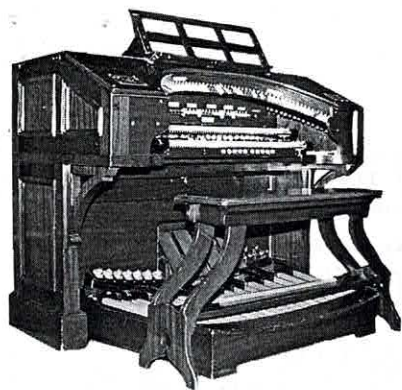
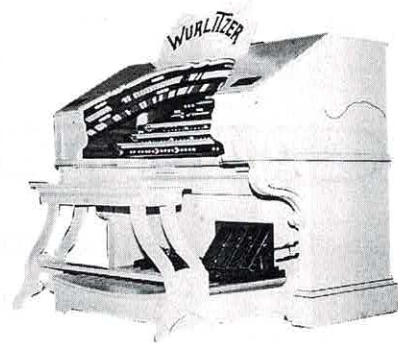


JUNE, 1995



2/11 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Marrickville Town Hall

TOSA *NEWS*



3/17 WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ
Orion Centre Campsie

The Welcome Return of RAY THORNLEY



Sunday, 25th June, 1995 at 2pm
Orion Centre, Campsie

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Issue 5
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TOSA NEWS

JUNE, 1995

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (NSW DIVISION) Inc.

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COMING EVENTS

MAY

Wednesday 24 at 7.30pm **Members' Playing Night**
Orion Centre Campsie

Wednesday 31 at 8.00pm **Half Yearly
General Meeting**
Orion Centre Campsie

JUNE

Monday 5 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**

Wednesday 14 at 7.30pm **Members' Playing Night**
Orion Centre Campsie

Sunday 25 at 2.00pm **Ray Thornley Concert**
Orion Centre Campsie

JULY

Monday 3 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**

Sunday 23 at 2.00pm **Jonas Nordwall Concert**
Orion Centre Campsie

AUGUST

Monday 7 at 7.30pm **Committee Meeting**



REMEMBER TO TUNE IN TO
2CBA-FM 103.2

EVERY MONDAY AT 9.00 pm
For "Theatre Organ Highlights"
Presented by Chris Styles

Editorial

What a busy TOSA month May turned out to be! - with a **Dance Night**, a **Phil Kelsall Concert**, a **Members' Playing Night** and a **Half Yearly General Meeting**. All these events, of course, cause quite a few people a lot of work and I'm sure most members appreciate very much the amount of work put in by our voluntary workers.

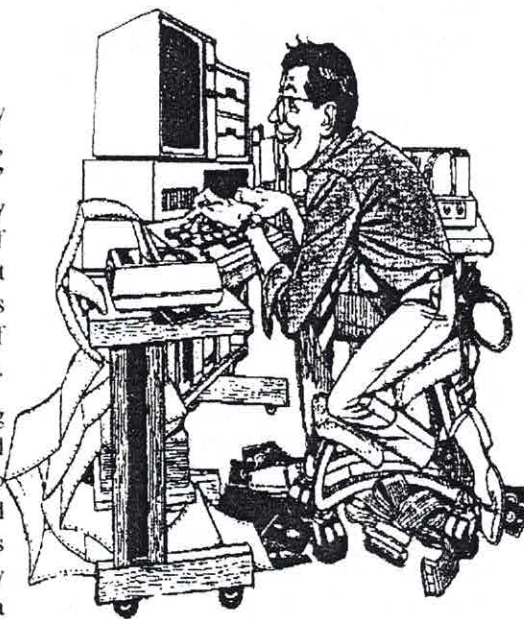
Remember, if you would be willing to help in any way, the committee would be very glad to hear from you and to invite you to participate as a valued helper. All you need to do is contact us by writing to the **Secretary** or by speaking to a committee member at a concert or on the phone.

A word about contact persons and addresses : If you wish to change your address or renew your membership, the person to contact is our **Membership Secretary, Walter Pearce**. If you wish to make suggestions or offer help, please write to the Committee via our **Secretary, Bill Schumacher**. If you wish to submit an article, pass on some information, or express an opinion for the consideration of all our members, send your contribution to me, **Colin Groves**. (For the electronically privileged, a fax can be sent to me via my wife, on 351 2058, marked "Att.: Françoise".) If you wish to speak to us in person, of course, we are all usually at our fabulous concerts as well. If you have transportation problems, you can contact our **Transport Officer, Ritchie Willis**, to see if he can help.

If you are travelling interstate, or even internationally, and wish know of events or the names and addresses of contact persons elsewhere, you could ask either myself or our **Secretary**, as we have information about many other **Organ Societies** sent to us regularly.

Please try to come the next couple of events at the **Orion Centre - Playing Night** (Wed. 24th May) and the **Half Yearly General Meeting** (Wed. 31st May). At our **Members' Playing Nights** and at the **General Meetings**, the Society provides tea, coffee and biscuits and we ask members to bring along a plate of other small items for a more varied supper.

Best Wishes,
Colin Groves



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

TOSA (NSW) is happy to welcome the following new members from near and far. We wish you all a long and enjoyable association with our Society :

James Clausen
- Portland, USA
Hilda and Harry Robertson
- Berowra
Neida and Dudley Rossiter
- Oak Flats
Daphne and Selwyn Rawson
- Bensville
Annette Dunn
- Dulwich Hill
Margaret Ruckert
- Lugarno
Robert Seward
- Winston Hills
Harold Birch - Canley Vale
Gordon Thompson
- Narooma
Ian Ackland - Bankstown

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Do you wish to experience the sense of power and pleasure that playing TOSA's *Mighty WurliTzer* from the old **Capitol Theatre** can give? If so, come along to the **Members' Playing Nights** on

Wednesday, 24th May
and
Wednesday, 14th June.

