

Orion Centre Campsie

SEPTEMBER 1989

TOSA

A N E W

Trumpet Voluntary

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR FOUR ARTISTS IN CONCERT

Cliff Bingham Ian Davies

Neil Palmer Bill Schumacher

Playing The Mighty WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ

2:00pm SUNDAY
24th SEPTEMBER,1989
at
ORION CENTRE
BEAMISH STREET, CAMPSIE

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Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.

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Eunice Palmer (798 6742)

PHOTOGRAPHY -

Barry Tooker

CONCERT RECORDINGS -

Bill Schumacher

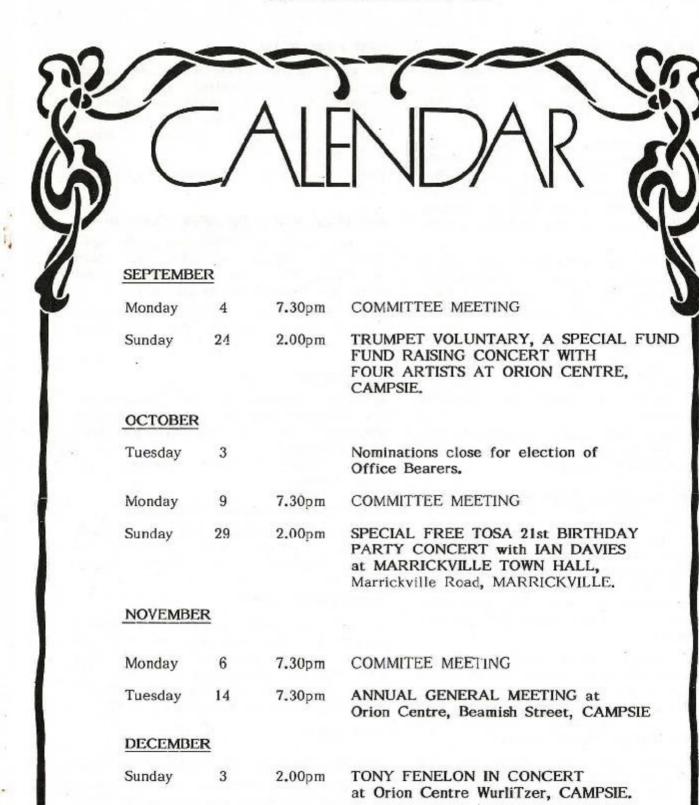
PROMOTIONS OFFICER -

Kevin Rowlands

Please address all correspondence to -

The Secretary
TOSA (NSW Division) Inc.
P.O.Box C462 Clarence Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000.

Articles in this journal need not represent the views of the committee or editor.



DON'T FORGET "THEATRE ORGAN HIGHLIGHTS" on 2CBA-FM, EVERY MONDAY NIGHT at 9.00pm.

NEED FOR NEW TREASURER

Owing to his work commitments and other pressures, Chris Eddy has had to submit his resignation as T.O.S.A's Treasurer.

Currently essential segments of the Treasurer's responsibilities are being handled by our capable but considerably overloaded Secretary, Colin Tringham and your Committee are keen to appoint a new Treasurer at the earliest opportunity.

If there are any Members experienced in Accounting and/or bookkeeping, we would like to hear from you right now to take over these important responsibilities.

Those who feel they can help should contact our President, Jack Lawson on 569 3775, Secretary - Colin Tringham on 957 5539, or indeed any member of Committee.

There must be some Members who can help the Society, how about volunteering to help YOUR society?

REQUEST FOR NEW ARTICLES FOR TOSA NEWS

In order to stimulate Members' thoughts and keep ideas flowing it would be great to include some new articles in TOSA News which are likely to be of appeal to everyone interested in organs - and especially theatre pipe organs.

It was thought there could well be information out there among our Members which could be the basis of a tutorial article (or indeed series of articles) which would especially contain say "Hints on playing Theatre Organs".

For instance you may recall in the May issue of TOSA News, in the Review of the 17th National Easter Convention, held in Perth, W.A., there was set out on pages 10 & 11 some hints and ideas for obtaining the most pleasing results from the organ by their Guest Artist, Douglas Reeve. These were included in the session "Organ Skills with the Master".

If any Member would like to provide such an informative article (or articles), then please let your Secretary or Editor know.

NEW LIBRARIAN

We are grateful to Eric Whalan for volunteering to look after our library. Currently Eric is away enjoying a holiday but will soon be back and looking after your library bookings at Concerts.

Thank you Eric for assisting in this way.

ANOTHER WORD OF APPRECIATION

In July issue of TOSA News we appealed on behalf of Mrs. V. Page of Taree West for a copy of sheet music for "Spanish Gypsy Dance".

Mrs. Page has received 2 replies and is most grateful for our being able to help her.

