

TOSA NEWS

Jan/Feb 2013
Volume 52 No.1

Price: \$2.00

Sunday 10 February 2013 2:00pm

John Atwell

Plays

**"Sights and Sounds of the
Mighty Wurlitzer at the Movies"**

on the

3/17 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ

Orion Centre Theatre,

155 Beamish Street, Campsie

John has a surprise in store for you

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From the President



A Happy New Year to all.

Thank you to all of our members who have supported our shows during 2012: I hope to see you at each of our shows this year.

Several people have already availed themselves of the Season Ticket option for 2013. There are obvious advantages to those with Season Tickets: their preferred seat is reserved for the year; the cost saving; no need to pre-book individual shows or queue at the Ticket Box. In addition the ticket is transferable should you be unable to attend a show. Remember, Season Tickets can only be purchased up to 10th February, the date of the first show for 2013.

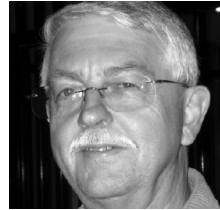
May I encourage you to plan to be at each show this year. Your Committee has arranged a varied program with your favourite Artists together with overseas artists,

Donnie Rankin and David Gray . Your support is crucial to the ongoing success of your Society, particularly as we move forward with the restoration and installation of the Christie at West Ryde.

Happy organizing

Geoff Brimley

Editorial



I hope you enjoy the review of Dave Wickerham's show at the Orion in November 2012. Another great read thanks to member Doug Grant. Doug and I enjoyed hearing the young organists play the Grand Organ at Sydney Town Hall on 28 December.

There are many organs advertised in this issue to provide members with a wide choice of instruments.

Co - Patron, Dr John Atwell has prepared a very interesting program for his show on 10 February so mark your diaries now and book your seats.

The American Theatre Organ Society Convention in Atlanta Georgia this year promises to be most interesting with such a variety of organs and such a line up of talented organists. You need to be a member of ATOS to participate. Go to the web site www.ATOS.org for more details.

We look forward to seeing you at the opening show for 2013.

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 welcomes new members & wish them a long and happy stay

Ms Marian Achten
Mrs Antonia Besters
Mr John Baremans

**The Christie Organ
call to members from the
Christie Project Team.**

Many thanks to the following

members who responded so promptly to the call for some slotted head screws for the Christie Organ restoration project. Don Tyler, Freda Thompson, David Parsons, Lester Walters, Ken Barwick and Graham Sainty.

Some definitions

Preposition: An enormously versatile part of grammar, as in 'What made you pick this book I didn't want to read to out of up for?' *Winston Churchill*

Journalism: A profession whose business it is to explain to others what it personally does not understand. *Lord Northcliffe*

Baby: A loud noise at one end and no sense of responsibility at the other. *Ronald Knox*

To Watch Out For

Sunday 3 March

2:00pm

David Bailey

plays

**The World Renowned
Marrickville Wurlitzer**

Come along to see the improvements to Marrickville Town Hall carried out during January 2013

Please note the change in ticket prices for 2013.

Members \$23.00

Non Members \$32.50

Conc/Seniors \$27.50

Group booking of 10 or more Adults \$20 each

If you are thinking of purchasing a **season ticket** you need to complete the form and send it in before 10 February 2013 to benefit from the savings available

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 Dates

The Orion Theatre Campsie

There will be some players days in 2013 - but not every month. Craig Keller will notify members by text when the dates have been confirmed .

Craig Keller on 0418484798
Players and listeners welcome.

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday evening at 7:30pm**

**NO PLAYERS DAY IN January
due to painting of MTH
Please contact Neil to confirm
availability in February**

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

Vale Cec Cranfield

1914-2012

An era has ended with the passing of Cecil Frederick Dengate Cranfield aged 98.

Believed to be the last pre-WWII theatre organist in Australia, Cec's distinguished musical career spanned five decades and included positions at many of Sydney's premier theatre organ venues.

He served in the RAAF during World War II and, when theatre organs closed with the arrival of television in the 1950s, concluded his working life managing the organ section for Palings, NSW Hammond Distributor.

