

T.O.S.O. NEWS

incorporating **THE DIAPHONE**

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF
AUSTRALIA, N.S.W. DIVISION

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WHAT'S ON IN JUNE.

This is not a What's on in June but a WHAT'S ON IN MAY and it is inserted in the hope that the TOSA NEWS may get to a lot of members in time to let them know that if they miss Jonas Nordwall at Chatswood on the 31st May at 8 p.m. they will be truly sorry. They will have missed the organist that all those over superlatives and descriptive adjectives used to advertise previous organists, really applies to at long last THAT organist has arrived. If you need any further encouragement contact a member that attended Marrickville concert and he will probably take you along with him to Chatswood because he won't be missing that one either.

12th June, Wednesday 8 p.m.

Marrickville Municipal Council will be presenting "Gems from the Sydney Philharmonic Choir". The associate artists are Eric Smith at our mighty Wurlitzer Organ, Julie Madden soprano, John Freeland, Flautist. Highlights of the evening will be the Pomp and Circumstance March No.4 by Elgar, Dedication by Schumann, How Lovely are thy Dwellings by Brahms, South of the Alps Suite by Carl Fischer and the massive Hallelujah Chorus by Handel. This concert will be compered by James Dibble, is in aid of the Autistic Children's Association of N.S.W. the tickets are \$1.50 and by the looks of the rest of the programme this should be a musical feast one which you would be proud to bring your friends, neighbours and family along to.

22nd June, Saturday 8 a.m. State Theatre Sydney.

We are privileged to be able to announce that following the work out that the 4/21 State Theatre Wurlitzer will receive during the forthcoming Sydney Film Festival and the double time our active maintenance crew has been putting in on the State Organ we will be able to present a programme featuring our Patron, Ian Davies on a much improved instrument. Ian is the last of the full time Theatre Organists who is still actively employed playing professionally he has made several recordings one of which is still available from the Concert Recording Company (It's called "Australian Style") and was recorded at the Capitol 3/15 Wurlitzer. Ian Davies was the Wurlitzer organist with the Hoyts Company in Melbourne for 18 years during which time he played the Melbourne Regent, Capitol and Plaza Theatres. Ian is well known to us all in Sydney as a good old time Theatre Organist and this concert will certainly be worth attending so set your alarm clocks. \$1 ~~50c~~ admission to go towards expenses.

22nd June, Saturday 8 p.m.

Jim Patrick's Organ Party, featuring several good musicians at the full console Wurlitzer Electronic 4570. Space is limited so ring 42 1086 early for bookings, particularly if you like David Coleman arrangements. The address is 25 Dettman Avenue, Longueville. It runs off Stuart Street parallel to William Edward Street.

28th June, Friday 8 p.m.

Eric Smith will be featured at the console of the Thomas Lawrence Welk, Theatre Organ at the Home of Ritchie Willis, 23 Selwyn Street, Paddington. Admission \$1 per person and all proceeds to the Capitol Wurlitzer Organ Fund. Please phone 31 8883 tonight and make a seat available for you. Don't be disappointed get in early as seating is limited to 25 persons. Come along and join the happy throng.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

6th July, Saturday 8 p.m.

Wurlitzer Representatives, Kurt Zimmer, Herbert Wyatt & Jim Patrick will be featured at the Console of the Model 4570 Wurlitzer Electronic Organ, at the home of Member, Mark Gabriel, 27 Yarran Road, Oatley. Admission \$1 per person, and the proceeds will go to the Capitol Wurlitzer Organ Fund. Come along and enjoy a fine evening of music. Phone 579 2169 now and make your booking as seating is limited to 35.

13th July, Saturday Herb Wyatt's Organ Party at Wahroonga.

July. Quarterly General Meeting at Winton Music Centre in the Supercentre at Hurstville.

14th September: David Parsons' Organ party at Beecroft

22nd September: Marrickville Town Hall - Free Concert

CONCERT REVIEWS

JONAS NORDWELL AT MARRICKVILLE.