RECOVERIES

We are pleased to see several of our Members back at concerts following absences due to health problems, these include: Frank Ellis, Peter Harding &

Pearl Lawson.

CORRECTION (August TOSA News)

Photographs included of the David Parsons Concert were provided by -Kevin Rowlands - not Barry Tooker as shown.

INTERSTATE NEWS

It has not been possible to include items in this category in this or recent issues, due to lack of time and various competing pressures on your Editor. It is hoped to include this information at some future stage.

FOR SALE

MODEL 600 "LESLIE" SPEAKER SYSTEM -

A sophisticated 4 Channel 150 watts system designed to enhance the qualities of Multi channel Organs.

Features include independent tremolo controls, famous "Leslie" space generator, 2 rotary channel amps., bass channel amp., 2 stationary amps.

All encased in a matt finish walnut floor cabinet of generous proportions. A nice piece of furniture for home or Church.

More information and price phone 047.841558.

INVITATION

T.O.S.A. Gold Coast Division Inc. extends a warm invitation to T.O.S.A. MEMBERS visiting the Gold Coast on the 3rd. Sunday of the month. Please call in at the Maher Hall, Matllda Street, Burleigh Heads at 7.30pm. By identifying yourself as a T.O.S.A. member you will be admitted for \$1-50. Non-member visitors are charged \$2-50.

If you have trouble finding their venue, please call Peter Kingsbury 35 2921 and he will put you on the right road.

If you would like to play their Conn 650 at their musical evenings, please contact either of their programme arrangers - Beryl Eigeland (36 4897) or Vonnie Greaves (34 2672).

SYDNEY TOWN HALL CONCERTS
Thursday 5th October 6.30pm to 8.00pm.
(Doors open 6.00pm)
CENTENARY GRAND ORGAN FESTIVAL
The Splendour of Organ and Brass
Robert Ampt's special guests will be
the Elizabethan Brass Ensemble. There
will be a special programme for organ
and ensemble.

Thursday 19th October (same times).

Bach to Betcke

Robert Ampt and Neidhardt Betcke from West Germany combine to present a recital of organ favourites.

Thursday 23rd November 7.30pm (Doors open 6-45pm)
Centenary Gala Organ Concert

Grand Organ will featured be together with the Western Sinfonia guest Orchestra 28 artists including the Conservatorium Chorale.

1990 sees the Centenary of the organ itself and so this concert will be a prelude to another year of celebratory concerts. Free Admission to concerts.

Further details are available from Stuart Barnes (Entertainment Officer) Phone 265 9547.

FOR SALE

Electric Organ KAWAI E 300 Double key board, Built in cassette, Stool and Kawai sheet music.

> \$ 1200 - - - - O.N.O. 529 4770

THE SELWYN THEATRE CLUB

The Selwyn Theatre Club will be presenting: "The Selwyn Show" -

A CHARITY CONCERT in aid of Handicapped Children's Centre, N.S.W. at EARLWOOD/BARDWELL PARK R.S.L. AUDITORIUM on Sunday 22/10/89 at 2-30pm.

Stars will be: Colin Gill, Robert Goode

Bernard Walz, Erica Witt and Patricia Wooldridge.

Admission: Adults \$7

Concession \$5

Don't miss your opportunity to attend as there only about 50 tickets remaining. Book by contacting Ritchie Willis 57 3581. Dining facilities at the Club will be available to the Concert audience.

FREE WESTERN SUBURBS ORGAN CONCERTS

Our member Colin Adamson will be presenting several free concerts in the next few months. Programmes will feature: Classical, Light Classical as well as Music from recent Shows, Contemporary, Etc. - indeed "something for all tastes!

Date Venue
Sat. 9/9/89 St.Andrews Anglican Church
at 6-15pm STRATHFIELD

NOTE This Church is directly opposite the end of F4 Freeway & on the corner of Swan Avenue [Formerly Concord Rd] and Parramatta Road, STRATHFIELD.

grounds via Hunter St.

For those working in the Parramatta area, there will be TWO LUNCHTIME recitals:

Wed. 28/9/89 St. Johns Anglican Cathedral at 12-30pm Church Street Mall, PARRAMATTA

Thurs. 1/11/89 NOTE For these concerts at 12-30pm ON-SITE PARKING IS AVAILABLE. Enter Church

FOR SALE

Great value for \$1000 or near offer! WurliTzer "Orla" Model DG180S. AS NEW CONDITION, originally purchased Aug. 1987.

Many features including: PROVISION FOR MIDI.

(Original owner deceased). This organ is located at Maroubra and those interested should phone Mr. Brennan on 344 8001.

MEMBERS QUARTERLY MEETING

The last members quarterly meeting was originally to be held on Wed. August 9th at Marrickville Town Hall, however on the evening only 28 members attended, whereas the society's constitution states a quorum being a minimum of 30 financial members.

