

# THE STOP RAIL

VALLEY OF THE SUN CHAPTER  
OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 2

February 2008



## JONAS NORDWALL TO PLAY FEBRUARY CONCERT

Jonas played for our 1996 Desert Winds and has been a frequent ATOS convention artist. He was interested in keyboard instruments at an early age and started taking accordian lessons at the age of 4. He quickly became interested in the organ and began classical organ studies at the age of 12. At the age of 18, Jonas began studies in organ at the University of Portland. For "kicks," he served as assistant staff organist at Oaks Park Skating Rink. Jonas is an internationally renowned virtuoso organist with the unique ability to perform both classical and popular music with equal virtuosity. For many years he

was the Senior Staff Organist for the Organ Grinder Corp, which had large theatre organs in restaurants in Portland, Denver, and Colorado.

### JONAS NORDWALL CONCERT TICKET UPDATE

The Phillips Music Room and The Valley of The Sun Chapter are proud to present Mr. Jonas Nordwall at the Midmer-Losh 5/105 pipe organ on February 23, 2008 at 1:00PM. Doors will open at 12:30PM. Please note that this is a Saturday afternoon concert in order to accommodate the artist's schedule. At the present time, the concert is now better than half sold out. Tickets are only available by contacting Mr. Adrian Phillips III at 602-538-6697 or [adrianphillips@cox.net](mailto:adrianphillips@cox.net). Please make checks payable to VOTS in the amount of \$15.00 per person and mail to Mr. Adrian Phillips III, 4736 East Horseshoe Road, Phoenix, AZ 85028-6100. As stated in the January 2008 newsletter, this is a limited seating event with tickets sold on a first come, first served basis. No tickets will be available for purchase at the door due to limited seating. Please come and support your local organ chapter and enjoy a wonderful event.

## FEBRUARY & MARCH

No February meeting scheduled. March 9th meeting at 5:00 pm at the Phx College Bulpitt Auditorium after the film. More info to come.

## DON'T MISS SILENT FILM THIS COMING SUNDAY

This Sunday, January 27th, 2:30 pm, we will show the silent film *True Heart Susie*, a classic from 1917. Film will be at the Phoenix College Bulpitt Auditorium, as we feverishly work on the Wurlitzer. Parking lot is on NE corner of 15th Ave & Thomas. Bring those six friends to help fill the house.

## ERIC FRICKE IN CONCERT

Sunday, February 17th, 2 to 2:30 pm. Eric Fricke will perform for the AGO Marathon at Orangewood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N. 10th Street in Phoenix.

## SHEET MUSIC SWAP MEET

Tom & Beverly Fizzell are hosting an Open House, Jam Session & Music Swap on Sunday March 16th from 2:00 on. Playing the organ seems to be out of fashion and music stores carry almost no sheet music. Here is a way to trade old pieces for different ones. Sort your music (not limited to organ music) and bring a snack to share and any portable instrument you play. This is not a VOTS meeting. More information, a map & directions will be in the March Stoprail.

DON'T EVER THINK OUR SILENT SUNDAYS AREN'T IMPORTANT. READ LETTERS FROM PEOPLE OF ALL AGES ON PAGE THREE. WE MUST CONTINUE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

**2008 ELECTED OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS**

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**Membership chairman: Ed Benoit**  
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623-327-1437 WurliTzer@q.com

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

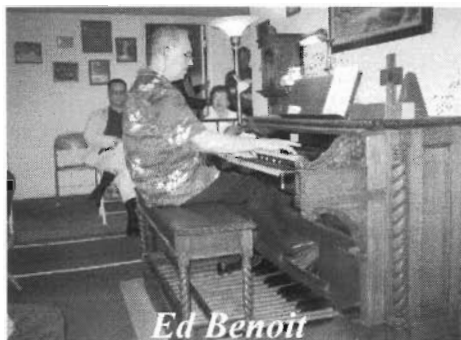
**Stoprail Editor: Beverly Fizzell**  
2201 E. Siesta Drive  
Phoenix AZ 85042  
602-243-9546 beverlyfz2@cox.net

