

The Organ Log

LOS ANGELES

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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The Music Goes Round and Round!

Join the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society as we enjoy our first social event of the 2021-2022 season, "The Music Goes Round and Round," at the historic Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round!

Oct. 9, 2021, 11am to 2pm



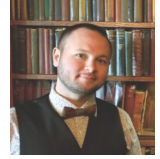
Read all about our first fun Social on page 3

WELCOMING DORSEY CALDWELL to the LATOS BOARD

The LATOS Board of Directors would like to welcome Dorsey Caldwell to our LATOS Board of Directors. Dorsey has been a member of LATOS for many years, he has served on the Board of Directors in the past, and he is best known for his diligent care of the LATOS instrument at the South Pasadena High School. Dorsey was appointed by the Board of Directors to fill an empty seat which expires in 2023.



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



LATOS has been a relatively quiet organization during the historic SARS-CoV-2 Pandemic of 2020-2021, but your LATOS leadership has been hard at work developing new ways to keep LATOS active and relevant in today's society as well as reinforce the usual LATOS traditions you know and love. I am excited to inform you about several exciting new initiatives underway at the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society.

One of our pandemic initiatives was to update our Bylaws in order to allow LATOS to move forward using modern technologies, as well as better define how LATOS does business. A solid set of Bylaws is crucial for our hopes of creating corporate partnerships with larger organizations, and I would like to thank all of our members who engaged in the process of drafting and approving our updated Bylaws. With our new Bylaws in place, we are able to move forward with new ways to manage our Membership and member roster, hold Membership and Board meetings either in-person or virtually so that more members may participate, and much more.

One challenge LATOS has been facing in recent years has been member retention, and it goes without saying we want to retain you as a member of LATOS, and making this process simple and intuitive is critical for improving member retention. To accomplish this, LATOS has contracted with a new membership management system called Wild Apricot. This platform is designed to help non-profit organizations manage their membership roster with several automated membership management features. Our Membership Coordinator, Vicki Yearian, is very knowledgeable and highly experienced with Wild Apricot, and she is excited to bring LATOS onto this new, modern platform. Wild Apricot will make e-mail distribution of announcements, renewal notifications, and other communications very simple, and with this improvement you will be hearing from us a little more often.

In order to simplify the membership management transition both for you and for LATOS, our Board of Directors has extended every member's membership through December 31, 2021. You read correctly, we are giving all of our members membership extensions through December 31, 2021. All renewals will now be due by January 1, and we will send out renewal notifications before December each year. Additionally, our Board of Directors approved a motion to extend all memberships which lapsed during 2019 and 2020 in order to give our recently-lapsed members more time to discover what LATOS has to offer as we emerge anew after the Pandemic, and hope each of you will renew your memberships in January 2022.

Please follow our electronic newsletter, The Organ Log, and the LATOS Facebook page for new announcements as we move forward from the Pandemic of 2020-2021.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your support and patience as we have been working diligently to develop effective and safe ways to return from the pandemic, and we look forward to seeing each of you soon, whether virtually or in-person.

Sincerely yours,
Kevin R. Cartwright, President

THE MUSIC GOES ROUND AND ROUND

Please join the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society, Oct. 9, 2021, 11am to 2pm as we enjoy our first social event of the 2021-2022 season, "The Music Goes Round and Round," at the historic Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round!

LATOS members and their guests may enjoy ice cream, refreshments, and other food items (as allowed by local health restrictions at the time of the event), and LATOS members and their guests may take advantage of a ride-wristband good for unlimited rides the day of the event.

Tap your toes to the lively music of the Stinson Model 87 band organ as it plays a festive assortment of 165-scale rolls hand-picked by LATOS' own Kevin Cartwright.

Enjoy a ride on the historic 1926 Spillman Engineering Co. carousel which inspired Walt Disney to build Disneyland. The Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round features 68 hand-carved wooden jumping horses and two spacious carriages for those who prefer to sit. Peruse the artifacts on display around the carousel pavilion, and create new memories with your friends and family at this one-of-a-kind LATOS social.

Not a LATOS member? Not a problem!
Join in on the fun at www.latos.org,
or join on-the-spot for just \$20!

Directions to the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round, approx. 200 yards west of the Griffith Park Ranger Station at [4730 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027](http://www.latos.org). Ample free parking is available near the carousel pavilion.

From the 5 Freeway Northbound, take the Griffith Park exit. Turn right at the end of the off-ramp onto Crystal Springs Drive. Turn left at the next stop sign and follow the signs to the Merry-Go-Round.