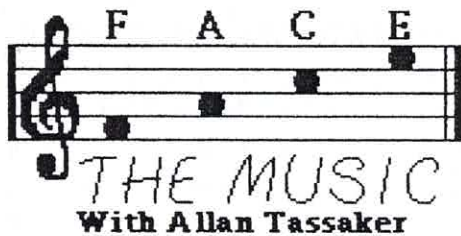
7.30pm at the
Orion Centre.

Recent **Interstate** and **International** Newsletters available for perusal, while members play for us.

A friendly, entertaining social evening. Drop in for a short time only, if you wish. Share and enjoy a light supper during the evening.

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

The deadline for each edition of TOSA News is the 12th of the preceding month



Allan tells us that a friend of his was cranky with him the other day and screamed :
 "I hope your organ is too difficult to play!"
 He screamed back :
 "Same to you with knobs on !!"

THE CHURCH CONCERT
by Allan Tassaker

A charitable, conscientious conductor-colleague contrived a collection of classical contributions concerning a concerted concert, controlled by a contributing congregation of conniving, church-conscious Catholics.

Nevertheless, the music was a mangled, meaningless, muted, mundane mess to be marketed at mass, manipulated by a mirthless, mad minister.

The feature was a flimsy, futile flop, failing to raise funds for the flock forthwith.

Amen!

FOR SALE
Conn 632 Serenade
 2 manuals
 Price : \$2,000
 For more information,
 Contact : St Patrick's
 Presbytery
 51-59 Allawah Street,
 Blacktown
 Phone : 622 1125
 Fax : 671 6425

MY ORGAN

has ...

- More keys than the local locksmith
- More notes than the bank of England
- More pedals than a dozen cycles
- More scales than a fishmarket
- More lights than a Christmas tree
- More instruments than a brain surgeon
- More controls than a can opener
- More harmonics than Larry Adler
- More repeats than a touch of diarrhoea
- More curves than Parramatta Road
- More adjustments than programming a video recorder
- More wiring than an artificial limb
- More bells than St Mary's Cathedral
- More whistles than Marilyn Monroe ever received
- More accompaniments than an escort agency
- More presets than a woman's hairdo
- More wows than a lotto win
- More registrations than the dole queue
- More transistors than an artificial heart
- More wood than the Daintree Forest
- More plastic than my dentures
- More rhythms than Fred Astaire's Dancing School
- More ivory than all the elephants in Africa
- More vibrato than the Newcastle earthquake
- More buttons than my mother's corset
- More stops than a school bus run
- More tabs than the T.A.B.
- More sustain than Betty Cuthbert
- More speakers than the Houses of Parliament
- Makes more noise than a jackhammer
- Is shinier than the Virgin Mary's face
- Has a bigger bench than the High Court of Australia
- Takes up more room than Oliver Hardy
- It has that switched on look
- And I love it!

Yours Truly,
Allan Tassaker

FOR SALE
Piano-corder
Marantz Unit
 Can Be Fitted To Any Piano
 Complete with
 Pre-recorded Tapes
 Good Condition
 Price : \$2,000
 Phone : John Shaw
 759 5825

Membership Notes...

Thank you to all those people who got their renewal payment into the P.O. box early.

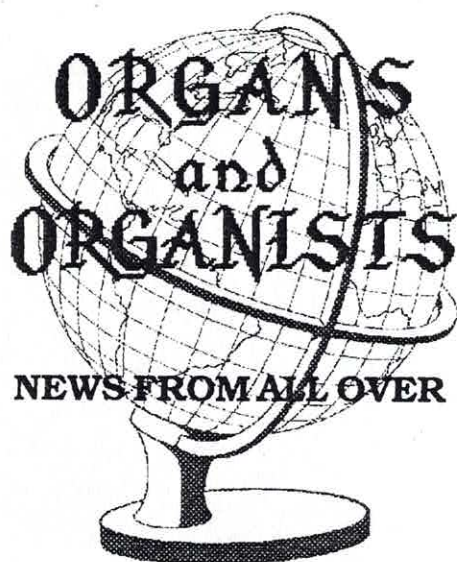
Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of **TOSA** - and pay their dues, and encourage their friends and neighbours to join! The **Theatre Organ Society** needs you - and we think you need **TOSA**, if you want to hear the best music played by the best musicians on the "**King of Instruments**".

Remember membership is from 1st July, 1995, to 30th June, 1996. You are presently paid up until the date on the address label on the back of this **TOSA News**.

Walter Pearce
Membership Secretary

If you are seeking an antique, theatre, console or spinet organ contact the
MANNING ORGAN SOCIETY
 (065) 531431 anytime

FOR SALE
Thomas Organ
 Model 606 Trianon
 Theatre Organ Style
 3 manuals and Chimes
 Pedals - 2 octaves
 Bandbox - Playmate Combo
 and Fancyfoot Combo
 Built-in Main Speakers and
 Leslie Speaker
 Price : \$500
Must Sell - Moving!
 Phone : Elise on
 (02) 949 2502



SYDNEY TOWN HALL

Two chances this month to hear the **Town Hall's** fabulous **William Hill and Son**, 5-manual organ.

There will be a free lunch-time recital on Friday, 9th June from 1.10 to 1.50pm, when Associate Organist, **Robert Goode**, will play and **Jeannie Kelso** from the **Australian Opera** will sing. The programme will include movie themes, arias and the sparkling **Litolff Scherzo**.

On Thursday 22nd June at 7.30pm **Robert Ampt** and his wife, **Amy Johansen**, promise solos, duets and surprises! The cost is \$14 or \$10, and is part of the **Evening Master Series** featuring the Grand Organ.