As well as playing professionally, Cec played the organ at church throughout his life, most recently at Northbridge and Crows Nest, and as a valued member of the Hammond Organ Society. He was a talented and versatile musician, equally comfortable with classical, jazz, pop or theatre genres, although his first and great love was for theatre music. He is described by friends as one of life's "true gentlemen" who will be sadly missed.

Cec is survived by his wife Pat, children Julie, Marianne and Graham, four grandchildren and one great grandson.

*Reprinted from TOSA News
September 2011*

Distinguished theatre organist, Cecil Cranfield began his career at age 12, when he volunteered to fill in for a church organist who failed to show. Eighty five years later, Cec is still playing the organ, but while he has continued to play church music throughout his life, it is theatre organ music that captured his heart.

Cec first heard a Wurlitzer when his mother took him to Sydney's Prince Edward Theatre. From that moment he was an organ man. "I loved the tone, the fact that you could get more expression than on a piano, and of course, I loved the big theatre organ sound."

Cec studied cinema organ under Knight Barnett, whom he met through Knight's father Ellery Barnett, the manager of the Haymarket branch of the Commonwealth Bank where Cec worked for a time. After Cec was transferred to the Camden branch of the bank, he continued to travel to Sydney for lessons, playing on the Burwood Palatial 3/10 Christie, Auburn Civic 2/13 Wurlitzer and the Gordon Kings 2/8 Christie.

His first solo was a relief position at the Parramatta Astra playing the 2/5 Christie. Unfortunately, war interrupted his blossoming career; Cec volunteered for the RAAF and served in New Guinea. When he was discharged he returned to the bank, but resigned shortly after.

In 1946, he took the position of theatre organist at the Victory

Vale Dr Barry Pearson

1924 - 2012

TOSA Member Dr Pearson passed away September 17, 2012 aged 88

Article from the Leader Newspaper supplied by TOSA Member Ritchie Willis.

HUNDREDS of people gathered at Hurstville on Tuesday to pay tribute to a man whose life touched hundreds more.

Barry Pearson, veteran general practitioner, Rotary Club president and Hurstville Meals on Wheels founder, died on September 17, aged 88.

His adopted son, David Pearson, said Dr Pearson lived a life of significance.

"He was a man that lived for service to others," he said. You only need to look at his work with Rotary, Meals on Wheels and many other things.

"He was very passionate about his family and his work as well."

"He was still working shortly before he died, and some of his patients were the fourth generation from families he had treated."

Born in Newcastle in January 1924, Dr Pearson grew up throughout NSW before finishing his schooling at North Sydney Boys High.

Theatre Kogarah, playing the pops of the day with a few light classics on the 2/7 Christie. A year later he started playing for a half-hour theatre organ program on ABC radio, which was broadcast from different capital cities across Australia. Cec recorded for the ABC for a decade, playing the organs in the Victory at Kogarah, the Kings Gordon, the Savoy at Hurstville and the Arcadia at Chatswood.

With the arrival of television in the mid 1950s, most theatre organ venues were closed or sold. Cec continued as resident organist at the Civic Auburn for eight years. He joined Palings as manager of its new organ section and remained with Palings until his retirement 17 years later.

Cec says it is difficult to name a favourite organ as they all have their own unique sound. "If pressed, I'd probably say the Wurlitzer at Auburn was my favourite. It was a nice organ and always kept in good condition."



Cec at the Civic, Auburn

He enlisted to serve with the navy in World War II and witnessed the Japanese submarine attack on Sydney Harbour before transferring to the airforce.

Then known as "Lucky Pearson," he survived crash landings at the controls of a Tiger Moth biplane in Victoria and qualified as a Spitfire pilot, although fortuitous timing saw him spared from active duty in the war.

Dr Pearson then undertook medical training at Sydney University, and worked at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown, before moving to the Ashby Medical Centre at Penshurst in 1952.

He gave more than 50 years' service to the clinic and was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2006 for his services to the medical profession.

He also served as Rotary Club of Hurstville president, and established Hurstville Meals on Wheels in the 1960s.

Dr Pearson married Gwen Fox in 1947 and had three children: Michael, Robyn and Warwick.

They divorced and he married Jan Gokel in 1970.

The pair had one son, Stewart, and adopted Jan's son David. He is survived by five children and numerous grandchildren.

Vale Alma Jones

1929 - 2012

TOSA Member Alma Jones passed away on 5 August 2012 aged 83.