After spending the afternoon in company with Bill Schumacher and other helpers physically working on the instrument Jonas Nordwall presented us, on the 10th May with a Wurlitzer Theatre Organ Sound which we haven't heard previously from the Prince Edward instrument. He tinkered with the Tibia tremulants-regulated the Vox Humana's- and all in all came up with a very agreeable sound which proved to us that if only we could get the "American Know how" out here at work on our organs we could have them honed into something which we haven't even begun to experience yet.

Unfortunately on 10th May it was a privileged few of approximately 150 people that heard young Jonas Nordwell. The start of the programme was the demanding 6/8 tempo of "Consider yourself" then Jonas had them all swinging with a burlesque version complete with wolf whistles of "Sweet Gypsy Rose"(arr. by the famous Russian Gitya Gearov). All items were introduced in a confident, clear manner, which is not easy on the old Marrickville amplifier. Jonas commented on the large sound of the instrument saying that it was comparable with its 10 ranks to the organ which he plays regularly in Portland with it's 34 ranks.

"Linger Awhile" and "Love's Sorrow" both contained strong, interesting, counter melodies, "Sorrow" finishing on THAT single-note-chime. "Love's Joy" amply demonstrated the orchestral effects obtainable on this instrument with abrupt changes in registration, tempo and volume. The cymbal provided a sensitive latin rhythm to "Both Sides Now", the usual overpowering effect of the percussions being completely absent and the demi-semi-quaver chords in the closing bars were impeccable. "How long has this been going On" was highlighted by the ever-inventive Weismantel brothers using a kaleidoscope effect with two projectors.

Modern pieces were represented in a balanced programme by "The Entertainer" that haunting theme from "The Sting", which, being

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such a simple melody lends itself to clever variations, and as we hear it, on the commercial disc the melody is picked out with a single note technique, Jonas on the other hand made it more interesting with a handful of Chord technique!! The popular tastes of the audience were illustrated by its applause to the introduction of "My Way", and Nordwall's somewhat extreme chord substitutions gave this beautiful but very over-worked tune the lift it needed. "Dance of the Comedians" from "The Bartered Bride" gave us Grand Organ at its Grandest - - good and - - goose - - pimpling loud! But what really brought the house down was an improvisational send up named "Jig Fugue" (or was it Feud) and if you are wondering what that is I'D suggest you come to Chatswood.

MEMBERS EFFORTS REDUCE OVERDRAFT ON CAPITOL ORGAN.

In reviewing a wonderful evening of "Lawrence Welk" (with Bill Schumacher attached) held recently at the Paddington home of Ritchie Willis and Norm Read, I find it difficult to describe the obvious enjoyment of the lucky 25 who were present. Sincere thanks again to Bill Schumacher.

The average TOSA member (if there is such a person) is probably quite unaware of the effort that some of their fellow members contribute to the Society's needs, both technically and financially. While it is widely known that Barry Tooker and his team of experts are doing wonderful things technically to our Capitol organ, it is not generally known that on the financial scene, two of our members due to their combined efforts have handed our treasurer over \$300 for the Capitol Organ Fund. Since 1972 no less than 6 organ parties (involving David Parsons, Lance Wells, Warren Robbins, Reg Black, Ian Davies and Bill Schumacher) and 5 film/organ evenings have all been arranged and held at the home of Ritchie Willis and Norm Read. A very noteworthy effort indeed - our sincere thanks to you both, and we look forward to many happy returns.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

Our first Quarterly meeting was held at the "Organ Stop" Burwood and hosted by Joh Congert. About 30 members attended. The president welcomed all and then conveyed the felicitations of our members to Pam and Barry Tooker on the safe and prompt arrival of their first born. Recommendations were suggested to the committee that:

1. The Christmas Function should be a Cabaret dance at Marrickville Town Hall with the organ as the source of music.
2. A Sunday outing to Freeman's Waterhole, a sort of picnic function.
3. To look for more halls with pipe organs for future convention purposes.
4. To try and arrange a function for our Wurlitzers 50th Birthday.
5. The institution of a teaching night.

