

TOSA NEWS

October 2010
Volume 49 No.8

Price: \$2.00

50th Anniversary Year

SUNDAY 14 November 2:00PM
MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL
Martin Ellis



Direct from the USA
Plays the Mighty Wurlitzer

Directory

Patrons

John Gorrie and John Atwell

President

Geoff Brimley 6351 3122 *president@tosa.net.au*

Vice Presidents

John Shaw 9759 5825
Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm)

Secretary

Deirdre McMullan 4878 5179 (phone/fax) *secretary@tosa.net.au*
230, Spring Hill Rd, Mittagong, NSW, 2575

Treasurer

John Wall *treasurer@tosa.net.au* 9528 9158

Membership Secretary

Bob Alleway 9524 7203 *membership@tosa.net.au*
P.O Box 2583, Taren Point, NSW, 2229

Committee

Barry Tooker
John Weismantel
Robert Gliddon
John Andrews
Christopher Waterhouse
Craig Keller

Research and Archives

Ian Cameron 4841 1616

TOSA NEWS Editor

Ernie Vale 0415 626 064 *editor@tosa.net.au*
P.O. Box A2322, Sydney South, NSW, 1235

Marrickville Practice Convenor

Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm)

Orion Practice Convenor

Walter Pearce 9716 0151

Ticket Secretary (Concert Bookings)

Kath Harding 9629 2257

Artist Liaison Officers

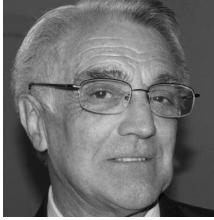
Geoff Brimley 6351 3122
John Shaw 9759 5825

Photography Barry Tooker 9744 1535

Publicity Officer John Shaw 9759 5825

Printing by Rob Gliddon

From the President

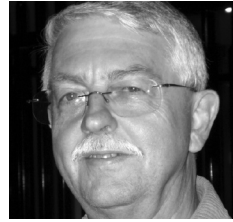


Hello all,

As will be very apparent elsewhere in this publication, we have our Annual General Meeting in a few short weeks. Again we have been invited to use the facilities of the Selwyn Theatre at the home of Ritchie Willis which gives the opportunity of a formal meeting in a social atmosphere. It also allows us to enjoy afternoon tea in pleasant surroundings followed by music from the Thomas organ. It is proposed that we keep formalities to the legal minimum but at the same time ensuring that the rights of members to express their opinions is in no way inhibited.

Over the past few years your Committee has investigated various venues as we have looked for a home for the Christie organ. Twelve months ago we were considering a quite promising site when at the last minute a change of management meant also a change of heart. At the same time one of our members gave us detailed information of a Civic Centre where some preliminary investigation on his part gave some encouragement. That also was not meant to be due to lack of adequate chamber space. A third possibility in a suburban church had been discussed briefly at Committee but for specific reasons the timing was considered inappropriate. This venue was then, quite independently, suggested by a TOSA member who had some external contact with the church. The last few weeks have seen a small delegation from

Editorial



TOSA Executive and Committee meet with representatives of that church followed by a considerable amount of email and telephone contact. The good news – on 28th September a telephone call advised that the Church's committee had unanimously agreed to the installation of the Christie.

Following receipt of written confirmation and the necessary legal paperwork TOSA will be in a position to identify the church and some interesting facts surrounding this installation. I am hopeful that this might be able to be done at the AGM. As they say "Watch this space!"

Happy organising,

Geoff Brimley

Editor in brief.

Please make an effort to come along on Sunday 14 November to hear Martin Ellis on his first visit to Australia.

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 (NSW) welcomes these new members and wish them a long and happy stay:

Lila Badior	Hurstville Grove
Ian Bartrim	Bradbury
Margaret Carrigg	Lindfield
Walter R Hill	Lakemba
Theo Langenberg	Greystanes
Helen R Mole	Fivedock
Iris Smith	Kemps Creek
Bruce McFadyen	Lidcombe

New Service for TOSA

(NSW) Divn Members

*Theatre Organ Sheet Music
Collection & Lending Library*

Would you consider donating unwanted theatre organ sheet music (of any condition) to help get a new collection started? All genres, styles and complexities are welcomed.

Please contact TOSA member

Graham Glendenning on

Tel: (02) 9680 3112.

Mob: 0401 094 884

Email: gcglen@gmail.com

Graham advises that another big donation of sheet music was recently made by a well-known member. Many thanks for your donation to this important cause. (Editor)

Members Change of Address

If you are moving house, or change your email address please advise the Membership Secretary of your new address and/or email address by phoning (02) 9524 7203 or email membership@tosa.net.au

The Mid Life Disaster

Middle age is.... when a man is warned to slow down by a doctor instead of a police officer

Sidney Brody

To watch out for..

