

THE STOP RAIL

VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 8

August 2008

MATTHEW BASON FROM THE UK TO PERFORM AT THE ORPHEIM IN AUGUST!

You won't want to miss this concert.

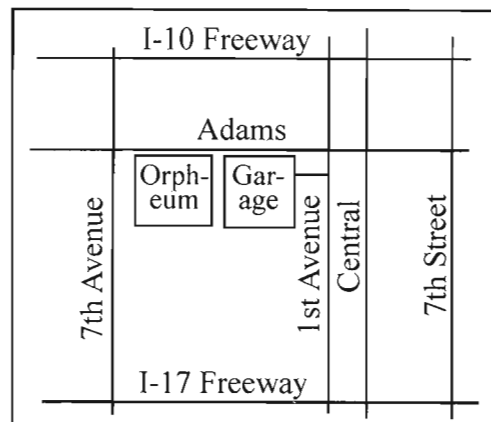
Matthew was born in Northampton on 4th July 1980. At the age of 7 he commenced piano lessons with a local teacher and completed the graded examinations set by the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and Trinity College of Music, London (now known as Trinity-Guildhall). He was also classically trained on the 'cello, but is a self-taught organist. Matthew made his first public appearance, aged 14, at the Cliftonville Centre, Northampton. From that point on Matthew began building up his reputation as a young but very professional and competent musician at local venues ranging from day centres to working men's clubs to hotels and churches. Matthew has had a wide range of musical experiences. He has played piano and keyboard in jazz groups and cabaret bands and quite often finds employment as an accompanist for music exams and choirs. He has worked on a wide range of productions - from Stephen Sondheim's musical "Company", concerts with groups such as "University of Reading Gospel Choir" & Northamptonshire's "Overstone Singers" through to providing musical "fill-ins" and "effect" music for Shakespeare plays. He has directed or co-directed choirs in Slough, Reading and Northampton. Residencies From 1997 to 2004 he was Resident Pianist at Sopwell House Hotel & Country Club. This involved



providing light entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights and some Sunday afternoons. At the same time, from 2001 to 2003, he was Resident Entertainer at Ashorne Hall Nickelodeon Collection in Warwickshire, where he entertained visitors with his one-man show, featuring the Wurlitzer and Compton Theatre Organs, Yamaha HX-1, Piano and Accordion. His duties included playing for dancing, accompanying silent films and accompany visiting cabaret acts. Sadly, this post was cut short by the sudden death of the owner. From January 2004 to February 2008 he was Resident Pianist

at Kettering Park Spa Hotel. He is now Resident Organist at Ranelagh Hotel Wellingborough (UK) as well as playing freelance. More about Matthew He is a honours graduate from the University of Reading, having studied Music and Education (the degree being BA(Ed)Hons). He continues to travel the whole of the U.K., surrounding isles and the continent playing for a wide range of events on Piano, Keyboard and Organ. Matthew lives in Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire, with his wife, Jenny. Awards include: ATOS 1999 Young Organist of the Year; ATOS 2000 Dean Herrick Award; 2001 President Slough Organ Society; 2006 Vice-President of STOPS (Scottish Theatre Organ Preservation Society). Featured on (performing and/or interviewed): Sky News, BBC Radio 2 "The Organist Entertains", BBC Radio Leeds, BBC Radio Northampton, BBC Three Counties Radio, BBC Radio Norfolk, Radio Cavell "Keyview"

North



ORPHEUM PARKING The Orpheum Theatre is at 203 West Adams in downtown Phoenix. You will find parking in the garage directly East of the theatre. The entrance to the garage is off First Avenue South of Adams Street. It's best to use a freeway exit near the West side of downtown, 7th Avenue is a good choice. Or you can find a parking space on the street near the Orpheum. See you there!

**2008 ELECTED OFFICERS
AND BOARD MEMBERS**

President: Bill Carr
11815 N. 77th Drive
Peoria AZ 85345
623-694-1746
billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

**Vice President/Program
Chairwoman: Nancy Fricke**
7405 E. Camino Santo
Scottsdale AZ 85260-3904
480-607-2970 Nancyfricke@aol.com

Secretary: Madeline LiVolsi
3626 W. Vernon
Phoenix AZ 85009
623-939-5163 mmlvl1@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Adrian Phillips III
4736 E. Horseshoe Road
Phoenix AZ 85028-6100
602-538-6697 adrianphillips@cox.net

Statutory Agent: Pete Knobloch
1507 E. Fremont Drive
Tempe AZ 85282
480-820-7093
peteknobloch@yahoo.com

