

# The Organ Log

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**Web: [www.LATOS.org](http://www.LATOS.org)**  
**Toll Free: 888-LATOS22**

## LATOS Member Appreciation Day, Saturday, August 17

With thanks for the loyalty and support of its members, LATOS will host a Member Appreciation Day on Saturday, August 17 at the Old Town Music Hall at 140 Richmond Street in El Segundo (*not Sunday as listed in the May Organ Log*).



*Old Town Music Hall Theatre (cropped photo). Photo by DonHoltz.com*

This exciting day will include:

- **11:00am to 1:15pm Open Console** on the fabulous 4-manual/27-rank theatre pipe organ. Tony Wilson will be available to help members with registration and anything else they may need to insure an unforgettable experience playing the "the real thing". So, work up your favorite song and have the experience of your life! There will be a short break between 1:15pm and 1:45pm while the theatre is being prepared for the Matinee, so you'll have a chance to catch some fresh air.
- Theatre re-opens at 1:45pm for the **2:30pm Movie Matinee** with the 1927 Academy Award-winning **silent film, "Sunrise"**, accompanied on the **theatre pipe organ by Bill Field** who is brilliant at accompanying silents! The matinee will include music and a sing-along before the movie. You will experience the magic of what it was like to go to the movies in the 1920's.
- **The Richmond Bar and Grill** across the street from the theatre will be open for lunch from 12:00pm into the afternoon. Their sensibly priced menu includes burgers, homemade soups, salads and chili, chicken, steak, fish sandwiches or tacos, and more! LATOS will hold 75 seats at the restaurant for anyone who would like to have lunch during the event. Lunch will be *no-host* (members pay for their own lunch).

*continued on Page 3...*

## Reflections on the Wiltern Theatre

by Lyn Larsen

In spring or summer of 1964, my friend Neil Kissel invited me to ride with him on a Saturday morning to the Wiltern Theater in Los Angeles to see the four manual Kimball organ that was being worked on at that time by members of the Los Angeles ATOE Chapter. The volunteers would get together on Saturday mornings about 8:30 or 9:00 AM, and would work until just before the theater opened for its first films around noon.

Some of the guys on that early work crew were Bob Alder Sr., Jack Shemik, and Ross Farmer. The work would stop about 45 minutes before everyone had to leave the theater and it was during that time that I was invited to play the organ; I was thrilled, and it was a wonderful experience for a young musician like me.

The restoration of the Kimball organ started in 1961 and was completed by June 1962 in time for a national convention. The organ was featured by a number of prominent organists and included a silent film by Gaylord Carter.

By mid-1964 Saturday morning work crews provided ongoing maintenance and tuning for the large Kimball organ, and it was used for a number of concerts from its debut in 1962 up until the time that I first tried it. I continued to go to the Wiltern Theater on Saturday mornings for a number of months and was allowed to keep trying the organ and getting better acquainted with it at the end of each work session. After a while, the crew

*Reflections, continued:*

the crew and some of people in charge decided that they liked what they heard because I was invited to play a public concert at the Wiltern in December, 1964. That concert, my very first public appearance on theatre pipe organ, proved to be very successful and the start of a very enjoyable and long career for the next 49 years.



*Lyn at the Wiltern Kimball (1960's)*

As a 19-year-old kid, I was not very aware of just how magnificent the entire Wiltern building was, because I was so focused entirely on the pipe organ. In later years I came to realize it was one of the real Art Deco masterpieces of any theater across the entire United States.



*Recent Photo of the Wiltern*

*Reflections, continued:*

All these years later, I still remember a funny quirk of the theater (and the organ) that I really enjoy. High up on the left front wall of the theater (which hid the organ chamber behind it) there was a very large electric clock. When you played certain notes at the bottom end of the 32 foot Diaphone pipes, the clock would pick up a sympathetic vibration and it would produce its own sound like a giant demented tambourine... rarely appropriate or helpful to the music, but oddly impressive!

### “Guess Who” is in the Photo

Greg Petty from Redlands, CA, was the first to guess that the mystery persons in the May Organ Log were Lyn Larsen, Stan Kann and Carlo Curley.

For the “puzzler” in this issue, guess the name of the artist in the photo below, and where he is performing.



The person who sends the **first** email with a correct answer will receive two free tickets to the next LATOS event of their choosing, and the option of their name being published in the July Organ Log. Email your answer to LATOS1@verizon.net

## LATOS Member Appreciation Day, continued:

The open console and silent film matinee accompanied on the theatre pipe organ by Bill Field will be **complimentary** for the first 100



Old Town Music Hall's pipe organ Photo by DonHoltz.com

**LATOS members who RSVP** by sending an e-mail to Angie Hougen. Send your email to:

Angie-Hougen-LATOS@latos.org

Angie will respond to **all** RSVP emails, and will include check-in information to those who are amongst the first 100. She will also provide wait list information for those who respond late. *Please do not call the theatre, as they cannot accept RSVPs for this specific event.*

Admission for *non-member* guests will only be \$10 per person. Admission for *non-member* seniors over 62 will only be \$8 per person.

