

TOSA's World of Entertainment brings you

Tony Fenelon OAM playing Australia's Biggest Little Wurlitzer

Sunday 10th September 2017

Marrickville Town Hall

Cnr Marrickville & Petersham Rds
Marrickville



2:00pm - 4:30pm

Directory

Patron Dr John Atwell

President

Geoff Brimley 6351 3122 president@tosa.net.au

Vice Presidents

Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm) John Weismantel 0435 258 287 whitecoats@bigpond.com

Secretary

Craig Keller secretary@tosa.net.au 0418 484 798 7 Aldinga Ave., Gerringong NSW 2534

Treasurer

Geoff Brimley treasurer@tosa.net.au 6351 3122

Membership Inquiries

Margaret Badman (02) 4776 2192 PO Box 589 RICHMOND NSW 2753

Committee

Barry Tooker 9744 1535

John Shaw 9543 3112

Robert Gliddon christieorg@bigpond.com

Ernie Vale 0415 626 064

Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131

Simon Ellis 0403 548 354

TOSA NEWS Editor

Ernie Vale 0415 626 064 editor@tosa.net.au P.O. Box A2322, Sydney South, NSW, 1235

Marrickville Players Convenor John Batts 0420 424 103 Neil Palmer 9798 6742 (after 7pm)

Orion Players Convenor Craig Keller 0418 484 798 phone or SMS

Ticket Secretary (Concert Bookings) Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 before 8:00pm

Artist Liaison Officers
Geoff Brimley 6351 3122, John Shaw 9543 3112

Photography Barry Tooker 9744 1535

Publicity Officer Ernie Vale 0415 626 064 Printing by Ernie Vale & Graeme Costin

President



Greetings,

Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership; may I encourage those who have not yet done so to do so without delay.

As you read this edition of TOSA News, you will see that our AGM is only three months away. It is easy to put things out of mind when one thinks "three months" but the truth is that the formalities start now. Nominations need consideration now! And remember your thoughts count.

For personal reasons I will not be nominating for the position of President. You are also aware that John Wall has recently spent some time in hospital and is currently continuing with recuperation. John has asked that he be relieved of the Treasurer's responsibilities and will not be seeking nomination to that position. With two of the Executive not seeking re-election to long-held positions there will be particular opportunities for change, not only in personnel but also vision. That said, it should always be remembered that all positions are vacant and open for nomination to any financial member. If you have any questions, feel free to give me a call.

Remember, this is your Society, and we need your membership, your attendance at concerts, and your assistance in growing.

Happy organising, Geoff Brimley

Editorial



Hello Members,

I am back in Aus to bring you this edition of TOSA News. I intend to share some details of our holiday with you as we travelled to some places that would be of interest to members I am sure.

I hope you enjoyed the Justin Stahl Concert at the Orion Wurlitzer in June. A comprehensive revue is included here thanks to Members Doug Grant and Chris Styles.

After the dramas just prior to the concert starting your Committee discussed the necessary action to be taken in order to give the Orion Wurlitzer an update after nearly 30 years operating on the current computerised relay system. In view of its 30th Anniversary next year since opening at the Orion your Committee feel it is time to give this Wurly a birthday present to bring it up to date. I hope to see you at Marrickville Town Hall on September 10th to hear one of Australia's Premier Theatre Organists, our good friend Tony Fenelon.

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

Member News

Our Treasurer, John Wall is making good progress with his rehabilitation program. John can now walk with the aid of a walking stick. He is now back home and continuing rehab on his right arm and hand. President Geoff has stepped in to look after Treasurer duties for the time being.

TOSA again send our best wishes to John and hope that his condition continues to improve with the rehab program and with the support and care of his sister Caroline.

Good Home Wanted for M100 Hammond Tonewheel Organ

Well cared for organ with recent service. Still operational. Make an offer. Funds go to brain cancer research.

Located in Thirroul (northern Wollongong). Contact Donna Bennett 0402 088 522



Membership

Thank you to all those members who have already renewed their TOSA membership for the next financial year.

Please Renew Membership

TOSA values your membership. If you haven't renewed before August 25th this will be the last issue of TOSA News sent to you.

