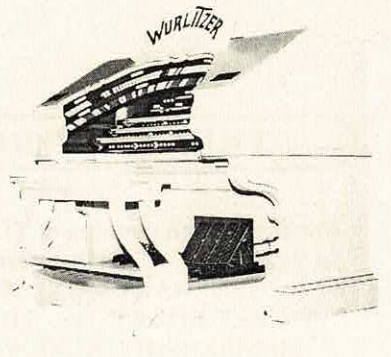


MARCH, 1996



TOSA NEWS

2/11 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Marrickville Town Hall

3/17 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Orion Centre Campsie

The 24th National Theatre Organ Convention in Sydney

5th - 8th April, 1996

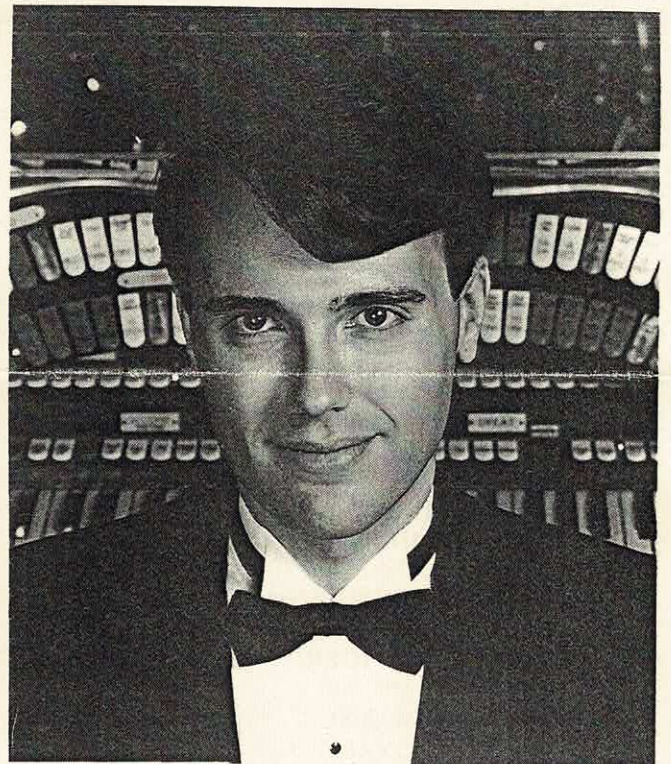
Starring

NIGEL OGDEN

BARRY BAKER

from the UK

from the USA



**PLUS 6 Top Australian Organists, playing Sydney's 5 Best Theatre Organs
AND the Sydney Town Hall ! PLUS Harbour Cruise, Barbecue, Dinners,
Lunches and even a Breakfast !! Don't Miss Out !!!**

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Issue 3
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TOSA NEWS

MARCH, 1996

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW DIVISION) Inc.

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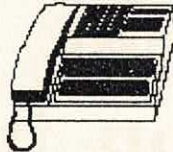
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COMING EVENTS

MARCH

Monday 4 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**
Sunday 10 at 2.00pm **Margaret Hall Concert**
Orion Centre Campsie
Wednesday 20 at 7.30pm **Members' Playing Night**
Orion Centre Campsie

APRIL

Monday 1 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**

**The Fabulous 1996 Easter
National Convention
in Sydney**

Friday 5th - Monday 8th April

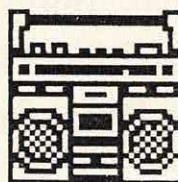
Tuesday 23 at 7.30pm **Members' Playing Night**
Orion Centre Campsie

MAY

Sunday 5 at 2.00pm **Tony Fenelon Concert**
Marrickville Town Hall

Monday 6 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**
Wednesday 19 at 8.00pm **Half Yearly
General Meeting**
Orion Centre Campsie

Tuesday 29 at 7.30pm **Members' Playing Night**
Orion Centre Campsie



**REMEMBER TO TUNE IN TO
2CBA FM - 103.2**

EVERY MONDAY AT 9.00 pm
For "Theatre Organ Highlights"
Presented by Chris Styles

Editorial

The **Sydney Easter Convention** is almost upon us and we are all about to see the results of so much hard work by the **Convention Committee** under the leadership of **Rob Gliddon**. These members have worked long and hard, and of course, there is still a lot of work to be done, just before and during the events of the **Convention**.

The program of events is really first-class and should provide many hours of pleasure for our Conventioneers. If you have not yet booked for these entertaining concerts there is still time. Page 13 has the "last chance" booking details - please read the sheet carefully, as tickets to some events can not be bought at the door, etc. The safest way to ensure your places is to book as soon as possible, before 22nd March, with our Secretary, **Bill Schumacher**. Also, please be considerate and stick to the deadlines mentioned, to allow proper organisation of the food and the minimum of disruption to all of our voluntary workers' lives. Special requests and late bookings can be so time-consuming and disruptive to the **Convention** organisers' lives.