The July issue of The Organ Log will include a map and directions to the Old Town Music Hall, and additional information. *Stay tuned!*

## Quote of the Month

**"To me... music exists to elevate us as far as possible above everyday life."** *Gabriel Fauré*

## LATOS Survey – Enlightening Results

*by Angie Hougen, LATOS President & Chairperson*

At our Bob Salisbury concert in April, volunteers distributed a survey so that the audience of 154 (largest of the season) could give us valuable feedback. The intention of the survey was to find out what type of future event audience members would enjoy, and for the four options offered, more than one choice could be made. 72 of the surveys were completed and of those, 21 were from LATOS members. It seems that we are reaching new audience members through our efforts with publicity, social media and word of mouth. Of course, we would love to see more LATOS members come out to enjoy an afternoon at the theatre.

**Survey Results:** Organ & Silent Short Films: 64 votes. Feature Film w/Organ Accompaniment: 52 votes. Organ & Featured Guest Artists: 44 votes. Organ Only: 36 votes

I believe that we gained a good perspective of the preferences of that afternoon's audience, and for those who turned in surveys, thank you for taking the time to share your opinions. We will take this information into account as we plan future events.

*Survey, continued:*

Do you have any comment on the results? Do you have a half hour to volunteer before a concert to hand out surveys so we can continue to poll our audiences? Please feel free to contact me at Angie-Hougen-LATOS@latos.org

## Classified Ads Coming Soon

If room permits in each issue of The Organ Log, we would be happy to post brief classified ads by private parties for no charge. Ads should be:

- Relevant to the theatre organ genre of LATOS
- No more than 210 characters in length (with spaces). There will be no room for photos.
- Include a contact name, phone number and/or email address.

Send your ad to LATOS1@verizon.net

**Deadline for ads is** the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the issue that you want the ad posted in.

*Posting of an ad is subject to availability of space, and is on a first-come/first-received basis. Ads from, or associated with businesses cannot be printed. LATOS has the right to edit or decline ads that are submitted.*



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, CA 91209

## **Southern California Theatre Organ Related Events**

June 15, 2013 – Saturday at 7pm – Bob Salisbury accompanies “It” (Clara Bow) at Covenant Presbyterian, 607 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St. in Long Beach. \$15 at the door (\$10 in advance).

June 16, 2013 – Sunday at 2:30pm – Dean Mora accompanies “Steam Boat Bill” at Plummer Auditorium, 201 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton. OCTOS Members \$12 General \$15. More info at [www.OCTOS.org](http://www.OCTOS.org).

June 26, 2013 – Wed. at 8pm – Clark Wilson accompanies “Ben Hur” at the Orpheum Theatre, 842 S. Broadway (Downtown). Tickets \$16-\$20. More Info about ticketing and the event: [www.laconservancy.org](http://www.laconservancy.org)

August 10, 2013 – Saturday at 6:30pm – Bob Salisbury accompanies “The Mark of Zorro” (Douglas Fairbanks) at the Broadway Café at 1117 W. Big Bear Bl., in Big Bear. \$20 includes dinner “under the stars”.

**August 17, 2013 - Saturday – LATOS Member Appreciation Day at the Old Town Music Hall.**  
*Read about it in this and subsequent issues of *The Organ Log*.*

**ONGOING:** The **Organ Grinders** every 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month at 2:00pm. Open console on a digital theatre organ (also a volunteer pot-luck). 1270 Lincoln Ave., Suite 100, Pasadena, CA 91103 Info and directions: 626-791-9193

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

### **LATOS Board Members**

**President & Chair: Angie Hougen**  
[Angie-Hougen-LATOS@latos.org](mailto:Angie-Hougen-LATOS@latos.org)  
818-667-4785

**Vice President: Henry Hunt**  
[Henry-Hunt-LATOS@latos.org](mailto:Henry-Hunt-LATOS@latos.org)  
626-791-9193

**Secretary: Shirley Burt**  
[Shirley-Burt-LATOS@latos.org](mailto:Shirley-Burt-LATOS@latos.org)  
626-210-2138

**Treasurer: Jim Dawson**  
[Jim-Dawson-LATOS@latos.org](mailto:Jim-Dawson-LATOS@latos.org)  
888-528-6722

**Don Near:**  
[Don-Near-LATOS@latos.org](mailto:Don-Near-LATOS@latos.org)

**Dorsey Caldwell:**  
[Dorsey-Caldwell-LATOS@latos.org](mailto:Dorsey-Caldwell-LATOS@latos.org)

**Bill Campbell:**  
[Bill-Campbell-LATOS@latos.org](mailto:Bill-Campbell-LATOS@latos.org)

**Steve Asimow:**  
[Steve-Asimow-LATOS@latos.org](mailto:Steve-Asimow-LATOS@latos.org)

Visit [LATOS.org](http://LATOS.org) for committee & other contact info.