FOR SALE: Roland CD-2u SD/CD Recorder

"Record – Listen – Burn CDs (all in one package)"

Comes with Roland AC Adaptor / PSB-240A. \$400.00 (o.n.o.). Still in original box.

Phone John @ 0420 424 103.

To Watch Out for

In 2018 TOSA NSW will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Marrickville Wurlitzer in Marrickville Town Hall. TOSA NSW will also be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Orion Wurlitzer at the Orion Centre Theatre, Campsie.

Overseas artists for 2018
Rob Richards has just been confirmed to tour Australia commencing in February 2018 and will play the Orion Wurlitzer. Also touring are Simon Gledhill playing the Orion Wurlitzer in November. Watch this space for more concerts by Australian Artists.

It is going to be an exciting year in 2018 and a wonderful time for you to be a member of TOSA.

Please see the **membership renewal form** included in this TOSA News if you haven't already renewed. Alternatively you can download a Membership Renewal form from TOSA Web site www.tosa.net.au

It has been said that people like what they hear when in fact they hear what they like.

Reginald Dixon

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

> August 10th September 14th Convenor is

Craig Keller on 0418484798

Marrickville Town Hall 4th Monday afternoon/evening at 2:20pm to 9:00pm

> August 28th September 25th

Under the Inner West Council the time and dates may change John Batts & Neil will keep members informed

Players and listeners welcome.

Please contact John Batts
0420424103 or Neil Palmer on
9798 6742 after 7:00pm
to confirm availability

Christie Organ West Ryde Report

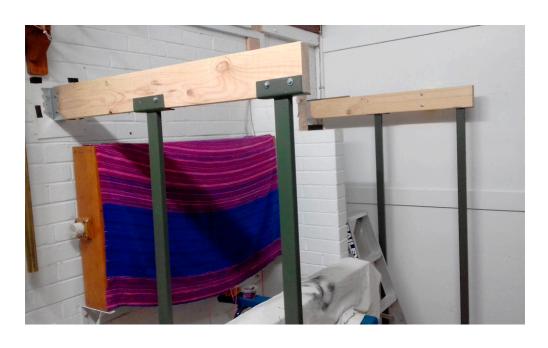
The report this month is in the form of pictures.

Two weeks ago there was a planning exercise for the main chamber in order to place the chests in their final resting place.

The following photos show:



The chests laid out on the chamber floor



The chest supports are in place

(The pink & Blue cloth is covering the sleigh bells to keep any dust out as many hours have been spent cleaning and polishing each bell)



The output boards in the main chamber

Then last week



The Vox chest nearest the shutters & the Tibia 8 & 4 ft chest at the rear have been placed in position and the supports painted



For Sale

ELECTRONIC ORGAN - TWO MANUALS AND 32 PEDALS FIVE RANKS OF TONE GENERATORS

ADJUSTABLE COMBINATION ACTION FIVE AUDIO CHANNELS

OWNER NO LONGER ABLE TO PLAY OWING TO FAILING EYESIGHT
COMPLETE SERVICE MANUAL
PRICE NEGOTIABLE
RING PETER (02) 9773 7748 - REVESBY





Show & Membership PricesAll Artists

Non-members \$35
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder \$30
Family 2 Adults incl 1 child 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 2017-18:

\$45.00 Full membership, \$35.00 Pensioner Concession, Interstate 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

The Traveling Editor

As members would be aware your TOSA Editor and his wife have been on holiday overseas in June July 2017. We had a wonderful time cruising the mediteranian for a week on the Royal Princess and visiting family, relations and friends in the UK. I would like to share some of our experiences with you over the following TOSA News editions.



The holiday commenced in London staying with my sister-in-law at Waterloo and meeting up with family who had flown over from the USA and arrived the same day as us. It was then off to Barcelona to join a 7 day cruise of the mediteranian. Our accommodation was quite modern at Hostel Nuevo Colon right opposite

one of the main railway stations near the wharves.



Unfortunately there was only a ceiling fan to cool the room. The breeze on the balcony was the best place to be. Spain was celebrating St John's Day with fireworks all night. We boarded the ship at 14:00 and settled into our cabin on deck 15 with balcony.

At 110,000 tons the whole trip was smooth sailing with

the exception of overnight from Genoa to Livorno - Italy. There was a strong wind blowing that buffeted the ship somewhat.