SINCERE THANK YOU

Our thanks to **Mrs R. Cant** and **Mr P. Ellis** for donating raffle prizes at our recent concerts. Your kind thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

Profits from our raffles are now deposited in our **Building Fund Account** and every gift or purchase helps to get us closer to our goal.

A GREAT DAY

News comes to us from **Miriam Morris**, former editor of **TOSA News**, that **John Giacchi**, well-known local organist, had double cause for celebration on the 1st May last. He followed his **Graduation Ceremony**, where he was awarded his **Bachelor of Laws** degree, with an evening performance for an important concert, playing the massive **Sydney Town Hall** organ.

A very memorable day! Congratulations to **John** on two great milestones reached in the one day.

CONCORD UNITED

Norm Weismantel of **Ryde** informs us that a concert of organ, piano and saxophone music will be held at the **Concord Uniting Church** on Sunday, 16th July, 1995, at 2.30pm.

Andrea Harrison will be the main artist and she will be assisted by some of her students.

The organ is a **Rodgers Classic**. The church is on the corner of **Concord** and **Wunda Roads** in **Concord West**.

Admission is \$7 (\$5 concession) and includes afternoon tea. The proceeds will go to Church Mission.

If you have any enquiries, phone **(02) 809 1808**.

MARGARET HALL

If you would like to hear our local keyboard wizard, **Margaret Hall**, you may like to go along to **St Stephens Anglican Church Hall, Lugarno**, for "**An Evening of Popular Music**". The hall is situated in **Old Forest Road, Lugarno** and the concert will be held on Saturday, 10th June, 1995, starting at 7.30pm

Margaret will be playing a **Yamaha HX-1** and a **Technics KN 2000** Keyboard. As associate artists, you will also hear **Anna Deitz** on flute and **Phillip Brander** on violin. Supper will be served at the conclusion of the concert.

Admission is free but a retiring donation of a banknote per adult for **St Stephens** funds would be appreciated.

Everyone is invited to attend for a great evening's of musical entertainment, led by **Margaret** at the organ.

Don't Forget TOSA's
HALF YEARLY MEETING
Wednesday, 31st MAY, at 8pm
Orion Centre
155 Beamish Street, Campsie
Bring a plate We need a Quorum!
An Informative and Social Evening

ATOS CONVENTION, 1995



This year the annual Convention of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) is being held in Detroit, from 30th June to 6th July. This article is about the organ in the main venue, the fabulous Fox Theatre, Detroit.

*Not Only Has the Fabulous Fox Been Restored!
Now the Wurlitzer, Four-Manual, Thirty-Six Rank Theatre Organ Has Been Restored!*



It definitely will be an ear and eye opening experience to listen to the newly-restored Wurlitzer organ in the Fox Theatre. Many major improvements to the sound and functioning of the organ have been wrought without changing the original character of the instrument. Most notably the 88 swell shades have been adjusted to more than double the open area into the 5,000-seat auditorium. When the organ lift rises, it reveals a massive burnished bronze and gold console. A 4/36 Fox Special Wurlitzer, it was one of a set of five nearly identical instruments. The prototype was installed in the original Paramount Theatre on Manhattan Island. Wurlitzer created additional instruments for Fox's "Deluxe" houses in Detroit, St. Louis, Brooklyn, and San Francisco.

When the organ speaks it does so through eight ornate plaster organ grilles on either side of the stage. The chambers are double-stacked, occupying an area between the fourth and seventh floors backstage. It is safe to say that sounds that emanate from these massive chambers are as rich and as vibrant as the theatre's "Hindoo" decor.

The Detroit Fox Wurlitzer is completely original. It is powered by either of two identical 50 horsepower Spencer blowers located over 30 feet below ground level in the theatre's sub-basement. The ornate console on a separate electric lift is also completely original. All 348 stoptabs are operated by wind and the original setterboards. The organ is a fortunate survivor of the "Indiana Jones"-like plundering of ranks of pipe organ treasures. Only seven of the more than 2,500 pipes are not original to this instrument. The electro-pneumatic relay of the Fox organ is operating almost entirely on 1928 leather. It is one of the most reliable parts of the instrument.

The organ occupies nine rooms; five pipe chambers, two percussion chambers, blower and relay rooms. Exotic specifications of this instrument include a solo scale Brass Trumpet, three Tibias, four Vox Humana, a rare Musette, a 16' Post Horn, and tuned timpani. In addition to standard-sized sets, two Xylophones, a Marimba, and Cathedral Chimes of solo scale are also provided. The organ also still has its original slave console.

Much of the unique all-encompassing sound is created by the Tuba Mirabilis, Orchestral Tibia, Diaphonic Diapason (down to 32'), and the Solo String; all voiced on 25". Ciphers in this unusually loud string are often mistaken by deafened technicians for the nearby Post Horn.

Although the organ has always been considered amongst the finest in existence, its recent restoration by veteran organman Roger Mumbrue, assisted by Dick Smith, should give even the casual organ aficionado reason to visit Detroit this summer.

Two major concerts featuring Jonas Nordwall and Ron Rhode are scheduled for the 1995 ATOS Convention. This will be the first public opportunity for enthusiasts to hear the renowned Fox organ as it was intended to be heard.

This combination of this colossal movie palace with its extraordinary acoustics and this unique organ will bring you a wide range of seldom-heard auditory thrills. Let this be your opportunity to hear what the visiting artists have been raving about.

Coordinated by: Skrdla, Lauter, Mumbrue, Bellamy, VanSteenkiste, Schlesing.