Due to lack of a quorum, formal business matters could not be transacted and in accordance with constitution rules, the meeting had to be deferred and re-scheduled for the following week, Wednesday 16th August. This involved TOSA in an extra \$70-00 outlay for the hire of Marrickville Town Hall for a second evening - an expense which could have been avoided had sufficient members turned up for the original evening meeting on 9th August.

Accordingly we request members make every endeavour to attend future meetings as this is at least the second time a business meeting of the society has had to be rescheduled, with extra costs for our limited funds.

Secretary's Report for Meeting (16/8/89)

- I would like to apologise for not attending this meeting, but I have a meeting of the North Shore Organ Society being held IN MY HOME on this night.
- 2) The Secretary believes that he has all matters appertaining to T.O.S.A. well in hand. Players for all concerts to be held for the remainder of this year have been contacted and contracts or verbal agreements to play have been obtained.
- 3) As Membership Secretary the majority of members have renewed, the opportunity has been taken to correct any errors in our mailing list. The entire membership list has been I.B.M. an compatible re-entered on Computer system, to allow the widest future membership for use secretaries. A few members have decided not to renew, but all members who had not renewed by the end of July have been notified and have been sent a copy of the August T.O.S.A. News with a polite reminder. This approach is bearing fruit with a number of late memberships being received. are currently 697 members on file.

4) As there will be no Treasurer present at this meeting, the following details will give a brief overview of our financial situation.

Our bank balance as of 31st July was \$507-65 in credit - the first bank statement to be in Black ink since the opening of the Orion organ. As we started at the beginning of the year overdraft of almost \$6000. bank balance indicates current that we have had a successful year concerts. The Robert Wolfe and with Ionas Nordwall concerts have the especially successful. The next been further improve two concerts should our bank balance, John Van Kleef has agreed to play for us at a very reasonable fee, and the September Concert will be played by volunteer Organists, with the profits raised going towards the cost of the missing trumpet pipes. An additional amount should be credited towards our funds shortly as Hector Olivera has ordered a quantity of the 'Hector Olivera live' double cassette (these were in stock, being for an (these were in earlier order which Hector cancelled). The amount will be in the order of \$1800-00.

financial liabilities include of a new supply of pre-printed cost envelopes (it is as cheap to buy the envelopes pre-printed as it is to buy blanks and print our own) and possibly extensive repairs to T.O.S.A's printing press which is showing signs of severe wear. One bearing has collapsed and the rubber rollers need recovering. T.O.S.A. is investigating the economies of repairing this press or newer unit. investing in a perhaps There is a large bill for repairs and modifications to the Orion Organ in hand, but the amount is subject to some negotiation.

Colin Tringham

Meeting held 9/8/89

As formal business could not be transacted at this meeting, those present were treated to an impromptu organ concert by several organists present.

Meeting held 16/8/89

At this second and re-scheduled meeting, business was conducted in a brief and orderly manner.

CONCERT REVIEW - JONAS NORDWALL AT EPPING BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday 13th August proved to be a lucky day for those who gathered to hear a second Sydney concert on the superbly sounding Christie 2/10 at the Epping Baptist Church. As most already know, this organ was originally installed in the Eastwood Duke of York (Odeon) Cinema.

The program opened with an impressive composition, the Coronation March and it was obvious that the organist was determined to use this small but finely tuned instrument to its maximum capabilities in quality sound combinations. not volume. In announcing his next item by Bach, Jonas jokingly suggested it could be remembered by Tomato, Avocado and Fudge. Of course translated it means Toccata, Adagio & Fugue and is a piece which flows right through to the end without progressing to a grand climax as is the case with most of Bach's compositions. Both organ and Organist were sounding their best in these more serious works.

After selections from Oklahoma, Jonas announced that he was going to introduce some ding dongs, (on the organ that is) Harp, Glockenspeil & Chimes and proceeded to play Boccherini's delightful Minuet with some strings added of course. John Stanley's Trumpet Tune in D major followed which highlighted some crisp solo voices, especially the trumpets.

The highlight of the first half must have been Percy Fletcher's Fountain Reverie which Jonas informed us had little pedal work, probably due to the composer being a pianist. This work could be described as from the impressionistic school, very orchestral in nature and featuring sustained strings.

One must mention the wildly written composition by Liszt, the Mephisto Waltz, which includes the ballet sequence and is most suitable for the organ, or at least the revised version by Jonas, of Liszt's much revised version, proved a winner.

The rest of the program included some modern? music of the 18th Century in the form of Lord of the Dance, followed by This is the Time (B & G Gaither) and Shine Down (Sandy Patti) and Rondo in G, by 16th Century composer John Bull. The Sabre Dance was the only composition which made me think that the organ was too small to do justice to the music.