This month's issue of **TOSA News** is full of items about the Convention's artists, to further attract you, our members, to attend. This is a very expensive undertaking for **TOSA (NSW)** - the overheads are high, and we need as many people as possible at all events to cover costs - for example, to hire the **Sydney Town Hall** on Easter Monday costs well over \$2,000!! Of course we would also like to see lots and lots of **NSW's TOSA** members present to welcome all our visitors from overseas and interstate. Please try to attend as much as possible - without *you* the **Convention** will not be successful! See you there!

Best Wishes,
Colin Groves

LATE NEWS

Convention Events 9 and 10 have had to be switched. The **Harbour Cruise** will now be in the morning, ending with lunch, and the **Sydney Town Hall** concert will be at 2.30 in the afternoon. Any possible inconvenience is regretted, but the **Town Hall** was unavailable on the morning due to overnight cleaning problems.



WELCOME TO A NEW MEMBER

A warm welcome to our one and only new member for this month. **TOSA** hopes you will have a long and happy association with our Society :

James Poile - Wagga Wagga

Membership Notes...

At the last Committee Meeting, we noted that the membership of **TOSA (NSW)** has topped 700 for the first time. There are :

6 Life Members

1 Honorary Member

696 Paid Members

... giving a total of 703. This is very encouraging to all those who help keep **TOSA** running.

Almost 700 copies of each edition of **TOSA News** are printed. 622 copies go to members, and 42 complimentary copies are posted to people and organisations like other branches of **TOSA**, radio stations and libraries

If you or your friends would like to join **TOSA**, we suggest you apply on, or after, April 1st. From that date onward, a normal yearly payment will take a new member right through until the end of June 1997.

Walter Pearce
Membership Secretary

From The President

Greetings to all members for the first time in 1996. I apologise for not having a President's message for the February issue of **TOSA News**. I'm afraid a combination of holidays and trying to be a good husband and father beat the publishing deadlines.

Your committee has planned a most exciting concert program for 1996, with a good mix of **Australian** and overseas artists. We are also looking forward to our long-awaited return to **Marrickville Town Hall**, where the renovations to our "other" **WurliTzer** are almost complete.

This organ will be featured during our **Convention** program with an "official" re-opening in May. Speaking of the **Convention**, please don't delay in booking your choice of concerts. Our interstate friends are setting a fine example by getting in early. We also have a good sprinkling of international delegates, including 5 from the US (So far!).

The best way to book is by mail, using the official **Convention** booking form. So don't delay - book early and book often, to paraphrase a well-known **American President**.

I look forward to seeing you all at **Convention '96**.

Cliff Bingham
El Presidente

Articles in this journal do not necessarily represent the views of the committee, nor those of the editor

The deadline for each edition of **TOSA News** is the 12th of the preceding month



From The MAILBOX

Ron Wilson of *Fishing Point* sends us a timely word of warning about overseas video purchases :

A warning to would-be purchasers of Phil Kelsall videos direct from the U.K

I purchased a video entitled *Flying High* only to discover that it was on an undisclosed system and certainly not compatible with the Australian PAL system. This means that in order to view the video it had to be professionally copied on to our system at an extra cost of \$35.

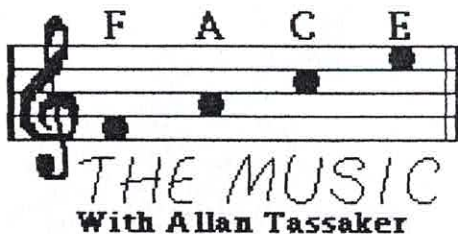
After complaining to the distributors (A.P.Promotions), I received a letter which did not include an apology or any explanation except to say, "As distributors of Phil Kelsall's recordings, we are not involved in the technical aspects of the video production."

As much as I enjoy Phil Kelsall's playing, I am afraid that this will be my first and last video purchase, as the total cost amounted to \$75.00, excluding sales tax.

Yours faithfully,

Ron Wilson

**If you are seeking
an antique,
theatre, console
or spinet organ
contact the
MANNING
ORGAN SOCIETY
(065) 531431
anytime**



"I fell over and sprained my ankle," Allan was explaining to a friend. "That's why my foot is covered in plaster. It is so itchy, I think there are fleas inside there!"

"Don't worry about it," replied Allan's friend. "At your next concert, you'll have a cast of thousands!"



Spread a Little Happiness
Robert Wolfe at the WurliTzer Pipe Organ of the Thursford Collection, UK: 41 songs in 16 tracks, including - *Blaze of Glory, Bless This House, Ma Belle Marguerita, Spread a Little Happiness, Selections from South Pacific, Volare, Muskrat Ramble, With One Look, Are You Lonesome Tonight?, The Wonder of You, Waltz of My Heart, Tap Your Tootsies, Falling Leaves, You Can't Stop Me From Dreaming, My Fate Is In Your Hands, Honeysuckle Rose, Ain't Misbehaving, Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friends, There Goes That Song Again, Sam's Song* and lots more.