From the 5 Freeway Southbound, take the Los Feliz Blvd. exit. Keep right onto Los Feliz Blvd. West. Turn right at the first stoplight onto Riverside Dr./Crystal Springs Dr. Turn left at the second stop sign and follow the signs to the Merry-Go-Round.

From the 134 Freeway East/West, exit to the 5 Freeway Southbound and follow the directions above.

From the Hollywood area, take Los Feliz Boulevard to Riverside Dr./Crystal Springs Dr. Turn left onto Riverside Dr./Crystal Springs Dr. Turn left at the second stop sign and follow the signs to the Merry-Go-Round.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events are subject to change in these unusual times of COVID-19, Thank you for your patients and understanding, and as always, we hope to see you at all our upcoming events!

Oct. 2, (TOSSD) Rob Richards in concert, 7:00pm at Trinity Church Facility, 3902 Kenwood, Spring Valley, 91977.

Oct. 3, San Gabriel Mission Playhouse, 2:30pm. Mark Herman, Silent Sundays Series: "The Freshman". Proof of COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative Covid-19 test required. Any questions, please call 626.308.2865.

Oct. 9, LATOS Ice Cream and More Social at Griffith Park Merry-Go-Round, 11am to 2pm.

Oct. 17, Mark Herman, 3pm at Whittier High School. Mark will be playing the 1926 Wurlitzer Organ at Vic Lopez Auditorium, 12417 Philadelphia St, Whittier CA 90601 (Bailey St & Whittier Av). Cost is \$10 cash at the door.

Nov. 20, LATOS Open Console / Social, at Old Town Music Hall. 10am to 1pm, Stay tuned for more details.

Nov. 20, (TOSSD) Gregg Breed, silent movie, 7:00pm at Trinity Church Facility, 3902 Kenwood, Spring Valley, CA.

Dec. 5, LATOS Annual Meeting & Donnie Rankin Concert at Old Town Music Hall, 2:30pm.

York Theater

“98th Birthday Boo Ha-Ha”

with the

Bob Baker Marionette Theater

By Kevin Cartwright

LATOS was proud to collaborate with the Bob Baker Marionette Theater on September 18, 2021 to present the “98th Birthday Boo Ha-Ha,” the first of what is promising to be a successful series of “Organ Nights” for the Bob Baker Marionette Theater. LATOS’ own Mark Herman performed for the event and delivered several LATOS plugs to a sold-out house. LATOS Directors Dorsey Caldwell and Stirling Yearian set up LATOS banners and distributed brochures to event attendees. Most members of the LATOS Board of Directors were also present in the audience to experience the first cooperative event between LATOS and the Bob Baker Marionette Theater since the Pandemic of 2020-2021.



Stirling Yearian and Dorsey Caldwell sharing LATOS information and flyers with the audience.

The evening was a celebration of the 98th anniversary of the opening night of the York Theater in Highland Park. Originally home to a Wurlitzer Style B, the York Theater now houses the Jack Darr organ, a custom Allen GW-4 digital theatre organ in a console built by Ken Crome of Reno, NV in the image of the Brooklyn Paramount Wurlitzer. As may have been the case on opening night, patrons were greeted by a half-hour organ show before the festivities began, and the organ show was met with enthusiastic applause. The evening continued with the singing of “Happy Birth-

day” to the York Theater and a vaudeville-style variety show featuring an exciting array of vintage and new marionettes, including the debut of the brand-new marionette duo of Dr. Frankenstein and his Monster who performed to the hilarious soundtrack of the famous “Putting On The Ritz” tap dance routine from the film.

Organ solos were intermingled with the marionette variety acts, and then the evening took a turn only Bob Baker Marionette Theater could produce as a troupe of marionettes emerged from the grand drape dancing to live organ music. The audience was thrilled by the perfect and natural pairing of theatre organ music and vintage marionettes, and they offered many cheers and rounds of applause throughout the routine.

The feature act of the evening was the screening of the 1921 Buster Keaton silent film, “The Haunted House” accompanied by Mark Herman at the organ. This one-reel comedy short was a stunt-filled laugh-riot, as is typical of Buster Keaton comedies, and the haunted house theme was a perfect kick-off to Bob Baker Marionette Theater’s “Halloween Spooktacular, A Puppet Marvel” series which premiered September 18 and will run through October 31 with half-hour organ shows prior to most performances. (Visit <http://www.bobbakermarionettetheater.com/> for more information.)