American Theatre Organ Society

CONVENTION '95 CALENDAR OF EVENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

DATE	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING
Friday June 30		Registration - 1:00 p.m. Hyatt Regency	No Host Cocktail Party Pre-Glow Senate Theatre Lyn Larsen
Saturday July 1	Registration - 7:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. - Concert Fox Theatre Jonas Nordwall	Option: Theatre Tour - Must be able to walk Concert - Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian Church Scott Foppiano	Concert - Redford Theatre Tony O'Brien Optional Jam Session
Sunday July 2	8:00 a.m. - Church Service Chapter Reps Meeting Home Tours Workshop - Allen Miller Workshop - Lee Erwin	Concert - Redford Theatre Russell Holmes Cameos of Winners of Young Theatre Organist Competition	Concert - Church of Today Steve Schlesing Pierre Fracalanza
Monday July 3	Flint Institute of Music (Dort Music Center) Barry Baker Baldwin Theatre - Royal Oak Melissa Ambrose	Seminars Devtronix Computer Network	Concert - Senate Theatre Simon Gledhill Concert - Redford Theatre (Silent Film) Lee Erwin
Tuesday July 4	Concert - Michigan Theatre John Lauter	Annual Meeting of ATOS (Michigan Theatre) Concert - Michigan Theatre Clark Wilson	No Host Cocktail Party Banquet - Hyatt Regency John Steele - Piano Lobby Following: Lance Luce & Mike Przbyski
Wednesday July 5	Concert - Fox Theatre Ron Rhode Roll Player in Fox Lobby	Workshops: #1 - Organ Registration #2 - ETONES #3 - Pipe Organ Group	Concert - Senate Theatre Walt Strony Visiting Artists Jam Session
Thursday July 6	After-Glow *#1 Lansing - Tom Hazleton #2 Henry Ford's Home Carail Museum *(Lansing - Grand Ledge, Opera House, Tom Hazleton)		After-Glow #3 Concert Silent Film Dennis James

CHATSWOOD'S *WurliTzer*

Our TOSA committee has recently been in contact with the Organ Committee of the Willoughby Civic Centre, with a view to arranging some TOSA events, such as a Members' Night or a major concert, at their *WurliTzer*. The Civic Centre, in the middle of Chatswood's Shopping Centre is certainly an attractive venue and the organ, similar to our *Marrickville WurliTzer*, has been very impressively restored. The following article appeared in the *North Shore Times* this year, advertising a concert which successfully took place in February, 1995.



Roseville Cinema organist Ron Sinclair with the Wurlitzer organ

The mighty *Wurlitzer* makes its comeback

by EMMA GEARY

WILLOUGHBY Civic Centre's mighty Wurlitzer organ will have its first work-out this year tonight (Friday) at 8pm.

Roseville Cinema organist Ron Sinclair will present a program of favorite tunes including compositions by Jerome Kern, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Richard Rogers and Ivor Novello.

Mr Sinclair, who has been playing theatre organs for about 30 years, said the Wurlitzer was different from other organs because of the huge range of effects it was capable of producing.

Mr Sinclair said the Willoughby organ, which was made in America about 70 years ago, was one of four in public places in Sydney.

The organ used to be housed at the Arcadia Theatre in Chatswood and has been meticulously restored to its former glory.

Mr Sinclair said the Wurlitzer was made to accompany silent movies providing appropriate background noise for scenes being screened.

Artists on tonight's program include Australian Opera chorus soprano Leslie Martin and Mr Sinclair's son, tenor Dean Sinclair.

The concert will be held in the civic centre, Victoria Rd, Chatswood.

A REMINDER

Additional Members' PLAYING Nights

ORION CENTRE *WurliTzer* at 7.30pm

Wednesday, 24th May

Wednesday, 14th June

Rebirth of the Paris GAUMONT - PALACE *Christie* Organ

Ray Greaves of North Ryde has kindly submitted this interesting article (from an unnamed journal) which tells of the continuing story of this Parisian Christie. In the April, 1993, issue of TOSA News we told of the removal of this organ from its original home, but at that time we did not know its fate.

This article, written probably translated from the original French by Michel Louvet, fills in the gaps in our knowledge very nicely.

The pipe organ, that "pope of instruments" as **Franz Liszt** wrote, is doubtless the most complex - and perhaps most complete - instrument among all those that exist. It is well known that an organ designed for a church or concert hall is, in principle, never mass produced. Therefore a great diversity of models exists.

The motion-picture pipe organ (because the ones now existing are mainly electronic derivatives), alas at the end of its era, is designed in almost the same way as one planned for a church, with the exception that this instrument - which is still highly appreciated in **Belgium**, the **Netherlands**, **Great Britain** and the **United States** - is equipped with stops specially designed for playing so-called "light" or "mood" music.

This does not prevent, as in most conventional liturgical instruments, the controls (between the different keyboards) and the pipes (sitting on the wind chests) from being handled by valves controlled by an electropneumatic process. However, air pressure is considerably higher than in conventional organs, hence the harmonics are higher, and particular stops of percussion (bells, celesta, drums, etc.) can be added, along with tremolos and vibratos, for the purpose of producing special "effects".

In **France**, the motion-picture pipe organ had its moment of glory. **Paris**, **Lyon** and **Strasbourg**, for example, had several of them before, and just after, the War. Today, none of them exist anymore ... except the once-famous instrument at the **Gaumont-Palace** in **Paris**.

Foreign and provincial visitors, like many **Parisians**, still remember that **Place Clichy** in **Paris** was proud to have one of the largest movie theatres in the world, the **Gaumont-Palace** (6,000 seats) which featured a pipe organ that quite certainly was the largest one in the country, even bigger than the instruments at the **Olympia** or **Paramount Theatres** in **Paris** and the **U.T.** in **Strasbourg**. This organ at the **Gaumont-Palace** fulfilled its mission until 1972 when the large movie theatre

was massacred - torn down completely to make room eventually for ... an office block.

