



# Theatre Organ Society

## ORGAN LOG

January 2013

VOL. XXXV, NO.1

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

Website: [www.LATOS.org](http://www.LATOS.org)

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## Happy New Year!

*May your 2013 be filled with happiness and good health.*

***This Month on Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 3:00pm***

# Gene Roberson in Concert!



*at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse*

Popular artist Gene Roberson will be featured on the fabulous Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in a concert and show at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse on Sunday, January 27th at 3:00pm. The Mission Playhouse is located at 320 South Mission Drive in San Gabriel.

The concert will include a diversity of organ music from show tunes, theater organ novelty pieces, familiar ballads, to classical offerings.

While the primary focus of the concert will be theatre pipe organ, attendees will be delighted by a couple of cameo appearances by guest performers including Gene's daughter Rozlyn Mignogna (a professional singer and dancer), and baritone, David Wells. A special attraction that will join Gene during the show will be an instrumental "Big Band" ensemble. They will

accompany the Wurlitzer in "Great sounds of the 1920's" as well as a variety of brass and organ selections.

Gene was instrumental in starting the Sea Safari Organ Club taking over 30 ocean cruises around the world. Among the organists that traveled with him were Lyn Larsen, Gaylord Carter, Bill Thomson, Joyce Jones, Tony Fenelon, and many others. He has played many concerts around the country and abroad, and has produced over 20 CD recordings of organ and piano music, including the recording of his concert on the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at the Plummer Auditorium - still a best seller.

Gene is currently Director of Music and organist at the Presbyterian Church of the Master in Mission Viejo. This spectacular afternoon of great music is a 'must-see' event. Invite your friends to attend this spectacular afternoon of great music. You will be very glad that you came. See the following page for special discount ticket info and directions to the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse.

## TICKETS

### FOR THE GENE ROBERSON CONCERT

**Special Discounted Pre-Paid/Advanced Ticket Price: Only \$15** Tickets will be held under your name in the box office on the day of the concert.

There are three easy ways to buy advance tickets:

- **Mail:** Make checks payable to **LATOS** (\$18 per ticket) and mail to:  
LATOS c/o Dawson  
2721 W. 182<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Torrance, CA 90504-5228
- **Online:** Visit [www.LATOS.org](http://www.LATOS.org) to safely order and charge tickets to Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.
- **Phone:** Call the toll-free LATOS Info Line & Message Center at 1-888-LATOS22 (1-888-528-6722) to order and charge tickets, or for any questions.

### Tickets on the Day of the Concert: \$20

**Students and Youth** are invited to attend for free (bring valid school ID or other valid ID to the box office on the day of the concert only).

**Group Rate:** For Groups Over 10. Please leave a message on the LATOS info line (1-888-528-6722). You will be called back promptly.

## DIRECTIONS

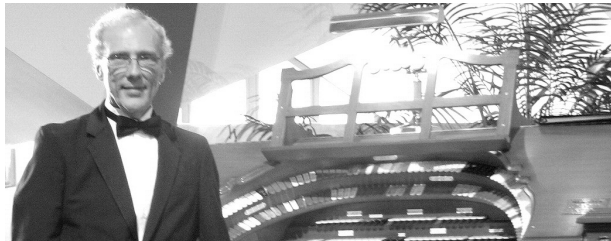
### TO THE GENE ROBERSON CONCERT

**From the 210 Foothill Freeway East:** Exit at San Gabriel Blvd. and go south approximately 4 miles to Broadway and turn right. Take Broadway to Santa Anita St and turn left. Take Santa Anita St to Mission Drive and turn right.

**From the 210 West:** Exit Sierra Madre Blvd. at off ramp, go south on San Gabriel Blvd. approximately 4 miles to Broadway and turn right. Take Broadway to Santa Anita St and turn left. Take Santa Anita St to Mission Drive and turn right.

**From the 10 San Bernardino Freeway:** Exit at San Gabriel Blvd. and go north approximately 3 miles to Broadway and turn left. Take Broadway to Santa Anita St and turn left. Take Santa Anita St to Mission Drive and turn right.

## A CELEBRATION OF LIFE for CHRIS GORSUCH 1954-2012



The Theatre Organ Society of San Diego will host an event to celebrate the life of our friend and artist, Chris Gorsuch on **Saturday, January 19, 2013 at 2 PM**. It will be held at Trinity Church at 3902 Kenwood Drive, Spring Valley, CA.

This will be a celebration concert -- not a church service. January 18 would have been his Birthday, so this event is being timed to coordinate. Numerous colleagues and friends have been invited to participate. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend this very special event!

## “GUESS WHO THIS IS”

John Fowlston was the first to guess that the “puzzler photo” in the December 2012 issue of the Organ Log was of Henry Hunt. Henry was seen standing next to Lyn Larsen’s classic Packard.

Henry Hunt is also in the comedic photo below, **but** who is the lady with him?



The first person to send an email with a correct answer to this month’s puzzler will receive two tickets to the Gene Roberson concert on Jan. 27, 2013. Email answers to [LATOS1@verizon.net](mailto:LATOS1@verizon.net)

**Hint:** The person in the photo was a well known organist.

## GENERAL MEETING & ELECTIONS

The LATOS annual Membership meeting and Elections are scheduled for Sunday afternoon January 27<sup>th</sup>, shortly after the Gene Roberson concert at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse. You must be a member of ATOS (American Theatre Organ Society) and LATOS in order to nominate a board member or vote.