Available at TOSA Concerts,
or by Mail Order from :
TOSA (NSW Division) Inc.,
304 Parramatta Rd,
ASHFIELD NSW 2131

SERVICEMAN WANTED

TOSA Member, Don Baker, of Picton is looking for an organ technician to service a KAWAI electronic organ, Model DX 1900, purchased in 1982. If any member knows of a suitable person would you please contact :

Mr Don Baker
"Matlock"
5 Haddon Place
Picton
NSW 2571

Blackpool Magic - Music For Dancing - Arnold Loxam at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom's WurliTzer.

This album honours 60 years of WurliTzer organ music at Blackpool Tower. In June 1929, Max Bruce introduced the magic sound to Britain's foremost seaside resort, and the following Easter saw the arrival of Reginald Dixon to commence his 40 years of providing entertaining dance music. 74 minutes, 18 medley tracks and 59 tunes, including : *Beside the Seaside, The Blackpool Walk, So Blue, Tammy, As Time Goes By, Whispering, If You Knew Susie, Bye-Bye Blackbird, Bewitched, Love Letters in the Sand, One of Those Songs, Cabaret, Mr Sandman, Delilah, Cruising Down the River, I Just Called To Say I Love You, Love Changes Everything, Strangers in the Night, It's a Sin to Tell a Lie, For Me and My Girl, White Cliffs of Dover, Brazil, Blackpool Lights, Now is the Hour, Wish Me Luck As You Wave Me Goodbye* and lots more.

Compact Disc : \$28.00
Postage : \$3.00

**Special invitation to Conventioneers
to visit the
Service City Collection
of**

Antique Mechanical Music

The greatest collection of its type in the
Southern Hemisphere

You will marvel at the sight and sounds of

- * The Dutch Street Organs
- * The European Dance Hall Organs
- * The Robot Orchestra
- * The original Luna Park Organ
- * The English Merry-go-round
- * The Mills Violano Virtuoso
- * Mini Concert by **Margaret Hall** at the
Rodgers Theatre Organ

Friday 5th April

Session 1 10am-12noon

Session 2 1pm-3pm

Monday 8th April

Session 3 4pm-6pm

Special Admission price

\$5.00

Book your preferred session

by phoning

(02) 584 2353

338 Botany Road Alexandria - Catch the 309 or
310 Bus from Regent St Redfern, opposite Station.
Alight at the first stop south of Bourke St and cross the road.
Parking is also available in the complex

CONVENTION ARTISTS

Chris McPHEE

Chris McPhee began learning electronic organ in **Adelaide** at the age of 9, studying through the **Australian Guild of Music and Speech**.

His natural ability combined with hard work and enthusiasm gained him the Associate Diploma of Electronic Organ with Honours, as well as places in many competitions, talent quests and National Awards from AGMS. In 1990 he achieved full marks for his Matriculation Music (Performance and Theory) and in 1992 was the winner of the Royal School of Church Music's Scholarship.

He is a church organist as well as a rostered house organist for film shows at **Adelaide's Capri Theatre**, and a part time organist for a commercial undertaking. Last year he released his first commercial tape, *Introducing Chris McPhee*, recorded on a **Lowrey Heritage** electronic organ and his efforts were widely acclaimed.

Chris is in the enviable position of having the **Wurlitzer** in the **Capri Theatre, Goodwood, S.A.**, as his home-base instrument. The availability of such a fine instrument and the opportunity to play it regularly for film shows has done much to aid Chris' development. Chris

also has the honour of being the Vice-Patron of the **Electronic Organ Club of South Australia**.

In 1992 he visited the **USA** on a concert and study trip, where he spent a month under the tutelage of the brilliant musician, organist and teacher, **Jonas Nordwell**.

Probably his greatest achievement so far is the winning of the senior section of the **1993 Young Theatre Organist Competition** conducted by the **American Theatre Organ Society**, as well as being declared the Overall Winner of the whole competition, which includes entrants from **England, Canada, America and Australia**. His \$3,000 prize included a trip to the **USA** in July, 1993, to play at the **ATOS Convention** in **Chicago**, where he took part in a concert at the **3/17 Barton organ** in **Chicago's Patio Theatre** and was presented with his award. He was invited back last year to play at their **1994 Convention**, which was held in **Fresno, California**.

Chris has recently played in **Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide, Ballarat and Sydney**. Avid TOSA Conventioneers will have heard Chris at the **1989 Perth Convention**, when as a 15 year old he shared the stage with

Ballarat's Sean Dunwoodie, and at the **1993 Adelaide Convention**, when this 19 year old's brilliant technique and sensitive interpretation were the exciting surprise of the whole Convention.

In September, 1993 Chris joined the ranks of duettists privileged to perform in tandem with the piano talents of **Tony Fenelon** at the **Capri, Adelaide**. They played to an ecstatic full house there and received a similar welcome at the **Orion** in December, 1993, when Tony introduced Chris to **Sydney** audiences for the first time.

These achievements and his stunning ability, combined with the warm, engaging personality which Chris unassumingly displays during his performances, provide the ingredients for a truly superb concert from this rising young star.