Advised by TOSA Member Ritchie Willis.

Theatre Organs available for purchase and or to a good home

FREE TO COLLECT FROM NORTH SYDNEY

c.1974 Wurlitzer Electronic Organ Model 4573C

2x61 note manuals, 3rd manual
25 note synth,
25 note pedalboard. May need
some work.

Ph: Libby Jones 0417 200 999
or 9955 7883. Email:
libbyj@auslin.com.au

Eminent Solina P256 organ

"Free to anyone who will pick it up from Burwood (NSW), a non-working **Eminent Solina P256 organ** – may be good for parts.

Contact David Gordon 0400 426 373."

Secretary, The Sydney Festival Male Voice Choir

National Panasonic Technics Organ Model SSEX 30 (6)

Purchased August 1987 in good working order. 2 keyboards and pedals. Price negotiable. Located at Hurstville to be picked up by the purchaser.

Phone Glenda on 0411 255 235

Yamaha "Orchestrelle" 2006/151/33 Player Organ in working order

Player mechanism made by Mastertouch, Sydney, c.1986

This organ was purchased by the late Bill Denham whilst working for Mastertouch and is

now with his Sister Kate.

There are 40 rolls that go with the organ. Price is \$1500 negotiable and purchaser to arrange transport. Location Blacktown area.

Contact Kay Smith 0413093397

Lowry GAK25H - 1 Theatre Organ played regularly

2 manuals and 25 note pedal board. Well maintained and played by a musician on a regular basis until 18 months ago.

Price negotiable. Located at Carlingford and purchaser to arrange transport. Contact Jenny on 98764846 or 0459592119

Show & Membership Prices

The following TOSA show ticket prices now apply:

	All Artists
Non-members	\$32.50
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$27.50
TOSA Members	\$23.00

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$20 per person

Annual Membership Fees are now: \$35.00 for Full membership,
and

\$25.00 for Concession, Country, Interstate & Overseas.

Membership enquiries Geoff Brimley (02) 6351 3122

membership@tosa.net.au

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

Lane Cove Uniting Church Organ

Following government rezoning of the site, the Finlayson Street Uniting Church at Lane Cove is soon to be demolished and redeveloped for residential purposes. The Church's organ, which has served well for over 50 years and has continued in regular use, **is now available for sale and needs to be removed before the end of April 2013.** Information on the organ is shown below.

1. From Organ Music Society of Sydney www.sydneyorgan.com
Finlayson Street Uniting Church
cnr Finlayson Street & Cox's Lane, Lane Cove
Built 1960 J.P. Eagles 2 manuals and pedals. 4 ranks. ext., electro. magnetic action. Additions 1980 G. Kendall.

2. Advertisement by Kelvin Hastie (UC Synod Music Committee)
for Sydney Organ Journal
Pipe Organ For Sale (Price by negotiation)

J.P. Eagles 1960, with later enlargements
Electro-magnetic action with Kimber-Allen electro-mechanical switches
Good quality console cabinet with roll-top lid
Good quality silent blower.
It is thought that Eagles obtained the Diapason rank from an old 1920s "Fotoplayer" organ – an automated instrument played by rolls to accompany silent movies.

Ranks available –
Open Diapason (8' 4' 2'),
Geigen (pipes from 4'),
Bourdon(16' 8' 4' - open flute from 4'),
Stopped Flute (8' 4' 2')
Dulciana (TC - pipes from 4')

An additional rank of reed pipes (uninstalled) is also available.
I am trying to find a new home for the organ and thought that you might know if there is anywhere in your area that might be looking for a nice pipe organ - church, school, hall etc. or private enthusiast.

Contact Hugh McCormack on (02) 9427 1713 or by email lanecoveuniting@bigpond.com

American Theatre Organ Society Convention in Atlanta Georgia 2013

Two Days and Five Big Shows at the Atlanta Fox on Mighty Mo

July 4th with Two Big Concerts on Big Bertha at the Alabama

The Stephenson H. S. Grande Page in Stone Mountain

The Strand Theatre Allen GW-IV in Marietta

Featuring a lineup of your Favourite Concert Artists

At the Fox Theatre, with its 4/42 Moller, see and hear:

Richard Hills, Clark Wilson,
Dave Wickerham, Tony Fenelon,
and Larry-Douglas Embury, Organist-in-Residence!

