

The Organ Log

LOS ANGELES

THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

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A New Year for LATOS By President, Kevin Cartwright

On behalf of the LATOS Board of Directors I would like to wish each and every one of you a Happy New Year. We hope 2022 is as exciting for you and your family as it is for LATOS. On several occasions we have referenced a return to normal programming and meetings after the global pandemic which began in 2020, but it seems we must once again wait a little longer to realize our hopes of re-opening with an aggressive program schedule. In the meantime, read the program article in this newsletter for information about our upcoming virtual program broadcast: Brett Valliant in concert at Organ Stop Pizza!

While LATOS has been socially dormant, our Board of Directors has been hard at work developing ideas for re-opening LATOS events and supporting our mission statement. In the coming months, we will be excited to announce some new sponsorships for theatre organ programming at our partner venues, and we look forward to returning our LATOS chapter organs to service very soon. With our current financial disposition, LATOS is poised to begin presenting a substantial number of theatre organ events around the Los Angeles Metro Area.

The LATOS Board of Directors is once again full thanks to the appointment of two active members

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to vacant Board seats. Following an appeal for volunteers to serve at our 2021 Annual Meeting, we are happy to welcome Mr. Kyle Irwin and Mr. Manuel Rosales to our Board of Directors, both of whom have generously volunteered to fill empty Board seats after we were unable to recruit nominees for the 2021 election. Our current slate of Board Members for 2022 is as follows:

- President: Kevin Cartwright
- Vice-President: Manuel Rosales
- Secretary: Mark Herman
- Treasurer: Angie Hougen
- Dorsey Caldwell
- Charlton Quinn
- Stirling Yearian
- Kyle Irwin

We would like to thank our outgoing Director and Vice-President, Andre Rigden for his many years of support to the Board of Directors, and I would like to thank our current and past Board members for their loyal support to LATOS. If you would like to join the leadership of LATOS, please contact me for more information about how you can work with us to lead LATOS into a successful future!

Have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year, and I look forward to seeing all of you in person very soon!

Kevin R. Cartwright
President



JELANI EDDINGTON

Jelani Eddington performs at Old Town Music Hall on Sunday, February 20th.



On Sunday, February 20th, at 2:30PM, LATOS will sponsor the Old Town Music Hall appearance of Theatre Organist Jelani Eddington. A tremendously gifted and accomplished theatre organist, Jelani Eddington is one of the most sought-after performers in the field. In addition to his work as an organist, Jelani has distinguished himself as a concert pianist, and he is sure to delight us with some memorable music on the Bosendorfer Grand Piano. It will surely be a well-attended event, so book your tickets very soon!

Reserved seating is available in advance, please check out Old Town Music Hall website, at oldtownmusichall.org. Tickets are \$25. If available, tickets will also be available at the door. At this time, Covid-19 Vaccination cards are not required, but please check the Old Town website, or theatre recording at (310) 322-2592 for up-to-date protocols. A mask must be worn in the theatre when not eating or drinking.

Hope to see you at this marvelous event!



BILL CAMPBELL

Our Own Bill Campbell Returns to LA for Kings of Comedy Series on February 26/27. LATOS Members are Invited to Saturday's Reception.



The Old Town Music Hall will be screening a Kings of Comedy Series on February 26th and 27th, featuring the works of Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin, and Harold Lloyd. We will screen "Steamboat Bill Jr.", "The Gold Rush", "Speedy", and "City Lights". It will be a rare opportunity to introduce your friends to the magic of silent film, and for the silent film aficionado, the chance to catch some of the best all in one weekend. Be sure to book your tickets early!

LATOS' favorite Bill Campbell will be returning to Los Angeles to accompany two of the films-Buster Keaton's "Steamboat Bill Jr". on Saturday, February 26th, and Harold Lloyd's "Speedy" on Sunday, February 27th. Both screenings are matinees and will begin at 2:30PM. Bill's appearance at Old Town Music Hall is sponsored by LATOS.

Old Town will host an informal reception for Bill immediately following the Saturday Afternoon Matinee. The reception will begin at approximately 4:30PM. We will

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have outdoor space for socializing, and refreshments inside the theatre. We will conclude the reception at 6:00PM, to prepare for the evening show. If you plan to attend the reception, please email angie@oldtownmusichall.org. We welcome LATOS members and their guests. Bill is looking forward to seeing everyone and catching up!