Our first port of call was Cartagena in South Eastern Spain. A former Roman town with ampitheatre and Roman ruins in the city. It is also a significant Naval port with Naval college.

To be continued next month.



Yamaha AR-100 Organ For Sale

This one owner instrument was bought new in 2007, and has been maintained in mint condition.

Excellent realistic voices and a superbly elegant cabinet for that traditional organ appearance. Easy to operate control panel, with all functions to hand.

Registration menu offering instant access to 384 professionally-developed registrations. Flute volume controls give total flexibility for organ sounds. Organ variations for Theatre, Jazz, Electronic and Classical Voicing. Additional specialist organ voices for ultimate realism. Six tremolo variations for total control. 160 new orchestrated rhythm styles to make amateurs sound like professionals.

Full range of editing functions offer total flexibility for voices and rhythms.

Powerful 340 watt amplification delivers sound with authority and clarity.

Full range of professional-quality digital effects further enhances all voices.

Comes with matching bench. Asking \$ 1,800. Ono.

I have been asked to help my elderly friend and long-time TOSA member to sell this fine instrument. Please contact me for further details. Simon Ellis 0403 548 354.

TOSA Presents

Tony Fenelon OAM playing

Australia's Biggest Little Wurlitzer



Australia's World Class Theatre Organist Tony Fenelon OAM

Plays a World renowned musical instrument 2014 American Theatre Organ Society Hall of Fame inductee

Tony will play a fantastic variety of popular and classic tunes sure to delight all

Sunday 10 September 2017, 2:00pm - 4:30pm At Marrickville Town Hall

Cnr Marrickville and Petersham Rds Marrickville

Tony Fenelon

Tony showcases his incredibly wide repertoire in music genres at his concerts. He provides a tasteful balance between popular and light classics, including music from movies, stage shows, jazz and great standards.

Internationally acclaimed, **Tony** has performed countless major concerts in prestigious venues throughout Australia, New Zealand, USA, Japan, UK, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan on Roland's extensive range of contemporary keyboard instruments.

Tony and his wife Noella have also enjoyed the more exotic and well deserved fruits of music as **Tony** entertains guests onboard luxury cruise ships at some of the world's most exciting locations from Alaska to French Polynesia, Norway, the British Isles, and the South Pacific, Italy, Spain, Africa and South America with **Tony** as a featured artist on piano and orchestral keyboards.

Over the years **Tony** has displayed an ability to skilfully arrange and sensitively accompany soloists and choirs. He is regarded highly by his peers as a musician's musician for his unique approach and examples of artistry and taste.

In 2003 **Tony** was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to music.

Come and Join us - you won't be disappointed!

Book securely at www.tosa.net.au/events trybooking

Tickets: \$ 35; Concession \$ 30; Members \$25
Family ie 2 Adults including 1 or more children \$65
Adult Group of 10 or more \$22/person;
First time patrons \$20 by Voucher at the Box Office
Students up to 25 years Free on confirmation of student status.

A postscript to the revue of Justin's concert:

from John Weismantel & Craig Keller

Some attendees at the excellent Justin Stahl concert on June 18 may have noticed that the organ console was not behaving well. The first clue may have been John Weismantel and I, 15 minutes prior to the concert start, with our heads and hands inside the back of the console in a vain attempt to right the wrongs.



We had discovered that one of the output boards that is part of the Uniflex system and is the interface between tabs, pistons and appropriate emanation of sounds from the chambers - had decided that it did not want to cooperate and was attempting to burn out a couple of processor chips.

One of the resulting problems was that two tabs were not providing any function at all. 8' Clarinet for the pedals and 8' Piano on the solo keyboard. We were able to reprogram Uniflex to provide some work around for the dysfunctional piano tab.