Chris has just released a new CD, called *Concert Hits*, recorded on our **Orion Wurlitzer**. Our **Record Bar** will be happy to sell you a CD copy for \$25, or \$15 for a cassette. Chris has the honour of giving a sneak preview of the **Marrickville Wurlitzer** before its official re-opening by **Tony Fenelon** on Sunday, 5th May.

Saturday, 6th April, 1996, at 2.30pm

Marrickville Town Hall

Marrickville Road, Marrickville

CONVENTION ARTISTS (Cont'd)

Cliff Bingham

Cliff Bingham began classical organ studies in 1962 at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Manly. In 1964, his last year at school, he was featured organ soloist at the **Festival of School Instrumental Music** in the **Sydney Town Hall**, the first of many occasions on which he would feature at the magnificent 5-manual **William Hill Organ**.

Cliff joined the **NSW Division of TOSA** in 1962 and, with a natural flair for rhythm and registration, was soon featured at Society meetings at the **State and Capitol Theatres'** organs. Since then, he has played numerous concerts for TOSA in all **Australian States**, on both pipe and electronic organs.

In more recent years, Cliff has acted as consultant on several church pipe

organ rebuilds in **Sydney**, the most notable being the fine 26-rank organ in the **East Lindfield Baptist Church**, where he was organist for 12 years. He was also involved in the restoration of the beautiful **Christie organ** in **Epping Baptist Church**, playing at its re-opening during the **1985 TOSA National Convention** and at an afternoon recital for the official re-dedication several months later.

In December 1981, Cliff was appointed organist for the annual "**Christmas at the Opera House**" thus succeeding the late **Wilbur Kentwell**. He was also the first organist to feature the **Opera House organ** on record when he recorded music for the soundtrack of the film, "**Breaker Morant**". He has also played many popular lunch-time recitals at the **Sydney Opera**

House.

Cliff is the manager of the church organ division of one of **Australia's** leading musical importers. He is married with four children and, apart from his music, he enjoys water skiing and motor racing, the latter strictly as a spectator.

In recent times Cliff has played, amongst others, **ACT TOSA's Compton** in **Albert Hall, Canberra**, **Perth's Karrinyup Centre WurliTzer**, **Auckland's Hollywood Theatre's WurliTzer**, and, most recently, was part of **Adelaide's National Convention** last year when he played the newly-installed **Walker organ** in the **Adelaide Town Hall**. Cliff is currently the **President of the NSW Division of TOSA**.

Bill Schumacher

From a young age, Bill had the ability to play tunes on the keyboard "by ear". When he was 7 years old Bill had piano accordion lessons for a 2 year period.

On leaving school Bill studied modern piano techniques for some 4 years. Noted **Sydney organist and teacher, Eric Smith** was Bill's tutor for popular and classical organ for 5 years.

Twice, Bill has won the popular organ section of the **City of Sydney Eisteddfod**. More recently Bill has completed a course by correspondence with the **Dick Grove Modern Harmony School** in **Los Angeles**.

The **Hammond Organ Club** was formed in **Sydney** during the 1960's and Bill was one of the foundation members, also serving several terms as **Musical Director**. During this time the first all-**Gershwin** programme ever played in **Australia** was presented in the **Concert Hall** at the **NSW State**

Conservatorium and Bill was one of the featured artists.

Bill is well known for both piano and organ playing in restaurants. He was organist at the **Hawkesbury Inn** for some 10 years and had a 4 year season at the **Burning Log Restaurant** in **Dural**. During this engagement at the **Burning Log** Bill worked as a soloist and also as part of the resident band. Many notable personalities appeared at the **Burning Log**, including **Toni Lammond, Gordon Boyd, and Neil Williams**, all working there to Bill's stylish accompaniment.

Shortly after the formation of the **NSW Division of TOSA**, Bill became a member of the Society and has appeared in concert many times for **TOSA** on the **WurliTzers** in **Sydney's State Theatre, Prince Edward Theatre, and Capitol Theatre**, and also at the relocated organs in the **Orion Centre** and in **Marrickville Town Hall**.

He has also given interstate concerts

at the **Dendy Theatre, Melbourne**, and the **Capri Theatre, Adelaide**.

During several visits to the **USA**, Bill has played a recital for the **Puget Sound Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society**, and has been guest artist at the **Pizza and Pipes Restaurant** in **Seattle**.

