

The Organ Log

LOS ANGELES

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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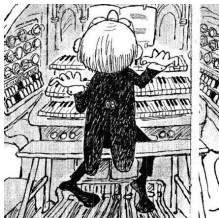
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in black & white for mailing

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ANNUAL ELECTION FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The annual election for the LATOS (Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society) Board of Directors will be held during the Annual Membership Meeting in December. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors, these are the following three ways you can become a board member:

1. By appointment by the board to fill a vacancy.
2. You can submit a letter of interest to the nominating committee, before the November board meeting, stating your interest to be a candidate on the election ballot. The letter of interest must be signed and endorsed by two additional LATOS members in good standing.
3. By nomination by a LATOS member at the annual membership meeting.

There will be three openings for the 2020 board.

We are a chapter of ATOS (American Theatre Organ Society) so only members that belong to both LATOS and ATOS can vote or hold a board office position. If you would like to submit a letter of interest, please send it prior to November 1, 2019, to:

Nominating Committee;

Chair, Vicki Yearian - fodofixer@msn.com,

Marvin King - mhking.2287@gmail.com

Cecil Dover - cdover@aol.com

Larry Grundy

August 11, 1930 --- July 20, 2019

Lawrence (Larry) Eugene Grundy was born in South Bend Indiana in 1930. The Grundy family lived through the Great Depression but avoided its full effects as Larry's father held a steady job at Indiana Electric. After Larry graduated from high school, he attended the University of Cincinnati. Upon graduation in 1953, Larry and Lea Zoeller wed and set out to start their lives with Larry's newly minted Electrical Engineering degree; however, the U.S. Army intervened. Larry told Lea to stay in South Bend until his two-year draft commitment was served, but Lea directly told Larry, she goes where he goes. From this devotion came the births of their first two children in Fort Monmouth Army Base, New Jersey. The army was otherwise a forgettable two years for Larry, but not without his own mild rebellions -- among which, as the base movie projectionist, he would run "Gone With the Wind" for the officers without intermission.

The movie bug stayed with Larry as the family relocated to an apartment in the Los Feliz area of Southern California in 1955 and he started a job at Westrex, a sound production company. But despite enjoying being part of the Hollywood scene, his paycheck did not cover expenses for the family. (By this time, the number of children was increasing at the rate of one per annum, until they stopped at eight.) Fortunately, his neighbor recruited Larry to work for a nationwide electrical contracting firm, Fischbach & Moore, where he ascended through the ranks for over 32 years to the rank of corporate vice president overseeing west coast operations.

The Grundy Family Theatre Pipe Organ

When he was 12, Larry visited a theatre in downtown South Bend and fell in love with the sound of the Wurlitzer pipe organ. He would return, again-and-again, to attend the sing-along's, concerts, and classic silent movie comedies featuring; Laurel & Hardy, Harold Lloyd and Buster Keaton.

Throughout school, attaining an engineering degree and starting family and career, Larry's love of the pipe organ sound was never far from



his mind. In the early 1960's, Larry fell in with a group of pipe organ enthusiasts who had, as hobbies, restored small theater pipe organs for their homes. Seeing this as the perfect marriage of his head (engineering), and heart (music), Larry decided to pursue assembling his own theatre pipe organ, unaware at the time that it would become a life-long project.

He purchased his first salvage pipe organ in 1966 from a local mortuary that no longer had the time or money to keep it playing. This was the first of five small organs acquired over the years from establishments such as churches and pizza parlors. Shortly after moving into their new, large, home in Hacienda Heights in 1968, Larry and Lea added a multiroom addition to accommodate a large pipe organ. The new structure included a family room, mixing chamber, and pipe chambers. A small-scale temporary organ was assembled and made playable. Larry knew how to play one song: "It's a Small World."

In 1989, they moved to their rural retirement property in Fallbrook. Larry and Lea decided rather than adding on to the family home, they would build a separate, 1,200 sq. foot organ building.



Construction of the organ building started in 1992 and was completed in 1994. The final refurbishment and assembly of all five smaller organs into one grand instrument took the course of 10 years and was finished and dedicated in 2004. The completed organ comprised 20 ranks of pipes, and 10 sets of percussion instruments and sound effects, and would have been suitable for servicing a large movie theater.

Long after his retirement from electrical contracting, Larry officially entered the organ restoration and maintenance business in 2008 as president and co-

(Continued on page 3)

Calling all organists!



We are looking for volunteers to play at the Bob Baker Marionette theater on show days for half an hour before the program starts.

If you would be interested in filling one of these time slots, please let Kevin Cartwright know by sending an email to: kevin.r.cartwright@gmail.com. Let him know of your interest and availability.

(Larry Grundy, Continued from page 2)

founder of Knight Organ Company. Throughout the years, Larry donated his time, expertise and financial support in helping refurbish organs throughout the country. Including; the Grand Wanamaker in Philadelphia (the largest pipe organ in the U.S.), the Paramount (CA) Ice Rink --- and the organ in San Gabriel Mission Playhouse.

In 2017, Larry traded in the upkeep of the Fallbrook property for being pampered with style at Villa Gardens, an assisted living campus in Pasadena, CA., where he was free to add to -- and subtract from -- his fine wine collection.

Family and friends were with him at his quiet passing on July 20, 2019. Larry ashes will be placed beside Lea's in Fallbrook Masonic Cemetery.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 5, First Congregational Church
7:00pm, "Phantom of the Opera" 1925 original
 Organist, Dave Moreno, & soloist Kerri Lyn Scott.
 165 E. Mill Ave. Porterville, CA 93257

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Oct. 20, Whittier High School Alumni
3:00pm concert

Vic Lopez Auditorium, Mark Herman, with the newly refurbished Wurlitzer Organ! \$15 tickets online at; www.whittierhighalumni.org

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Nov 2, Plummer Auditorium, 7:30pm
 Mark Herman accompanies "Black Pirate"

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Nov 16, LATOS Fall Potluck Social,
& Open Console

Join us for this fun afternoon, from 12—4pm, 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

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Nov 17, San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, 2:30pm

1928's "Show People". Marion Davies
 Silent Sunday Series

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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 at 6:15pm, served at 6:45pm. This is a joint meeting with the Los Angeles AGO and with LATOS; the dinner is \$20 and the concert is free for all. Concert begins at 8:00pm.

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

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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 Atelier (also a volunteer pot-luck). Westminster Presby-

terian 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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