**Countdown to TOSA
(NSW) AGM**

The date for the AGM is
**Sunday
7th November 2010**

at The Selwyn Theatre

13 Rosemont Ave, Mortdale
2:00pm

Sunday 14 November 2:00pm

Martin Ellis USA

Plays the Prince Edward Theatre
Wurlitzer

Marrickville Town Hall

Sunday 28th 2:00pm

Home Organ Party

at 50 Caravan Head Road, Oyster
Bay

3 manual Rogers Trio Organ

**Phone John Wall on (02) 9528
9158 to reserve a seat**

*See details and directions in this
issue*

**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 Events
2010 Dates**

**The Orion transferred to
Marrickville Town Hall at
2:00pm**

Mon 11 now Tuesday 12 October

Marrickville Town Hall

usual time for date below

Mon 4 Now Tuesday 5 October

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

Kathryn Weismantel, daughter of Sharon and hard working TOSA committee member, John Weismantel receives her Girls' Brigade Queen's Award.

for eventual employment in the field of teaching disabled children.

Picture (on the right) of Kathryn Weismantel (occasional helper at TOSA shows) receiving her Girls' Brigade Queen's Award from the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir at Government House, Sydney, on Saturday 18th Sept, 2010. Kathryn sang an uplifting "You Raise Me Up" for the Governor, accompanied by her mother, Sharon, on the Stuart & Sons concert grand piano in the ballroom at Government House.



Her Excellency admitted to shedding an emotional tear at hearing a favourite song performed with such clarity and conviction, and said she was encouraged by the actions of the six young women receiving awards that day in putting something back into their communities.

This award is the highest attainable in Girls' Brigade, roughly equivalent to the Scouts' Queen's Badge, and the culmination of two years sustained effort across a range of disciplines, including a researched written work, community service, assessment tasks, and leadership training within the Brigade. Kathryn, who, apart from singing, also plays trombone in the Millennium Marching Band is also about to sit her HSC at Riverside Girls' High School in Huntley's Point, Sydney, and told the Governor she is aiming

And Noah he often said to
his wife when he sat down to
dine,
'I don't care where the water
goes
if it doesn't get into the wine.'

G.K. Chesterton

Simon Ellis Concert Review

A quiet sleepy Balmoral village in the Southern Highlands on a September afternoon saw Simon's inaugural concert at the opening of his "Balmoral Bijou". The audience travelled from Mittagong, Bowral and the Belmore branch of Ladies of the Eastern Star (Masonic Affiliation) and we were very pleased to see Senior TOSA members Tony and Doreen Tuck attend.

We were attracted by two magnificent organs:

1) Musicom Classical Organ, 3 manual, 57 stop, formerly installed in St. Patrick's Catholic Cathedral in Melbourne.

2) Allen - George Wright 4, 4 Manual, 33 ranks expanded to 70 ranks.

Many hours of work saw a shed modified into a cosy small theatre.

The afternoon proceedings commenced with Deirdre McMullan playing Springtime and September choice of music followed by Simon playing both organs and included music:

Swanee from the Jazz Singer;
Monti: Czardas
Tchaikovsky: Andante Cantabile
Mascagni: Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana
Gade: Jalousie
All through the night
and many more

The afternoon concert was successful, very enjoyable and hopefully Simon will organise another event in the future.

Deirdre McMullan Secretary TOSA



Musicom Classical Organ



Allen - George Wright Organ

**Review of recording
by TOSA Co Patron
John Atwell
playing the
Mighty Little Wurlitzer
at Marrickville Town Hall**

from Theatre Organ

By Dennis Hedberg

I have always had a soft spot for Style H Wurlitzers. It was a three-manual Style H Special that my young ears first heard in 1946. Armed with this bit of personal nostalgia, I eagerly began listening to John Atwell's recording of a Style H now installed in the Marrickville Town Hall from the land down under.

John opens with *Here's to the Ladies!*, an eleven-minute medley dedicated to perhaps his old girlfriends who just happen to have some familiar names like "Maria," "Marie," "Liza," "Louise," "Peg o' My Heart," "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Jean," "Say Has Anybody Seen My Sweet Gypsy Rose," "Rose Marie," "Mame," and "Bess You Is My Women Now." We only hear a few bars of the first of these ladies, "Maria," and it set me back a bit because of a slight tuning error in the untremmed Tuba Horn introduction. I needn't have been concerned because, as the rest of this album makes clear, the organ is really well-tuned and regulated.