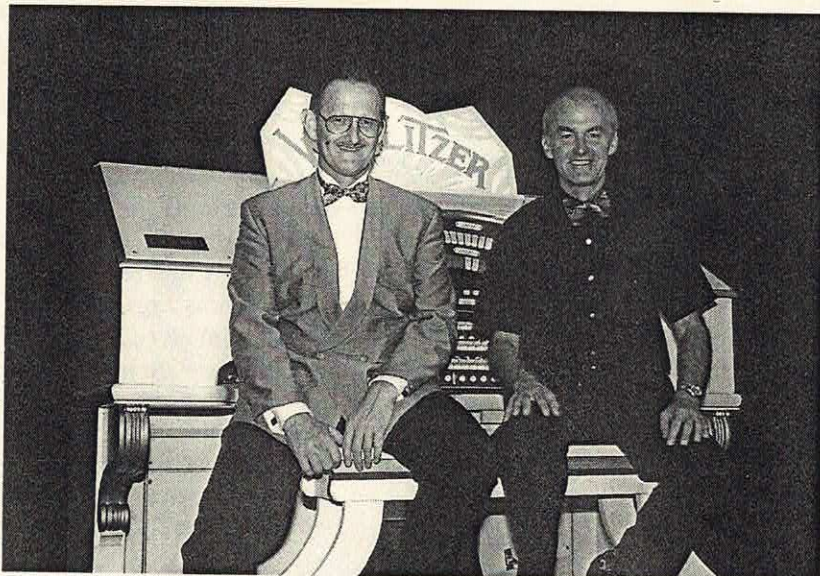
Bill considers himself fortunate to have visited and played some major **US theatre pipe organ installations**, including **Seattle and Portland Paramount, San Gabriel Civic Auditorium, the Kern residence, Detroit Fox** and both **Portland and Denver's Organ Grinder Restaurants**.

Every **TOSA** concert usually finds Bill working indefatigably for many hours on the technical side of things - controlling the setting up of the live sound system and the tape-recording of each concert. This time we will have the pleasure of appreciating his other talents - his musical entertainment skills at the console.

Saturday, 6th April, 1996, at 10.00am
Epping Baptist Church
Cnr. Ray & Carlingford Roads, Epping

Our
AUSTRALIAN
CONVENTION
ARTISTS
include :

Bill Schumacher and Cliff Bingham



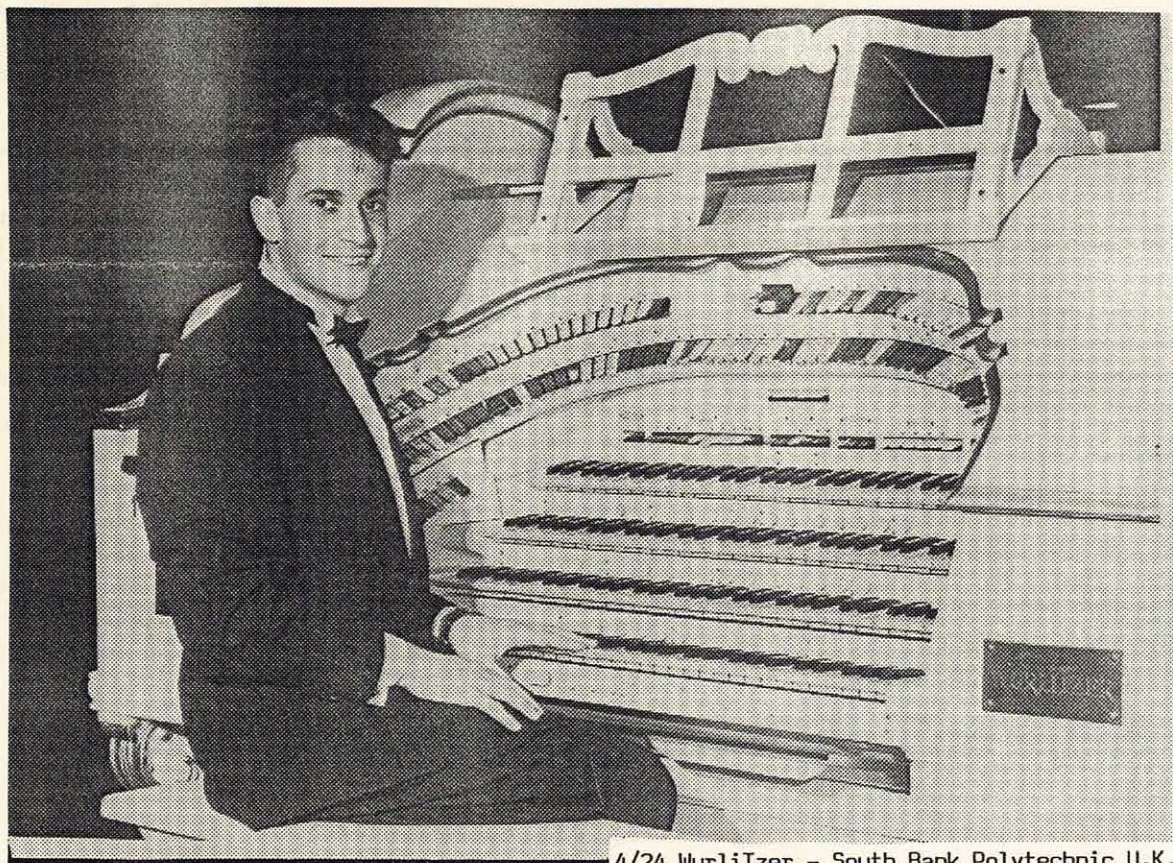
Chris McPhee



**Yellow Rolls Royce leader, Phillip Sametz
and Neil Jensen**



John Giacchi



4/24 Wurlitzer - South Bank Polytechnic U.K.

CONVENTION ARTISTS (Cont'd)

NEIL JENSEN

Neil Jensen is undoubtedly one of the most exciting Australian talents to emerge on the international theatre organ scene in recent years.