The York Theater 98th Birthday Boo Ha-Ha with the



Bob Baker Marionette Theater was a promising sign of the exciting new partnership between LATOS and the Bob Baker Marionette Theater. After the event, one young patron was overheard exclaiming, “Tonight

(Continued on page 5)

(Bob Baker Marionette Theater, Continued from page 4)

was the best thing I've ever done – ever!" Although the organ is a digital theatre organ, this LATOS chapter organ installation promises to place theatre organ music in front of a broad new audience of children and adults alike, and LATOS eagerly anticipates future cooperative events with the Bob Baker Marionette Theater.

LATOS is pleased to be able to finally bring to fruition



the wishes of Mr. Jack Darr, who bequeathed his fabulous instrument to LATOS in hopes it would be installed in a public venue. We are also proud to honor late LATOS Member Bob Baker's long-time dream to house a theatre organ in his marionette theater, and we hope to see our LATOS members at the Bob Baker Marionette Theater very soon!

LATOS would like to thank Alex Evans, Winona Bechtle, and Missy Steel at the Bob Baker Marionette Theater for inviting us to participate in this event, and to Mark Herman for performing and accompanying "The Haunted Mansion" on behalf of LATOS.



Mark Herman

Old Town Music Hall Re-Opens to SOLD OUT Crowd!

After a closure of 18 months, Old Town Music Hall has re-opened to rousing crowds!

By Angie Hougen

On September 19th, audience members were treated to a spectacular silent film, "The Black Pirate", Starring Douglas Fairbanks. The feature was accompanied by Mark Herman, who also performed a beautiful medley in honor of the theater's founder Bill Field, who passed away in 2020. It was a memorable occasion enjoyed by all.

Online ticketing is now available at <http://oldtownmusic hall.org>, Reserved seating is available for all movies and concerts. We have also installed a powerful ventilation system that removes air from the theater very quickly and pulls fresh air in. It's very effective! We're following the LA County COVID-19 guidelines for movie theaters, requiring face masks indoors when not eating or drinking. At this time, there are no requirements for seat distancing or proof

of vaccination, although those things may change and we're watching carefully as guidelines evolve.

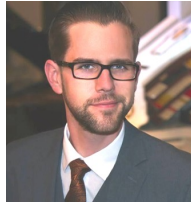
The theater will be open on Saturdays and Sundays. Showtime; 2:30pm and 7pm. We realize that many people will not yet be comfortable visiting a movie theater, and we completely understand. Let's hope that this Covid nightmare passes very soon. The volunteers at Old Town look forward to seeing you whenever you are ready.



LATOS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

at Old Town Music Hall
Sunday, December 5th, at 2:30PM

LATOS will partner with Old Town Music Hall to present **Donnie Rankin** in a delightful holiday concert. Making his first appearance at Old Town Music Hall, Donnie will entertain audiences with a festive array of holiday favorites, as well as a few surprises. With the hall decorated to the hilt, this will be a holiday experience you will want to share with friends and family.



Donnie Rankin



Old Town Music Hall now has online ticketing with reserved seating, so be sure to purchase your tickets early for what will certainly be a sold out concert!

[Old Town Music Hall - Tickets, Donnie Rankin in Concert \(agileticketing.net\)](http://agileticketing.net)

Following the concert, LATOS members are invited to stay for a short membership meeting, which will be presented by LATOS President Kevin Cartwright. During the meeting, Kevin will highlight LATOS plans for 2022! There are many good things ahead, so be sure to attend this informative meeting.

Old Town Music Hall is located at [140 Richmond Street, El Segundo, CA 90245](http://140RichmondStreet.com). The website is <http://oldtownmusic hall.org>, and the theater phone number is (310) 322-2592.

LATOS Receives Substantial Donation from the Merle Trust

By Angie Hougen, LATOS Treasurer.

LATOS has become the beneficiary of a portion of the estate of long time theatre organ enthusiasts Raymond and Ramona Merle. The Merles were longtime real estate investors in the Newport Beach area. Over the past few months, LATOS has received two sizeable disbursements from the Raymond V and Ramona W Merle Trust totaling \$225,000. The first gift received in November 2020 was \$150,000, followed by a second disbursement of \$75,000 in March of 2021. There will be a final disbursement around the end of the this year as well. At this point, we do not know the amount of the final disbursement, as the estate still has substantial assets left to dissolve through probate. We will notify the membership as more details become available.

The LATOS Board voted unanimously that the gift be invested in a prudent portfolio which will yield income to offset the majority of LATOS' operating costs. After extensive research, LATOS treasurer Angie Hougen will be working with Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Officer Russell Reyes to meet those goals. The LATOS Board is very grateful that the Merle's estate planning will allow our organization to have long term financial stability and security.