"This is the Happiest Day of my Life" is a snappy up tempo offering that in the almost-too-live acoustic of Marrickville Town Hall makes

it hard to believe I am listening to only eleven ranks. It sounds much larger and proves what the album's title says. This is indeed Australia's mighty little Wurlitzer.

Two selections from composers Franz Lehar and Fritz Kreisler, "Gypsy Love Waltzes" and "Stars In My Eyes," respectively, are both excellent examples of John Atwell's sensitive treatment of ballads, of which *Australia's Mighty Little Wurlitzer* has many.

Besides *Here's to the Ladies*, this album features three other medleys, one of which, *White Horse Inn*, I was totally unfamiliar with. Its title suggested something Canadian to me, but I was wrong. Reading the album notes, I learned it is actually based on an 1890s play set in Salzburg, Austria. It runs the full gamut from love songs to up-tempo rah, rah, rah. Mr. Atwell fabricates the other two medleys from *The Band Wagon* and three tunes from Scottish fiddler James Scott Skinner, all in the same key, but differing in rhythm. It is sure to bring a smile to your face.

Two selections in total contrast to one another are "Buffoon" and "Prelude from *Te Deum H.146*." The former is a bouncy little tune from Zez Confrey, but not a knuckle buster like his "Dizzy Fingers," and the latter is completely outside of anything normally played on a theatre organ--- especially a smaller instrument. Majestic music of this sort could easily fall flat on its face played on a theatre organ, but the Marrickville Town Hall's live and

bright acoustic, coupled with the organ's solid winding, makes John Atwell's performance a success.

"Auf Weidersehen, My Dear," "So In Love," and "Tell Me Tonight" round out the 71:24 playing time of *Australia's Mighty Little Wurlitzer*. This CD is easy to listen to and quite satisfying. It is well played with only a dash of percussion, and well recorded with informative liner notes. I give it a hearty four stars.

The CD was recorded in 2009 and is available from the music shop at our TOSA shows for \$25.

**The wait is over
Grafton's historic Saraton
Theatre re-opens**

*from the Clarence Valley Review
1 September 2010*

The Saraton is scheduled to resume showing movies from Thursday this week after a painstaking two-and-a-half year restoration and film

buffs can expect an entirely different experience to what was previously on offer.

The revitalised 84-year-old facility not only makes a return to the grand decor and style of the 1930s - the latest in audiovisual equipment has been incorporated to create the ultimate in cinema experience.

State-of-the-art 'Christie Digital' 2K/4K projectors with 3D capability have been installed in the main 1000-seat heritage theatre and the two new 150 seat cinemas, along with a custom-designed 'Hypacoustic' sound system including more than 160 speakers. The entire complex is controlled by 'Vantage' automation systems.

The man behind the high-tech sound system, Hypacoustic director Mathew Simmons, said he believed the Saraton was now "the most technically advanced cinema in Australia."

*continued on the page opposite the
Members Diary*

Show & Membership Prices

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	Australian Artists	Overseas Artists
Non-members	\$25.00	\$27.50
Non-member Pensioner/Senior	\$22.00	\$25.00
TOSA Members	\$20.00	\$20.00
Students 15-21yrs	\$10.00	\$10.00
Group Booking for 10 or more Adults	\$20 per person	

Child under 15yrs accompanying an adult: FREE!

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

Membership enquiries Bob Alleway 9524 7203 membership@tosa.net.au

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

Sunday 28th 2:00pm

Home Organ Party

at 50 Caravan Head Road, Oyster Bay

3 manual Rogers Trio Organ

Phone John Wall on (02) 9528 9158 to reserve a seat

It is Sunday November 28

Going round via Oyster Bay shops is longer but safer as you turn left from the street into the private driveway. The other way forces you to turn right over double white lines at a blind corner.

Turn into Bates Drive and follow the road around, through the lights at Kareela and down the hill, driving up the other side (Carvers Road).

Turn right at the roundabout into Oyster Bay Rd and follow round left at the Oyster Bay Shopping area, into Como Road.

Follow that road and at the Give-way sign, turn left into Georges River Road and follow round until you get to Cook Road.