**At the Alabama Theatre, featured at Big Bertha, the now
4/30 Wurlitzer**

Simon Gledhill and Mark Herman!
The Awards Banquet in Birmingham is INCLUDED

At the Stephenson H. S. Grande Page: Dwight Thomas

At the Marietta Strand Theatre Allen GW-IV: Lance Luce

The Pre-Glow includes travel to Chattanooga, TN with concerts at the beautiful Tivoli Theatre with its 3/13 Wurlitzer plus the Memorial Auditorium 4/82 Austin with Jonas Nordwall and Walt Strony!

The After-Glow, South Georgia, showcases, Rylander Theatre 3/13 Moller & the Grand Theatre 3/18 Barton with Jelani Eddington & Ron Rhode!

Accommodation is at the luxurious J.W. Marriott Hotel in Buckhead, Atlanta's most prestigious location, at a special convention rate!

***Y'all come to "HERE WITH THE WIND":
the 2013 ATOS Convention, July 1-6, in beautiful Atlanta,
GA!***

see www.ATOS.org for more details

The next show

Sunday 10 February, 2013, 2:00pm – 4:30pm

One of Australia's Favourites

Co-Patron TOSA NSW



John Atwell

Plays

**“Sights and Sounds of the
Mighty Wurlitzer at the Movies”**

on the 3/17 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ

Orion Centre Theatre

155 Beamish Street, Campsie

Free parking behind the Theatre

Wheelchair access at the entrance

The program, will include music that was used in sound films over quite a number of decades. These will include songs from 'musicals' like "Singing in the Rain and selections from Deanna Durbin. Other numbers will be from the pen of composers like John Williams (Superman), Henry Mancini (Charioteer), Bacharach (Alfie), Rota (The Godfather). Also: Colonel Bogie (Bridge on the River Kwai), music from 'Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory' **and much more**. There will be music from a wide range of genres. John also has a surprise for the audience so come along for an entertaining afternoon.

John has been performing shows overseas in recent years in the UK, Scotland, Wales and the USA. He presented a concert on the Grand Organ, Sydney Town Hall last year at the invitation of the City Organist, Robert Ampt to popular applause from a large audience.

Tickets : Members \$23;
Non Member Pensioner/Seniors Card \$27.50
Non-Members \$32.50;

All Children FREE. Students FREE entry on confirmation of student status by phone booking a ticket prior to the show or download the Free entry form from www.tosa.net.au and send it in

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

for the best paid reserved seats

book early and securely online at trybooking.com

Visa & Mastercard accepted

*Go to www.tosa.net.au click on Events, then the artist name, then scroll down to **trybooking.com** and complete your booking by selecting your preferred seat*

or

book by phone to Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

Visa & Mastercard accepted

Classical Organ available to a good home

Robyn MacDonald has a Johannus W-30 organ that she is willing to give to a 'good home' as she no longer plays it.

The cabinet and stool are in very good condition, but the organ needs servicing to have it working well again.

"The Wesley series of organs, produced by Johannus, is designed to double the pleasure of organ playing thanks to a creative blend of traditional and contemporary technology.

From great classics to grand theatre is the simplest of changes thanks to our unique CLASSIC THEATRE CONTROL on the organ."

Contact Robyn PH 98174939

Young Organists play the Sydney Town Hall Grand Organ - 28 December 2012

as part of the Sydney Summer Organ Academy arranged by the Organ Music Society of Sydney in association with the Royal College of Organists, London.

Nicolaas Tjoelker

Litanies

Jahan Alain (1911 - 1940)

Tim Williams

Elegy

George Thalbin-Ball (1896 - 1987)

Samuel Giddy

Prelude & Fugue in C major (BWV 547)

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685 - 1750)

Edith Yam

Toccata and Fugue in D minor, op. 59, nos. 5-6

Max Reger (1873 - 1916)

Stephen Aveling-Rowe

Giga

Enrico Bossi (1861 - 1925)

Joshua Walker

Prelude from Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C

Deitrich Buxtehude (1637 - 1707)

Joshua Ryan

Sonata No. 3 in A Major

- Con mono maestoso

- Andante tranquillo

Felix Mendelssohn (1809 - 1847)

Joshua Cho

Finale

Janet Correll (b. 1942)

Alex Hilberts

Allegro from Cobcerto in D (BWV 972a)

Johann Sebastian Bach

David Tagg

Prelude and Fugue in B Major

Marcel Dupre (1886 - 1971)

Jodie Ah Chong

Teachers of these students are:

Oliver Brett, David Clark, Peter

Kneeshaw, Philip Swanton,

Christopher Wrench and

Rosemary Blake.