Ramona Merle, Balboa Island. Photo by; Los Angeles Times, <https://images.app.goo.gl/ECjHyJwXb2Ybdfn46>

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with the 2021 Bylaws, LATOS will accept nominees for the Board of Directors for a minimum period of thirty (30) days prior to the first meeting of the nominating committee. The 2021 period for nominations shall be October 1 - October 31, 2021. During this time, you may nominate yourself as a candidate for the Board of Directors and/or you may nominate another member of LATOS as a candidate with the written consent of your nominee. Three nominees will be elected to fill three vacant Board of Director seats for a term spanning from January 1, 2022-through December 31, 2024.

Per the 2021 LATOS Bylaws, Section 6.2(b), “Any person who has attained the age of eighteen years of age as of the date of election or appointment of directors, shall be eligible to serve as a director. No person shall be eligible to serve on the Board who is not a member in good standing of ATOS.” If you wish to submit yourself or another LATOS member as a nominee for the 2021 Elections to the Board of Directors, please contact LATOS Secretary, Mark Herman, at mark@markherman.com 626-524-0090, or LATOS President Kevin Cartwright, kevin.r.cartwright@gmail.com, 323-333-8922. Or mail your nomination information to: Nominating Committee, PO Box 4545, West Hills, CA 91308

2021 LATOS Bylaws Section 6.3:

- (a) Elected Directors shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of this section. In the event that LATOS fails to comply with this section, then Elected Directors shall be elected at the annual meeting of members or at a special meeting of members.
- (b) Notice shall be given each year for a 30-day period in which nominations for positions of Elected Directors are open. Any member meeting the qualifications for serving on the Board established by Section 6.2 is eligible for nomination and may nominate himself or herself or be nominated by any other member. If a member nominates another member, written consent of the nominee must be received before the nominee’s name can be placed on the ballot. Notice of any applicable nomination procedures shall be provided to members in conformity with written policy that was previously adopted by the Board prior to the notice provided in this Section 6.3(b).
- (c) The close of nominations shall be prior to the meeting of the Nominating Committee.
- (d) The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for the positions of Elected Director, which shall contain but not be limited to all nominations submitted by the members in accordance with this Section 6.3. The Nominating Committee shall report the slate of candidates for Elected Director to the Board within ten (30) days after the close of nominations. If, after the close of nominations, the number of nominees is not more than the number of directors to be elected, the Board then serving may without further action declare those nominated and qualified to have been duly elected.
- (e) If the number of nominees exceeds the number positions open, a written ballot and information about the candidates shall be sent to every member entitled to vote. The ballot shall name each candidate, arranged in alphabetical order according to last name. All ballots shall be returned to the place designated on or with the ballot and shall be postmarked prior to the deadline stated in the ballot. Ballots shall be counted the day following the last day for receiving ballots, provided that any ballots received thereafter shall also be counted provided that they were postmarked on or before the deadline provided herein.
- (f) The Board may authorize that the transmission of a ballot and any related material may be sent by electronic transmission by the corporation and that responses may be returned to the corporation by electronic transmission to the corporation.
- (g) Nominees who receive the highest number of votes up to the number of directors to be elected shall be elected. The results of the election shall be announced at the annual meeting and may be published to the membership in any reasonable manner established by the Board.



LATOS NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 4545,
West Hills, CA 91308.

**Los Angeles
Theatre Organ
Society**

Please, Join / Renew ONLINE

Go to www.latos.org, click on the MEMBERSHIP link
and then select "JOIN / RENEW NOW"

"The doors are always open for donations."

From Treasurer, Angie Hougen: As a non-profit organization, LATOS depends on its membership fees and donations to pay the operational expenses of the chapter. If you would like to donate to our chapter, checks can be mailed to our PO Box 4545, West Hills, CA 91308.

President:
Kevin Cartwright, 323-333-8922
kevin.r.cartwright@gmail.com

Vice President:
Andre Rigden, 213-435-3057
laandre@earthlink.net

Treasurer:
Angie Hougen, 818-667-4785
hougen@sbcglobal.net

Secretary:
Mark Herman, 626-524-0090
mark@markherman.com

Charlton Quinn, 815-218-6221
charlton.quinn@yahoo.com

Stirling Yearian, 951-287-8235
rexgaloure@msn.com

Dorsey Caldwell, 626-798-1820
dorsey.jr7765@sbcglobal.net