Resident organist at the **Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace**, he is an accomplished musician, adept at playing a wide range of theatre organ numbers. His repertoire extends from **American** pop tunes and standards to classical music - and in between he sprinkles tangos, rags and contemporary music.

Neil, who is of **Scandinavian** descent, always displays a bright, magnetic and energetic stage personality. He made his theatre organ debut in the **Brisbane Town Hall**, at the age of 18.

His ability and dedication to the instrument quickly brought him recognition and the chance to tour **Australia** and **New Zealand**, performing theatre organ programs.

In 1983, Neil was invited to tour **Canada**, the **United States** and **New Zealand**, visiting more than 30 cities. To coincide with this tour he released his record *Neil Jensen Australia-Wide*. A second international concert was

organised in 1985 and again on the strength of its success a second record, *Neil Jensen Concepts*, was released. He has now made a total of 6 records.

In November 1987, on his return from his fifth international tour which included **England** and **Wales** as well as the **USA**, Neil was invited by entrepreneur and television personality **Mike Walsh** to become resident Musical Director at his **Cremorne Orpheum**, which was in the process of being restored to its original Art Deco opulence. This massive multi-million dollar restoration included the installation of a 1924 "**Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ**", which was originally installed in the **Wilson Theatre in Fresno, California**. Since then Neil's appearances at the **Orpheum** have entertained hundreds of thousands of patrons annually. His high public profile has certainly exposed thousands of **Australians** to the magic of theatre organ music. As well as enjoying Neil's cameo performances which precede selected screenings on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings, **Orpheum** audiences have also been treated to a "sell-out" series of Silent

Film Classics, such as **Charlie Chaplin's** *The Gold Rush* and *The Kid*, and *Phantom of the Opera*. For these films Neil has skillfully arranged, composed and performed the live accompaniment score.

Neil promotes and produces a yearly Theatre Organ Series at the **Orpheum**, which attracts capacity houses. He has also appeared with the **Yellow Rolls Royce**, a distinctive 30's style band, as well as in his own show, *The Organ, The Dance-band and Me*.

In 1993, Neil was invited by the **Cinema Organ Society** of the **UK** to perform as a special guest artist in their **40th Anniversary Theatre Organ Festival**.

A gifted all round musician, **Neil Jensen** has an innovative approach to keyboard styling. His knowledge of modern hi-tech, computerised techniques combine with his traditional musical talent to produce his individual and distinctive sound.

Last year Neil celebrated his 21st year of professional theatre organ playing and played a very well received concert at the **Orion**. His latest CD was recorded on the **Orion Wurlitzer**.

The YELLOW ROLLS ROYCE ORCHESTRA

The **Yellow Rolls Royce Dance Orchestra** was formed in 1987 by **Phillip Sametz** and **John Godfrey**. The purpose of this unique band was, and still is, to explore the music of the so-called "Dance Band Era", also known as the "Swing Era".

The bulk of the repertoire therefore

comes from the 1930's and 1940's, in the original orchestrations featured by the great bands of those times.

Of the bands taking part in the 1990's swing revival here in **Sydney**, **The Yellow Rolls Royce** has its own special place by virtue of its extensive repertoire and also its great line-up of

talent. Complementing the reeds, brass and rhythm sections usually found in the "Swing" or "Big" bands, **The Yellow Rolls Royce** features a string section which gives this orchestra a unique sheen to its sound.

The orchestra leader and vocalist is **Phillip Sametz**.

Sunday, 7th April, 1996, at 10.00am
Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace
Military Road, Cremorne

CONVENTION ARTISTS (Cont'd)

DAVID DRURY

David Drury was born in 1961 in Coolamon, NSW. He gained his B. Mus. Degree in Organ Performance from the NSW State Conservatorium in 1984. At that time he played the *Poulenc Organ Concerto* with the Elizabethan Sydney Orchestra in the Sydney Opera House. He also worked with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, as well as appearing as soloist in the Sydney Youth Orchestra Prom in 1983.

David has been a prizewinner in a number of competitions - Brisbane Pipe Organ Prize (1983), Wollongong Organ Competition (1984), English Organ Festival, London (1985). In 1987 he became the first Australian to win the coveted "Tournemire Prize" for improvisation at the St Albans International Organ Competition (1988).

He was awarded the "Vasanta" Scholarship for overseas study and subsequently went to London to work with David Sanger, Professor of Music at the Royal Academy of Music. During his 3 years in Europe, David was much in demand as a counter-tenor and choral accompanist, and gave many recitals on well-known organs, including St Paul's and Westminster Cathedral in London and Notre Dame in Paris. Also during this time he earned the Associate Diploma in Organ and the Choir-Training Diploma from the Royal College of Organists.

In the United States, he has toured as a recitalist, tutor, accompanist and choral director. He has also given Masterclasses and performed on US radio and television.

Since his return to Australia in

1987, David Drury has appeared at the Melbourne International Festival of Organ and Harpsicord, the Sydney Opera House, the Sydney Town Hall and has broadcast for the ABC and other FM radio stations. He is organist at Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney. He continues to travel regularly to give concerts in the USA, the UK and on the Continent.