The organ at the **Gaumont-Palace**, whose keyboards had been ruled by such famous people as **Georges Gethem**, **Simone Bernard**, **Tommy Desserre** (appointed in 1932), and lastly **Gilbert Le Roy**, was built in 1930 by the **British** firm, **Christie**, first of all for use in accompanying silent films and then, after talkies had appeared, to become the main attraction of the intervals between films.

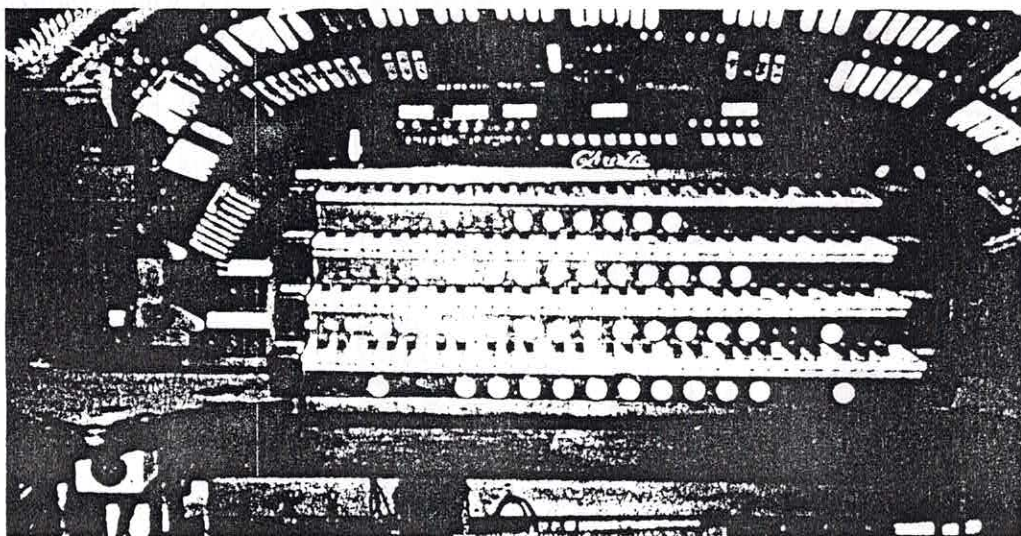
The organ had 4 manual keyboards with 61 notes and 32 pedals, all activating a series of pipes located in 2 spectacular chambers suspended 20 metres above the stage, in the arches of the proscenium.

Thanks to the Unit system, which brought electro-pneumatic motors into play to duplicate the actual stops, the organ at the **Gaumont-Palace** with its 15 series of stops (approximately 1,200 pipes) artificially had access to more than 100 stops.

In 1972, as has already mentioned, the **Gaumont-Palace** was destroyed. What was to become of the last vestige in **France** of the movie-theatre organ? The ones in the **Olympia**, the **Paramount** and the **U.T.** in **Strasbourg** had all been sold for scrap!

Thanks to a few fans, the instrument from the **Gaumont-Palace** was not scrapped, but merely taken apart and placed in storage until a decision could be made about its future.

This decision was taken on 7th



The former console of the Gaumont-Palace Christie

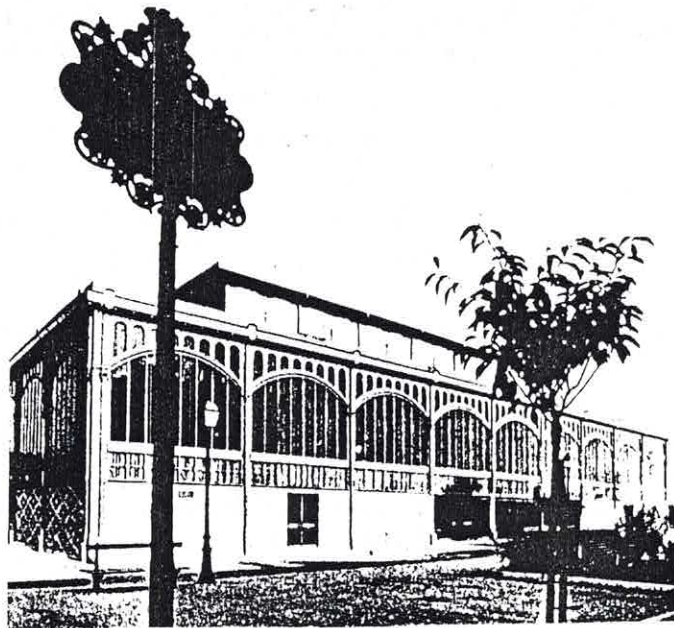
April, 1976, when the instrument was auctioned off to **Roland Nungesser**, Mayor of **Nogent-sur-Marne**.

Meanwhile, **Michel Guy**, then State Secretary for Culture, had classified it as a historical monument. The decision was taken to reassemble the organ in the **Baltard Pavilion**, one of the few remaining buildings from the former **Central Markets (Les Halles)** in **Paris**, which had also been re-erected at **Nogent-sur-Marne**.

