

TOSA NEWS

April-May 2018
Volume 57 No.3

Price: \$2.00

**Come join the party at the
June 3rd Concert**

**Celebrating the 50th Year
of the
Marrickville Wurlitzer
Entertaining
The people of Sydney**

**You can renew your membership
at earlybird prices as well**

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TOSA News Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

President



Our next concert on June 3 at Marrickville is a special occasion - for more than one reason. We will be celebrating 50 years since the opening of our wonderful 2/11 Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town Hall. We will also see a return to the console of Sydney native, Mr John Giacchi.

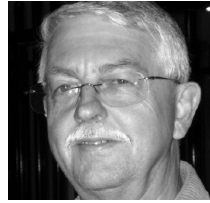
According to information I have, John has not played in Sydney since April 2000 at a festival event and a night time concert to boot. I personally have never heard John play "live" but have listened numerous times to his "Beyond the Blue Horizon" CD that was recorded at Campsie. John makes a long-awaited return to the instrument that, in his words, "started it all" for him as it was the Wurlitzer he used to practice on - way back when the console was pneumatic.

I'm looking forward to hearing John play Marrickville and then the following month hearing him again on another world-famous organ at the Nethercutt Collection in Los Angeles as Deb and I are off to the ATOS convention in Pasadena.

Keep the music playing!

Cheers, Craig Keller

Editorial



Hello Members,

The TOSA home party at Tom Barbers Music Room was enjoyed by 26 members and friends. See the report by Margaret Badman.

Remember this year is the 50th Anniversary year of the opening of the former Prince Edward Theatre Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town. Do come along to hear our World Famous Marrickville Wurlitzer in the hands of John Giacchi and you can BYO drinks and nibbles as well.

Member Doug Grant's review of Rob Richards concert at the Orion is indeed comprehensive and reminds us what an accomplished musical entertainer Rob is with such a variety of music and his mastery of playing the Wurlitzer.

The reason for the later than usual issue of this TOSA News is that your Editor has been away celebrating his Silver Anniversary with his lovely wife cruising the oceans on the Queen Mary 2. Smooth sailing all the way with excellent entertainment, great variety of food including 3 course dinner every night, and fabulous buffet including too many sweet temptations.

Please promote the June Concert to your friends and come along for a fun afternoon of music and socialising.

Enjoy the music,

Ernie Vale
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235
editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



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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

First TOSA Concert for 2018 at the Orion Wurlitzer

Again thanks to everyone who encouraged friends to come along including many people who attended for the first time. There were several youngsters experiencing the magical sounds of the Wurlitzer in the Hollywood style where Rob played a fine selection of music from Disney classic films with excellent

registrations. Rob certainly gave the pistons under the keyboards a real work out to great effect putting us all in the theatre mood. Rob's use of sostenuto in the first half with great effect and dexterity was a joy to hear in several arrangements. Enjoy Doug Grant's review of the concert in this issue of TOSA News.

Please again encourage your friends and acquaintances to come along to hear John Giacchi play our former Prince Edward Theatre, Sydney, Wurlitzer on June 3rd. It is acknowledged by Theatre Organists the world over as one of the finest sounding two manual Wurlitzer organ installations anywhere in the world. Every visiting overseas musician knows about this Wurlitzer and asks to play it even if they are performing a concert on another instrument.

It was very pleasing to see a number of hands shoot up when President Craig asked if people had seen the concert advertising on Facebook. Please share TOSA concert advertising with your friends on facebook.

"The profession of book-writing makes horse racing seem like a solid stable business."

John Steinbeck

To Watch Out for

**Concert artists and venues
for 2018**

**3 June - John Giacchi
Marrickville Wurlitzer
50th Anniversary Year
Concert**

**9 September - Scott Harrison
Marrickville Wurlitzer**

**18 November -
Simon Gledhill
Orion Wurlitzer
30th Anniversary Concert**

**9 December - Tony & John
Orion Wurlitzer**

**Members afternoon at West
Ryde Anglican Church.**

The Executive & Committee have planned a get together for members at West Ryde Anglican Church on **Saturday 30th June from 2:00pm** to see out the 2017-18 financial year.