Are you in need of legal advice?

For legal advice on a variety of matters:

Conveyancing/Property;
Criminal Law;
Employment law;
Wills & Estates

Contact: **Rhonda Furner**,
BA (Hons,UNSW), LL.B
(UNSW), Dip. Legal Practice.

Mob - 0451 085 199
c/o The People's Solicitors -
9356 3307

The organ is the last instrument produced by the firm of **Charles Richardson & Co.** in 1929. It has been expertly restored in 2011 by Peter D.G. Jewkes Pty. Ltd.

Hear

HEATHER MOEN-BOYD

*(organist of Scots Kirk
Presbyterian Church Mosman)*

***in a pleasant programme
of music***

HORNSBY UNITING CHURCH
[24 William Street, Hornsby]

SATURDAY

16th FEBRUARY 2013

at 3pm

Adults \$15, concessions \$10.

Mystery Night at Shore School Nth Sydney

Thanks to our member, Godelieve Gavalas' excellent newsletter to the Youth of OMSS, TOSA Committee members Theo Langenberg and Ernie Vale attended the Mystery Night at Shore on Sunday 30 December 2012. Jim Clinch had supplied an Allen 300 Theatre Organ for the evening and TOSA Member Cliff Bingham played an introduction of theatre organ music which included the Dendy March. Then followed Cliff accompanying three silent movies kindly provided by Ronnie and Sharon of the Sydney Silent Film Festival. There were a dozen young organists from the Sydney Summer Organ Academy in attendance who had a great time. Two young organists made a good job of accompanying a silent movie.



*REVIEW OF DAVE WICKERHAM'S
CONCERT - The Orion Centre
- 4th November 2012 by TOSA
Member Doug Grant*

I left the concert both drained and exhilarated. I was drained because I found myself concentrating so hard to detect and identify the numerous counter melodies and embellishments the artist had woven into his astounding arrangements. I was exhilarated because I had been a party to one of the finest performances of theatre organ I had heard in a long time, and per medium of an instrument equal to the demands of the performer – Dave Wickerham from the USA. The standing ovation from the privileged group of people comprising the audience was evidence enough of the calibre of the artist.

We have been blessed this year by having two of America's best

perform for us, viz., Jonas Nordwall and Dave Wickerham – and we are yet to enjoy the artistry of Tony Fenelon. Well done TOSA(NSW)!

The opportunity to compare and contrast artists is always welcome when top-notch artists are involved. I loved Jonas' ease of navigating the pistons and the tabs, whereas I was staggered at the sheer speed and accuracy of Dave's manipulation of these. I was greatly impressed at the sensitivity of playing and the lovely registrations from Jonas, and equally by the playing technique and musical inventiveness of Dave. Both are marvellous artists in their own way, and were a joy to hear and watch.

Dave's Australian tour was at an end with his appearance at the Orion, but he was yet to travel to New Zealand. The Orion audience was about to discover what is needed to become the American Theatre Organ Society's 2011 'Theatre Organist of the Year'.

Dave's opening number was Irving Berlin's 1935 hit for Fred Astaire – 'Cheek to Cheek'. The first sign of 'something special' came with a surprising 8-bar key-change progression of 'Heaven I'm in Heaven' etc., leading to a lovely restrained simple conclusion.

Dave greeted his audience with the promise of 5 to 6 hours of material, but added that "we can send out for Pizzas later". However his 'real' promise was that he had made a selection of music "to demonstrate pretty much the full gamut of what this Unit Orchestra can do". And this he did – in spades.

From the outset I need to say I have never seen an artist work so

hard with constant tab changes, piston changes, musical embellishments, tempi and rhythm accompaniment variations, tremulants on and off, volume changes, all providing an exhausting experience for a reviewer – let alone for the artist!

