Andrea Harrison)

An audience of 588 people proved once again what a terrific drawcard we have in Tony Fenelon for TOSA N.S.W. DIVISION.

The unsuspecting crowd were delighted to see Tony emerge from a be-stockinged fireplace, and were equally delighted to hear the wide selection of pieces that he presented.

Included in the first half were "The Dickie Bird Hop", "Song of India", "Ascot Gavotte", "The Toy Trumpet" and Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody No2".

Highlights of the second half were an Oscar Peterson styled "How High The Moon", a cheeky "Black Moonlight" and an incredible medley of audience requests which Tony put together on the spot.

His final number was "The Grand Tarantelle", but the audience weren't going to let him leave without an encore, a blend of "I'll See You Again" and "Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Good bye".

Once again, another high standard concert by "The Master" - looking forward to hearing him again in the not too distant future!

Dear Member,

In order to assist your committee to plan and present the activities that you, the members, want we have prepared the following questionnaire.

It is important that you read this note before completing the questionnaire.

You will note that the questionnaire is COMPLETELY ANONIMOUS, there is no place provided to show your name or identify yourself in any way. Please do not put your name on the questionnaire.

In mailing you this questionnaire we have taken every care to ensure that we have sent ONE COPY TO EACH VOTING MEMEER OF TOSA for it is important that in the case of husband and wife membership, where each has voting rights, that we give each person the right to respnd and to express their individual views.

In filling in the questionaire please be honest. Because of the anonimity of the whole matter no one will ever know who gives what answers to what questicns only totals and percentages will be collated and calculated.

In order to obtain a reasonably large response and therefore the opinicns of a worthwhile sample of the TOSA membership we have supplied a Reply Paid envelope for you to use to send back the questionnaire. This reply paid envelope requires no postage if posted within Australia for TOSA will pay the cost of postage. If however you care to bring your questionnaire, in the envelope, to the next concert (1st Feb 86) you will save TOSA the cost of postage.

Please take a few minutes to complete the questionaire and return it to us, in the envelope supplied, either by reply post or by placing it in the box at Marrickville when next you are there.

By participating in this survey you will assist your committee to plan and present the type of activities that you, the members, want.

We thank ycu.

R.J.McMinn for The Cmmittee.

**IT'S MEMBERSHIP
TIME**