Afternoon tea will be included with members invited to bring a plate of goodies to share. This will provide another opportunity to view progress on the Christie Cinema organ. There will also be access to magazines and video projections. More details soon.

Advertising Rates in TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Quarter Page = \$25

Half Page = \$50

Full Page = \$100

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

Members' Playing Dates

**The Orion Theatre Campsie
2nd Thursday Morning
10:30am to 1:30pm**

May 10th

June 14th

July 12th

Players & Listeners welcome

Convener is

Craig Keller on 0418484798
will text you to confirm the day
is available

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening
at 1:20pm to 9:00pm**

April 23rd

May 28th

June 25th

Players and listeners welcome.

Convener is

John Batts on 0420424103
will email you to confirm the day is
available or
Neil Palmer on 9798 6742 after
7:00pm
to confirm availability

Urgent Update on the Orion Wurlitzer

The new UNiflex 4000 system has now been installed at the Orion - see the Technical Report in this issue.

The purchase cost was just under A\$6,800.00 and thanks to more generous donations from members the donations for this important upgrade have now reached \$2,550. Thank you members for your contributions. Members, further donations towards this cost would be very much appreciated. Any amount, large or small, will be gratefully received. Donations can be made in any of the following ways:

1. Cheque or Money Order payable to TOSA and forwarded to:-

Treasurer, TOSA,
26 Maple Crescent
Lithgow NSW 2790

2. Direct Deposit to the Society's account through any branch of the ANZ Bank (there is no cost using this system) or Internet Banking
Details required are:

BSB 012430, Account No. 2321 40985, Account name Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division). Reference 6800

3. Cash or cheque payment at the June 2018 concert - please see Geoff Brimley: a receipt will be issued.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely

Geoff Brimley, Treasurer

Earlybird Membership Renewal for 2018-19

In this issue, for those receiving it by mail, there is a Membership Renewal form that has been populated with your member details to assist you in completing your membership renewal for the ensuing year at current membership prices. Those receiving TOSA News by email will receive the Membership Renewal form by separate email.

These prices apply until Friday June 15th after which prices increase slightly as set out on the form. TOSA would appreciate your early renewal please. You can renew at the June 3rd Celebration Concert in the foyer of Marrickville Town Hall prior to entering the hall. ***Please remember to bring the completed Member Renewal form with you on June 3rd.***

**Time to Celebrate
the 50th year of the Marrickville Wurlitzer
at Marrickville Town Hall
entertaining our TOSA Members
and the Sydney Public.**

To help celebrate this special 50th year anniversary event and to try something our friends at TOSA Q in Brisbane have successfully used for some years, the hall will be laid out in cabaret style with tables and chairs. Each table will be covered and have a modest amount of free snacks (chips, nuts etc), cups and drinking water provided. Audience members are welcome to BYO additional snacks and drinks if they wish and this can include wine etc if you wish. TOSA NSW will not be selling any alcohol items so we are in compliance with licencing laws.

For afternoon tea we are also providing some enhanced options. To accompany your tea or coffee you will be able to select from a lamington, piece of slice or a gourmet biscuit. A slight price increase to \$2.50 will be in place to cover this enhanced service.

Don't worry, even though the tables and chairs will be arranged "cabaret style" it will still be a theatre organ concert. There will not be dancing troupes, magic acts etc. All entertainment will be provided by John from the console.

Part of the reason for the change to cabaret style is to provide some social interaction for members and audience. We also hope that this new layout will help absorb some of the lively audio reflection of the hall that has become more prevalent created by the new chairs and their non-padded shells .

The committee hopes that you and your friends will come along on June 3 to help celebrate and to welcome John Giacchi back to Sydney and Marrickville Town Hall.