A stunning arrangement of Irving Berlin's Cheek to Cheek dedicated to Fred & Ginger had the audience visualizing the famous couple's big dance routine production numbers. The way Jonas masterfully played the middle segment in 3/4 time was tremendously effective in creating this arrangement.

It is now tradition at these concerts to invite audience participation by including a couple of hymns (the way we sing them at the First Methodist in Portland) quipped Jonas, which meant full speed ahead. The reviewer must give full marks to the responsive singing which Jonas acknowledged by saying he had no fear of drowning out the audience.

The concert concluded with a couple of novelty numbers, a Carousel medly and the traditional march and a final encore - the Widor Toccata; then we made a startling discovery, the last subject in the composition is none other than Waltzing Matilda. However I suspect that it will not be found in the manuscript.

To sum up, the foregoing describes a program of meticulously selected, rarely heard compositions (on theatre organ) which were carefully arranged to reflect the best capabilities of the Organ. Christie There again Nordwall is a master, state of the art, theatre organist who once more demonstrated a very unique that we have admired more and more. As Jonas said, "I hope it won't be another nine years before I am invited back." I am sure those present heartily agreed. It would be a cultural catastrophe not to take advantage of one of the world's greatest theatre organists who is always so keen and willing to tour Australia.

Thanks Jonas and Congratulations on such a Brilliant, well prepared performance.

John Shaw

CONCERT REVIEW - JOHN VAN KLEEF AT MARRICKVILLE TOWN HALL

Sunday August 20th 1989, was the date, and Marrickville Town Hall, the venue, for yet another of the society's recitals. The musically demanding task, of presenting, and, playing the customary pair of one-hour segments on one of the society's organs was entrusted to an aspiring entrant to the corps of organists, albeit few in number, who have already realised their respective ambitions, in this specialised field.

John, (or Jan) Van Kleef played twelve items in each "half". There were 4 items of $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes (or less), 9 x 3 minute items, 5 x 4 min. items and 4 x 5 min. items, the remaining items were of obviously longer duration.

Only in the 12th, (closing) item of the first "half", "MEMORY" (CATS), did I find an "Intro" which was really musical, AND appropriate to the character of the actual piece being attempted. MEMORY was one of his best, but it too, was spoilt, by launching into a fortissimo "blast", in the "bridge" section of this uncommonly good composition.

It was only in the sixth item of the recital, or so it seemed, the sound level dropped below "forte", i.e. in "Indian Love Call" (ROSE MARIE). Here, right hand solo passages which should, ideally, be played on untremmed woodwind sound, (or as near as you get to that!!) - were enunciated grandly, on flue-work, and tremmed.

The 9th item was "GRENADA". Here, he gave us a good "fanfarish" intro; but, the splendid dramatic effect, that COULD have been achieved was destroyed by the "El ALEMEIN" approach to registration, which pervaded the whole recital. In the 8th item, a NIGHT-INGALE SANG IN BERKELEY SQUARE", we got a suitably quiet beginning, ("at least" per my notes), but in the reprise of the chorus, we got another "blast".

In "TUXEDO JUNCTION" (11th item), he exhibited a very good "feel", and the wide dynamic range utilised would have been excused, recognising the brash nature of the composition.

Having learnt the majority of the items played today, before this player was born, I was not amused by the wholesale "faking", and "slithering" of lead lines. This was painfully obvious in the 8 minute pot-pourri of Strauss waltzes, in the 2nd "half". There was good use of a solo reed here in places. "VOICES OF SPRING'S" lead-line, became a "cacophony of winter"!.

Re the "production" aspect: Turning around every 3 mins. or less, to solicit applause, and, announce another 3 minute "wonder"; - is definitely NOT a desideratum. The wisest policy is to sensitively "group" 3 or 2 minute pieces into mildly-contrasting segments, where a common "thread" can be recognised, by at least, the majority of a "Sunday afternoon audience". 3 min. item(s) MAY CERTAINLY be INTERSPERSED amongst the SIX to NINE minute (or more,) stuff, if, the said item has sufficient musical "stature".

Also the CRESCENDO PEDAL, (one of the most misnamed, and, misused registration aids on pipe organs), does NOT exist for the purpose of saving performers from the necessity of doing the required preparation; which includes rehearsing the fluent use of pistons, which, on a two-manual console, is inescapable; if a memorable performance is to be assured.

There is also, the physiological aspect; lengthy exposure to inordinately loud sound, has a numbing, and, narcotic effect. The sense of hearing, as a whole, becomes "numbed". It "gets used to" the higher, (wrongfully) level, and, requires, subsequently, larger "hits" of sound energy to achieve the "normal" subjective sensations of loudness.

This reviewer trusts, (and hopes,) that the above content, will be accepted, and, assimilated, by those "whom the cap fits", - in the constructive spirit, in which it is intended!

Peter Held