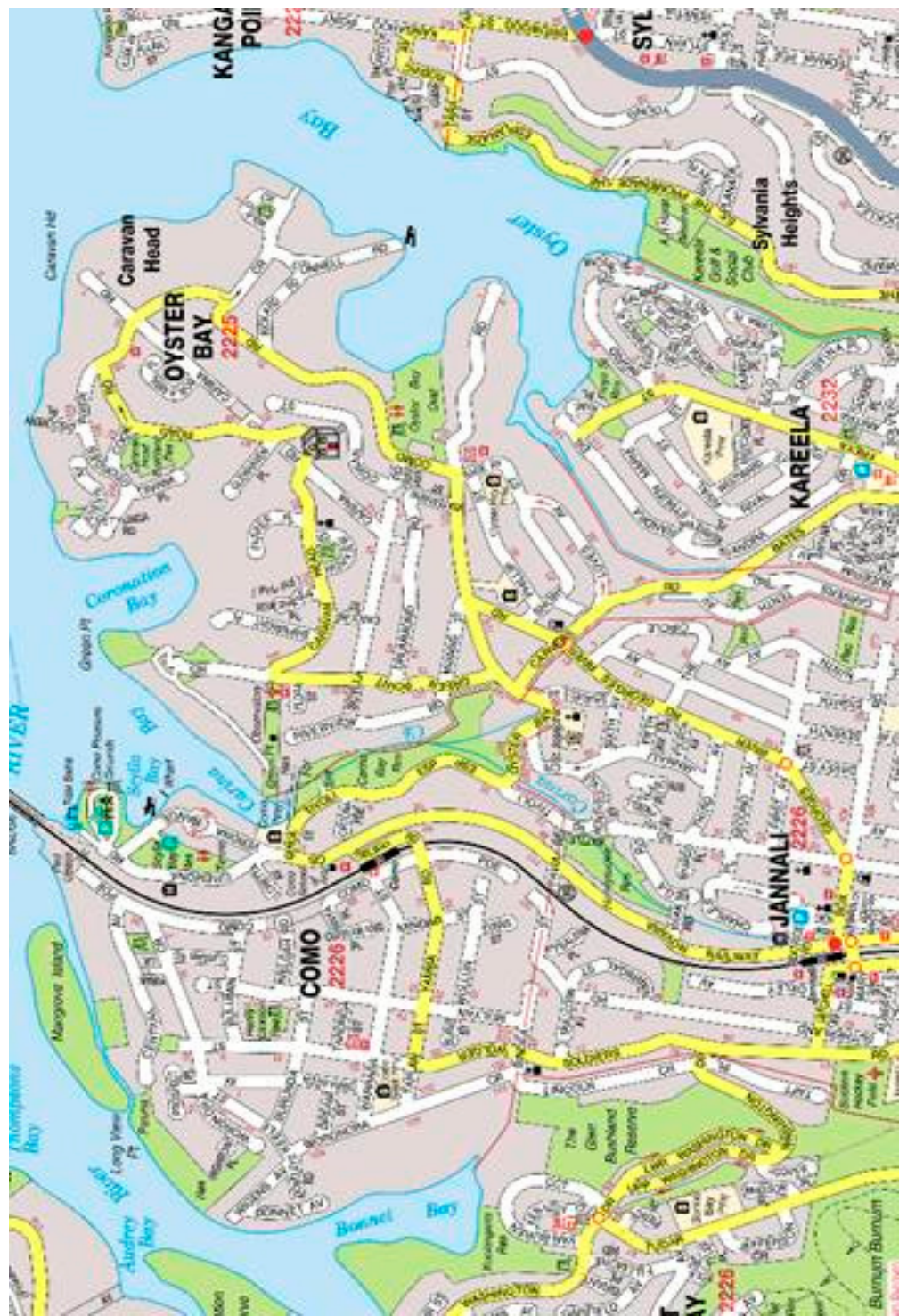
Turn left into Cook Road, which then becomes Caravan Head Road at the top of the hill.

Follow round and along, then down a steep hill and up the other side, on a sharp curving bend.

No 50 is on a private road to the left, the second of 2 entrance ways. It has white fencing. No 50 is the first house.

(If you miss Cook Road, don't worry, follow the road and turn left then right at the 2 stop signs. There is off-road parking for about 10 cars. If that is full, then you will have to park in Carina Road a bit further on.

See the House at number 50 Caravan Head Rd, Oyster Bay on the map opposite.