Craig Keller
President TOSA NSW Divn Inc

TOM BARBER'S HOME PARTY

On a warm sunny Sunday afternoon 25th March, 26 members and friends visited **The Music Room**. As you entered this room, your eyes were immediately drawn to the walls which were adorned with photographs of every conceivable actress, actor and Disney characters imaginable. The Music Room was air-conditioned, has red plush theatre style seating for about 30 people, plus **Tom's** pride and joy of a least 7 working organs (at the moment) - more are in the pipeline.

Tom is very passionate about keeping the organ era alive. He believes if he doesn't do it, who will?

We were entertained by 5 members of TOSA.



As we all settled into our seats, **Tom** explained a little about each of the organs. **Tom** was the first to play. Some of his pieces were; Elricardo, Rhythm of the Rain – accompanied by a film clip, Ghost Riders in the Sky, Night & Day and Dam Busters. These tunes were played on various organs.

The following members all played on the Conn:-

John Batts began with Marching Strings (Marshall Ross), Tell Me I'm Forgiven followed by a Medley of 1930 numbers - Lover, Lullaby of the Leaves, Getting Sentimental Over You, Georgia On My Mind, Exactly like You, Plus Willow Weep for Me and Ecstasy Tango (Jose Belmonte).



Show & Membership Prices

	All Artists
Non-members	\$35
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$30
Family 2 Adults incl children up to 19 yrs age	\$65
TOSA Members	\$25

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE accompanied by an Adult

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$22 per person

First time Adult \$20 cash by completed Voucher at Box Office

Annual Membership Fees 2018-19 until 15th June 2018:

\$45.00 Full membership, \$35.00 Pensioner Concession, Inter-state or Overseas \$45. \$5 discount per membership if TOSA

News emailed to you

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

(02) 4776 2192 membership@tosa.net.au

Following from John was **Graeme Costin** with The Perfect Nanny from Mary Poppins, Jolly Holiday, The Nearness of You, Around the World in 80 Days and Cheer Up and Shout Hooray.



Then it was **David Badman's** turn, opening with On a Wonderful Day Like Today, then, Can't Help Falling in Love, Love me with all of your Heart, That's Entertainment and Love is a Many Splendid Thing.



Simon Ellis then played the theme from *The Boys from Brazil*, *Stranger on the Shore* and a Neapolitan Medley – *Mattinata*, *Santa Lucia* and *O Sole Mio*. To conclude this part of the afternoon **Tom** played one more piece before afternoon tea was served.



There were so many delicious delicacies to try with our tea/coffee. It made for a lovely relaxing social afternoon. Good friends, good company, good food and of course, good music.

As we re-entered the music room our eyes had to become accustomed to the dark, as there were only candles lighting up the room. When we were all seated a shadowy figure in hat and cape emerged from the darkness to sit at the console and begin the 2nd half of the afternoon with the Theme and Medley from *The Phantom of the Opera* then disappeared into the darkness, leaving us gasping in the dimly lit room.

Graeme and **David** played a few more pieces, **Tom** and **John** played two Duets - *John on the Conn* and *Tom on the piano*. These two tunes were *Autumn Leaves* and *Dancing Tamborine*. To finish off the afternoon Tom played the *Superman Theme* as an accompaniment to a video of the movie highlights.

Our musical afternoon ended around 4.30pm. I'm sure all of us driving home could be heard humming a few of the tunes.

I would like to personally thank everyone that came along for making the afternoon such a success and to thank **Tom** and his wife **Cathy** for opening their home to us so that we could all have a wonderful afternoon of music.

Margaret Badman

**TOSA's World of Entertainment Presents
A 50th Anniversary Year Concert
of the opening of the Marrickville Wurlitzer
in Marrickville Town Hall in 1968**



John Giacchi

**Award winning, musical talent
will play this celebration concert
on**

**Australia's World Famous,
fabulous Wurlitzer Unit Orchestra
at Marrickville Town Hall
Cnr Petersham & Marrickville Rds, Marrickville**

Sunday 3rd June 2:00 – 4:30pm

***Come and Join us - bring the grandchildren
Bring your friends***

The next concert will be at Marrickville Town Hall to celebrate the 50th Anniversary year of the opening of the former Prince Edward Theatre Sydney Wurlitzer.