Member at Large: Donald Reasor
1694 W. Glendale Ave., Apt 560
Phoenix AZ 85021
602-544-8386 Cell 623-341-1146
aaretiree@cox.net

Member at Large: Warren Bechhoefer
371 W Pierson Street Apt 7
Phoenix AZ 85013-2536
602-279-0386

2008 APPOINTEES:

**Membership Chairman:
Ed Benoit**
30110 W. Latham Street
Buckeye AZ 85326
623-327-1437 WurliTzer@q.com

Crew Chief: Thomas Fizzell
2201 E. Siesta Drive
Phoenix AZ 85042
602-243-9546 tfizzell@cox.net

Stoprail Editor: Beverly Fizzell
2201 E. Siesta Drive
Phoenix AZ 85042
602-243-9546 beverlyfz2@cox.net

BEST PIZZA AND MUSIC IN TOWN!

Wow! Charlie you are the best! We enjoyed 26 different songs in our afternoon, quite a feat. Our afternoon of escape from the heat took us into the dreamy world of great organ music, pizza and salad.

While we scarfed down yummy pizza by the plateful, Charlie began his program with *Puttin' On The Ritz* and took us away into a medley of city songs, *New York New York*, *Chicago* and *I Left My Heart In San Francisco*. *Pink Panther Theme* was next, followed by *String Of Pearls* and *Clap Hands Here Comes Charlie*. It is plain to see that he loves the big band swing tunes and so do we. We really loved the rousing theme from *Mamma Mia*, which was requested by the almost rowdy party who were guests of Bill and Joan McFadden. I think they always have more fun than the rest of us! *Mamma Mia* is a great musical film full of song and dance, a show worth seeing, although it might wear you out. Charlie ended his show with his version of *Stars And Stripes Forever*. Thank you Charlie and OSP for a great afternoon.

We didn't have a regular business meeting this afternoon. Board members didn't have to say a thing. We were a regular private luncheon party for the organ stop and there must have been over a hundred members and guests in attendance. Lets have this kind of turnout at the Orpheum August 10th when our artist from "across the pond" is here.

There is a great and different kind of DVD available now for sale at Organ Stop. It is a complete tour of their organ, the chambers, descriptions of how it works, interviews with artists, workers and guests and some history of these instruments. If you want to know the workings of this fine instrument this is a DVD to have.

FROM RON RHODE - A RECORDING WE WERE WAITING FOR

Ron's new recording, **Ron Rhode HOME** was made on the 3/23 Wurlitzer in his former Ahwatukee home. Remember all the fun times we've had there?

Tune List: 1) *Cosi Cosa* 2) *Be Like the Kettle and Sing* 3) *Cinderella, Stay in My Arms* 4) *I Won't Dance* (Organ and Steinway Duo Art Roll as duet) 5) "Un bel di" from *Madame Butterfly* 6) *My Cutie's Due at Two to Two* 7) *See You in C-U-B-A* 8) *Old Cape Cod* 9) *Whispering* 10) *On A Little Dream Ranch* 11) *Mabelle* (organ/piano duet) 12) *Young at Heart* 13) *Doo-Wacka-Doo* 14) *Nobles of the Mystic Shrine* (organ/piano duet) 15) *Night and Day* 16) *True Love* 17) *Hello Dolly* 18)

\$20.00 Postage paid. Check, Cash, VISA, or Mastercard

Call 480-695-8568 for Credit Card orders.

THE STOPRAIL	Membership Fees: Local Chapter Dues
Published monthly by	\$20.00 Name Tag \$9.00
The Valley of The Sun Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society PO Box 36151, Phoenix, AZ 85067-6151	Send Name, address & check payable to VOTS/ATOS PO Box 36151 Phoenix, Arizona 85067-6151
President: Bill Carr (623) 694-1746 Membership: Ed Benoit 623-327-1437 Editor: Beverly Fizzell 602-243-9546	The Valley of the Sun Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is a recognized tax exempt educational and charitable organization under section 501-C-3 of the Internal Revenue Code and is a nonprofit corporation organized in the state of Arizona.
Visit our website: www.theatreorgans.com/az/phoenix/	

2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For more information : Bill Carr 623-694-1746 billcarr3.vots.atos@cox.net

Sunday August 10-2:30 pm Orpheum - Matthew Basson from UK

Sunday September 21-2:30 pm Phoenix College, artist to be announced

Sunday October 5-2:30 pm Orpheum Theater - Ken Winland to play

Friday through Sunday November 28-30 Desert Winds

Saturday December 6-1:00 pm Christmas potluck at AdrianPhillips III

Silent Sundays Dates for the new season are January 11, February 22 and March 22, 2008. Admission prices for next year: \$15 general admission, \$10 for students and senior citizens, \$30 season ticket paid up front, \$10 group admissions, under 12 free.