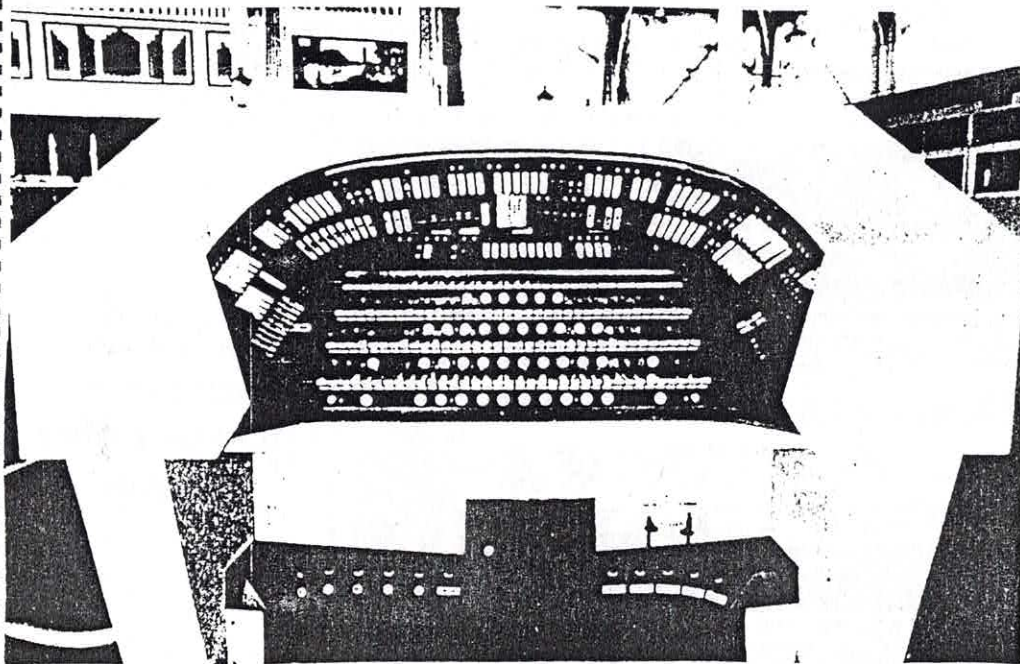
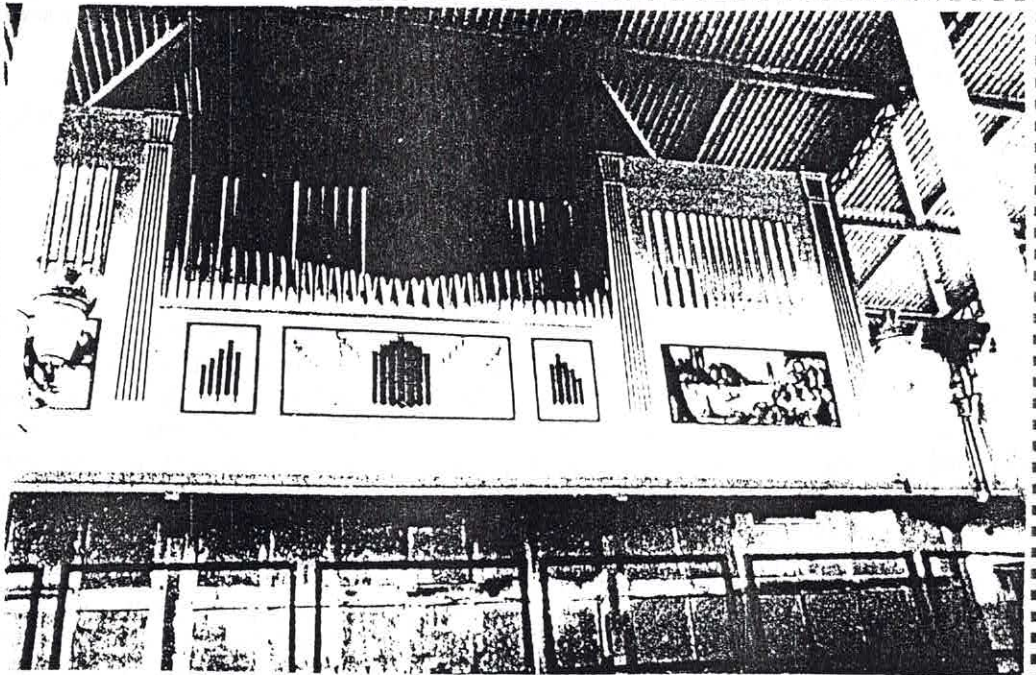
Several reconstruction projects were examined by the municipality of **Nogent-sur-Marne** and the experts in charge of the reinstallation. Finally it was **Georges Danion**, head of a firm founded by his grandfather, **Victor Gonzalez**, who was made responsible for the reconstruction. The choice was warmly applauded.

A partial view of the facade of the organ in its new home

In his reconstruction plan, **George Danion**, assisted by his technical manager, **Jean Bourgeois**, first of all tackled the problem of the exterior facade of the organ chambers - because they had not been visible to the public in the theatre, no facade had been necessary, but in the **Baltard Pavilion**, on the other hand, it had become indispensable.



The re-erected Baltard Pavilion in Nogent-sur-Marne



After extensive research, **Danion** proposed 2 expressive chambers equipped with exterior decoration which showed the charms of **Nogent-sur-Marne** in days gone by - 2 painted panels, separated by pipes which were also purely decorative. The panels were produced by the painter-illustrator **Patrick Danion**, son of **Georges**.

The new console

Then a variety of technical problems had to be solved. According to the wishes expressed at the time of the auction, the organ should

preferably be rebuilt in its entirety. **Georges Danion** and **Jean Bourgeois** therefore rebuilt the instrument "as fully as possible", preserving all its parts.

However, 2 changes were made to it. The **Gaumont-Palace** organ had 35 free combinations operated by pneumatic controls. Since the **Gonzalez** firm had developed an electronic synthesizer (already in use in organs in **Pau**, in **Lyon's Ravel Auditorium**, in **Nevers** and soon in **Beauvais** and **Chartres**) which in spite of its very small size, is capable of obtaining 256 controllable combinations, the builders installed this, in place of the former system. Because of its small size, this piece of equipment was placed in the console itself. The console was mobile with, behind it, about 30 metres of cable enclosing 800 contact wires.

The second change is not strictly speaking a "change", more an addition. Outside the chambers, Danion has installed a trumpet and a bugle, both in a horizontal position, to indicate a military call for a retreat.