TOSA NSW Division Presents

**Music arranger and master of the Keyboard
from the USA**

MARTIN ELLIS



**Playing the 2 Manual 11 Rank Mighty Wurlitzer
formerly in the Prince Edward Theatre, Sydney**

****MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL****

Marrickville Road, Marrickville

Sunday 14 November 2010 at 2:00pm

(Disabled access available at the entrance next to the Fire
Station)

Free off road parking at Banana Joe's as well as the corner of
Marrickville Road
with access from Livingstone Road near the traffic lights

Bookings: (02) 9629 2257

Visa & Mastercard accepted
for more information see www.tosa.net.au

Sunday 14th November 2010 at 2:00pm

MARTIN ELLIS is a concert artist that bridges the boundaries between traditional classical and theatre organ. Equally proficient in both playing styles Mr. Ellis performs on organs of distinction in the United States and abroad, offering a contemporary perspective to music enthusiasts of all genres. In his home town of Indianapolis, Indiana, **Martin** appears frequently with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and was the featured organist to play the premier concerts of Saint-Saens' "Organ" Symphony No. 3 on the newly installed pipe organ in ISO's Hilbert Circle Theatre. Since that time, he has been a featured performer in the Indianapolis Symphony's renowned "Yuletide Celebration" in 2009, and continues to perform on numerous classical and pops concerts featuring organ and symphony fostering new and innovative ideas in the use of organ with orchestra.

Mr. Ellis has been a featured artist at convention's of The American Guild of Organists, The Organ Historical Society, and The American Theatre Organ Society.

In addition to concert activities, **Mr. Ellis** serves as Organist and Associate Director of Music for North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis where he presides over the church's three pipe organs, including the IV manual, 76 rank Kimball/Reynolds organ in the sanctuary.

For well over a decade now **Martin** has worked as an arranger and at the keyboard with the renowned Indianapolis Childrens Choir. Martin records and performs as a member of "Trio Con Brio." Along with artists Donna Parker and Jonas Nordwall, the "Trio" gained it's fame by adapting classical, orchestral, and popular music for performance with three organs simultaneously. Along with an active recording schedule Trio performs on many of the countries high profile organ installations.

Tickets to the show :

Members \$20;

Non Member Pensioner/Senior Card \$25

Non-Members \$27.50;

Student (15 – 21 Years) \$10

Children accompanied by a paying adult free

Group bookings for 10 or more adults \$20 per person

Note: If your friends or relations and/or their children have never been to one of these Shows then the first time they come to a show it is free. See www.tosa.net.au **for the free booking form & booking form.** Please encourage your friends, relations and/or children to come to this show featuring Wurlitzer magic.

ATOS Convention 2010

Where it All Began

By Don Feely

Excerpts from September - October edition of Theatre Organ

It has been 29 years since Seattle last hosted an ATOS convention, and the Pacific Northwest would provide a perfect backdrop to a week of great music and new friendships.

The Marriot Renaissance Hotel

was buzzing with ATOS members on Sunday' even before the events began. Seattle bills itself as the "cradle of the theatre organ" and anticipation filled the air as convention-goers prepared to explore the delights of the Emerald City----theatre organ and otherwise.

Overture Day ----

Monday, June 28

First Church of the Nazarene, Spokane, Washington

The early hour of 6:30am found 250 of us in front of the hotel, eager to load the buses for our trip across the Cascade Mountains to Spokane. Our bus captain, Barbara, shared wonderful details of the area and provided the correct pronunciation of the many Indian names we came across. Mispronouncing Snoqualmie, Issaquah, and Puyallup immediately tags

you as someone who is "not from around here," generally from another state. The landscape changed dramatically as we traveled, as did the weather, from cold and damp to warm and sunny. Snow-capped mountains, dense fir forests, and arid deserts had many bus riders snapping pictures through the windows.

The bus finally pulled up to the First Church of the Nazarene, a beautiful stone building with a large sloping roof, and we were ushered into the gymnasium. What followed was quite a surprise: a buffet lunch, prepared by church volunteers under the direction of chef Betty Winans, that can only be described as a culinary masterpiece! Several conventioners commented that the meal could have been served at a five-star restaurant.



Following this delicious lunch, we were led into the church sanctuary.

The instrument this afternoon was the "first successful" Wurlitzer (Opus 42, 1914), originally installed in the Seattle Liberty Theatre and featured in two recent issues of THEATRE ORGAN (March/April, and May/June 2010).



Hoopfest, which inspired him to program "Sweet Georgia Brown." A great Tibia/Glockenspiel combination began the piece, which then segued into a Tuba/Post Horn duet accented by a crisp cymbal in the pedal. The flawless jazz rhythms of this piece had many toes keeping time in the pews.