Reserved seating is available in advance, on the Old Town Music Hall website, please check Oldtownmusichall.org. Tickets are \$20 for silent feature films with live accompaniment on the Mighty Wurlitzer. If available, tickets will also be available at the door. At this time, Covid-19 Vaccination cards are not required, but please check the Old Town website, or theatre recording at (310) 322-2592 for up-to-date protocols. A mask must be worn in the theatre when not eating or drinking.



BRETT VALLIANT

BRETT VALLIANT PERFORMS VIRTUAL CONCERT FOR LATOS FROM ORGAN STOP PIZZA



Brett Valliant at
Organ Stop Pizza, Mesa, AZ.
Photo by Mark Herman

Join us on the LATOS YouTube page (link below) on Saturday, March 5th at 5pm PST to hear a concert by Brett Valliant. A true “musician’s musician,” Brett crafted a varied program that ranges from traditional theatre organ pops to pizza parlor pizzaz. He demonstrates incredible skill at showing off the innumerable colors of the massive 4/82 Wurlitzer/

Composite theatre pipe organ at Organ Stop Pizza.

In 2021, the American Theatre Organ Society named Brett the “Organist of the Year.” He recently relocated to Phoenix, Arizona to assume regular duties as a staff organist at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa. He has toured extensively internationally and performed for countless conventions of nearly every organ society.

We would like to thank Organ Stop Pizza for generously making the organ and restaurant available for this production. This is a great opportunity for our members to “virtually” travel to the largest theatre pipe organ-equipped restaurant in the world. We encourage you to travel to visit them in person.

The concert will be available for viewing anytime following the initial broadcast. We will email a link to all of our members that will remain active after the program.

Here’s the link to the LATOS YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAA1gXgyO158gOqq0XfMdhw>



Photo from Phoenix New Times

DONNIE RANKIN

The Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society has begun meeting in person once again, after a long dry spell.

By Angie Hougen



Donnie Rankin at Old Town Music Hall.
Photo by, James Moll

In December, LATOS sponsored a holiday concert at the famed Old Town Music Hall, in El Segundo, featuring Theatre Organist Donnie Rankin. With a house filled nearly to capacity, Donnie entertained us with a wide variety of medleys and holiday tunes, and even used the Uniflex to record the organ while he played live on the 9 foot Bosendorfer. He was met with a long, and heartfelt standing ovation, and his warm, charismatic presence brought a smile to all in attendance. It was his first performance at Old Town, and we look forward to his return sometime soon. He is a very talented performer.

After the concert, we held our annual membership meeting. It was great to connect with our membership and share our plans for a very busy 2022! At the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting, we welcomed our new board members Dorsey Caldwell, Kyle Irwin and Manuel Rosales. Our new board members will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the board, and we thank them for their willingness to serve, and look forward to a very productive chapter in the months ahead. Stay tuned!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 20, Old Town Music Hall, proudly presents Jelani Eddington in concert. 2:30pm.

Feb 26, Old Town Music Hall, “Steamboat Bill Jr.” 1928 silent, live accompaniment by Bill Campbell on the Mighty Wurlitzer. 2:30pm.

Feb 27, Old Town Music Hall, “Speedy” live accompaniment by Bill Campbell on the Mighty Wurlitzer. 2:30pm.

March 20, Old Town Music Hall, Rob Richards. Concert, 2:30pm.

April 9, Old Town Music Hall, 1922 silent, “Nosferatu” live accompaniment by Robert York. 7:00pm.

April 24, Old Town Music Hall, “Safety Last” live accompaniment by Randy Woltz on the Mighty Wurlitzer. 2:30pm.

May 7, Mission Inn, Riverside CA, Friends of Mission Inn present, 1922 silent film with Rudolph Valentino in “Blood and Sand” in the Grand Parisian Ballroom, with Mark Herman at the Kimball Organ. Saturday, 1:00pm. (Rescheduled from Feb. 5)

May 22, Old Town Music Hall, Ron Rhode Concert, 2:30pm.

June 5, Old Town Music Hall, 1927 silent, “The General” live accompaniment by Randy Woltz on the Mighty Wurlitzer. 2:30pm.