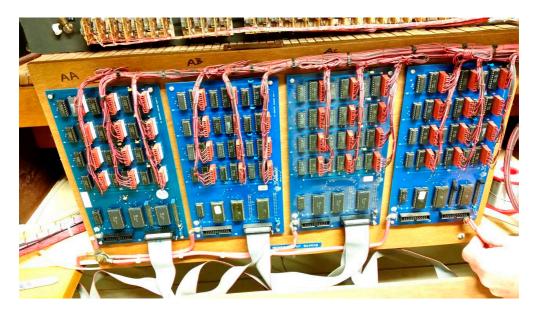
Inside the console John made a quick decision and snipped a couple of wires to ensure that at least the tabs that were not functioning in combinations could be manually activated. Only important things like accompaniment second touch and tremulants... We retreated from our repair efforts 10 minutes before the start of the concert and I went to talk to Justin to

advise of the situation. Fortunately being the professional he is accepted what was going on and was ready to face the challenge.

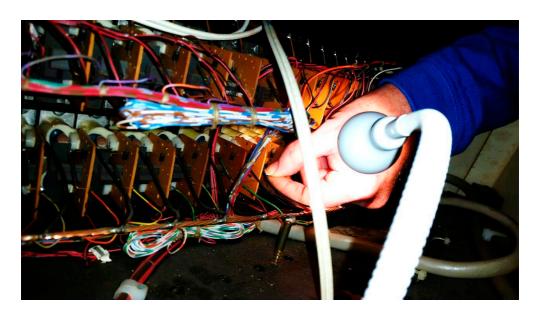
I then went to put on some "fancy pants" so that I could introduce Justin to the audience. However I'd been so stressed about the console misbehaving that I forgot half of what I had planned to say in my introduction. Sorry about that Justin and audience - you got the abridged version.

Anyway, the excellent concert happened and we thank Justin for his persistence to bring it to us.

A couple of weeks later, instead of the usual Members Day at Orion, John and I took the opportunity to undertake the repairs required to repair the console. It was a busy but very productive work day during which we achieved a significant amount of work at the Orion:



- Swapped output board AD (stop action driver) in the console.
- Repaired the removed board with new socket, IC, and address header (instead of soldered wire links); this board will now become the spare.



- Replaced reed switches on the SAMs for Pedal 8' Clarinet & Solo 8' Piano.
- Installed a maintenance flouro light inside the back of the con sole.
- Removed the unconnected bell push on the left of the Accomp keyboard (was hoist signal).
- Upgraded Uniflex 2000 software in the computer to the most recent version.
- Tested the console stops operation with multiple piston & General Cancel activations.
- Removed the ciphering Sand Block action in the Solo chamber and fitted a temporary blanking plate.
- Investigated bad clunking sounds from the Marimba Harp in the Solo; found the suspension cords for the bars on both sets had broken.

As you can see, maintenance of our organs and their operating systems are ongoing exercises. Your committee will be considering further maintenance and upgrades required for the Orion Wurlitzer.

We are always on the lookout for members with suitable skills, physical ability and available time to assist in the maintenance of the instruments. If you're interested then please contact one of the committee (details inside the front cover of TOSA NEWS).

REVIEW OF THE JUSTIN STAHL CONCERT ORION CENTRE – 18TH JUNE 2017

The downcast look on the face of our Newsletter Editor Ernie Vale, as Chris Styles and I entered the Orion auditorium, wasn't signalling a regret that he was about to depart Australia for a sojourn overseas. It was because he hadn't organised a reviewer for the concert performance of the guest artist Justin Stahl from the USA. With contrition from Ernie, Chris and I accepted his invitation to step in as joint reviewers for the afternoons performance.

Justin's appearance was preceded by Club Secretary Craig Keller who commented that he had first encountered Justin at an ATOS Convention in Indiana in July 2014. Having been asked by the Presidents of TOSA divisions beforehand to be on the lookout for "some new talent" for a future TOSA performance schedule, he was keen to recommend Justin.

A relatively young man, hailing from Beech Grove Indiana in the USA, Justin admitted to being largely self-taught in piano and organ from around 5 years old, and even claimed 12 years in the Indiana National Guard's 38th Infantry Division Band.



Justin outlines his background to the audience

From the outset, we can describe Justin's performance as Barry Humphries' alter-ego Sandy Stone described it as: "a very nice afternoons entertainment". It wasn't a performance of spectacular artistry, and it wasn't a performance taxing the limits of the instrument. It was more a competent performance focussing on Justin's theatre-organ background over a period of around 33 years.

