



Theatre Organ Society

ORGAN LOG

November 2012

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Toll free Info Line & Message Center: 1-888-LATOS22

Website: www.LATOS.org

Nathan Avakian in Concert!



**COMING SOON on Sunday,
December 2nd, at 2:30pm**

Acclaimed artist Nathan Avakian will perform on the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall, an architectural triumph of the Art Deco era located at 601 Pico Boulevard in Santa Monica.

Nathan is the 2009 winner of the American Theatre Organ Society Young Theatre Organist Competition, and performs throughout the U.S. and abroad. In 2011 he performed a concert tour of Australia and New Zealand. In 2010, Nathan was commissioned to compose five original theatre organ soundtracks for the International Youth Silent Film Festival. He is the Youth Representative to the board of the American Theatre Organ Society.

The concert will showcase the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at Barnum Hall that will meet 21st century technology in a show with something to offer for everyone. Musical selections will span a wide variety of eras and styles including standards, jazz, classical, Broadway and more. The program will include a few three-minute contemporary silent films from the International Youth Silent Film Festival set to original theatre organ music composed by Nathan. The award winning SAMOHI Jazz Combo (Quintet) will also make cameo appearances within the program.

This concert will be a truly unique opportunity to hear a brilliant young artist perform on the fully restored Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at Barnum Hall!

Tickets: Pre-Paid/Advanced Sale: \$18. Day of the Concert: \$20 (box office). Students & youth can attend for free (with valid school or state ID at the box office on the day of the concert). Advance sale discounts available for groups of 10 or more (call the number on the following page).

DIRECTIONS TO THE NATHAN AVAKIAN CONCERT & SHOW

Barnum Hall is at 601 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, CA
Visit [Maps.Google.com](https://www.google.com/maps) and enter the address (above) or...

Take the 10 Freeway WEST past the San Diego Freeway (405), then:

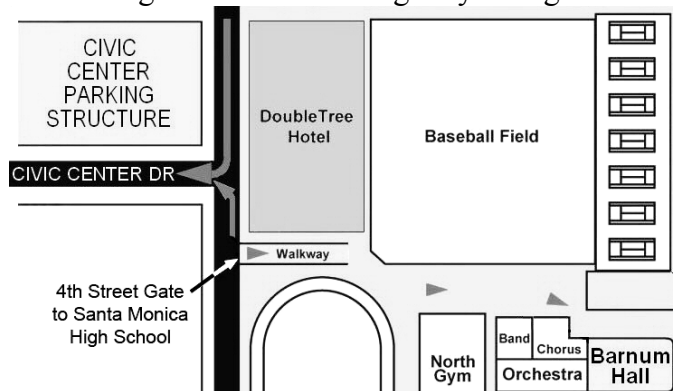
- Pass the Bundy Drive Exit
- Pass the Cloverfield Blvd. Exit
- Pass the Lincoln Blvd. Exit
- Start getting into the rightmost lane.
- **Take the 4th Street Exit** (not 5th street) and:

Once you are at the bottom of the exit at 4th St.:

- **Turn left onto 4th Street** and go south.
- Pass Olympic Drive
- **Make a right turn on Civic Center Drive** (for reference, the DoubleTree Guest Suites hotel is on the left).
- **Make a right turn into the Civic Center Parking structure** (see picture below). Parking will cost approximately between \$3 and \$5.

Once you park - to get to Barnum Hall, simply:

- Exit the parking structure onto Civic Center Dr.
- Use the crosswalk at 4th and Civic Center to take the walkway between the Doubletree Guest Suites and the track.
- Cross the outdoor basketball courts to the sidewalk, and walk up the hill. Barnum Hall is the large Art Deco building on your right.



For a large detailed map and driving directions, see “Tickets and More Info” in the right column.

TICKETS & MORE INFO ON THE NATHAN AVAKIAN CONCERT & SHOW

Visit www.LATOS.org for ticket info, detailed directions, additional information, or to order advance tickets. The website should be up to date at the time of this issue of the Organ Log. If not, please visit the website again very soon. You may also call the toll-free LATOS Info Line & Message Center at 1-888-528-6722.

“GUESS WHO THIS IS”

Well known artist Ty Woodward was the first to guess that the “puzzler photo” in the *last* issue of the Organ Log was of Tony Wilson at the Moller pipe organ at Organ Power Pizza in the late 1970’s (*now at the Pasadena Civic*). Ty and a guest will be on the will-call list for the Nathan Avakian Concert on Dec. 2nd at Barnum Hall.