During 1990, David made the first compact disc to be recorded on the Sydney Town Hall organ. This CD was released by the ABC to mark the centenary of the 1890 William Hill and Son organ.

David Drury's repertoire reflects his special interest in 19th and 20th Century French and English organ music. Improvisation is often a feature of his concert programmes.

SYDNEY TOWN HALL

Opened in 1890 as the largest and finest concert organ in the world, the historic William Hill and Son instrument continues to thrill thousands of listeners each year. With its majestic tone, its splendid front case and its famous and rare 64' pedal stop, the Sydney Town Hall organ has become one of the best known musical instruments in the world.

The organ with its 5 manuals and nearly 150 stops was first played in public on 9th August, 1890 by British organist W.T. Best. Not only was it the largest organ in the world but it was also heralded as one of the technical and musical triumphs of the time. Yet during the 1950's and 1960's, criticism of the organ's tone and mechanism became increasingly sharp and public. There were 2 problems - the tone of the organ had become "old-fashioned",

with critics more likely to refer to it, not as "the grandest concert organ in the world", but as "one of the ugliest Victorian monstrosities ever created"; and secondly, it had deteriorated with the ravages of time, its mechanism was tired and worn, its wind system faulty and many of its pipes were partially clogged with dirt. The Sydney City Council decided in 1973 to restore the Grand Organ, as near as practicable, to its original state.

Between 1973 and 1982, the gigantic pipe organ in Sydney Town Hall was restored by the Sydney organ building firm, Roger H. Pogson Pty Ltd. As the restoration progressed and the condition of the organ improved, so faith in the instrument grew as its unique and beautiful musical qualities became ever more evident. The organ again came to be regarded, not as a

loathsome brother of the Baroque organ, but as a rather splendid and authentic member of the Romantic organ family.

The Grand Organ, set in the splendour of the refurbished Town Hall, is now an object of world-wide acclaim and is visited by many international organists. Even more importantly, the organ is now heard regularly, not only in civic and private functions, but through concerts, particularly those organised by the City Council and performed primarily by the City's own organist, Robert Ampt, from whose writings these notes have been adapted.

The organ contains 9,000 pipes ranging in length from 19.5 metres to 2.5 centimetres, and is famous for its unusual 64' Contra Trombone.

Monday, 8th April, 1996, at 2.00pm
Sydney Town Hall
George Street, Sydney

CONVENTION ARTISTS (Cont'd)

JOHN GIACCHI

At the relatively young age of 26, **John Giacchi** from **Cronulla** has already achieved considerable success in his theatre organ career. Having commenced electronic organ studies at 12 years of age, **John** was awarded, just a few years later, first place in the Classical category and second place in the Popular category of the **Sydney Eisteddfod**.

In that same year, **John** made his theatre organ debut on **TOSA's 2/11 WurliTzer** installed in the **Marrickville Town Hall**. His performance was highly acclaimed and since then **John** has made a number of other appearances for the **TOSA NSW Division** and interstate.

In 1988, **TOSA NSW** sponsored a competition to compose a piece of music appropriate to the Bicentenary and **John** achieved first place with his entry. As a result he was invited to play his composition, called *Opus '88*, on

the 5-manual **Hill and Son** pipe organ in **Sydney Town Hall**.

With an intense interest in the technical side of theatre organ, **John** was a member of the project team who rebuilt the **Capitol Theatre WurliTzer** and installed it in the **Orion Centre**, seeing the project from its initial stages through until the opening concert in 1988.

The 1990 international **Young Organists' Competition**, sponsored by the **American Theatre Organ Society**, saw **John** become the first **Australian** to be awarded first place in the Senior Division (19-21 years). In 1991, as part of his prize, he travelled to the annual **ATOS Convention** in **Indianapolis, USA**, to play a solo spot as part of **Barry Baker's** concert on the **3/26 WurliTzer** installed in the **Manual High School Auditorium** in front of 800 enthusiastic conventioners. While in the **USA**, he also played the **4/27**

WurliTzer in the **Oakland Paramount Theatre**, the famous **4/21 WurliTzer** in the **Castro Theatre** and many other installations

He was highly praised for his February 1991 performance in **Victoria** at the **3/15 WurliTzer** in the **Dendy Theatre, Brighton** and has played both interstate and overseas engagements, always to high acclaim.

At **Sydney's 1991 National Convention**, **John** played a memorable concert with **Margaret Hall** on the **Christie Theatre Organ** in the **Epping Baptist Church**. That convention also marked the release of **John's** first recording entitled *Night Moods*, which was recorded on **TOSA's 3/17 WurliTzer** in the **Orion Centre**.

In recent years he has been kept busy with his job as a Law Clerk and his studies for his Bachelor of Laws degree from the **University of Technology, Sydney**.

Sunday, 7th April, 1996, at 8.00am

Willoughby Civic Centre

Victoria Avenue, Chatswood

(Full package ticket holders only)

NEWS FROM THE ORPHEUM

Don't miss these great value Wednesday matinées with **Neil Jensen** playing the **Cremorne Orpheum WurliTzer** as part of each program !!!

