

# The Organ Log

# LOS ANGELES

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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## LATOS CONCERT & POTLUCK SOCIAL

### Sunday, October 14, 2018

1-3pm at Paramount Iceland

with Bill Campbell at the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Bundle up in your favorite winter coat and join us at the 1939 ice palace built by Frank, Lawrence, and Pete Zamboni! Organist Bill Campbell will entertain us on the Mighty Wurlitzer which now boasts the console original to the fabulous Fox Theatre, San Jose. The organ program begins as the rink opens at 1:00pm and our social hour continues until 3:00pm.



While listening to the last remaining theatre pipe organ in a U.S. ice rink, you can explore the historic rink and its display of early Zamboni machines, enjoy complimentary hot chocolate, coffee, and refreshments in the activity room reserved for LATOS, and YES, this time you can even ice skate for a small fee!

Iceland will be open to the general public during this event. The LATOS social will be located in the rink activity room. The room is heated, however it is recommended you dress warmly for this event. LATOS will provide basic refreshments and you are encouraged to bring your favorite winter-themed snack or dessert to share with us.

Where: Paramount Iceland  
8041 Jackson St.  
Paramount, CA 90723

Parking & Admission: Free parking in adjacent lot, free admission, and \$10 skate rental fee for those who choose to skate



# The PARAMOUNT ICELAND ICE RINK and its WURLITZER THEATRE ORGAN

Paramount Iceland is located about 20 miles south of Los Angeles. It originally started out as an outdoor skating rink. It was a change of direction for the Zamboni family. They originally were making blocks of ice before home refrigeration became possible. When technology changed and more people had home refrigerators, their ice business declined. They decided to open a skating rink to take advantage of the large number of Dutch people who lived in the area. The rink opened in 1940. The Wurlitzer was installed the following year. The organ started out as a 2/10. Additional ranks and other parts were acquired through the years. In 1958, a new console from Opus 1545, originally installed in the San Jose Fox was added. The organ specification was then expanded, bringing the final specification to a 3/19. The organ remains an entirely electro-pneumatic action instrument.



Originally the organ console was installed at the south end of the rink and the pipe chamber was on the north side of the building. This created a problem for the organist in terms of a, two-tenths of a second, delay between playing and hearing any of the notes on the keyboard. It also created a wiring problem. There is a lot of condensation in the rink. Wiring from the console to the chamber would short out. That would cause unexpected notes and ranks to speak out. In its second location, the organ was installed in a chamber on the east side of the rink. This caused a new set of problems. Certain combinations of sounds would shatter glass bulbs with glass landing on the ice rink. The problem was solved in the mid-1950's, by building a completely new structure at the end of the rink opposite of the rink entrance. Two chambers were built and the organ console was placed in a glass-enclosed loft between the two organ chambers.



Several members of the Los Angeles Theater Organ Society including Larry Grundy, Peter Crotty, Ed Bridgeford, and Lynne Bishop joined formed a volunteer restoration team in 2004 to bring the organ back into shape to be featured in the 2005 ATOS Annual Convention. Ranks of pipes were washed, leather was replaced and the console received a fresh coat of red and gold paint.



Over the years, the rink had several organists including Truman Welch, Bill Fields, and Billy Wright. Bill Campbell, the current resident artist, started in 2012. He plays for open skating sessions weekly. Since starting, Bill Campbell has performed for over 325 skating sessions with over 50,000 skaters in attendance. If you are in the area, and would like to see or hear the organ, Bill Campbell can be contacted through email, [williamcampbellit@yahoo.com](mailto:williamcampbellit@yahoo.com) or through Facebook. He would be happy to show you around.

**CONGRATULATIONS BILL FIELD  
and OLD TOWN MUSIC HALL.  
50 YEARS OF ENTERTAINMENT!!!**



**OLD TOWN MUSIC HALL**  
HOME OF THE MIGHTY WURLITZER THEATER PIPE ORGAN

## FEATURED MEMBER

### LATOS Treasurer, Bill Campbell

Bill Campbell has been a very active member of the American Theatre Organ Society for more than forty years. Originally a member of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, he began his theatre organ playing career as the organist at the Avalon Theatre in Milwaukee in the 1970's while attending high school. He was the movie organist and played weekends before some of the era's most famous films such as *The Longest Yard*, *Tommy*, *The Amityville Horror*, *The Exorcist*, and *Titanic*. His musical preludes to the movies always included selections from the movies whenever possible. His association with the theatre lasted until the theatre finally closed its doors in 1999. In addition to appearing at the Avalon Theatre, Bill also spent about ten years as a Pizza Parlor Organist in Milwaukee entertaining at the Pipe Organ Pizza and Piper Music Palace.