Now, guess who *this* is:



The person who sends the first email with a correct answer to this month’s puzzler will receive two free tickets to the Nathan Avakian concert on December 2nd, and will have the option of their name being published in the December Organ Log. Email your answer to LATOS1@verizon.net

Hint: The person in the photo was house organist at a venue in southern California 42 years, and associated with the same venue in some form for over 50 years!

BOB RALSTON at Founder's Church

A Review by Dorsey Caldwell, LATOS Board Member



Edited by AW

On Sunday, September 30, 2012 the members of Founders Church along with LATOS' members and their friends were treated to a superb musical program. The featured artist was Bob Ralston at the beautiful Wurlitzer theater organ joined by a fine local musical group known as "Pacific Swingline." They specialize in A Cappella singing. Their sounds were so complete that any sort of instrumental accompaniment would have spoiled the mood.

Bob Ralston was at the top of his game that day with a wide variety of selections to suit everyone's fancy ranging from "Oklahoma", "Phantom of the Opera", to "Stars & Stripes Forever" with a generous sprinkling of American popular music in between. One of the program's highlights was a medley of tunes suggested by the audience, the list of which was developed on the spot when Bob came down into the audience and took titles from those who raised their hands.

A final touch which greatly added to the performance was Quentin Dennard on the drums. Now, you don't usually think of a drummer in the same breath when talking about a theater organ program but here he was adding just the right touch and feeling to whatever was being played.

After the show I spoke with Mr. Dennard and asked how he came to know Bob Ralston. He informed me that as a longtime member of the church, he has worked with Bob for over 14 years (Bob, as you know is the staff organist at Founders Church). Quentin said that after so long together he can pretty well predict what kind of drumming will be needed when Bob starts to play.

One final note: The Wurlitzer theater organ is rather unique as an instrument in a church (the only one of its kind this area). The installation was the work of Ken Crome, a long time friend of LATOS. Among Ken's other installation credits are the Wurlitzer in PCC , the Wurlitzer in the South Pasadena High School and more recently the Wurlitzer in the Santa Monica High School. He also completed an electronic conversion and refinish on the console of the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse Wurlitzer during its update and refurbishing. This work took many months and was completed last year. All five of these fine instruments are in top playing condition and we are fortunate to be able to access them as needed to showcase theater organ performances to the public.

V.O.S. FINAL CONCERT *This Month*

V.O.S. - the Valley Organ Society was formed fifty years ago as a get together for electronic organ enthusiasts and has met each Wednesday since. In recent years, interest in electronic organs has waned to the point that it has become evident that the idea is no longer viable and the group has decided to cease operation. Wednesday, November 21 will be the final concert. The artist for the evening will be Vince Morton, who got his musical start in the famous Bob Mitchell Boy's Choir and went on to become a professional keyboard artist. The concert will begin at 7:30 PM in the social hall of The Little White Chapel, 1711 North Avon in Burbank. (Just off Hollywood Way at Jeffries). Donation at the door is only \$5.

NATHAN AVAKIAN'S CONCERT ON DEC. 2, a Must-See! Please join us for a memorable afternoon, and bring a friend - or even two!

Every person who attends the concert helps LATOS to continue its important mission in preserving and supporting the theatre pipe organ, and sharing it with members like you. Equally important, you are sure to have a wonderful musical experience! (*Details are on the cover and second page of this issue*).



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL

P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, CA 91209

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

November 21, Wednesday at 7:30pm – Valley Organ Society's FINAL CONCERT with Vince Morton. The social hall of The Little White Chapel on 1711 N. Avon St., Burbank. Donation of \$5 at the door.

December 2, Sunday at 2:30pm – Nathan Avakian Concert & Show at Barnum Hall in Santa Monica. *Details are on the cover and second page of this issue.*

December 7, Friday at 8:00pm and December 8, Saturday at 2:00pm and 8:00pm – Organist Martin Ellis at The Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar - Tickets and info: visit www.nethercuttcollection.org

December 14, Friday at 8:00pm and December 15, Saturday at 2:00pm and 8:00pm – Christmas Concert with Jelani Eddington at The Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar - Tickets & info: visit www.nethercuttcollection.org

January 13, 2012 – Sunday at 7:00pm – Bob Salisbury accompanies the silent film, "Peter Pan". St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on 47535 Highway 74, Palm Desert. Admission \$10

January 27, Sunday at 2:30pm – Gene Roberson Concert at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse. *More details in upcoming issues of the Organ Log.*

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

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