The mechanics of the meeting were worth mentioning as circumstances made it necessary for the members to sit around facing one another and I don't think there were any members present who didn't have something to say during the evening.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m. and Joh then entertained us on the Yamaha Organ.

A vote of thanks to Joh and also to the Tooker-Lawson menage for supper, was carried unanimously.

TEACHERS CORNER.

This is the first of a series of articles, designed to help you to improve your organ playing. Written by various teachers, it will give a wide variety of possibilities, viewpoints, styles, and techniques. We hope you will enjoy these articles.

Righthand Techniques - Joh Congert.

When we observe various people playing the organ we can instantly pick out whether these people have been organ trained or maybe piano or piano accordion: also in printed arrangements, available over the counter in most music shops, we can instantly tell if these arrangements have been written by organists or pianists.

How? Quite simply, just look at the phrasing.

The basic rule is: Do not change your fingering during a phrase, so if you have started a phrase with a single note melody in the righthand, keep going that way and do not, repeat not change to two or more notes. Remember on the organ with its spread of tonal possibilities you can play a single note melody low on the keyboard, then change to higher up (in the next phrase) for melody in multiple notes. This will give two distinctly different sounds, as we are not only changing octaves, but also our way of fingering the melody. Now most non organ trained people will mix up these two possibilities quite happily, thus robbing themselves from one of the easiest ways of making a registration change without changing stops. Remember, as long as black and white are separate, you have two colours, mix them and you will have grey.

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OBITUARIES

Arnold Coleman. Well remembered as the organist at the State Theatre in Melbourne. Died in Hospital on Wednesday, May 15th 1974. Arnold married for the third time at the age of 77 only about one year before his death. For the honeymoon he drove a car and caravan across Australia. His primary interest was in the realm of Church and Classical organ music throughout most of his life. However, influenced by his wife Greta, who is a fine accordionist, during the last years he played in restaurants and for dancers and derived a great amount of pleasure from this. One of the highlights of Arnold's playing was his expressive use of light and shade. Many times he kept his audiences spellbound until the very last note of a piece died away. His last performances in Sydney were some years ago when he did a concert at the Capitol Theatre and played in a concert at the Burning Log. The Theatre Organ world has lost one of its great personalities and especially in Melbourne Arnold will be sadly missed. During his life he taught many organists and I myself am very grateful for what he has shown me and taught me both as an organist, as a performer and as a person. Farewell Arnold Coleman. He will be remembered for a long time. - JOH CONGERT.

GERALD SHAW -It is with sadness that we announce the sudden death of English Theatre Organist Gerald Shaw in his flat in London on April 28th. Gerald had only been back in London a few days after his highly successful concert visit to Adelaide, where he endeared himself to audiences at Wyatt Hall and St. Peters College. Before leaving Australia he said he had never enjoyed himself so much, and when he returned to London, he was bright and cheerful, and full of praises for Australia. He played at the Odeon one day, and did not show up on the next. He had passed away unexpectedly in his flat, and was found by friends later. He will be missed greatly by the Theatre Organ world. Those among us, like myself, who were unable to attend the Adelaide Convention to hear Gerald but with hopes to hear him on his next visit to Australia will know that it's too late now and we should take opportunities when they present

themselves, we can now only listen to a poor facsimile in the form of recordings by comparison with an actual performance.

WALLY COOK -It is with regret that we announce the tragic death of our long time member and friend, Wally Cook. Wally was one of our keenest members and there are few amongst us who did not know him. He was a member of TOSA whose mission was to listen to the Wurlitzer at every opportunity, mileage and personal discomfort being no barrier, nor the hour of the day! He travelled extensively to hear concerts in other states and assisted our division in many promotions undertaken in the Parramatta area - particularly the concerts held at the Roxy Theatre. Wally lived with his sister at Merrylands and about 12 months ago was admitted to Lidcombe Hospital with gangrene, this necessitated the removal of a leg, a prospect which would have been disastrous to most of us but in a letter which he wrote to me in March, Wally was looking forward to getting up and about to attend future concerts and wishing for wings to be able to fly to the Adelaide Convention. This was not to be so as gangrene developed in his remaining leg and Wal did not survive surgery. Wal Cook worked for the Public Works Department and his funeral, which left Parramatta All Saints Church on 15th May, for the Northern Suburbs Cemetery was well attended by workmates and TOSA members. We have all lost a dear friend and may God Bless him.

