"The General" Arrives This Month!

Sunday, January 24th, 2016 at 2:30pm
San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, 320 S. Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776

If you did not get the chance to see The Mark of Zorro, mark your calendar for January 24th! Next up in the Silent Sundays series is The General, a visual masterpiece set in the South during the Civil War directed by and starring Buster Keaton.

Keaton is Southern railroad engineer Johnnie Gray. His locomotive, The General, is stolen by Union spies with his love, Annabelle, on board. The action sequences that take place between Gray and the soldiers while trying to recapture the locomotive highlight Keaton’s athleticism, who did all of his own stunt work.

Keaton spared no expense in the making of The General. The film contains a scene that is considered the most expensive single shot in silent film history. He transformed the little town of Cottage Grove, Oregon to Civil War era Georgia bringing in Civil War artillery, restored railroad cars, and vintage engines. A favorite of Keaton, The General is beautifully filmed. It is "admirably faithful to authenticity in costumes and props-the imagery evokes Matthew’s Brady Civil War photography…its visual scope is not simply impressive, it is also dramatic and at times awe inspiring" (Axmaker, 2014).

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Accompanying the film is American Theatre Organ Society’s Organist of the Year (2012) Mark Herman. One of America’s busiest theatre organists, Mark Herman performs in numerous concerts and film screenings across the country and abroad yearly.

Mark Herman at the Ebell Theatre for the AGO/LATOS Holiday Event

The organ console at the Mission Playhouse

‘Silent Sundays’ is produced in partnership with the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society, as part of the Mission Playhouse’s Community Engagement Program, Engage! The series continues with Wings (March 20), and The Goddess (May 1).

TICKETS: Only $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Discounts for groups of ten or more. There are three easy ways to order tickets:

- **Box Office:** On the west side of the Mission Playhouse at 320 S. Mission Drive, adjacent to the Playhouse parking lot. Open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 5:00pm.
- **Phone:** Call (626) 308-2868 on Tuesdays or Thursdays from 12:00pm to 5:00pm.
- **Online:** Visit missionplayhouse.org


A Message from Angie Hougen
President, Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society

Thank you once again for the opportunity to serve as President of LATOS. 2015 proved to be a banner year for us. Our board members have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of our organization. We have reached out in new directions and have embarked on collaborations with San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, Canoga Park High School, as well as the AGO. We have put Pasadena City College back on our radar, and over the summer, held a successful mini-concert and open console. Our relationship with the Ebell also continues in a very positive direction, as we are now involved in the Ebell club's programs. We have many reasons to be optimistic as we look towards 2016.

Our collaboration with San Gabriel Mission Playhouse will continue to bear fruit in the new year, as we continue the Silent Sundays series. Stay tuned for three more outstanding programs at the Playhouse. We will present “The General” this month, “Wings” in March, and “The Goddess” in May. Attendance at the November screening was over twice our historic average, and we anticipate the numbers to grow. It has been a great way to introduce a new audience to LATOS.

We are also excited about our efforts at Canoga Park High School. The environment there is supportive and enthusiastic, and we will be able to bring forth a long awaited youth component to LATOS. We have already presented short recitals to their faculty and music department, and LATOS member Roger Chaussee was kind enough to play house music for their holiday concert. Their principal and alumni association are very grateful for our involvement, and I believe it will develop into a mutually beneficial relationship. Get your music together, as we will be hosting an open console for members in the very near future!

Our AGO collaboration was greeted by a strong turnout at the joint Holiday Program by both AGO and LATOS members. With the Wilshire Ebell Theatre hosting our film presentation and annual meeting, we
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capped off the year in style. Mark Herman performed wonderfully with his musical selections, holiday carols, and accompaniment of the silent comedy short, “Big Business” starring Laurel & Hardy. The AGO hosted us to a delicious holiday feast, and we all enjoyed the holiday spirit of togetherness.

As we look towards 2016, I would like to recognize outgoing board member Henry Hunt. He has taken the reigns of the program committee, and put together the collaborations with San Gabriel, the AGO, and Canoga Park High School. He has truly brought us to the next level, as our programming has become more cost effective, entertaining, and far reaching. He will continue to serve as Program Committee chair in the year ahead, but hands his place on the board to incoming LATOS member Andre Rigden. I believe I speak for the entire board when I say that Andre is a talented person, and LATOS is lucky that he decided to step forward and become more involved.

Finally, LATOS members are involved in our programs, and supportive of our endeavors. Over 75% of our membership returned their ballots in our recent vote to amend the bylaws to extend Officer terms by one year. 92 of 95 ballots were in favor of the change. Thank you for your confidence in our board. We are all grateful for the opportunity to serve this organization.

Respectfully, Angie Hougen.

Organ Available  Artisan Imperial, 3 manual theater organ, tube type (some solid state) with separate tone generators for each note (total 262); a Klann AGO pedal board; 2 swell pedals and a crescendo pedal; a toe stud to operate the sforzando; two 6 inch speakers for each manual and a 12 inch speaker for the pedal – with a separate amp for each manual and the pedal (all remote from the console). The organ includes Artisan documentation and schematics. It may need some tuning and regulating. Bruce tells us. “We don’t want any money. We’ve had our fun... now it’s time for someone else.” For more info, contact Bruce Skovmand at brskov@pacbell.net or 760-724-3570.

Ron Rhode in Concert!
2:30pm, Sunday, January 10, 2016
at the Old Town Music Hall
140 Richmond Street, El Segundo, CA 90245

One of the world’s most popular theater organists for nearly 40 years, Ron Rhode’s recordings have received rave reviews and he has been awarded “Theater Organist of the Year” by the American Theater Organ Society. Ron has played virtually every major theater organ installation in the world and we’re thrilled to welcome him back to play the tunes we all know and love on our Mighty Wurlitzer. Ron’s performances are always spectacular, and you are sure to have a wonderful evening!

Admission is $20 (cash or check only), and reservations are recommended. Visit oldtownmusichall.org/concerts.html for more info.

Mystery Photo
Nobody guessed that the December Mystery Photo was of a young Lance Luce. Look for more photos of Lance in upcoming issues that will promote his concert and accompaniment of the 1934 Silent Film, “The Goddess” at 2:30pm on May 1 at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse.
Southern California Theatre Organ Related Events (LATOS Events are in bold).

January 10 – Sunday at 2:30pm: Ron Rhode in Concert. Old Town Music Hall - 140 Richmond Street, El Segundo, CA 90245. Tickets $20 (cash or check). Call 310-322-2592 for reservations and tickets. See article on Page 3 of this issue of The Organ Log.


ONGOING: Concerts, Movies & Shows at the Old Town Music Hall, 140 Richmond Street, El Segundo. Many shows feature the 4-manual theatre pipe organ. Call (310) 322-2592 (recorded info) or visit http://www.oldtownmusichall.org.


ONGOING: The Organ Grinders every 2nd Sunday of the month at 2:00pm. Open console on a Hammond Elegante (also a volunteer pot-luck). Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1757 North Lake Ave., Pasadena, in the “Lawrence Chapel” (not in main sanctuary). Free parking in the rear. Contact Elly Reitz 626-281-3311 for more info.

OTHER EVENTS: Visit GoOrgan.com for an extensive list of theatre and classical organ concerts throughout southern California.