He 'opened his account' with a rendition of 'Old Friends', a march by Reynolds, - not a well-known toe-tapper but perhaps a precursor to his selection of items for the day. Then it was on to an 'old faithful' "Poinciana' written by Nat Simon in 1936 – a little before Justin's time, but clearly a favourite, as indicated in his reference to a performance by the Radio City Music Hall organist Ashley Miller. (Justin can also be seen performing 'Poinciana' on a Kimball 3/24 organ on 'You Tube').

Justin explained the format of his program as akin to a retrospective on his love affair with the theatre organ, beginning as a child and influenced by his Great Grandfather's love of the theatre organ, and recordings of the theatre organ installed in Pizza Parlours. As he explained – "I was hooked"!

As a retrospective launcher, Justin played a song from 1940 "With the Wind and the Rain in Your Hair" written by Clara Edwards. Better remembered as a moderate fox-trot, Justin provided a dreamy quality to the piece.

He remembered his transition from self-taught to disciplined performances and recalled a couple of rags from Scott Joplin as early exercises. He provided us with 'Pineapple Rag' and 'Bethene Rag'. My co-reviewer Chris Style commented – "Nice to hear the disciplined slow-tempo articulation of these Joplin compositions"

A pleasing little introduction to Saint Saens' "Au Clair de la Lune" surprisingly changed into "Jesus Loves Me", and onwards through a very clever amalgam of both pieces. The momentary inclusion of a passing Police car's siren did little damage to an otherwise charming arrangement.

Justin revealed that this concert coincided with the first anniversary of his marriage, and accordingly dedicated the next

item to his wife Lora - 'Build me up Buttercup', a tune from 1968, and a hit for 'The Foundations'.

Ringo Starr's 1967 composition 'With a Little Help from my Friends', was Justin's next choice. In his preamble he indicated that it was written for Ringo by Lennon and McCartney to accommodate Ringo's limited vocal range, except for the last note, which McCartney "worked closely with Starr to achieve!!"



Notice Justin's organ shoes

Jumping the 'Christmas in July' gun somewhat, Justin introduced his next item "We Need a Little Christmas" with the explanation of his involvement with the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in their annual Yuletide Festival. In a similar vein, he added 'Christmas, don't be Late', dating from 1958, but better known as 'The Chipmunk Song' from the 2007 movie 'Alvin and the Chipmunks' movie. Justin made ample opportunity to display virtually the full contents of the organ's 'Toy Counter', with a marvelous representation of a fair-ground merry-go-round.

A final Christmas-type outing came with 'The Parade of the Wooden Soldier' (aka the 'Parade of the Tin Soldiers') stemming from the pen of the German composer Leon Jessel ('Die Parade der

Zinn Soldaten'), way back in 1897.

As a run-out to interval, Justin chose selections from , 'I've Never Been in Love Before', 'If I were a Bell', and 'Luck be a Lady Tonight' from 'Guys and Dolls. he recalled 'Guys and Dolls' as being the first production for which he played in an orchestra pit - playing the piano - but playing only the bass player's part, due to the bass player having taken a 'sickie'!

After interval he 'reopened his account' with the theme from 'Cabaret' closely followed by an item described as 'soft rock. Justin explained that 'Africa' originated in the early 1980's and was popularised by an American rock band called 'Toto', and was written by the band's keyboard/vocalist David Paich. 'Africa' was one of those pieces which could be described as an 'acquired taste' – not particularly tuneful, not particularly memorable, but clearly of some musical value. It was interesting to note that Justin should ask the audience "Do you think it translated well to the organ?" There was sufficient response to satisfy him.

Also clearly, we came to learn of Justin's favour for another rock band of the 1980's - this one being called 'Journey'. One of their hits was a so-called 'power ballad', 'Don't Stop Believing'. Another was 'Open Arms', best known for Mariah Carey's version in 1996. Justin played both items back-to-back drawing a favourable response from the audience.

Moving onto the 90's Justin chose an item written by Billy Joel for his daughter "Goodnight, my Angel", and appearing on Billy's 1993 album 'River of Dreams'. A delightful and appropriately sensitive translation for the organ from Justin.