3rd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION ADELAIDE - EASTER 1974.

The Convention commenced with the Registration session on Good Friday at 7 p.m. in the Wyatt Hall - Pulteney Grammar School. Supper was followed by a presentation of films made by the Enfield High School Theatre Organ Club. The films proved to be of a very high standard and were most amusing. - being comical and featuring numerous chases etc. they lent themselves well to the theatre organ accompaniment. First venue Saturday morning 8 a.m. was to see and hear the Rodgers electronic instrument installed in the Fair Lady Theatre in the city. This reviewer unfortunately was not in time for this session due to the early hour!!

By 10 a.m. however, we were all assembled in the Adelaide Town Hall to hear the fine Laurie Pipe Organs (Melbourne) 1970 rebuild of the original Wm Hill & Son 1876. David Johnston stepped in at the last minute when the city organist delayed, and after five minutes familiarization on an instrument he'd never seen before demonstrated it most capably. We moved on to the Union Church to hear the instrument there. This organ has recently been rebuilt by the Gunstar Organ Works, Adelaide. The atmosphere inside the church was casual and relaxed and the programme played by the church organist suited the mood.

Everyone enjoyed the boxed lunch provided en route to Macclesfield to see an instrument which is certainly unique to Australia. The organ is a Fotoplayer built in 1911 and is the forerunner of the larger horseshoe consoled instruments of the 20's and 30's. It is installed in a barn on Mr. Broadbent's farm - a most unlikely site for such an instrument. All repairs, additions, etc. have been done by the owner - truly amazing considering Mr. Broadbent has had no formal training in organ building. Various people played the sweet toned instrument whilst others went to have a look around the "back" in the workings.

First formal concert of the weekend featured the society's 2/12 Wurlitzer at Wyatt Hall - Pulteney Grammar School. Featured artist for the evening was Gerald Shaw - direct from the Odeon, Leicester Sq. London, 5 manual Compton. We were all a little surprised when Gerald appeared wearing a kilt - a real Scot by birth!! We were not disappointed - the Gerald Shaw on record was the same musician live - his playing was excellent. He did seem a little restricted by 2 manuals, however, as this reviewer can testify having been fortunate enough to hear him live at Leicester Square.

The first function on Easter Sunday was the Luncheon at midday. This left the morning free for most people, the exceptions were the group involved in the National Executive meeting and the six organists who were playing Cameo spots during the luncheon. After the welcome speeches from Malcolm Patterson & Ted Lloyd we attacked the food and "Wine". The Cameo spots followed at regular intervals, commencing with Bill Schumacher. Each organist played for ten minutes. The most popular organist was Edith Dyan, the only woman on the programme, who comes from Victoria, played both classical and popular items. When we finished the luncheon and the hall was cleaned up everyone joined the awaiting buses for the short trip to St. Peters College, the new home of the former Regent Theatre 3/15 Wurlitzer.

3rd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION ADELAIDE - EASTER 1974. Cont.

Knight Barnett was the first organist and played a short selection in the style that he is most remembered for at the Adelaide Regent. The Wurlitzer has retained the same Regent sound in its new home even though the pipe chambers are located facing each other on the stage behind the curtains. Had the chambers opened out into the hall the organ would have had a much better spread of sound. At the conclusion of Knight's spot it took a few minutes for John Atwell to set the piston changes that he and Tony Fenelon would require.

Tony Fenelon commenced his concert with the 20th Century Fox Fanfare and Western Film Selection followed by the "Dam Buster's March".