ORGAN WORK DATES If you want to work at Phoenix College, call Bill Carr at 623-694-1746 for dates, time and to find out what they are doing there We are going to get it in top shape to play for Desert Winds.

ORGAN WORK REPORTS

Phoenix College: Tom Fizzell is working on switchstack wiring. Pipes are at Adrian's shop to be washed.

Orpheum Theatre: Grahame Davis looked it over and found it in good shape for the tuning date in November. Pete took a humidifier for the blower room. It will be playing nicely for our August date with Matthew Bason.

DESERT WINDS WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

To access the site go to <http://www.DesertWinds.info>

IS THIS WHAT IT TAKES TO ATTRACT YOUNG FOLKS?



From EMCATOS- Eastern Mass. Chapter

An experimental Wurlitzer concert at PPAC happened last night and I went. Obviously, this was not a theatre organ concert, but a musical happening that just happened to use a theatre

pipe organ as a tonal resource. Quite frankly, I expected the worst. But it was not. Mudboy and his crew treated the instrument with respect and imagination. Probably, most traditional theatre organ music lovers would not care for the music, especially if they were prepared to sing along with *Take Me Out To The Ball Game*. The music was, I guess, what you would call minimalist, lots of repetition with relatively simple themes and sequences, but with tonal variation. The first selection was done with guitar and other effects. The remainder of the selections used just the Wurlitzer. Mudboy made interesting use of the percussion instruments and traps and selected effective registrations for his music. All of the music was original. The closing sequence of the final piece consisted of holding a sustained chord and turning the organ off - clever. In one piece, *Solo Work Better Left to Better Feet*, Mudboy moved the bench and laid down and played the pedals.

The audience was a mixed bag. Clearly there were some there who thought they were going to a Wonders of the Wurlitzer session. Surprise! But there were a lot of younger folks there. In fact, I picked up some ideas for a new wardrobe - and I cannot wait to try out my new duds.

One of the things that struck me is that some of the music could be effective in accompanying segments of silent films, not the traditional sense, but a new bold way. The music for the most part was not loud, but eerie. Definitely different. All things considered, and with an open mind, I think this happening was a plus, and I am glad that Alan Chille and PPAC supported it. *Len B. EMCATOS*

WELCOME NEW MEMBER AND GET TO KNOW HIM

Edwin Rogers:

Here are some of the things I have done - washed dishes in a hotel kitchen (our boss later became the curator of birds for Marlin Perkins at the St. Louis Zoo.) Sold shoes to help pay my way thru high school and college. Was a professional assistant to a professional magician, taught 5th grade in Columbus Jct. Iowa (you may have seen it on the news recently, rather sadly under water), was drafted from that position and spent two years at NORAD, Colo. Springs, in the years just before they went underground, to Cheyenne Mtn., had trouble finding a job upon discharge (honorably, thank goodness) and was invited by best friend and high school buddy to get involved in outdoor show business, spending that first year playing fairs. He was (and is) a fine magician and organist, and his wife an A-1 assistant and an aerialist. The next year, they went back on the Famous-Cole Circus and I was there until the show closed forever, in 1965. I spent some time on Kelly-Miller Circus, as a billposter, then realized I really needed to get a "real job" that would offer some benefits when I grew older. Before I went to work for the State of AZ. (22 years), I was Ass't. Box Office Treasurer at Palace West Theatre in Phoenix (now the Orpheum) for four years. They had full seasons of Broadway plays, musicals and personal appearances. When I went to the State, I began by microfilming old Arizona newspapers, and in that same department, became assistant to the State Archivist for nearly 10 years. Then I served as an administrative assistant to the director of the School Lunch Program for seven years. Then I decided I had had enough of

continued on page 3.

WANT TO RUN FOR AN OFFICE?

Nomination committee - - - August
Nominations close - - Sept meeting
Ballot count - - - - October meeting

VOTS MARKETPLACE

To place your ad, call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546 or e-mail beverlyfz2@cox.net

(Deadline is the 20th of next month)

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS. THEY HELP PAY FOR THE STOPRAIL

Have something to sell or buy? Put your ad in the Stoprail. Call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546 or e-mail your information to beverlyfz2@cox.net. She can also help you write your ad.