This 2 manual 11 rank wurlitzer is considered by musicians the world over to be one of the most outstanding 2 manual Wurlitzer installations in the world due in no small way to the live accoustical environment of Marrickville Town Hall.

TOSA NSW is very proud of this organ and the fact that it has been kept in excellent condition for members and the public to enjoy.

TOSA is pleased to announce that former NSW resident and Theatre Organist, **John Giacchi**, will be performing this concert.

TOSA would appreciate you all telling as many people as you can about the significance of this musical instrument and the special occasion this presents.

Please encourage people to come along whilst they have the opportunity to enjoy the sound of one of the finest 2 keyboard Wurlitzers in the world.

Tickets : \$ 35; Conc \$ 30; Members \$25
Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person

First time attendance for Adults \$20 each by voucher at the
box office

Download a voucher from www.tosa.net.au
Students Free

ATOS 2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Home in

Pasadena

Pasadena, California

June 29 - July 2, 2018

**Plus optional
Overture &
Encore**

The Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society
is proud to announce the 2018
ATOS Annual Convention in Pasadena, California.

Birthplace of the modern theatre organ renaissance,
the area boasts one of the world's richest collections of
theatre organs and venues.

Convention Schedule

Thursday, June 28

Convention Registration Desk Open, Pasadena Hilton,
4pm-8pm

Friday, June 29 + Overture & Convention Opening
Convention Registration Desk Open, Pasadena Hilton
8am-7pm

OVERTURE MORNING: Simon Gledhill at Plummer
Auditorium, Fullerton 4/37 Wurlitzer

OVERTURE: Lunch included

OVERTURE AFTERNOON: Pierre Fracalanza at the Trousdale
Castle, Placentia 3/26 Wurlitzer

"Cole, Cole, Cole: A tribute to Buddy Cole, Cole Porter, and
Nat King Cole"

4pm: ATOS Annual Meeting, Pasadena Hilton

5pm: Opening Cocktail Reception, Pasadena Hilton
Dinner on your own in Pasadena

8pm OPENING CONCERT: Richard Hills at Pasadena Civic
Auditorium 5/28 Moller

Saturday, June 30

Alex Jones & the Young Artists Competition at Barnum Hall,
Santa Monica 3/17 Wurlitzer

Lunch included, Santa Monica

Afternoon: Ron Rhode, Old Town Music Hall, El Segundo 4/27
Wurlitzer

Afternoon: Jelani Eddington, Old Town Music Hall, El Segundo
4/27 Wurlitzer

Evening: *Safety Last* with Clark Wilson at Orpheum Theatre,
Los Angeles 3/14 Wurlitzer

Sunday, July 1

Morning: ATOS Members Forum, Pasadena Hilton

Seminar: Registration Workshop

with Simon Gledhill & Richard Hills

Seminar: Tuning Essentials with Clark Wilson

Seminar: George Wright Discussion with Dr. William Coale

Lunch on your own in Pasadena

Dave Wickerham, Wilshire Ebell Theatre, Los Angeles
3/13 Barton

Brett Valliant, Wilshire Boulevard Temple, Los Angeles 4/64
Kimball

Annual Banquet, Altadena Town & County Club (optional)