"My funny Valentine" began with solos on the untremmed Clarinet and Diapason. Lush Tibia/Vox combinations took up the melody against a beautiful String accompaniment. The strings in this organ speak prominently but work well together to give the organ a fine ensemble sound. It gave us a glimpse of what listeners in 1914 might have found so compelling. The Dennison Trumpet did an excellent impression of a Wurlitzer Bass Trumpet. The selection ended with "Moonlight in Vermont," highlighted by more shimmering strings. Dave dedicated this set to Ken and Carol Fuller. Ken serves the church as organist, and is the president of SFNTOS.

The console sat prominently at the front of the church with a Baldwin concert grand behind, just ahead of a glass partition. The presence of a very complete drum set behind that partition was a hint that Bach may not be the normal Sunday morning fare. ATOS President Ken Double welcomed the crowd and acknowledged the volunteers at the church before introducing Dave Wickerham as the artist of the day.

A spirited medley of "Cheek to Cheek" and "Get Happy" opened with a pedal tone that featured the original 32ft Diaphones, leaving no doubt that this was an impressive instrument. Dave then announced that the city had just hosted an annual basketball tournament called

Mentioning that the organ had a rare set of saucer bells, Dave noted that they had only been made playable the day before. He used them very effectively, along with a multitude of other tuned percussions in a two-song set, "Playmate" and "The windmills of Your Mind." With brief untremmed passages wove through the set, the organ convincingly portrayed a large classic organ, proving it can handle a variety of styles during a regular worship service. Dave had per-

fromed at the church service the day before, and had presented two pieces he had played, "His Eye is on the Sparrow" and "How Great Thou Art." These were very reminiscent of the Lorin Whitney studio recordings. Coincidentally, we would hear that organ later in the week. Next up was a Sidney Torch-inspired arrangement of "Midnight in Mayfair." Untremmed Tibia combinations with Post Horn accents had everyone's toes tapping, and the cheers from the audience at the conclusion made it clear---this was a favorite.

Clint Meadway is the organ curator at the church, and Dave dedicated "Moon River" to Clint and his wife Dee, in celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. Beginning with Mendelssohn's "Bridal Chorus" in a full classical treatment, the smooth transition into Henry Mancini's beautiful theme from *Breakfast at Tiffany's* featured some wonderful Tibia/Krumet combinations, proving that a single color reed like the Krumet can give the illusion that one is listening to a much larger organ. Some tasteful jazz harmonies gave this standard a hint of sophistication often missing in performances. A segue into "Always" made for a tender ending.

The Cole Porter medley that followed featured "Anything Goes," with a thrilling console-up treatment. "Night and Day," with a middle section reminiscent of "Caravan"; and a descending chromatic interlude into "It's Delovely." These tunes were written 20 years after the initial 1914 installation, but for

the moment we were transported back to the theatre at First Avenue and Pike Street, listening to the Mighty Wurlitzer and basking in that glorious sound. The ending featured a reprise of "Anything Goes" with more chromatic chords against the melody and spontaneous cheers from the audience.

Composed in 1914, "The Bells of St. Mary's" began with an ethereal pastorale opening and untremmed clarinet before bells (of sorts) made an appearance. The original Tuba Horn displayed a definite Hope-Jones influence with a beautiful smooth, full tone that filled the church. A traditional classical organ combination featuring a cascading pedal line, anchored again by the 32ft Diaphones, made for a thrilling ending, after which Dave appropriately remarked, "You don't get that from an iPod!"

Tuesday, June 29---

Opening Day

"Organ Crawl - Seattle Style

Kenyon Hall, West Seattle

Tuesday morning provided an opportunity for conventioners to visit some of the more intimate installations in the area. Dutifully picking up our box lunches outside the hotel, our first stop was Kenyon Hall in West Seattle. Driving through a pleasant residential area, we pulled up to a rather unassuming building. Of course the sign on the building boldly stated "Home of the Mighty

Wurlitzer," so we knew we were in for a treat.



Stage Right

Built in 1916, the building originally served as the Olympic Heights Social Club. Upon entering we were all treated to root beer floats (should we be drinking this early?) and found our seats among the various instruments, including a 2/17 Wurlitzer, a grand piano, a Hammond organ, and other assorted gems. The inviting atmosphere had all the flavor of an old vaudeville house.



Stage Left



Louis Magor, manager of the hall, greeted us and introduced Andy Crow. Andy is a Northwest legend, equally at home on organ or piano. He opened on the Wurlitzer with a bright arrangement of "There's No Business Like Show Business." The organ is installed in two chambers, one on stage and one at the rear of the small hall. Never did it overpower the audience---no doubt due to the skillful oversight of Bob White and Greg Smith, who maintain the instrument.

