



# Theatre Organ Society

## ORGAN LOG

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

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

## More About Bob Salisbury

and his Theatre Pipe Organ Concert with Two Short Silent Comedy Films



at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse  
320 S. Mission Drive, San Gabriel, CA 91776

In the last issue of the Organ Log, we shared the exciting news that Bob Salisbury will be performing at the Mission Playhouse on **April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 2:30pm**

This issue provides more information about the short silent comedy films that Bob Salisbury will accompany, and it highlights his music career.

In addition to wonderful theatre organ music that Bob will play, the program will give the silent film era a grand comeback with Bob accompanying the silent comedy short entitled, "*Paleface*", starring Buster Keaton. In this film, an Indian tribe's land is stolen by wildcatters and the village is up in arms. Moments later Buster enters the village carrying his trusty butterfly net, hot on the trail of his next trophy. The viewer is pitched between

delight and anxiety as Buster struggles to net insects before a riotous crowd. The interaction between the collector and his aggressors is priceless comedy. Buster eventually becomes a member of the tribe, and there is a plenty of on-the-edge action and wonderful comedy throughout the film. Ultimately (thanks to Buster), the Indians defeat the oil barons, and the drama ends with our hero giving his squaw a smooch on the lips.

The second film will be "*The Rink*" starring **Charlie Chaplin**. Charlie is a clumsy waiter who will take the viewer through a number of hysterically funny scenarios at the restaurant where he works. Charlie lives another more graceful life as a skater at a nearby rink where he meets a girl and saves her from the unwelcome attentions of one of his restaurant customers. The girl invites Charlie to her skating party where he makes a grand entrance in top hat and tails, but again encounters the nasty customer. A riot on roller skates occurs, but Charlie escapes, hooking his cane on the back of a car and rolling away.

**About Bob Salisbury:** Bob began playing theatre organ at age 13, studying with the legendary Gaylord Carter – which began a 45 year relationship as friend and instructor. In his home town of Avalon California on Catalina Island, Bob played the Page Theater Pipe Organ at the Avalon Theater on a nightly basis before each movie. He also played for all three churches on Catalina Island. Bob and his wife Mary are now semi-retired in Desert Hot Springs, California, but Bob continues to play silent movies and concerts, and is the organist and choir director for the United Church of the Desert in Palm Desert, CA. *(continued on page 2)*

## **BOB SALISBURY, continued;**

Bob was honored by the American Theater Organ Society with a national award at their convention in 2010. He has performed concerts and accompanied silent films throughout California and abroad for well known shows, venues and organizations including: Barnum Hall (Santa Monica), California Theater (San Bernardino), The CBS Television Series “Touched By An Angel”, Community Arts Theater Society (CATS/Big Bear Lake), The Directors’ Guild of America, Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society, Mission Inn (Riverside), Orange County Theater Organ Society, the Orpheum Theater, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, San Diego Theater Organ Society, San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, Sierra Theater Organ Society (Sacramento), St. Richard’s Episcopal Church, the University of Redlands, the Valley Organ Society (Los Angeles) and the Wilshire Ebell Theater to name a few.

Bob Salisbury’s theatre organ concert and his accompaniment of the two short silent comedy films on April 14 will be a wonderful event that you will never forget. If you’ve not experienced a silent film yet, then this is one show that you do not want to miss!

The next issue of the Organ Log will include directions to the Mission Playhouse.

## **TICKETS**

*BOB SALISBURY CONCERT & SHORT SILENT COMEDIES:*

### **Special Discount Pre-Paid/Advance 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 purchase advance tickets:

- **Mail:** Make checks payable to **LATOS** (\$15 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 on-line to Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.
- **Phone:** Call the toll-free LATOS 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: \$10** (bring valid student 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).

## **“GUESS WHERE THIS IS”**

Nobody guessed that the “puzzler photo” in the February 2013 issue of the Organ Log (below) was of the original KNX radio studio on Sunset Boulevard. It later became a Spaghetti Factory restaurant that eventually closed, and then the building was demolished. The organ was a 3-manual Robert Morton theatre organ.

*Information came from [www.savetheorgan.org](http://www.savetheorgan.org)*



*Photo courtesy of Mr. Jim Lewis*

This issue of the Organ Log will not have a “puzzler” photo, but the April, 2013 issue will. If you have a photo of an organist in their young years or that could be a fun challenge to identify, please email it to [LATOS1@verizon.net](mailto:LATOS1@verizon.net). Be sure to name the person in the photo and give LATOS permission to use the photo (*if we use your photo, you will receive a photo credit if you would like*).

## **LATOS BOARD ELECTIONS**

*by Donn Linton*

The governing body for LATOS is a nine member Board of Directors, three being elected each year to serve three year terms. As directed by our bylaws, each year a Nominating Committee is appointed to present a list of candidates at least equal the number of positions to be filled. The election is held at the yearly Membership Meeting at which time additional candidates may be nominated from the floor. If the resulting number of nominees does not exceed the number of vacancies, they are considered elected, no ballot being required.

Candidates this year were Bob Kambeitz, Jim Dawson, and Bill Peterson. The Membership Meeting was held immediately following Gene Roberson’s program. As no one present offered additional candidates, as directed by the bylaws, the three nominees were considered elected.