June 26, Mission Playhouse; “*The Three Musketeers*” starring Douglas Fairbanks (1921)

Oct. 2, Mission Playhouse; “*Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*” starring John Barrymore (1920)

Dec. 4, Mission Playhouse; “*Girl Shy*” starring Harold Lloyd (1924)

JACK DARR ORGAN

“Storied organ gets second life at Bob Baker Marionette Theater”

By [Caroline Tracy](#) | January 27, 2022

Courtesy of Larchmont Chronicle <https://larchmontchronicle.com/storied-organ-gets-second-life-at-bob-baker-marionette-theater/>



During a recent visit to the [Bob Baker Marionette Theater \(BBMT\)](#), Los Angeles’ famed puppet theater, Brookside resident Vivian Gueler took note of something she hadn’t previously clocked. An organist was playing “upbeat, old-timey music” on an ornately detailed and colossally-sized theater organ. Situated to the left of center stage, it appeared to be a centuries-old antique.

Gueler did some inquiring and learned that the organ is on permanent loan from the **Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society (LATOS)**.

“This is such a cool story and a little piece of history,” Gueler, who happens to be on the board at BBMT, told me at our kids’ school pick-up one day.

It just so happened that — around this same time — a copy of the brand-new book, “Enchanted Strings” was circulating here at the

Larchmont Chronicle office. The book is generally available this month. It details the history of BBMT and its master puppeteer / founder, Bob Baker. Chronicle Managing Editor Suzan Filipek reviewed the book in our January issue.

The organ, however, is deserving of its own story, and I contacted BBMT resident organist Ed Torres to get that story. Torres explained to me that this particular organ is a digital replica of a theater organ from the early 1900s, and it was donated via LATOS from the private estate of a musician and author named Jack Darr.

I learned that theater organs were built for playing during the showing of silent movies. They were also a cost-saving measure, enabling theaters to replace an entire orchestra with one instrument and one player.

“These were not like church or concert organs,” Torres explained. “They had all sorts of bells and whistles and drums attached. They were extremely versatile — you could play anything. They could play jazz and all the tunes of the day.”

This jibes with what Gueler experienced at the BBMT theater. “The music coming from the organ (played by Torres) was lively and created a convivial atmosphere for all ages to enjoy,” she shared.

Torres, who has been playing organ since he was 13, was thrilled at the chance to come and play at BBMT.

“My mother had taken me to the original theater downtown when I was about six,” he said, “and I always remembered it fondly.”

Torres had spent many of his formative years “hanging out and volunteering” at the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo, ultimately becoming the head organist there until the pandemic struck.

When he found out BBMT was opening its doors again in September (after its pandemic closure), Torres immediately contacted BBMT Executive Director and Head Puppeteer Alex Evans to let him know he was available to come and play.

When I spoke with Torres during Christmas week, he was about to play his 100th show at the theater.

“This is such a specialty, and I’m really happy to introduce an instrument from a bygone era to a new generation of listeners,” Torres shared.

Mr. Darr would undoubtedly be happy as well. His estate made clear that he wished the organ to be placed “where people would enjoy it.”

Book Signing at Chevalier’s March 7

Author Randal Metz will sign copies of his new book about the Bob Baker Marionette Theater, “Enchanted Strings,” at Chevalier’s Books, 133 N. Larchmont Blvd., at 7 p.m. on Mon., March 7



Some fun Christmas decorating at Old Town Music Hall, 2021





The Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society was founded in 1961, and owns pipe organs at the Wilshire Ebell, South Pasadena High School, and Pasadena City College. LATOS members can play these organs several times a year. LATOS also has access to many other instruments for its events in the southern California area. In addition to its Mission Statement, its key focus today is membership growth, expansion of member activities, promoting the theatre pipe organ to local youth, and encouraging active involvement in the organization. For more information about LATOS, please visit <https://latos.org/>

This is your invitation to enjoy wonderful entertainment and memorable experiences! Join LATOS as a voting member, or as a “Friend” and enjoy our events while supporting the preservation of an increasingly rare and unique instrument and art form, the theatre pipe organ!

The easiest and fastest way to join or renew is online at <https://latos.org/>
or you can simply complete the form below and include your check for \$20-\$500, then mail to:
(LATOS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corp.)

LATOS NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 4545, West Hills, CA 91308.

(DO NOT MAIL CASH)

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

NOTE: If you would like to receive occasional email messages about important LATOS related news and events, please take a brief moment to register your email address on our website (using the “Sign Up” form on the bottom-left of the main page). Be assured that we will not share your email address with anyone, and that we will not barrage you with unnecessary information. We will only send important email reminders about key upcoming LATOS events. Thank you.

QUESTIONS? Contact our Membership Director; Vicki Yearian, at fodofixer@msn.com or 951-943-1747



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

"The doors are always open for donations."

From Treasurer, Angie Hougen: As a non-profit organization, LATOS depends on its member-

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