We heard several numbers from Connie Corrick and her husband, Hugh Hastings, both regular entertainers at Kenyon Hall. Louis accompanied Hugh and Connie on piano as they sang "My Foolish Heart," and continued with "September Song." Andy moved to the Hammond organ for "Me and My Shadow," then returned to the Wurlitzer for a wonderfully laid-back, bluesy arrangement of "Blue Moon."

Next we were treated to the piano stylings of New Yorker, Peter Mintun. Knowing he was playing to a theatre organ crowd, he included an arrangement of "Dancing Tambourine," which he first heard "as a kid" on a Dick Liebert album. The facility and phrasing sensitivity that he demonstrated on the 1935 Dana Suesse composition "Blue Moonlight" was a highlight of the morning.

Pastor Patrinelle Wright performed two selections, Gershwin's "Summertime" and the final number of the program, "Somewhere Over The Rainbow." The latter featured

Peter Mintun again on piano, and it was incredibly tasteful, jazzy, and spiritual all at the same time. The audience showed its appreciation with an extended ovation, and as all performers came forward for bows, we couldn't help but think: if this sampling was indicative of what West Seattle residents enjoy every weekend, well, they are a very lucky bunch!

Haller Lake Community Club, Seattle

A short drive brought us to Haller Lake and the 3/8 organ owned by the Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society. With a three-manual Marr and Colton console, seven ranks of Wurlitzer pipework and a Kimball Kinura, the organ has a pleasant sound in the small room. Clark Wilson presided over the console, and pointed out to us that in the early days of the ATOE organisation, this organ was similar to what most members owned or listened to.

Our programmed entertainment was Buster Keaton's silent comedy *Sherlock, Jr.* In this cosy setting, it was a treat to sit near the artist and the screen. Watching a comedy that is cued closely---with every pratfall or effect accounted for---is a real treat when done well, and Clark is a master. The audience was overcome by laughter several times, and it was impossible not to smile as we headed out.



Haller Lake Community Club

Chrysoglott (unenclosed behind the console) framed the next piece, an exquisitely-phrased "People."



Bill Schumacher at the Evans'

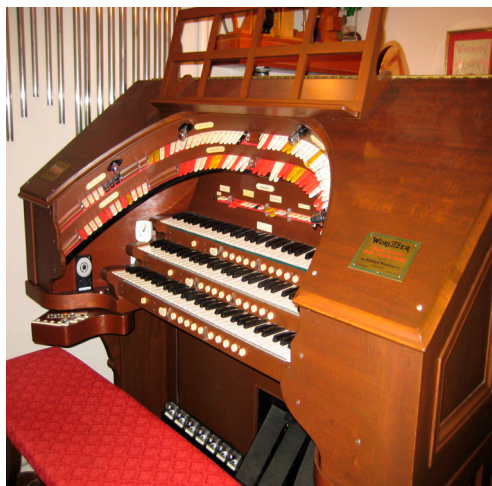
The Evans Residence, Kenmore, Washington

Our journey from Haller Lake took us through the neighbourhood of Lake City to the north end of Lake Washington, past the Kenmore Air Harbor where floatplanes headed to points north depart off the lake, to the residence of Russ and Jo Ann Evans. Russ and Jo Ann are often the gentle guiding force behind Puget Sound ATOS activities and, with all the convention preparation work, it was undoubtedly no easy task to also prepare their home for a concert. As our group of about 60 found seats in the lower level music room, Jo Ann welcomed us and briefly explained the history of the organ and the beautiful console. Our artist on the 3/17 Wurlitzer was Bill Schumacher from Australia, a friend of the Evans' since the 1972 ATOS convention. He opened with the bouncy Johnny Mercer song "Something's Gotta Give." Beautiful opening and ending chords on the

You just knew that, at some point in the week---with 50 folks from Australia attending, at least once someone would play "Waltzing Matilda," often referred to as "the unofficial national anthem of Australia." Bill broke the ice and didn't disappoint, as he presented it in a fresh and beautiful ballad style. A Cole Porter medley followed, leading with "My Heart Belongs to Daddy" in a jazzy rendition that opened with untremmed reeds and a great English Horn/Xylophone combination.

The chamber fills the entire right side of the listening area, with a percussion chamber behind the audience and the chimes and custom traps next to the console. It was another excellent example of an organ that doesn't overpower the listening area. Bill closed with two selections from *A Chorus Line*: the up-tempo "One" which featured

the Yamaha grand piano next to the console, and the beautiful ballad "What I Did For Love." The audience was not going to let him off the bench without an encore, and he obliged with the very American "Chattanooga Choo-Choo." It was a great concert in a beautiful home. We were also fortunate to hear Bill at the Hammond B3 Draw Bar in the hotel many more evenings during the convention.