In the mid-1990's, Bill's love of theatre organ was reflected in the only recording to have been produced at the Avalon's 3/28 Wurlitzer, Avalon, Volume 1, which received a great review from the Theatre Organ Journal. In 2017, Bill produced his second theatre organ recording *The Pipes of San Gabriel*, which was recorded on the 3/17 Wurlitzer located in the San Gabriel Municipal Playhouse, San Gabriel, California. Bill's theatre organ concert experience extends from concerts on the East Coast, having performed many times at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York, to appearances for the Land of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, Illinois, and Dairyland Theatre Organ Society in Milwaukee. When Bill's full-time career as a computer professional changed and he moved to California in 2004, he continued to perform at venues on the West Coast. These included performing for the Wurlitzer Weekend in 2008 at the Paramount Ice Rink, the Los Angeles Orpheum Theatre historical tours, Orange County Theatre Organ Society at Fullerton Auditorium, South Pasadena High School, annual concerts for the Valley Organ Society in Los Angeles, and the Theater Organ Society of San Diego.

Bill Campbell is the organist for the Paramount Iceland Skating Rink located in Paramount, California. Since becoming the principal artist for Iceland in 2012, he has played for more than 300 performances,



which draw large audiences on a weekly basis. Bill has performed for more than 50,000 skaters who come to enjoy the excellent facilities at Iceland. The Iceland Rink is a local landmark, which opened in January 1940, in suburban Los Angeles, California. The organ is a 3 manual 19 rank Wurlitzer. Parts of the organ came from various theaters in Southern California. The three manual console came from Opus 1545, a 3/13 Style 235-SP, originally installed in the San Jose Fox Theater. The organ was installed a year after Iceland opened in 1941. The owners of the rink are the Zamboni family, inventors of the ice-smoothing machine. Their machine is sold worldwide to arenas to clean up the ice for hockey games and skating exhibitions.



The Zamboni Model A, the worlds first ice resurfacer built in 1949. On display at Paramount Iceland, where it was invented.



LATOS  
PO Box 15626  
Anaheim, CA 92803

## So Cal Theatre Organ Related Event

Oct 12 & 13, Old Town Music Hall 50th Anniversary, call theater for tickets. (310) 322-2592

Oct. 14, 2018, LATOS CONCERT & POTLUCK SOCIAL 1-3pm at Paramount Iceland with Bill Campbell on the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Oct. 28, 2018, Silent Sunday Series; Lon Chaney's "Phantom of the Opera" with David Peckham 2:30pm, San Gabriel Mission Playhouse.

January 27, 2019, Ella Cinders, Christian Elliott

April 14, 2019, Blackmail, Donnie Rankin

June 2, 2019, The Black Pirate, Brett Valiant

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

ONGOING: Concerts at The Nethercutt Collection. Visit <http://www.nethercuttcollection.org/Calendar.aspx> for dates & info.

ONGOING: The Organ Grinders every 2nd Sunday of the month at 2:00pm. Open console on a Roland Atelier (also a volunteer pot-luck). Westminster Presbyterian Church. 1757 North Lake Ave., Pasadena, in the "Lawrence Chapel" (not in main sanctuary). Free parking in the rear. Contact Elly Reitz 626-281-3311 for more info.

ONGOING: Paramount Iceland, (3/19 Wurlitzer) organ is played for skating sessions every Tuesday 7-8:30pm. featured artist, Bill Campbell. 8041 Jackson St. Paramount. 562-633-1171

OTHER EVENTS: Visit [GoOrgan.com](http://GoOrgan.com) for an extensive list of theatre and classical organ concerts throughout southern California.

### President:

Charlton Quinn, 815-218-6221  
[charlton.quinn@yahoo.com](mailto:charlton.quinn@yahoo.com)

### Vice President:

Edward Torres, 424-228-0404,  
[Edwardtorres212@yahoo.com](mailto:Edwardtorres212@yahoo.com)

### Secretary:

Mark Herman, 626-524-0090  
[mark@losangelesorgan.com](mailto:mark@losangelesorgan.com)

### Treasurer:

Bill Campbell, 414-248-4164  
[williamcampbellit@yahoo.com](mailto:williamcampbellit@yahoo.com)

### Program Committee Chair:

Kevin Cartwright, 323-333-8922  
[kevin.r.cartwright@gmail.com](mailto:kevin.r.cartwright@gmail.com)

Andre Rigden, 213-345-3057  
[laandre@earthlink.net](mailto:laandre@earthlink.net)

Steve Asimow, 818-240-9825  
[asimows@sbcglobal.net](mailto:asimows@sbcglobal.net)

Don Hibben, 626-590-1018  
[latos@lapostmaster.com](mailto:latos@lapostmaster.com)

Stirling Yearian, 951-287-8235  
[rexgaloure@msn.com](mailto:rexgaloure@msn.com)