## **TOM SHEEN**

*The Passing of a Legend* by Dave Schutt / Edited by T. Paul

We recently lost an icon of the organ world. On Tuesday, February 5, Tom Sheen passed away in a nursing home in Jacksonville, Illinois, of complications from Alzheimer's disease. Tom had a distinguished career playing the organ throughout his life. He was especially popular during the heyday of organs in the 1960s, 70s and 1980s, performing concerts and at conventions locally and abroad. Tom was also a featured artist at Russ Nelson's Pipe Organ Pizza in Santa Ana. He continued to perform in the 1990s and into the 2000s. Throughout his career, Tom represented major organ companies, and also judged organ competitions. His musicality was legendary.

Tom's recall was phenomenal. A humorous example was his ability to name all of Elizabeth Taylor's husbands (in order). Even before his memory was taken away by the disease, he suffered from a hereditary eye disease, retinitis pigmentosa, that started robbing him of his eyesight at an early age. He conducted seminars to help blind people with independent living.

The last four-and-a-half years were challenging for Tom and his partner, Mikel Hand. So it is with mixed emotions that Tom passed away suddenly at age 73. Condolences can be sent to Mikel at Dr. Mikel W. Hand, 700 Fairway Dr., Apt. D, Evansville, IN 47710.

Donations to the Alzheimer's Association in Tom's memory can be sent care-of the Williamson Funeral Home, 1405 Lincoln Avenue, Jacksonville, IL 62650. Also, the National Retinitis Pigmentosa Foundation at 11350 McCormick Road, Hung Valley, MD 21031.

## **THE MISSION PLAY**

*A California Classic Re-imagined*

**APRIL 5, 6 & 7, 2013**

a Mission Playhouse Production

April sees the return to stage of one of California's most important stories when the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse presents a major new version of the 1911 classic *Mission Play* to mark the Centennial of the City of San Gabriel.

The *Mission Play*, charts the journey of Father Junipero Serra and his band of followers as they struggle to bring their faith to the indigenous population of California. It is a story full of passion

and pride, faith and belonging, filled with color and song, tears and laughter.

Between 1769 and 1823, the Holy Franciscan Friars established 21 Missions along the coast of California, from San Diego to San Francisco.

Written by journalist, Congressman and California poet laureate John Steven McGroarty, the *Mission Play* was originally staged in 1911 outside the San Gabriel Mission where it ran for 16 years, drawing huge crowds from across the county. In 1927, McGroarty's stunning vision and ambition saw the completion of the Mission Playhouse, built specifically to house his astoundingly popular epic *Mission Play*. The Play ran until 1932, attracting over 2.5 million people during its run.

To celebrate the City of San Gabriel's Centennial in April 2013 and the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Father Serra's birth, the Mission Playhouse is re-staging the *Mission Play* in a re-imagined form that reflects the perspective of modern-day audiences.

A group of young friends are drawn into the mists of time, back into the late 1700's, as they hang out together outside the Mission. They experience for themselves first-hand the trials and tribulations of the Holy Fathers as they fight for moral supremacy over the military, striving to bring their faith to the indigenous people of California. The young people become witnesses to this struggle and the whole experience is framed by the perspective of a Native American forefather as he reflects on the scenes unfolding before us.

The Playhouse is committed to promoting access to audiences and producers through a program of work that reflects the rich diversity of the San Gabriel and wider California community. This production will both incorporate and promote that commitment.

The Playhouse is assembling a wonderful creative team, some of whom are direct descendants of original *Mission Play* cast members and relatives of some of the Founding Fathers of California. They share a unique vision that will bring this classic work to life. Revel in history, ponder the past and future and celebrate the present in this colorful vibrant play complete with music (including the Wurlitzer pipe organ) and dance.

Tickets: \$25 to \$100. Seniors, students & groups get 25% off seats. Visit [www.missionplay.org](http://www.missionplay.org) or call 626- 869-7328



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P.O. Box 1913, Glendale, CA 91209

**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA THEATRE ORGAN-RELATED EVENTS** *(LATOS Events are in larger text)*

**April 14, 2013 - Sunday at 2:30pm – Bob Salisbury Concert with two short comedy silent films at the San Gabriel Mission Playhouse.** *See full story on the front and second page of this issue of the Organ Log.*

June 21, 2013 – Friday at 8:00pm  
 and June 22, 2013 – Saturday at 2:00pm and 8:00pm – Jerry Nagano in Concert at the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar.  
 Admission is free. Call 818-364-6464 specifically on May 22 between 4:00 & 6:00pm for tickets.

ONGOING: The Organ Grinders, a social group that meets every second Sunday of the month at 2:00pm. Open console on a 3-manual digital theatre organ - beginners to pros in a fun, supportive and friendly environment (also a volunteer pot-luck if you wish to bring one of your creations). 1270 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 100, Pasadena, CA 91103

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>

**YOUR BOARD MEMBERS:**

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

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

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

**Bill Campbell** bill-campbell-latos@latos.org

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

Board Members, continued:

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

**COMMITTEES**

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PCC Crew Chief	(TBD)
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