



Theatre Organ Society **ORGAN LOG**

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Phone 1-888-LATOS22

Web Site www.LATOS.org

LOS ANGELES The Birthplace of ATOS

2012

The American Theatre Organ Society
Annual Convention

July 2nd through July 7th

Register Now

In This Issue:

- Open House at the Wilshire Ebell a success.
- More news about the upcoming ATOS Annual Convention
- LATOS Board Member Neal Kissel Retiring to Ohio
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- Volunteers for the 2012 Convention still needed.

A DAY AT THE HISTORIC EBELL

The Ebell of Los Angeles was formed as a woman's club in 1894 to "interest women in the study of all branches of literature, arts and science and the advancement of women in every branch of culture." The present Wilshire Boulevard complex, which includes a 1,270 seat auditorium (also known as the Wilshire Ebell Theatre), has been owned and operated by the club since 1927. In the early 1980s, Burton A. Burton, of the Casablanca Fan Company, purchased the Barton organ originally installed in 1927 in the National Theatre in Milwaukee, WI. He subsequently donated the instrument to LATOS, which negotiated an agreement to install it in the Ebell theatre. Work was completed and the organ was dedicated in concert on November 24, 1984 with Walt Strony at the console.



Console of the 3 manual/13-rank Barton organ.

This January, the club hosted an open house, inviting the public to tour their beautiful facility, including the theatre and organ. Tony Wilson performed and demonstrated the instrument, and answered questions as various groups passed through.



Tony Wilson at the Barton console.

Thanks to an LA Times article, the open house at The Ebell was attended by thousands. The line of people waiting to see the facility sometimes was as much as a block long. Our thanks to the women of the Ebell for giving us a chance to share the organ with thousands for whom the Theatre Organ may have been a first time experience.

2012 ATOS ANNUAL CONVENTION *Here in Southern California!*



The ATOS National Convention will run from July 2nd (Overture) through July 7th (Encore) and will include 12 different venues.

This will be a rare opportunity to hear top artists from across the nation (and abroad) perform on some of southern California's finest theatre pipe organ installations, as well as a few very unique venues – ***all in one week!***

We will celebrate the 4th of July at the famous Hollywood Bowl where American pop icon Barry Manilow will join the Bowl's popular tribute to our nation's birthday. The evening will include Barry's many hits as well as traditional patriotic music, and of course, fabulous fireworks. A box dinner will be included for 2012 ATOS conventioners who attend this concert at the Hollywood Bowl.

Our host hotel will be the LAX Marriott with a very special room rate of \$99.00 per night. For local attendees, this could be a fun way to have a mini getaway with the convenience of shuttles that will run to and from all of the events.

Information about the convention and registration can be found in the January/February issue of the Theatre Organ magazine (the Journal of the ATOS), and in subsequent issues. Information is also available on-line at <http://www.atos.org/conventions/2012>

NEAL KISSEL RESIGNS FROM BOARD to Retire in Ohio

Neal Kissel informed the LATOS board at the March meeting that he will be moving to a retirement community in Ohio by May, and with that, turned in a letter of resignation that was accepted with regret by the LATOS board. Neal wanted to give the board the opportunity to replace his position as board member at the earliest possible date.

Most notable of Neal's many contributions to the theatre organ community was his significant role in the initial assessment, acquisition, restoration and installation of the Wurlitzer pipe organ at the San Gabriel Civic Auditorium (now the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse).

In the late 1960's, San Gabriel's city fathers voted to accept the donation of an organ from the RKO theatre chain, and signed an agreement with LATOS (LA-ATOS at the time) to have Neal Kissel head up the project. Neal flew to Brooklyn and surveyed and photographed the instruments in the RKO Madison and the Albee. Based on his assessment of logistics to remove the instruments (and their specification), Neal recommended the Wurlitzer Opus 870 that was originally installed in the Albee in 1924.



Neal Kissel with the RKO Albee console in the late 1960's.

It took Neal Kissel and Ross Farmer eleven days to remove the organ, pack it all into a 40 foot van and bring it to its new home in California. After meticulous and painstaking work to restore the instrument, the organ was dedicated on February 11, 1972. It was Neal's passion, dedication and efforts

that were key in making it possible for LATOS members to enjoy this beautiful instrument.

LATOS Vice Chairperson Angie Hougen (acting in the absence of Bob Kambeitz, President & Chair), appointed Don Near and Jim Dawson to be an ad hoc nominating committee with the objective of filling the vacancy left by Neal Kissel's resignation.

Suggestions for a replacement board member are welcome and encouraged, and can be phoned in to 1-888-LATOS22. Please be sure to include information on how you can be reached.

Suggestions will be promptly forwarded to Angie Hougen, Don Near and Jim Dawson.

We will miss Neal Kissel, and we wish him well in his retirement.

ORGAN LOG EDITORS APPOINTED

At the March LATOS Board Meeting, Donn Linton and Tony Wilson were appointed as the Production and Public Relations Committee, a non-board volunteer position for LATOS. Responsibilities include (to name a few) event budgeting and planning, publicity and public relations, and editing the Organ Log.

This issue of the Organ Log is Donn's and Tony's first; covering two months (March/April) due to their late start as editors. The good news is that the board has chartered Donn and Tony with consistently producing the Organ Log on a monthly basis starting with the May issue.

In the May issue, Donn and Tony will reach out to members to contribute news and articles as they work to expand the scope of the Organ Log.

CONVENTION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers to help staff the 2012 ATOS Annual Convention would be much appreciated. If you have never attended an ATOS convention, this would be an excellent opportunity to interact with many theatre organ enthusiasts and have a great time doing it! Please contact Convention Chairman Don Near if interested. Email: donnear@cox.net or call 800-539-8944.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL

P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, CA 91209

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

March 21, Wednesday at 7:30pm – **Ken Rosen** performs for the Valley Organ Society - 1711 N. Avon, Burbank

April 4, Wednesday at 7:30pm – **Chris Elliot** to accompany the classic silent film, “The King of Kings” at the Glendale City Seventh-day Adventist church at 610 E. California Ave. in Glendale. Tickets/Info: www.glendalecitysda.org

April 22, Sunday at 2:30pm – **John Atwell** performs at Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton – Visit www.OCTOS.org

June 10, Sunday at 2:00pm – **Paul Roberts** performs on the Wurlitzer at Trinity - 3902 Kenwood Drive, Spring Valley (San Diego area) – Visit <http://tossd1.webs.com>

June 15, Friday at 8:00pm and June 16, Saturday at 2:00pm and 8:00pm – **Paul Roberts** performs at The Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar - Tickets will be available by calling on May 16th from 4:00 to 6:00pm

Every Second Sunday of the Month at 2pm (except holidays) - **Organ Grinders of Southern California** meets for fun, refreshments & open console. - Church Organs, Inc. 1270 Lincoln Ave. #100, Pasadena, 626-791-9193

July 2 to July 7 – ATOS 2012 Annual Convention – Here in Southern California!
See articles inside for more info.

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS:

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Membership Chairperson

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COMMITTEES

So Pas Crew Chief	Dorsey Caldwell
PCC Crew Chief	Donn Linton
Wilshire Ebell Crew Chief	Steve Asimow
San Gabriel Crew Chief	Donn Linton
Membership	Bob Kambeitz
Web Master	Bill Peters
Project Dir., So. Pas High School	Peter Crotty
Productions and Public Relations	Donn Linton and Tony Wilson