MOVIE & LUNCH & COFFEE \$9.00

This tremendously popular series has become the best value ticket in Sydney in Australia's most beautiful art deco cinema. Don't forget that resident organist **Neil Jensen** plays the fabulous **Wurlitzer** at the beginning of each program and there will be lucky seat prizes and sing a longs as well. A wonderful outing for your organisation. Reservations are essential. Phone (02) 9908 4395, 380 Military Road, Cremorne, 2090.

HAYDEN ORPHEUM PICTURE PALACE

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WEDNESDAY JUNE 26 AT 11AM

Harrison Ford

Babe
WONDERFULLY CLEVER
AUSTRALIAN COMEDY



WEDNESDAY JULY 31 AT 11AM

Michael Douglas Annette Bening

The American President
WARM HEARTED
ROMANTIC DRAMA



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 28 AT 11AM

Vanessa Redgrave Edward Fox

A MONTH IN THE LAKE
A MIDDLE AGED ENGLISHWOMAN FALLS IN LOVE ON HOLIDAYS IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25 AT 11AM

Harrison Ford

Sabrina
DELIGHTFUL COMEDY ABOUT THE ROMANTIC ADVENTURES OF A CHAUFFEUR'S DAUGHTER



WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 30 AT 11AM

How to Make an American Quilt

AMERICAN QUILT
AUSTRALIAN DIRECTOR JOCELYN MOOREHOUSE ON HOW WOMEN LOVE MEN
CAST WINONA RYDER ANNE BANCROFT ELLEN BURSTYN



CURIOSITIES

Peter Andersen of Deepwater has kindly sent in a couple of curious items for the interest of our readers.

This piece of sheet music, below, features an organist seated at a 4-manual console, but the caption suggests that this is the **Prince Edward Theatre's** organ. Unless this instrument has done some shrinking in recent years, this can not be **TOSA's** 2-manual **Marrickville Wurlitzer** which we know for sure definitely did come from the **Prince Edward**. I'm sure someone amongst our membership will have an explanation to offer for the photo's caption, and will probably know some details about the organist, **Leslie H. Harvey**. Any comments, members?

A "SNAPPY" DANCE MELODY!

ANOTHER PECULIAR TUNE

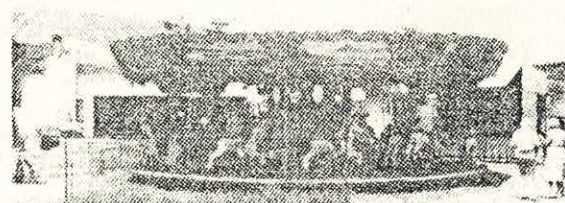
Stepping on the Ivories



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CARNIVAL FUN AT THE ENTRANCE

For your next family outing, why not visit the Carnival at The Entrance, an impressive, fun-filled day your children (and the big children) will enjoy and remember for years to come.

Opposite the picturesque Memorial Park on The Entrance beachfront, the merry-go-round has been a landmark on the Central Coast for almost 80 years, it was entirely hand carved and all the horses are still the originals.

The merry-go-round has given much pleasure to the many children who have visited, and it's the only leisure fun park with no admission charge still giving rides for only 50 cents.

The entertainment centre is open all school and public holidays, weekends and any day for organised parties or groups.

If you are trying to think of something different for your child's next birthday party, don't go past the carnival, it's a very special treat for any child. If you book for a party of 10 or more, the birthday child receives a birthday present from the management. Bookings are essential.

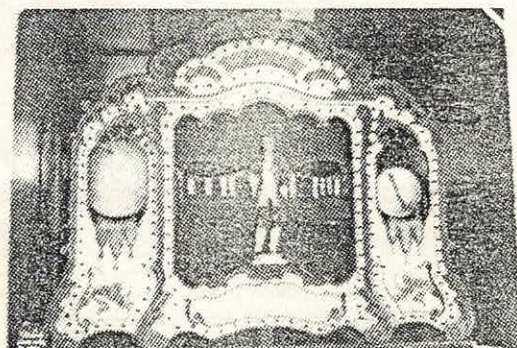
Among the other children's rides and attractions is the antique 250 pipe note organ which was designed and made especially for fairgrounds by one of the world's finest organ builders, Alfred Bruder in Waldkirch, Germany around 1850.

The organ has always been the property of the family Haas.

Mobile carnival equipment is also available for fetes, festivals etc., anywhere in New South Wales.

For further information please phone (049) 781144 or (043) 242733.

The carnival is situated on the corner of Coral Street, and The Entrance Road, The Entrance.



The advertisement, above, features an antique fair-ground organ. It comes from the newspaper-style menu of the **Karrabee Floating Restaurant**, which is the old Sydney ferry, the **Karrabee**, that has been entirely refurbished and serves now as a floating restaurant moored on the **Brisbane Waters** in **Gosford**. Perhaps some of you know the ancient organ and the restaurant?