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ISSUE 20 August, 2019

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# NEW SILENT FILM ORGANIST IN OUR MIDST

Review by Kevin Cartwright, June 10, 2019

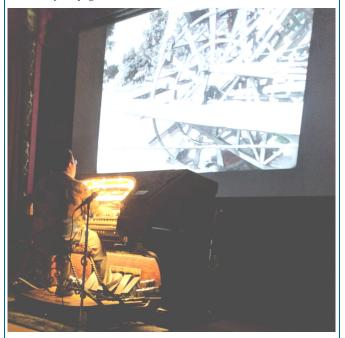
Edward Torres made his debut as a feature-length silent film accompanist at the Old Town Music Hall the weekend of June 7-9. To say those who did not attend missed a treat is an understatement. What occurred at Old Town was a legendary entrance to the stage of film accompaniment by an organist who has a rare level of natural talent for film work. Torres' ability to augment storytelling through music is simply phenomenal for an artist just entering the silent film genre.





Torres figuratively burst onto the stage with one of the most exciting organ pre-shows I have witnessed in years, complete with a fun-filled sing-along which garnered the participation of the entire house. The pre-show generated a very high level of excitement for the feature film. His accompaniment to Steamboat Bill Jr. was seamless without a single missed cue or effect. The music was exciting when appropriate and romantic when necessary. The Tibia-Vox registration he used when William Canfield and Kitty King encountered each other for the first time

Continued from page 1



in the film subtly foretold the plot while making our hearts race with empathy for the young lovers. The slapstick comedy placed throughout the film was perfectly augmented with the full buffet of sound effects designed for film accompaniment, squarely hitting cue after cue with comic falls, crashes, collisions, and even rain at times. The long build to the climax of the film seemed only like a few short minutes of chaos with the exciting accompaniment of the great storm, and Torres conquered the climax scene with a few bars of the Wedding March as Canfield swims up to the steamship with the priest.

The audience left Old Town Music Hall with a memory of the film as if the actors had voices and as if the scenes were filmed in sound, and we also left with eager anticipation to hear another silent feature accompanied by Edward Torres in the future. Torres' accompaniment to Steamboat Bill Jr. proves we have a new silent film organist in our midst that is more than capable of captivating audiences for yet another generation of film enthusiasts.

### REMEMBERING LATOS MEMBER BILL NORTH



Ralph William (Bill) North June 13, 1936 - February 24, 2019.

Bill was born in Milwaukee, when he was 16, he and his family moved to Burbank, Ca. Bill attended Burbank High School and then UCLA majoring in History and minored in English, graduating with his teaching credential in 1960. Bill's first teaching job was at John Muir then- Junior High School where he met his wife, Barbara Bullock. They married in 1975. Bill loved teaching and stayed in touch with many of his students long after he retired. He was known at Muir for his love of paperclips, and at Burbank High for his love of fire engines and trucks. He also enjoyed woodworking, photography, travel, and the Wurlitzer organ. Bill was a longtime member of LATOS and will be missed.

Bill donated his large collection of organ CDs to LATOS which will be distributed to music lovers at our local events.

#### LOS ANGELES

Dear Elaine Pease,

7/13/2019

On behalf of Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society, we wish to thank you for bringing Mr. Bill North's kind and generous donation of his organ CDs to us. I know these CDs will bring as much happiness to those who receive them as they did to Bill. Thanks again, and we hope to see you at a future event.

Sincerely, Mark Herman LATOS Secretary Sad news, longtime LATOS member Larry Grundy passed away on July 20, 2019 His son, Geoffrey Grundy, is planning a Celebration of Life for his dad in September, exact date to be announced when all the plans are finalized.

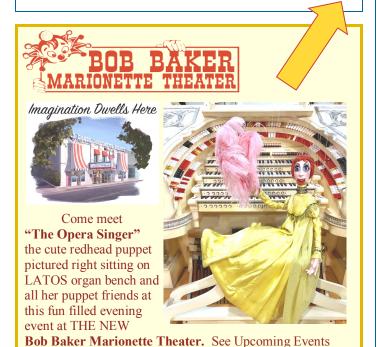
Larry Grundy 8/11/30-7/20/19

#### **VIDEO/MOVIE REQUEST**

LATOS member, Elaine Pease, is in search of videos of The Paramount 75th Anniversary Re-release of six Silent Movies all with Gaylord Carter.

- 1. Old Ironsides
- 2. Running Wild
- 3. The Docks of New York
- 4. The Wedding March
- 5. The Last Command
- 6. The Ten Commandments

Elaine is looking for DVDs, or videos in VHS or Bata format. If you have them and would like to sell them, or if you know how Elaine can purchase these fine old movies please contact her at 818-243-5000



#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### Aug. 10, SBTOS Open Console

Santa Barbara Open Console will be held on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 9:00am to 11:00am. Everyone is invited, its free, Play the 4 manual, 27 rank Robert-Morton pipe organ or just relax and listen. Hope to see you there. George Ferrand, open console host. Arlington Theatre, 1317 State Street, Santa Barbara 93101

## Aug 16, Bob Baker Marionette Theater LATOS ORGAN DEBUT!

7:30pm organ Pre-Show — 8:00pm organ demo and then the marionette show "The Bob Baker Sketchbook Revue" 4949 York Blvd, Los Angeles, CA.

Aug 16-18, The 5th Annual Vintage Cartoon Festival

Join our partner organization, **Old Town Music Hall**, for Naughty, Bawdy, Musical Pre-Code Cartoons hosted by acclaimed animation historian **Jerry Beck!** This is a celebration of classic cartoons including Betty Boop, Flip the Frog, Oswald Rabbit and more. Mr. Beck will introduce each piece with fascinating insights.

SHOWTIME: Friday 8:15pm, Saturday 2:30pm and 8:15pm, Sunday 2:30pm. Old Town Music Hall,140 Richmond St, El Segundo, Ca 90245

TICKET: sold at the door, no credit cards.

Nov 16, LATOS Fall Potluck Social, & Open Console

Join us for this fun afternoon, from 12:00pm to 4:00pm, at LATOS member **Andre Rigden's home**. Bring your music book and your favorite appetizer, entree, or dessert and have a fun time while we enjoy open console at the Allen theatre organ.

Location: 3021 S. Shasta Circle, Los Angeles, CA 90065 RSVP to Andre Rigden at laandre@earthlink.net

#### Dec 9, Christmas Extravaganza

Hosted by; the American Guild of Organists, LA Chapter and Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society.

Join us as we celebrate the holiday season with a festive dinner and a holiday music extravaganza with the Mighty Wurlitzer! Rob Richards, of the El Capitan Theatre, will perform at the organ accompanied by Pianist Alex Zsolt. LOCATION; Founder's Center for Spiritual Living, 3281 W 6th St, Los Angeles, Ca. 90020

Dinner convenes, Monday, Dec 9, at 6:15pm, served at 6:45pm, FREE for LAAGO members, \$20/non-LAAGO members. Concert begins at 8:00pm, free admission.

RSVP to Russell Schertle: russell@rgschertle.net or 323 -828-3633.



LATOS PO Box 15626 Anaheim, CA 92803

#### **ONGOING EVENTS:**

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 At-

elier (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

ONGOING: SBTOS, Adam Aceto, plays at the 7 PM intermission on Friday nights. Call the theatre at 805-963-4408 to make sure Adam will be playing.

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