*All photos by Ernie Vale
Review to be continued in next
TOSA News*

The Evans' 3/17 Wurlitzer



Some of the Aussies at the Paramount Theatre

TOSA NSW

* 2010 - OUR 50TH YEAR *

All shows at Marrickville Town Hall this year

Sunday 14 November Martin Ellis (USA)

Sunday 5 December John Atwell and Tony Fenelon

Contact Kath Harding on (02) 9629 2257 for details
of shows and bookings or go to 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.
October 17th John Atwell

TOSA Gold Coast

Club Musical Afternoon on the 3rd Sunday of each
month (except December)

Contact: Des Gutterson (07) 5524 6607

TOSA Queensland

Secretary: Mike Gillies (07) 3279 3930

Stirling Productions

Karrinyup Community Centre, Perth, Western Australia

* 2010 - Our 28th Concert Year *

October 3rd Simon Gledhill (UK)

November 7th Martin Ellis (USA)

November 14th Cabaret Xmas Party

All concerts are on Sundays at 2pm. Prior bookings are
essential with John Fuhrmann on (08) 9447 9837

TOSA Victoria - mto

50 years 1960-2010

Sunday 24 October 1:30pm Dendy Theatre Brighton

Direct from the USA - Martin Ellis

Emailing of TOSA News to Members

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 Membership Secretary on membership@tosa.net.au with your name and membership number with a copy to the Editor on editor@tosa.net.au that you wish to receive TOSA News by email.

The wait is over Grafton's historic Saraton Theatre re-opens

continued

Saraton co-owner, Angelo Notaras agreed that he thought people would be impressed with their experience of the new cinemas.

"Anyone who sees it will be blown away because the image on the screen is 25-30 percent better than anything else because of the new type of screens we've developed and put on," Mr Notaras said.

"And the sound system comes from a brilliant young sound guy from New Zealand, and in the old cinema it will just blow your brain away because we've got the sub-woofers bolted to the floor so you can actually feel the sound besides hearing the sound."

Mr Notaras said older people would especially benefit from technology used in the major revamp.

"We believe we will be catering for the older people because we've got a loop hearing system - one of the very few cinemas in Australia with this system where by clicking over their hearing aid device to radio they can pick up the sound which is transmitted through a loop beneath the floors," he said.

Mr Notaras added that "we're going to try and have good pricing,

competitive pricing, so the pensioners and the older folk can visit the cinema every week as part of enjoyment of their life."

The stage in the main theatre has been extended three metres, and a further external extension is anticipated later in the year. Mr Notaras said the Saraton would then be a venue for large live theatre and musical performances, including rock bands for the younger audience.

Mayor Richie Williamson welcomed the reopening of the theatre, saying its major revitalisation would create significant benefits for the Clarence Valley. "I think we will see some top quality shows and acts that have previously gone to other regional centres, now coming to the Clarence because of the facility that is now available for the public to use in the Saraton Theatre," he said.

There will be economic benefits to the Clarence community. There will be the opportunity for business to flourish around the CBD of Grafton as more people use the Saraton Theatre, and more shows will be attracted to the Saraton, which has a flow-on effect.

The revamp began after the Saraton was bought by Angelo, Spiro, John and Mitchell Notaras, from the extended Notaras family.

Members Diary

October

Tuesday 5th 7:30pm

Committee Meeting Burwood RSL

November

Monday 1st 7:30pm

Committee Meeting Burwood RSL

Sunday 7th November 2010

TOSA (NSW) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

at The Selwyn Theatre

13 Rosemont Ave, Mortdale 2:00pm

Please bring a plate for afternoon tea

Sunday 14th 2:00pm

**** Martin Ellis Show ****

Marrickville Town Hall

Sunday 28th 2:00pm

Home Organ Party

at 50 Caravan Head Road, Oyster Bay

3 manual Rogers Trio Organ

Phone John Wall on (02) 9528 9158 to reserve a seat

Radio.

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

Radio 2MBS-FM 102.5 "The Theatre Organ" 3rd Saturday of each month, 6.30 – 7.00 pm

Web Sites of Interest:

www.tosa.net.au

www.theatreorgansaust.info (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

www.sydneyorgan.com (our sister society, the Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)

TOSA NEWS

October 2010
Volume 49 No.8

**PRINT
POST**
PP255003/01823

**POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA**

Official Publication of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.

230, Spring Hill Rd, Mittagong, NSW 2575

If undeliverable please return to :

PO Box 2583

<http://www.tosa.net.au>

