



Theatre Organ Society

ORGAN LOG

October 2012

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

Website: www.LATOS.org

Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 2nd at 2:30pm



Nathan Avakian will perform a concert and show *on the recently restored theatre pipe organ in Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall*

Nathan Avakian is the 2009 overall winner of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) Young Theatre Organist Competition. As a concert artist, Nathan performs internationally for numerous organizations and organ preservation societies throughout the United States and abroad. In 2011 he completed a six-week concert tour of Australia and New Zealand sponsored by the Theatre Organ Society of Australia. In 2010, Nathan was commissioned to compose five original theatre organ soundtracks for the International Youth Silent Film Festival, an event that gives young filmmakers the opportunity to create contemporary silent films to theatre organ music. Nathan is the current ATOS Youth Representative to the board of the American Theatre Organ Society.

The November issue of the Organ Log will include a feature article about Nathan Avakian and the upcoming concert and show on December 2.

In This Issue:

- A Feature About the Paramount Iceland Skating Rink
- Bob Ralston Concert and Show a success.

PARAMOUNT ICELAND **a Real Southern California Treasure** **with a Working Wurlitzer Pipe Organ**

Content provided by Bill Campbell / Edited by AW

The Paramount Iceland skating rink, located at 8041 Jackson Street, in Paramount, California, has been host to skating champions, and of course, home to one of the very few Wurlitzer pipe organs located in an ice rink in the USA. The 3/19 Wurlitzer was installed in 1941 and has been played for skating sessions for over 70 years. The original organist, Truman Welch, performed for skating for over twenty years, until he passed away in 1968. Bill Field (owner of the Old Town Music Hall) was also the featured organist at the rink for a number of years.

Fast forward to 2004 when Bill Campbell moved to Los Angeles to accept a Technology Director position with a large school district. Coming from Milwaukee, Bill had never heard of the Paramount Iceland Skating Rink until one night when he was asked if he would like to meet Don Near, Richard Zamboni and Peter Crotty who were going to meet at the rink to assess the organ for the 2005 ATOS Annual Convention. At that time, Bill had a chance to test out the organ and must have impressed those listening. In the years that followed, Bill received several calls from the Paramount to perform for various company celebrations being held at the rink.



Bill Campbell at the Iceland Wurlitzer console.

For the last six months, Bill Campbell has been the regular Tuesday night rink organist, playing for open skating sessions from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The music is varied with a predominance of strong rhythms. His repertoire includes standards, light rock-n-roll, current Disney selections, songs from

Broadway such as Fiddler on the Roof or Annie, and Barry Manilow hits. You may even hear some country western, Beatles and Beach Boys.



A close-up of the Iceland Wurlitzer console.



The pipe chambers at Iceland.

If you are looking for a place to enjoy music on a Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ, and perhaps a little fun skating (if you would like to try), come on out to the Paramount Iceland Skating Rink on Tuesdays. Admission is \$7.00. It might be wise to bring a jacket and/or blanket if you are sitting in the stands, as it can be a little cold. You can contact Bill Campbell for more information by calling 714-563-9638.

PARAMOUNT ICELAND ORGAN LAYOUT:

(Info from the ATOS 2005 Convention Program)

Main Chamber: Trumpet, Open Diapason, Tibia Clausa, Viol D' Orchestre, Saxophone, Clarinet, Vox, and Concert Flute.

Solo Chamber: Post Horn, Tuba Mirabilis, Stentor Diapason, Horn Diapason, Solo Tibia, Viol D' Orchestre, Viol Celeste, Orchestral Oboe, Kinura, and Vox Humana

The organ also has a full complement of traps and percussions.

THE MUSIC, THE MAGIC, THE MEMORIES

Bob Ralston Concert & Show a Success

Many thanks to Bob Ralston, guest artists, staff and crew at Founder's center, Bob's fans, and you (our LATOS members) for a successful concert. Bob's outstanding performance and your energy and enthusiasm made this a memorable event!