Tony moved to piano and was joined by John Atwell at the Wurlitzer for some beautifully played duets. After interval Gerald Shaw was featured in a guest spot playing a Richard Rogers Tribute. John Atwell then commenced his concert

with the Riff Song. Other items included "Lawrence of Arabia and the Buddy Cole arrangement of "When the Leaves are Turning". The Convention dinner at the Enfield Hotel was attended by approximately 300 guests. Music was provided by Barry Hall on a Conn Organ with a drummer. TOSA's Australia wide group "The Unmentionables" played two "long" dance brackets playing many encores (They would not leave the stage). At 12 midnight when we were thrown out of the hotel most of the interstate visitors moved on to the Wyatt Hall dancing and listening to the Wurlitzer Piano until 2.30 p.m.

On Easter Monday there was a trip to the Barossa Valley wine growing area, which was enjoyed by all, in spite of the fact that most were very tired after the weekend full of activity.

Next year Melbourne will be the host city - a venue many will look forward to visiting, I feel sure. Victoria T.O.S.A. certainly have a big task in front of them to keep up the high standard set by South Australia this year.

HOME FOR THE METRO WURLI

It looks like the W.A. division has scored a coup. The Metro 2/12 Wurlitzer has got a home and how! The instrument will be installed in the new Karrinyup Cultural Centre in one of the nicest areas in Perth. It will be complete with hoist and grand piano. The council is paying for all installation costs and architectural alterations for accoustics to suit the organ and for a new blower. The hall will seat approx. 450 and will be equipped with a full bio-box for the showing of anything from silents to 70mm.

Ack. Canberra "TOSA ACTION"

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BUYS ANOTHER THEATRE ORGAN

The S.A. Division has purchased a 4/16 from Mr. Mike Pfitzner of Darwin. The pipework is a combination of Wurlitzer, Christie and Conacher (the first Post Horn heard in Australia was manufactured by this Company) and the console is the 'slave' from the Melbourne State installation (now the Moorabbin Wurlitzer). Despite some water damage (Do pipe organs ever not suffer Water Damage??) this instrument, when restored will be a worthwhile addition to the theatre organ scene in Adelaide.

Ack. Canberra "TOSA ACTION"

P.S. Big things are stirring in Canberra at the moment, in the organ world and we hope to bring you news (straight from the horses mouth) in the not too far distant future.

FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS.

Following the articles that have appeared in electronic journals about the "new Breed" of electronic organs, arrangements are being made for the Rodgers and Allen Computer Organ to be demonstrated to TOSA members - further details will be announced later.

CAPITOL ORGAN

The acoustic consultant's report and recommendations have been resolved and the Committee appointed reports that a draft agreement is being drawn up by Hurstville Municipal Council for submission to TOSA for our comments.

EDITORIAL

In view of the fact that we have arranged this month a recital during the early hours of Saturday morning at the State Theatre 4/21 by our Patron, Ian Davies, it brings to mind the point that we are possibly very much on borrowed time. As reported recently in "The Australian Cinema" newspaper the Greater Union Organisation, Managing Director, Keith Moremon, has stated that land tax, municipal rates and water rates alone cost \$150,000.00 per year (\$3,000 per week!) "Even if we closed the State to save losses on theatre operation" he said, "we would still be up for that \$150,000 per year while the building stood idle."

"The public generally doesn't care a damn about the State", he said "If the National Trust lifts the 'A' classification the Builders' Labourers' Federation will, no doubt, lift its 'Green Ban' and Greater Union can get on with the job of providing Sydney with a complex of modern theatres which will be totally self supporting and in keeping with what is demanded by today's audiences and with today's business economics".

On current market values (\$400 per sq. ft. in the central city area) the State is estimated to be worth \$12 millions.

With all this in mind I think when we visit the State on these privileged few occasions we are visiting contemporary history which could at any moment become PAST HISTORY!!!

Ack. Ian Hansen, of Brisbane for facts.

DEADLINE

As you can see from the meaty bits this month there have been some amongst you busy with your pens, papers and telephone dialling fingers so any other members that feels a literary urge coming on the deadline for July is the 17th. DONT FORGET.