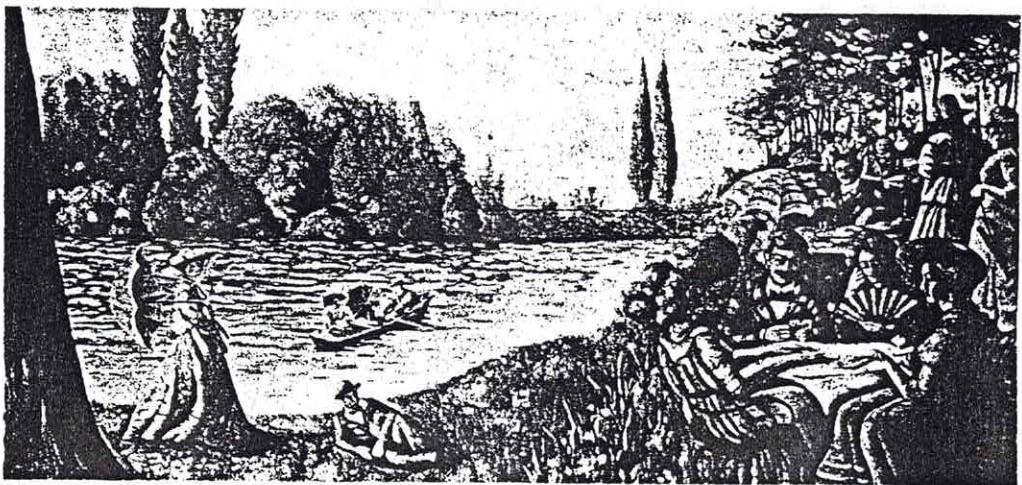
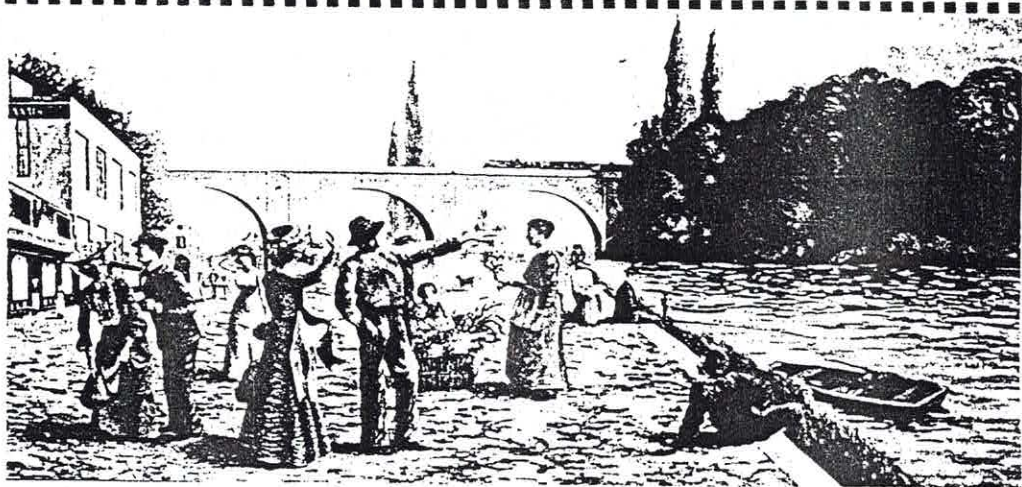
The instrument from the defunct **Gaumont-Palace** has been modernised and completed, and new life has been breathed into it. There is no doubt that its own special sonorities (which have nothing in common with carnival barrel-organs or electronic organs) will delight the nostalgia seekers (of whom I am one) who look back to a past not all that long ago, and it will succeed in enchanting new generations for, despite what some think, the motion-picture organ is far from being a minor instrument.

*The two paintings
on the facade
of the organ*



Gilbert Le Roy, last official organist at the Gaumont-Palace and now organist of the rebuilt organ at Nogent-sur-Marne.

(When used on a record cover, this photograph of the Christie had "Wurlitzer" written on the music stand! - Ed.)



1. Painting by Patrick Danion;
"Sunday at Nogent"
(left-hand side of the organ)

2. Painting by Patrick Danion;
"Nogent of yore and the Charms of its Sundays"
(right-hand side of the organ)

CHRIS MCPHEE

Theatre Organ, the magazine of **ATOS**, recently carried a review of **Chris McPhee's** debut recording, **Polished Pipes**. In Australia, we know how good he is, but it's always great to see well-deserved praise and recognition coming from overseas as well. The cassette and CD are available from our **Record Bar**.

POLISHED PIPES — Chris McPhee

What a marvelous first effort! Chris McPhee is only 20 years old and surely has a bright future in the theatre organ world if this first recording is any indication.

Chris chose his hometown Capri Theatre in which to record his debut album. The instrument was originally installed as a 2/7 Wurlitzer in the Wintergarden Theatre in Brisbane, Queensland. It was bought by TOSA (South Australia Division) in 1974 and installation began in their own Capri Theatre in 1979. The instrument has now grown to be a 4/24 with more expansion planned.

Chris chose a very eclectic group of pieces for this recording and it is obvious that a great deal of preparation time went into this session. I must personally commend him for having the forethought to credit other musicians for inspiration in some of this music even though the final arrangements were his own ... a very admirable trait to have adopted early in his career!

Coming out of the pit we hear an appropriately arranged "The Bare Necessities" which is followed by "Walkin' My Baby Back Home." This one is played in a bouncy 30s style. The first ballad is "If" which is treated to a smooth "old time" arrangement.

"Puttin' On The Ritz" is another bold and brassy curtain raiser. "Butterflies In the Rain" follows and certainly fills the bill as an expertly executed novelty tune. Gershwin's "Soon" is next and is played as one of those syrupy theatre organ ballads

we all love. I'll bet we all can guess where the inspiration for that one came from! "Oh Johnny, Oh Johnny" is again bouncy and circus-like. Chris plays these "bouncy" tunes very well even though they are sometimes just a bit predictable.

"Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" is followed by a wonderful march just written to be played on theatre organs, the "Ben Hur Chariot Race." The pedal solo in this one made us feel like we could have been "Under the Double Eagle!"

"When Day is Done" has a very "Crawford feel" to the majority of the arrangement. It also contains a rather interesting and rhythmic "curtain raiser" section which is perhaps a little inappropriate. "From This Moment On" is another well arranged and played "pit" tune. Following this is "Easy To Love" with its easy, flowing feel and "I Wan'na Be Like You," another of the bouncy arrangements Chris seems fond of.

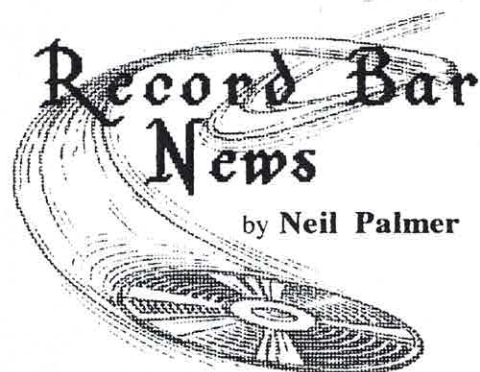
The movie score of *Aladdin* is represented with Chris' nicely arranged examples of several of the show's melodies. "Bring Him Home," from *Les Miserables* is a wonderful ballad and perhaps my favorite cut of the album.

A bouncy "Button Up Your Overcoat" precedes the closer ... what else but "Waltzing Matilda." Chris takes the old girl through every mood possible before closing the set with this well played Aussie favorite.

The sound of the instrument on this disc is due in no small measure to master organ mechanic Ed Zollman who did a major tonal restoration on the organ in 1991. The recording was technically well done, also.

For those of you who have not had the pleasure of hearing Chris McPhee in one of his U.S. appearances, please take this opportunity to support one of the bright new stars in the organ world ... in other words, "Try it, you'll like it!"

Dan Bellomy,
Guest Reviewer



SOUNDS OF WONDER

...FROM DOWN UNDER. John Atwell plays the Capri Wurlitzer, Adelaide. Tracks : *The Best Things in Life Are Free, You Are My Heart's Delight, Oxford Street, On a Spring Note, East of the Sun, Sounds of Wonder, Valse Triste, Here's to the Big Apple (New York Medley), Zweites Stanchen (Second Serenade), Just One of Those Things, When I Fall in Love, Lullaby of Birdland, Who?, I Love You, Allegro (La Rejouissance)* from **Royal Fireworks Suite**, *Waltz* from **Sleeping Beauty, Love Walked In.**

Compact Disc-\$25 Cassette-\$15

TONY PLAYS DUO. Tony Fenelon plays Piano and the Capri Theatre Organ, Adelaide. Tracks : *Tribute to Gershwin, I'll Follow My Secret Heart, Please Don't Ask Me, Carmen Suite, Skylark, Body and Soul, Beatles Rhapsody, What'll I Do, Un Sospiro (Étude in D flat), Somewhere in Time, Rondo Alla Turca, You Needed Me.*

Compact Disc-\$25 Cassette-\$15

THE MUNDELEIN ORGAN

REVISITED as realized and performed by John Seng at the Wurlitzer of the St Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois. Tracks : *Just One of Those Things, The Boy Next Door, One Note Samba, When Johnny Comes Marching Home, Alice Blue, Nola, From Russia With Love, St Louis Blues Twist, One Morning in May, Gershwin Medley, Powerhouse, Dear Heart, Girl From Ipanema, La Danza, You and the Night and the Music, A Foggy Day, Promenade.*

Compact Disc-\$30

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Sydney's own theatre organist

Sydney's only resident theatre organist, Neil Jensen, will appear in concert at the Orion Centre, Campsie, on April 9.

Neil will take control of the console of the mighty Wurlitzer orchestral pipe organ, playing feature hits from Sunset Boulevard, Guys and Dolls, and other light musical classics, including Saint Saens Danse Macabre.

Presented by the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, the concert will be staged from 2 pm.

With previous rave reviews including "the most impressive Australian import I have seen" and "Jensen is without doubt one of the great entertainment artists today" the concert is set to be superb.

Neil Jensen is said to be unquestionably the most exciting and versatile Australian keyboard talent to emerge on the popular organ scene in recent times.

Neil is not merely a musician, he is also a showman.

His name is becoming known throughout Australia as he tours the nation performing the spine-tingling score he arranged to accompany the original and definitive screenplay version of the Phantom of the Opera.

Born in Brisbane, Neil made his first profes-

sional appearance as an organist in the Brisbane City Hall in 1973.

He first studied classical piano, then turned his creative talents to the organ, and gravitated towards the orchestral pipe organ.

In 1983, Neil Jensen extensively toured New Zealand, Canada and the United States, performing a whirlwind concert tour of more than 30 cities.

Neil has released two albums, and is now acknowledged as one of

the world's finest orchestral organists.

Since 1983 he has performed six international concert tours and has produced several albums which have been marketed internationally.

Future tours and recording releases are currently being planned and produced.

Neil promotes and produces a yearly Theatre Organ Series at the Orpheum — the Wurlitzer pipe organ pops series.

Attracting capacity

crowds, these shows have featured internationally renowned keyboard celebrities.

This gifted all round musician will show you his innovative approach to keyboard styling at the Orion Centre.

Showtime for Neil at the centre is 2 pm.

Purchase tickets at the door from 1.15 pm.

Bookings can be made with George Newell on 750 0362.

The Orion Centre is located at 155 Beamish Street, Campsie.



Orpheum organist Neil Jensen will play on April 9.