He recalled that in 2012 Dave Brubeck passed away in early December. As a tribute to Brubeck and in keeping with the Christmas spirit, he provided another very clever amalgam of two pieces – Brubeck's 'Take 5' and the Christmas carol 'We Three Kings'- an altogether fascinating blend of the two pieces, and making good use of the Wurlitzer piano. Not wishing to abandon the Christmas theme, he proposed moving into 'Sleigh Ride' by Leroy Anderson – but – the Wurly didn't want to cooperate. It became obvious that something was wrong when Justin was seen to be attempting all sorts of operations involving the tabs etc,

complete with a few asides to the back-stage crew, - but nothing ensued. With a "Talk amongst yourselves" to the audience, he subsequently set up all the combinations manually, and launched forth into 'Sleigh Ride' with gusto, to much applause from all feeling Justin's discomfort.

With another reference to his wife Lora, and with a "Happy anniversary dear", Justin moved on to a sensitive restrained rendition of the David Raksin/Johnny Mercer's 1945 hit song 'Laura', however it is suggested that Justin wasn't in any way relating the tribute to his wife, to the film-noir character of the film's 'Laura'.

He next took the opportunity to provide the audience with a minimalist rendition of the 1967 hit from 1967 - 'Happy Together' by 'The Turtles'. In this quite brief metronomic version of 'Happy Together' he cleverly demonstrated some of the basic voices of the organ.

Returning to his chronological journey with 'the theatre organ', Justin recalled recordings of Pizza Parlour organs with 'Besamé Mucho' - a bolero hit from 1940 by the Mexican Consuela Velásquez.

Then it was straight into the unmistakable introduction to the final scene of 'Chorus Line', to Marvin Hamlisch's marvelous creation of 'One'. It was only unfortunate that the spectacle of the closing couldn't be included with all the 'boys and girls' of the Chorus Line giving their 'all' in their gold lamé outfits and with the huge mirror behind, adding superb visual elegance to the number.

Justin's penultimate item for his program was a piece that he admitted as being a favorite, namely, 'The Rainbow Connection', as performed in the movie by Kermit the Frog. It was performed by Justin with all due respect for Kermit's interpretation with appropriate sensitivity, and ending with near 'reverent' registrations.

Finally, Justin introduced his last scheduled item for the day, viz., selections from 'Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory', and specifically, 'I've got a Golden Ticket', 'Cheer up Charlie', The Candyman', 'The Rowing Song', 'Oompah Loompah', and 'Pure Imagination'. The

movie dates from 1971 and starred the recently departed Gene Wilder. The music was written by Leslie Bricusse, Anthony Newley and Walter Scharf .The selection enabled Justin to admirably exploit the capabilities of the organ required by the respective items.



And so to the final number

As an encore, he chose to play 'Americans We' by Henry Fillmore, an American musician, composer, publisher and band-leader. It was composed in 1929. At the time the piece was described as a 'screamer' because of the fast marching pace involved.

Reflecting on the days program, we congratulate TOSA for including Justin Stahl in the program schedule. He is a relatively young man who has pursued his interest in theatre organs from a very young age, has gone through the disciplined stages of musical training, and has earned the professional recognition which has already been accorded to him by the American Theatre Organ Society fraternity. His presentation was warm and engaging, his playing accurate and imaginative, and we look forward to hearing more of Justin Stahl in the future.

Doug Grant and Chris Styles
With thanks to Barry Tooker for his assistance.
30th June 2017

Members Diary

Next Committee Meeting - Monday September 4th at 7:00pm West Ryde Anglican Church

Sunday 10th September 2017 2:00pm - 4:30pm Marrickville Town Hall

Tony Fenelon OAM

Plays Australia's Biggest Little Wurlitzer

see centre pages for details

Book your reserved seats through the TOSA web site www.tosa.net.au/Events - trybooking

by contacting
Theo Langenberg 0410 626 131 Before 8:00pm please

Radio FINE MUSIC 102.5 "Colours of the King" 2nd Saturday of each month, 6pm till 7pm.

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.theatreorgansaust.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

August 2017 Volume 56 No 6

PRINT POST

POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA

100004836

Official Publication of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia (NSW Division) Inc. 7 Aldinga Ave., Gerringong NSW 2534

PO Box A2322 SYDNEY SOUTH NSW 1235 www.tosa.net.au

If undeliverable please return to:

