



# Theatre Organ Society

## ORGAN LOG

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***“Drive-Yourself” Day Passes Available for ATOS 2012 (see article inside).***

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## Bob Ralston Pops Concert



*for LATOS on September 30  
A SNEAK-PEEK!*

The June issue of the Organ Log enthusiastically announced that on Sunday, September 30 at 2:30pm, Bob Ralston will perform a pops concert and show at the Founders Center in Los Angeles on their fabulous 4-Manual/32-Rank Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ! This will be a rare opportunity to see and hear a legendary artist perform in Los Angeles on one of the finest theatre pipe organs west of the Rockies.

Although the August issue of the Organ Log will include a full length feature article about Bob Ralston and the upcoming show, this “sneak-peak article” provides a few tidbits about Bob.

Bob Ralston is probably best known for his 49 years as pianist/organist/arranger with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra. Many of the beautiful orchestrations you hear on the Welk Show were written by Ralston. Reruns of that beloved TV show are still shown every week in most major

U.S. cities. In fact, Ralston and his family are currently hosting some of those reruns. The Welk TV Shows feature not only Bob Ralston’s fine piano and organ solos, but they frequently include his performances as a singer, dancer, and comedian. Musically, Bob “wears many hats”!

In addition to his concerts for the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) and its local chapters, Bob continues to work as a pianist, show producer, arranger, conductor, composer, teacher, and recording artist.

A former conductor of the Hayward Symphony Orchestra (1976–1977), Bob has guest-conducted several other symphonies as well.

**“Bob Ralston” continues on the following page...**

**BOB RALSTON**, continued from the front page:

From 1996 to 2000, Bob demonstrated his talent for hosting when he produced and anchored the “Gee Dad! It’s a WurliTzer!” radio show on FM 89.3, KPCC

Bob Ralston has recorded over 300 albums, many of them with Freddy Martin, Billy Vaughn, Ray Conniff, Lawrence Welk, and other famous bandleaders. He has recorded 34 solo albums, many on theater pipe organs, including those at the Senate Theater in Detroit, the Granada Theater in Kansas City, the Paramount Theater in Oakland, the Pella Opera House in Iowa, and the Dickinson High School Auditorium in Wilmington, Delaware. Bob’s best-selling CD is the critically acclaimed “It’s Beginning To Look a Lot Like Christmas”, his 23rd solo album.

The Bob Ralston Pops Concert and Show on Sunday, September 30 at 2:30pm at the Founders Center in Los Angeles will be a truly unique and rare opportunity to hear a legendary artist perform on one of the finest Wurlitzer theatre pipe organs.

More to come about this exciting concert in the August issue!



**Walk-Up Registrations Will Be Available for “Drive Yourself” Attendees**

Although it is now too late for new/full registrations to this exciting event, walk-up registrations will be accepted for those wishing to attend concerts by driving themselves to each concert.

Walk-up registrations to purchase **Day Passes** for “drive-yourself” attendees will be available at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott located at 5855 West Century Boulevard in Los Angeles. You will be able to purchase Day Pass(es) for concert days that you wish to attend.

➤ See **“DAY PASSES”** on **Page 3** for more info.

**MARIE KIBBEE  
JUST BECAME A CENTARIAN!**

On June 22, Marie Kibbee celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday! Among many accomplishments, Marie should be very proud of the fact that she played a supporting role in the birth of the American Theatre Organ Society that was originally known as the American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts. Marie attended that historic first organizational meeting on February 8, 1955 at the residence of Dick Simonton, and became an official member of ATOE (now ATOS).

Many knew Marie’s husband Gordon Kibbee who was a famed concert organist, recording artist and music teacher.



Gordon Kibbee plays a Hammond Organ in his Home (unknown date).

Happy Birthday Marie! And may you have many happy, healthy and fulfilling birthdays to come.

## **DAY PASSES** (for the 2012 ATOS Convention)

MONDAY, JULY 2<sup>nd</sup> – Day Pass = \$65: Scott Foppiano performs on the 5-manual, 346 rank pipe organ at the First Congregational Church in Los Angeles. Lyn Larsen & Chris Elliott perform on the 3-manual, 26-rank Wurlitzer pipe organ at the Trousdale Castle in Placentia. Tony Wilson performs on the 4-manual, 27-rank theatre pipe organ at the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo.

TUESDAY, JULY 3<sup>rd</sup> – Day Pass = \$50: Performances on the 3-manual, 19-rank Wurlitzer pipe organ at Barnum Hall in Santa Monica by finalists in the Young Theatre Organist Competition. Later, Walt Strony and Mark Herman will perform on the 5-manual, 28-rank Moller theatre pipe organ at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4<sup>th</sup>: *No Passes Available*

THURSDAY, JULY 5<sup>th</sup> – Day Pass = \$50: All day in San Diego. Dave Wickerham performs on the 4-manual Austin pipe organ at the Spreckles Organ Pavilion. Around noon Jerry Nagano performs on the 4-manual, 24-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at Trinity Church. Mid afternoon, Jelani Eddington performs on the 4-manual, 24-rank “Wonder Morton” organ at the Balboa Theatre.

FRIDAY, JULY 6<sup>th</sup> – Day Pass = \$50: The day starts with Chris Elliot performing on the 4-manual, 35-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton. Tony Fenelon performs in the afternoon on the 3-manual, 17-rank Wurlitzer pipe organ at the Mission Playhouse in San Gabriel.

SATURDAY, JULY 7<sup>th</sup> (Afterglow #1) – Day Pass = \$79: Morning into Afternoon – Tour the famous Nethercutt Museum, followed by a concert with Simon Gledhill performing on the 4-manual, 73-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at the Nethercutt Collection.

SUNDAY, JULY 8<sup>th</sup> (Afterglow #2) – Day Pass = \$179: The Morning/Afternoon will include an excursion boat tour to Catalina Island, Lunch at the Galleon Restaurant, a tour of the Avalon Casino and a demonstration of the Avalon Theatre’s 4-manual, 16-rank Page pipe organ.

Registration Hours at the Marriott:

- Sunday, July 1: 3pm to 7pm
- Monday, July 2: 7 to 8:45am and 6 to 8pm.
- Tuesday, July 3: 7 to 8:45am and 2 to 5pm.

It is **important** to note that passes/admission will not be available at the concert/venue locations themselves, and that availability is limited (first come/first served).

We look forward to seeing you at ATOS 2012 – right here in southern California!

## **LATOS PICNIC, SOCIAL & CONCERT Postponed Until Next Year**

The LATOS Picnic, Social and Concert that was scheduled this year for July 22 will have to be postponed until next year in light of logistics challenges and post-convention work that must be addressed in July.

## **CONCERTS, MOVIES AND A PIPE ORGAN... ALL THE TIME!**



It is hard to find a place where you can enjoy a theatre pipe organ being wonderfully played on a regular basis by Bill Field; and be treated to a concert or a movie in a true theatre environment (small but mighty). The good news is that such a place exists. It is called the **Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo**.

A future issue of the Organ Log will include a feature article about Bill Field, the theatre and the organ. In the meantime, see the back of this Organ Log for a phone number and website info about the Old Town Music Hall, show listings and times.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, CA 91209

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COMING EVENTS** *(LATOS Events are in larger text)*

**July 2 to July 8 – ATOS 2012 Annual Convention** – *Here in Southern Cal! See article in this issue.*

**September 30, Sunday at 2:30pm – Bob Ralston Concert and Show** at Founders Center - 4-Manual/32-Rank Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ! Bob Ralston is best known for his long tenure as a featured organist and pianist on the Lawrence Welk Show, and for many concerts and shows across the USA.

July 18, Wednesday at 7:30pm – **Ty Woodward** in concert for the Valley Organ Society on a Rodgers theatre organ (electronic) at the Little White Chapel Social Hall, 1711 N. Avon St., Burbank. \$5 at the door.

July 22, Sunday – LATOS Social & Concert at Ken & Jenice Rosen's – Postponed until next year. Location TBD

August 15, Wednesday at 7:30pm – **Jim McEwan** in concert for the Valley Organ Society (see address/info above).

**Continual:** Concerts, Movies and Shows at the **Old Town Music Hall**, 140 Richmond Street in El Segundo. For info on concerts and/or movies featuring the 4-manual/27-rank theatre pipe organ call (310) 322-2592 (recorded info) or visit <http://oldtownmusichall.wordpress.com/>

**December 2 – Sunday at 2:30pm – Nathan Avakian Concert and Show** at Barnum Hall in Santa Monica. *More details in upcoming issues of the Organ Log.*

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