The first bracket of items was one which he described as providing a seasonal shift – reflecting the northern hemisphere versus southern hemisphere situations, 'September in the Rain', complete with descending glissandos utilizing the chrysoglott, glockenspiel and xylophone, replicating the falling leaves. This gave way to Jimmy Van Heusen's 'Here's to that Rainy Day'. The fascinating thing (and often frustrating) about listening to Dave's arrangements is to try to identify little melody lines from other compositions which he weaves ever so skilfully into his performances. For example one could hear the little 4-bar introduction to 'Singin' in the Rain' during some segues and occasionally during the main item. Next came the acknowledgement to the southern hemisphere with 'Spring is Here' by Richard Rodgers. Finally in this season-switch bracket appeared 'In the Good Old Summertime' played a-la a fair-ground calliope organ, but soon giving way (via one of those frustrating segués involving another piece – in this instance, the introduction to Chopin's 'Grande Valse Brillante!'), ending with the Wurlitzer at it's very best.

Dave commented that he is a "great fan of rag-time music" and on this occasion he had on stage the Wurlitzer piano with special lighting to enable the audience to

see the individual keys functioning. He chose to play Scott Joplin's 'Easy Winners Rag', which was part of the incidental music for the 1973 movie 'The Sting'. The piano sounded out loud and clear augmented intermittently by the marvellous flute pipes of the Wurlitzer. He provided a full-bodied rendition of the piece which couldn't help but get the feet tapping.

Dave prefaced his next item by describing an incident during an early morning run near his home in Upper Michigan, when he observed what he thought was one-large and three-small garbage bags – which turned out to be a Momma bear and three baby bears looking for an entré before the big winter sleep. He lived to tell the tale and be reminded of a piece he used to enjoy on the HiFi Records label played by Ray Bohr on the Radio City Music Hall organ in New York – 'The Teddy Bears Picnic'. His arrangement of the piece clearly reflected the version he recalled from his youth which had impressed him so much.

The next item provided an insight into Dave's amazing ability to blend his classical training with his musical inventiveness. 'The Windmills of my Mind' from the movie, the 'Thomas Crown Affair' provided the base melody which progressively became the embellishments in a most astounding melange of the percussion stops with the more classical voices of the organ in the guise of a Bach Tocatta and Fugue. I am absolutely sure the majority of the audience were amazed to hear 'their' instrument produce such glorious sounds.

By way of a respite from the

virtuosity, Dave moved into a couple of pieces, presumably hymns, which remind one of so many others but which remained elusive to identify by this reviewer, before merging into a lovely rendition of 'Amazing Grace', initially untremmed. Then the surprise to everyone, the Wurlitzer suddenly became the most convincing set of bagpipes imaginable. Being of Scottish ancestry, and one who usually likes to hear bagpipes at the far end of a long valley – a very long valley, I was most impressed with Dave's translation of 'Amazing Grace' for bagpipes, complete with the simulated 'grace' note from the chanter (the flute-like part of the bagpipes). Then came another of those creations from Dave utilising a basic melody, embellished in a classical organ format. In this instance, the 'sounds' of the French organist/composer Louis Vierne rang out in the upper register with the theme of 'Amazing Grace' transferred to the bass tibiae in thrilling style, ending with a return to 'normality' with a soft, simple and satisfying conclusion. A master-piece!

To wrap up the first half of the concert Dave chose to play a couple of marches, the first being the march from the movie 'The Bridge on the River Kwai' (aka the 'Colonel Bogey March'. However Dave didn't let on that he would use the technique of blending pieces again. 'Colonel Bogey' proceeded in fine conventional military style complete with the tin whistles etc, and soon gave way to Eric Coates 'The Knightsbridge March' from the 'London Suite'. Towards the end of the latter piece Dave cleverly segued

back into the 'Colonel Bogey' theme still maintaining a vestige of the 'Knightsbridge March' – very clever stuff, and rewarded admirably by the audience-applause.

Interval over and Dave opened the second half of his concert with an upbeat 'stomp' of Duke Ellington's 'I'm Beginning to See the Light'. By now the audience was becoming accustomed to Dave's penchant for throwing in little musical tit-bits and even a snippet from 'Nola' made its appearance. The same amazing attention to variations, subtleties and embellishments were ever-present in this number, with scarcely a section of the organ untouched. Ellington would have approved.