## NATHAN AVAKIAN CONCERT

by *Dorsey Caldwell*, LATOS Board Member / Edited by *Tony Paul*

The afternoon of Sunday, December 2, 2012 was indeed special in the lives of our LATOS members along with their friends, in that we had the pleasure of listening to a fine musical program presented at Barnum Hall in the Santa Monica High School. The popular and talented young artist, Nathan Avakian, was the featured performer that day. He showcased the newly installed Wurlitzer Theater Organ using a variety of his own electronic effects which in the writer's opinion will be the shape of things to come if we are to interest the younger generation in this genre and thus prevent the extinction of the theater organ as we have known it. Nathan demonstrated his considerable skill by playing a wide variety of selections which ranged from classical, to the "Waltz in Swing Time" from the movie, "*Swing Time*" starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers (1936), to selections from the Broadway musical, "Jersey Boys."

Nathan then went over to the beautiful Fazioli grand piano and played one of his own selections. He said it is as yet untitled and invited those in attendance to suggest a title. During the final portion of the first half of the program Nathan was joined by the "Jazz Combo", a group of 5 young men from the Santa Monica High School music program who played a number of selections in the style of the recently-deceased Dave Brubeck. Their instruments were piano, trumpet, trombone, guitar and drums. They exhibited very good skills and stage presence.

In addition to theatre pipe organ music, the second half of the program included a group of three short silent films that were produced and acted in by young people and accompanied by Nathan on the Wurlitzer. The first film was a reenactment of Charlie Chaplin routines produced, directed and acted out by an eleven year old boy. The second feature was a story of young romance produced by a sixteen year old boy and girl. Finally a group of eighteen year olds were seen in a science fiction piece which they produced.

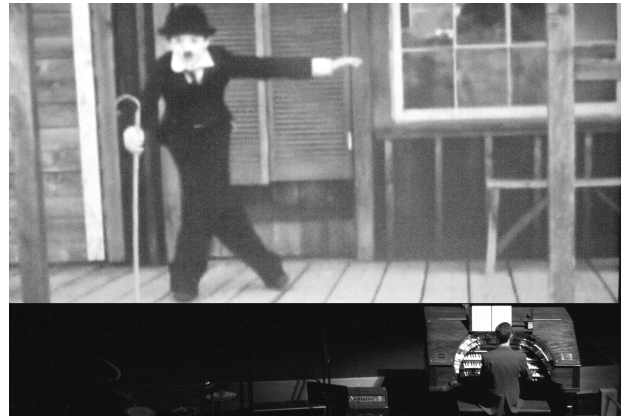


Photo by D'Lynn Waldron (cropped)

Beforehand, Nathan explained that these talented young directors produced their films as a part of the International Youth Silent Film Festival (formed in Portland, Oregon in 2010). The festival is dedicated to teaching and inspiring young people in the art of film making. It is a competition for filmmakers age 20 and under to create a modern version of silent film, see it on the big screen with live accompaniment, and win awards.

Nathan explained that this whole thing with the musical accompaniment was put together backwards from the way it is usually done. Traditionally, the film is made then a composer scores it afterward. In this case the festival approached Nathan and asked him to compose and record background music for several different genres, i.e. comedy, romance, horror, drama and science fiction. The school then assigned film projects to the students where they were required to write their screenplays around what they heard in the scores that Nathan produced. In all cases the music fit the films perfectly.

It is a comfort to see (and hear) that there is a whole new generation of young people across our great country who are interested in music and will carry on where the present and older generation leave off. My hat is off to them.

The theater organ scene across the country is struggling to keep afloat financially. Programming as described above (with exception of the student combo) comes at considerable cost and if it isn't covered by box office admissions or generous donations, it places LATOS in an unsustainable negative cash flow position. You are urged to make every effort to attend these fine events which only happen a few times a year due to financial constraints and venue availability.



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, CA 91209

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

January 11, 2013 – Friday 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 20, 2013 – Sunday at 7:30pm – Ron Rhode in Concert (ATOS Organist of the Year in 1989). 140 Richmond Street in El Segundo. Admission \$20. Call (310) 322-2592 for reservations.

**January 27, Sunday at 2:30pm – Gene Roberson Concert** at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse.  
*More details on the front page and page 2 of this issue of the Organ Log.*

February 9, 2013 – Saturday at 1:30pm – Bob Salisbury accompanies the silent film, “Thief of Baghdad”. The Mission Inn on 3640 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside. Admission \$10

February 21, 2013 – Thursday at 7:00pm – Bob Salisbury accompanies the silent film, “The Mark of Zorro”. Shafter Congregational Church on 430 E. Tulare Avenue, Shafter, CA 93263. Admission \$10

February 23, 2013 – Saturday at 1:00pm – Bob Salisbury accompanies the silent film, “Peter Pan”. Shafter Congregational Church on 430 E. Tulare Avenue, Shafter, CA 93263. Admission \$10

**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://oldtownmusicall.wordpress.com>

### **YOUR BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Bob Kambeitz** bob-kambeitz-latos@latos.org  
(619) 589-0832 **Chairperson and President**  
**Membership Chairperson**

**Angie Hougen** **Vice Chairperson**

**Shirley Burt** shirley-burt-latos@latos.org  
(626) 210-2138 **Secretary**

**Jim Dawson** jim-dawson-latos@latos.org  
(888) LATOS22 **Treasurer**

**Dorsey Caldwell** dorsey-caldwell-latos@latos.org  
(626) 798-1820

**Bill Peterson**  
(619) 589-0832

Board Members, continued:

**Steve Asimow** steve-asimow-latos@latos.org  
(818) 240-9825

### **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., S. Pas. High School	Peter Crotty
Productions and Public Relations	Donn Linton and Tony Wilson