Monday, July 2

David Gray, El Capitan Theatre, Hollywood 4/37 Wurlitzer

Lunch on your own in Pasadena

Phil Kelsall, San Gabriel Mission Playhouse 3/17 Wurlitzer

Dinner on your own in Pasadena

CLOSING CONCERT: Justin LaVoie, Vic Lopez Auditorium,
Whittier, 4/24 Wurlitzer

Tuesday, July 3 - Encore Day

ENCORE: Mark Herman, Nathan Barr Studio, Tarzana
3/19 Wurlitzer

ENCORE: Lunch included

ENCORE: John Giacchi, The Nethercutt Collection, Sylmar
4/73 Wurlitzer

ENCORE: Christian Elliott, Founder's Church, Los Angeles
4/31 Wurlitzer

***Go to ATOS.org for more details about the convention
and to Join ATOS as well as register for the convention***

REVIEW OF ROB RICHARDS' CONCERT – ORION CENTRE SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2018

And away we go again – a new year, a new President, and the first concert of an exciting 50th anniversary year for the Marrickville Town Hall /Prince Edward 2 manual 11 rank Wurlitzer 'gem'. However on this occasion, it was the Orion Centre's 3 manual 17 rank/Capitol Wurlitzer 'gem' that had an 'outing' in the hands of an old friend of TOSA(NSW) audience members, Rob Richards from the USA. Rob hails from Los Angeles where he is the house-organist at the 'El Capitan' Theatre in Hollywood, one of three of the original Grauman chain of theatres. Late in the 1980's, the Disney organisation purchased a controlling interest in a number of theatres in Hollywood, including the 'El Capitan' which became a flagship for Disney movie releases. The organ in the 'El Capitan' is the instrument which was originally installed in the San Francisco Fox Theatre in 1929 – a 4/37 'behemoth'.

Continuing the statistics, Rob reported that this visit to Australia was his 12th, the first being in 1983. On each previous occasion, he has performed on the Marrickville 2/11 organ, but this time, he was delighted to be able to perform on the Orion 3/17 organ. He noted particularly that this visit also coincided with the 30th anniversary of the installation of the Orion Wurlitzer. Further impressive statistics included that this year represents his 40th anniversary as a theatre organist, and it is coming up to his 20th anniversary with the Disney organisation in California.

Rob opened his concert with a full-bodied rendition of 'Hooray for Hollywood', the staple soundtrack element of any Academy Award ceremony. As an opener to the concert-proper, he chose to play a selection of ever-greens from 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs', from Walt Disney's 1937 first feature-length animated movie. The music was composed by Frank Churchill (and co-writers). Rob's selections included 'One Song', 'Heigh Ho', 'With a Smile and a Song', 'Whistle While You Work', 'Someday My Prince Will Come', 'The Dwarf's Yodel Song', 'I'm Wishing', and 'One Song' (a reprise for the finale). Not unexpectedly, this wouldn't have been the first time Rob had performed this selection, but it was performed with all the sensitivity and simplicity remembered of the marvellous early Disney creations.

The audience was left in no doubt from his opening bracket, that we were in for a most entertaining program from a very

experienced artist. The video coverage on the big screen clearly indicated Rob's ease of control over the many tone colours available to a performer from an instrument of the complexity of the Orion's 3/17 Wurlitzer. In so saying, congratulations must also go to the TOSA(NSW) crew members responsible for the maintenance and tuning of the instrument.

As if to emphasise the versatility of not only artist and instrument, Rob's next selection was a tribute to – as Rob described – “the late great George Wright”, with the 1921 “jaunty response to poverty”, ‘Ain't we Got Fun’ written by Richard A Whiting. Rob's recreation of the George Wright version (recalled from George's celebrated album ‘George Wright Live – in Concert at the Rialto’ in Pasadena California), was amazing, right down to the “have a banana” musical interjections.

Presumably as a sop to Rob's comfort- factor, he requested the audience's indulgence to allow him to take off his jacket, revealing an armless black T- shirt replete with Mickey Mouse sequins.

Rob commented that many people think he only plays music from Disney movies, but he explained that he regularly plays music from ‘classic’ movies. As an example, next on his play-list was the ‘classic’ ‘As Time Goes By’, associated with the 1942 Humphrey Bogart film ‘Casablanca’. Rob's version provided the languorous nature of the original version performed by ‘Sam’ in the movie.



A break from the traditional came when Rob described his long-time interest in combining the music of the traditional theatre organ, with the possibilities introduced from electronic sources, and more recently, from the ever-growing applications of digital electronic technology. After some coaxing required by both the PA microphone and a little digital device of his own, he launched forth into the 'Theme from the Raiders of the Lost Ark' by John Williams with 'metranomic accuracy' and 'tympanic bravado'.