Look for a more detailed article about the concert in one of the upcoming issues of the Organ Log.

WE WISH YOU WELL, DON NEAR

Content provided by Dorsey Caldwell & Steve Asimow Edited by AW

Those attending the LATOS board meeting on September 15, 2012 were saddened to see Don Near hand in his letter of resignation as board member to Bob Kambeitz, our board chairman. In it, Don stated that he had fulfilled his obligation to both LATOS and ATOS over the last several years and that due to progressive hearing loss; he felt that it was time to take a rest.

This is the news in cold hard facts which does not even give a hint to the loyal and wonderful service Don has given to the world of theater organs. Mere words cannot adequately describe what a dear friend he has been to all of us who know him and what a void his departure will leave in our organization both locally and nationally.

There is always a challenge to maintain membership levels by thinking of new ways to enable theater organs to stay relevant to the modern era. In this regard Don has always had a positive attitude and a smiling face to help us dive into these challenges with a goal to succeed. This most

recently was evidenced by his chairmanship of the ATOS convention held this past July in Los Angeles. We heard nothing but high praise from attendees all week.

Credit is also due for Don's fortitude in dealing with traffic congestion between his home in Orange County and the concert locations and LATOS Board meeting sites in Los Angeles.

Although Don will not be joining us anymore on a regular basis it is certain that his past deeds will serve as an inspiration to those of us who remain and those who will join in the future.

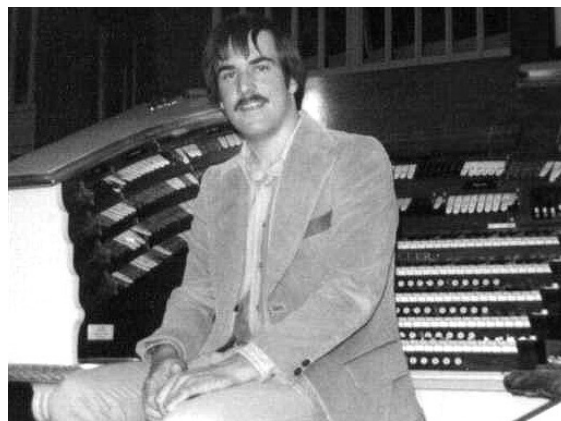
Don, we wish you good health and all the good things in retirement that you so richly deserve. Thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely, your friends in LATOS

"GUESS WHO THIS IS"

The first in a series of puzzler photos that will appear in future issues of the Organ Log.

Puzzlers will include older photos of LATOS members who are local performers, or who are actively involved members. The first to guess who is in the "blast to the past" photo below will win two free tickets to the upcoming Nathan Avakian concert. **Hint:** *Although not on the board, this person works closely with LATOS. And, it was the first photo found in a rush to print this issue.*



Email your answer to LATOS1@verizon.net

The person who sends the first email with a correct answer will be contacted, and will have the option of their name being published in the November Organ Log. *Unfortunately, LATOS board members cannot participate.* More to come!



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
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P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, CA 91209

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

October 7, Sunday at 7:30pm – Jelani Eddington in Concert on the mighty Wurlitzer at the Old Town Music Hall - 140 Richmond Street, El Segundo. Tickets \$20. Call (310) 322-2592 for recorded info or reservations.

October 19, Friday at 7:00pm – Bob Salisbury accompanies the silent film, "It" starring Clara Bow at the University of Redlands' Memorial (University) Chapel. Admission is free. For directions visit: <http://www.redlands.edu/>

October 26, Friday at 8:00pm and October 27, Saturday at 2:00pm and 8:00pm – Silent Movies & Organ: Organist Dean Mora and Projectionist Joe Rinaudo at The Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar - For tickets and info, visit www.nethercuttcollection.org

December 2, Sunday at 2:30pm – Nathan Avakian Concert & Show at Barnum Hall in Santa Monica.
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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