Dave commented that he would play a medley of John Williams' movie-music compositions "of symphonic style that work particularly well on theatre organ,- in no particular order – and I probably won't do it like this again." John Williams 'Superman' theme opened the proceedings with prominent heralding trumpets and resounding bass tibia. A lovely soft segué into the charming little 'ET' theme. Another amazing segue into the 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' march followed, allowing Dave to exploit the full dynamic range of the instrument.

In an attempt to "slow down a little" Dave next played 'Misty' by Erroll Garner. The Orion Wurlitzer excels in the tibia department which Dave exploited for the main theme embellished by the glockenspiel. An 'entr'acte' went into an upbeat tempo before breaking into a waltz rhythm, then back to the

main theme for a restrained conclusion with the refrain 'Look at me' appearing once more.

A "little tribute to George" (Gershwin) followed – but by now we had come to realise that Dave's "littles" were far from it. He opened with the unmistakable first few bars of George Gershwin's 'Rhapsody in Blue' before a transition to 'I Got Rhythm' with some stunning flute arpeggios, and even the old Wurlitzer piano appeared.

The marvellously languid 'Summertime' followed with Dave's by-now typical interplay of the 'Rhapsody in Blue' melody woven into the main theme. Next 'Fascinating Rhythm' at a cracking pace segueing into 'Liza'. The ability to watch Dave's lightning-fast operation of the tabs and pistons is an experience in its own right. This was very much in evidence in these two pieces. A brief transition to 'S'Wonderful' before the appearance of 'Our Love is Here to Stay' (was that a bit of 'Rhapsody in Blue' appearing in the background accompaniment?) It was back to the concluding bars of 'Rhapsody in Blue' with the piano being given the opportunity to fulfil the original concept by Gershwin. However it was not to be the end of the selection as we moved into 'Swanee' for the (assumed) 'big finish' – again to be startled by the 'drums and fife' heralding 'Strike up the Band'. But this time it was onwards towards the 'big finish' as only 'Strike Up the Band' can permit. Akin to a steam train picking up speed Dave headed for the hills with a final reprise of the main theme and this time ending with all stops out, (with even a

little bit of 'Rhapsody in Blue' making an appearance).

Just prior to interval Dave had suggested that members of the audience could make requests. He ended up with a host, and had to choose some for his final item of the scheduled program. What better way to commence the bracket than with 'Chopsticks' on the Wurlitzer piano but played in a manner seldom heard, including the theme on the pedals and played in a minor key. It seemed that Dave couldn't resist the temptation to burst into a classical organ format. 'Baby Elephant Walk' made a brief appearance on the flutes with bass drum support. This Mancini piece preceded the lovely lilting 'Easter Parade'. 'White Christmas' appeared giving a hint of the impending holiday period. A further Christmas hint came with an amazing pseudo-classical blend of 'Carol of the Bells' with bellowing tubas, followed by a welcome segue into Mancini's peaceful 'Moon River'. Another of those clever blends saw (heard?) Dave blend the left-hand accompaniment vamp reminiscent of 'Happy Talk' from the 'King and I' with the right-hand melody of the 'Song of India' more commonly associated with Tommy Dorsey – a very clever and fascinating blend. A jump into a swing version of the same melody provided a surprising alternative, but this was soon replaced with a wistful version of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' building to the closing bars of 'I'm Always Chasing Rainbows'. What medley of requests wouldn't include 'Twelfth Street Rag' which Dave duly provided building in his now-

expected approach to spectacular variations on the theme. A sudden jump to 'The Loveliest Night of the Year' in a fair-ground format.

Another welcome reprieve introduced Stephen Sondheim's 'Send in the Clowns' enhanced by the sweet string sounds of the organ. A brief appearance of 'Rock of Ages' lead alpha-omega fashion into 'About a Quarter to Nine' from '42nd Street' and made popular by Al Jolson.

Then.....the most spectacular contribution of the day, the full uninterrupted performance of the 'Toccatà' from the 5th Organ Symphony in F of Charles Marie Widor. Who has ever heard the Orion Wurlitzer sound like this? An amazing performance played with all the virtuosity and musicality demanded by Widor. Who could have ever believed the sound emanating from the Orion 3/17 - in the hands of a master musician. Is it any wonder Dave Wickerham received a standing ovation from the entire audience fortunate enough to have been in attendance that afternoon in November?