Business Card
VOTS Member Card
Classified Ads
Add a photo to your ad

AD RATES

one year \$90.00 or one month \$10.00
one year \$70.00 or one month \$6.00
one issue \$10.00 (free to VOTS members)
\$5.00

FOR SALE: Xylophone 37 nt \$750. Glockenspiel 30 nt \$600. Chrysoglott 49 nt (action & instrument) \$500. Bass Drum/Tympany (action & drum) \$100. RM Kinura (needs work, complete) \$1500. Wurli Tibia (10" from 4' C) \$1000. RM Replacement Tibia Pipes \$250. String, Estey ? Salicional ? \$300. Ron also has a **2/4 Style "B" Wurlitzer For Sale: \$3500.00** Opus 1062, Rourke Theatre, La Junta, CO Shipped 5/21/25 as B Sp. The organ has been moved five or six times, but is in the most immaculate condition. Completely original—historic preservation possible. 2 manual console, 4 rank chest, complete with pipework: 8' Open Diapason, 8' Salicional, 8' Vox Humana, 16' Bourdon/Concert Flute. All original percussion and traps/sound affects: Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Chimes, Chrysoglott, Snare Drum, Bass Drum/Tympanii, Tap Cymbal, Crash Cymbal, Wood Block, Castanets, Tambourine, Triangle, Train Whistle, Bird Whistle, Klaxon Horn, Fire Gong, Horse Hoofs, Door Bell. Sound effects may vary as I am listing these from the Wurlitzer Shipping List Book and each organ was slightly different! The organ is original with the wind console, relay, floor boards, two sets of swell shades, organ one side with percussion on the other side, Style "B" console with preparations for a Tibia to be added already made in the console and relay. The blower is single phase (3 hp?). All racking lumber included. Two tremis, three regulators, with original wind trunks. Photos available.

Ron Rhode(480) 695-8568 azroxy@cox.net

TWO IMPORTANT ATOS MEN PASSED AWAY

From Jeanette Crumpler

DALE BAKER Jody Baker called me this morning to tell me of Dale's passing away. When he was Editor of the TO Journal, he asked me to write an article about "Street of Dreams" which I did, and he produced a great treatment of it. Both of these professionals were certainly the upside of the TO world in my book. While I'm not a TO artist, I have been a publicist and writer connected with the TO world for many years. I have great admiration for the instruments and music and those who have integrity and dedication in promoting it.

RALPH BEAUDRY I was saddened to learn of Ralph Beaudry's passing away. We corresponded some and he was so kind in his review of my "Street of Dreams, A History of Dallas' Theatre Row", pointing out that to him it was "the best book this side of Ben Hall's" and other respectful words. I found him to be an honest man even if it had not been that he loved my book. He had integrity and was a talented and more than qualified reviewer.

Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our August birthday cake eaters - John Diffendal, Myrra Johnson, Joan McFadden, Glenn VanDiver, Henry Pfizenmayer and Gina Sheak. Blow out those candles and have a blowout of a good time. Remember, this will be the only birthday you will have this year so make it count!

NEW MEMBER *Continued from p 3*

beauracacy and so took early retirement! My friend, Floyd Bradbury played the Hammond organ for the Cole Circus, and had this big model Hammond and two of those big "whirling" Leslie speakers. He played a darn good performance, or in the vernacular, he "really cut a show." One of the most fun? things I did in the magical performances, was to escape from a wooden crate secured with six padlocks, a canvas cover, and 15 feet of rope. When the crate was opened by a committee from the audience, the magician was found tied into a fabric bag inside. People enjoyed it. Another fun thing was my duty, in our midnight ghost show, of being grabbed by the Frankenstein monster and thrown onto a gurney and "having my head cut off," placed in a sack and carried out into the audience. Since Brad couldn't afford to have a new assistant every night, it was an illusion, of course. Really high class entertainment, you can see. I left out the fact that some years ago, my sister, Pat Rink, and I had a professional company, The Patchwork Puppets, and did shows for municipal groups, Scout groups, department stores, and so forth. We only did this for a couple of years, as she had two daughters, twin sons and a husband, we both had some little arthritic problems, so the puppets were put away. I now run the weekend box office for the Great Arizona Puppet Theater, and serve on their board of directors. My tenure as president of the Phoenix Guild of Puppetry will end in September and I hope to be able to spend lots of time listening to music and putting some of my organ, jazz, classical and musical comedy long-playing vinyl records onto compact discs. I had about two thousand LPs and my late brother left me about four thousand LPs. I have sold or given away many of those (but not giving away any organ records.) Although I am a die-hard "Vinyl Junkie," I must admit I do make pretty good transfers of them onto CDs.

THE THEATRE ORGAN MURDERS A wickedly delightful tale of mysterious murder and mayhem along Dallas' Elm Street Theatre Row of long ago. Available at www.organmurders.com