As a follow-up to this 'marriage' of computer with pipe organ, Rob chose to play a piece in honour of the person still living who has won the most Academy Awards – guess who? Not Walt Disney, who holds the record for having won the most Oscars, but the record for a recipient still living is the composer Alan Menken, with 7 Academy Awards. The piece Rob chose to play was from the 1992 Disney production of 'Aladdin', which was performed on the movie sound-track by Robin Williams, in the style of Cab Calloway, 'You ain't never had a 'Friend Like Me.' Now here was a piece that clearly had Rob right in his element. A jaunty, little piece enabling the 'bite-iest' ranks to speak out. Rob was clearly in his element in performing this 'cheeky' little piece.

It is interesting to note the growing emphasis placed on the use of digital electronic sources with theatre organs. This was the situation during the recent visit of Nathan Avakian, who drew heavily on digital electronic technology to supplement his more conventional performances.

At this point, may this ageing decrepit reviewer be permitted to make a, perhaps, politically incorrect comment about the 'marriage' of the pipe organ with computer devices. I think they don't necessarily make for a happy 'marriage'! Whereas it is always interesting to experiment and refine new processes, the attempts are not always pleasing. Modern electronic organs are meticulously designed to provide a pleasing balance for all the electronically-generated 'voices'. My argument regarding the attempted integration of pre-recorded backing tracks, is the inability of the performer to continuously vary tempi and balance between the respective sources, live and electronic. I maintain that Rob's performances utilising the little hand-held digital electronic device, was interesting, clever, but not necessarily satisfying to the ear (or maybe – my ear).

As the wrap-up item before interval, the audience was treated to 'A Trip to Outer Space' to, as Rob put it, "boldly go where no

theatre organ audience has gone before” – not strictly correct but a good line! Beginning with the respective ‘Themes from Star Trek’, then with an ‘injection’ of the ‘ET’, theme, ending once again with the ‘ubiquitous’ theme from ‘Star Trek’. It was during this spectacular performance that I realised that you can ‘teach an old dog new tricks’. At this stage of my life I discovered that the Wurlitzer has a sustaining function. I became aware of this during the performance of the ET theme when I observed Rob’s hands playing something different to the sustained chords established just before. The sustained chord continued until Rob’s hand flew out to a button on the right-hand-side of the keyboard – and away went the sustained chord. How many others knew of this function? Come on, - be honest.



Refreshed following the interval break, what better introduction could there have been than the ‘Theme from the Mickey Mouse Club’, recalled from our early days of black and white TV, watching Jimmy, Annette, Cheryl, Tommy and Cubby (and the rest), introducing the Sunday night Walt Disney’s Mickey Mouse Club. Rob mentioned having met up with a group of young people during the interval who called themselves “Aussie Disney Dorks”. He undertook to include this meeting in his Facebook on his return to the USA.

Rob referred to his early mentoring by Lyn Larsen, and the fact that Lyn was 'instrumental' in Rob obtaining his first full-time job as an organist at a Pizza Parlour in South Dakota. He played an item which was a staple of Lyn Larsen - 'Broadway Rhythm' by Nacio Herb Brown. Rob chose to play his arrangement of Lyn Larsen's arrangement of 'Broadway Rhythm' complete with the introductory "Gotta Dance" attribute - from the 1935 MGM movie 'Broadway Melody of 1936'.

Rob expressed his long-time affection for the music of Sigmund Romberg, no doubt related to his long-time friendship with the US theatre organist Ron Rhode. As a tribute to Romberg and Rhode, he chose to play 'Serenade' from the 'Student Prince' written in 1924, and Romberg's most successful operetta.

Next item on the agenda was 'Cheek to Cheek' from Irving Berlin's 1935 movie hit 'Top Hat' which featured Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers.