As an encore, Dave contributed the 'Rondo in G' by the 16th century composer John Bull transcribed by the US organist Richard Elsasser and described by Dave as "kind'a like an Irish Jig on the pedals" a study requiring rapid triplets in the right hand and considerable rhythmic pedal work . Somewhat surprisingly Dave flowed into 'Waltzing Matilda', then into a march-like format encouraging the statutory hand-claps, and ending with the full-blown organ, and another standing ovation.

Bowing to the acclaim Dave

played a second encore commencing with the 'Hawaiian Farewell' with very clever pseudo glide a-la the Hawaiian guitar by selectively activating and de-activating the tremulants. A final "Cheerio" then into 'Tico Tico' for a dazzling display of fingering dexterity just to add the final 'cream to the cake' for the day.

Dave Wickerham is no 'retiring little violet' when it comes to playing the theatre organ and it should be said that the closing bars of his performance would have tested the instrument 'to the max'. I was informed later that a cypher had been detected but such was the skill of Dave Wickerham that he worked his way around the registrations until he located the offending pipe and caused it to clear. There's skill for you! Full credit must be given to the team responsible for the maintenance and tuning of the organ because it responded to everything the artist demanded of it. And similar credit to the video team who enabled the audience to view and better appreciate the technical skill of Dave Wickerham in his ability to extract every little nuance possible from the instrument.

Doug Grant

With thanks to Rob Gliddon and Barry Tooker for their assistance. November 2012

Many thanks Doug for another comprehensive and insightful review for the interest of TOSA members, particularly those who were unable to attend the show. (*Editor*)



L to R Len Rawle, Richard Hills, John Mann, Richard Cole (seated) and Simon Gledhill

**Gala Wurlitzer Concert
at the Musical Museum Kew Bridge London
29 September 2012**

Your Editor arrived in London on the morning of 28 September 2012 just in time to attend this great Wurlitzer event the following evening. What a smorgasboard of theatre organ talent on one program. Having discovered this event on the Cinema Organ web site prior to leaving Oz I immediately booked a ticket. The Wurlitzer sounds excellent in this new purpose built museum. There was also a display of some of the restoration work being done for the Troxy Wurlitzer installation at Stepny. I met Graham Noble, John Gibbon and David Warner from the Troxy Team along with each of the organists. I also had a chat with David Gray who is our second overseas artist for 2013 in August. David is really looking forward to his return visit to Australia.

TOSA NSW

* 2013 - OUR 53rd YEAR *

John Atwell Sunday 10 February at 2:00pm

Orion Theatre, Campsie

Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

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

Currently Members days first Sunday of the month at 2pm in the Dalkeith Hall using a Kawai Organ

Contact: Pat Gibbs (08) 9450 2151 patgibbs@oneseniors.com.au.

TOSA Gold Coast

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

Contact: Rosa Free 5575 3295

TOSA Queensland

Executive Secretary: Brett Kavanaugh 0412 879 678

Stirling Productions

Karrinyup Community Centre, Perth, Western Australia

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

Interstate TOSA Members are welcome to a 50% discount to concerts on presentation of their membership card

TOSA Victoria - mto

Contact Margaret Sutcliffe on (03) 9891 7227

Warragul Theatre Organ Society

Events Contact: Di Yuill (03) 5623 3301

Members Diary

February 2013

Monday 4th Committee 7:00pm Burwood RSL

****Sunday 10th FEBRUARY 2013 2:00PM ****

ORION THEATRE, 155 Beamish St., CAMPSIE

Dr JOHN ATWELL

PLAYS

“Sights and Sounds of the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Movies”

Book on-line at trybooking.com see www.tosa.net.au or
Contact Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

March 2013

Tuesday 5th Committee 7:00pm Burwood RSL

****Sunday 3rd March 2013 2:00PM ****

Marrickville Town Hall

Cnr Petersham & Marrickville Roads

Marrickville

David Bailey PLAYS

THE World Renowned WURLITZER THEATRE ORGAN

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

Web Sites of Interest:

<https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

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

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

www.ATOS.org

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