Returning to the Disney genre, Rob played a selection from 'Mary Poppins' which as he pointed out was derived from a book written by the Australian P.L. (Pamela) Travers, with the music by the brothers Richard and Robert Sherman. 'Feed the Birds', 'A Spoonful of Sugar', 'Chim Chim Cheree', 'Jolly Holiday', 'Let's Go Fly a Kite', 'Supercalifragilisticexpialadocious', and 'I Love to Laugh'.

President Craig Keller and his wife had requested Rob play (as Rob put it), his arrangement of the Boston Pop's arrangement, as recorded by Lyn Larsen, of '76 Trombones', (from The Music Man by Meredith Wilson, in 1957).

Rob related being at Los Angeles Airport awaiting his flight to New Zealand and Australia, and observing on a TV monitor, a news item regarding a light show on the face of the Empire State Building, celebrating the 30th anniversary of 'The Phantom of the Opera', and featuring the music from the show. He recalled having performed 25 years ago, a version of 'All I Ask of You' from 'Phantom of the Opera' as presented by Barbara Streisand. As a tribute to the Phantom's 30th anniversary and to Barbara Streisand, he provided a lovely restrained performance of 'All I Ask of You', - once more featuring the 'sustain' facility of the organ mentioned earlier. With only a short break, we were 'treated' to the computerised 'tom toms' again, to accompany the main theme of the 'Phantom of the Opera' - a far cry from the restraint of 'All I Ask of You'. To conclude the piece we had an ever-so-brief appearance of the opening bars of J.S. Bach's Toccata and Fugue in

D Minor BWV 565.

The next piece of music was dedicated to the 'Aussie Disney Dorks' in the audience, and in particular to audience member, Caliope. Rob chose to play, as he put it, "the biggest hit song Disney has ever had" – the item – from the movie 'Frozen', 'Let it Go' (musical accompaniment supplemented from the digital devices). I must say that this pronouncement amazed me, I wouldn't have thought this piece would have even come close to most of the Disney favourites over the years. Well there it is – 'Let it Go' from 'Frozen'! It left me cold. By the way, this item was also accompanied by the side-man computerised 'tom toms'.

In closing Rob referred to a 'compliment' he received after one of his concerts when the audience member commented that it was a shame he had only one leg. The impression was gained when it was observed that it was only the left leg that was visible. Rob quickly clarified the situation that the right leg is usually involved in handling the 'expression' pedals and infrequently in operating the bass pedals.

As a finale to the concert-proper, Rob chose to perform the 'Hallelujah Chorus' from; 'The Messiah' by George Frederick Handel, complete with a synthetic symphony orchestra, courtesy of the computerised 'side-man'. He received enthusiastic applause for the performance which 'forced' him to return for an encore including, understandably, a couple of Disney favourites - 'Little Wooden Man', and 'When you Wish Upon a Star', but he also included 'Waltzing Matilda', (full bourdons), and 'I Still Call Australia Home', ending with the theme of his program for the day, 'Hooray for Hollywood'.

It was a delight to have Rob Richards return for the 12th time to Australia. He is definitely a very experienced and talented theatre organist. He relates well to an audience, but rather disappointingly, I suspect the audience roll-up fell short of the TOSA(NSW) Committee's hopes, and indeed must have been of some concern to the Society's very welcome guest artist.

Doug Grant

February 2018

With thanks to Barry Tooker for his assistance.

Members Diary

Next Committee Meeting - Monday May 7th at 7:00pm West
Ryde Anglican Church

**Sunday 3rd June 2:00pm
Come to the Party
to celebrate with
John Giacchi
playing the Marrickville Wurlitzer
in its
50th Anniversary year
at Marrickville Town Hall**

**Cabaret style seating
if you wish to reserve a table and
to assist with catering please contact
Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please**

More details inside this issue

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

www.omss.org.au (our sister society, Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)
www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

****Theatre Organ Magic** on RNB - FM from Sydney, NSW, Australia.**
88.7 FM and 90.3 FM 12 noon first Sunday of the month for one hour

Web Sites of Interest: <https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

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