**GREAT ADVENTURE & FUN AT PETE KNOBLOCKS HOME.**

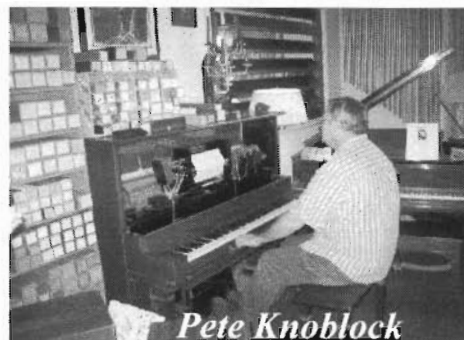
Mary Jacobson impressed us with four great pieces on Pete's Steinway grand piano, including Schindlers List and Ashokan Farewell. She was joined by Beverly Fizzell in an (*Unforgettable*) duet on the new theatre organ console, the sound coming from both the miditzer, (a downloadable simulation of a Wurlitzer model 215) and a portative (roll-about cart of organ pipes without a console). They then traded places for *Whispering*. Pete played *The William Tell Overture* using a roll player connected to the Marie Antoinette pipe organ. We enjoyed Liberace's *Three Little Fishes* on a unique player piano, pumped by Pete. Whew! Our fearless Ed Benoit took the pipe organ bench and away we went on another great music ride, including a duet with Pete and a piano roll! Pete's house is full with 18 pianos (three of them are grand pianos), 3 organs and other unique instruments. We loved Ed's home-made cookies and Mary's fresh lemon pies. An outstanding event Pete!



*Note from Pete - Here is a link to Bob Taylors Aeolian pipe organ player that he has been working on for about 4 years now. The link is: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPPhNXpwASw> This has the 10 roll roll changer and plays the 176-note 15 inch rolls like the one I showed you.*



*Ed Benoit*



*Pete Knobloch*

**NO ORDINARY JUKEBOX From Ed Benoit**

Add this site to your Favorites! <http://www.tropicalglen.com/> This is no ordinary jukebox. It plays songs from 1950 through 1982. Each year has a scroll or drop down box that shows all the great songs for that year. Click on a song and when it finishes, it automatically plays the next song in the list. One of the best features is that it will play in the background. Just open this Jukebox, start a song list playing. Then open another window in your Browser to surf the net or whatever, while the music plays.

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## 2008 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**January 27-2:30 pm**- Silent Film at Phx College Bulpitt Auditorium.

**February 2-2:30 pm** Board Meeting Call Bill Carr 623-694-1746

**February 17-2:00 to 2:30 pm**, Eric Fricke at the AGO Marathon at Orangewood Presbyterian Church, 7321 N. 10th Street Phoenix.

**February 23-1:00 pm** - Jonas Nordwall Concert at Adrian Phillips' Residence Please purchase tickets ASAP.

**March 9-2:30 pm** - Silent film *Wings* Phx College Bulpitt Auditorium.

**March 9-5:00 pm** - Meeting following film at Phoenix College.

**March 16-2:00 pm** - Sheet Music Trade - Jam Session - Open House at Fizzell's. More information to come.

**April 13-2:30 pm** - Charlie Cox's Residence. More Info to come.

More Information: Nancy Fricke 480-607-2970 Nancyfricke@aol.com

## SILENCE IS GOLDEN

*From USA Weekend story by Jeffrey Ressler Nov 23-25, 2007*

### Why we love the old silent films.

During an era in which Hollywood movies rely on earsplitting explosions and sonic-boom soundtracks to throttle audiences, it may surprise some to learn that films were once (gasp) silent.

The last Charlie Chaplin film made without sound, *Modern Times*, was in 1936, but audiences still watch silents on DVDs at film festivals and online via websites like movieflix.com. Next month marks the 30th anniversary of Chaplin's death, and movie buffs around the world plan to honor his career with events including screenings of his films, accompanied by live orchestras.

What exactly do these films provide that modern blockbusters can't deliver? To find out, USA WEEKEND asked several silent aficionados to explain their passion. The responses were clear: **Dustin Hoffman 70** *I've always been interested in silent movies. When I speak to film students, I urge them to watch silent films because it enables them to focus on the structure of shots without being distracted by the dialogue. I ask them how they would face the challenge of "speaking" dialogue without being able to talk. There*

*were some marvelously subtle performances given by those silent actors, given the fact that they had to tell a story without the advantage of dialogue.*

**Karie Bible 34** *There's something beautiful and dream-like about silent movies - a poetry, a grace. They're like a cinematic ballet. The first one that I ever saw was the Phantom of the Opera. I immediately became obsessed with Lon Chaney's performance. Modern-day actors just can't compare to the silent stars. Back in the 20s and 30s, the actors looked so glamorous, so mysterious. Without a sense of mystery, an actor isn't interesting to me. And thanks to YouTube, camera phones and aggressive paparazi, today's film stars are way too overexposed.*

**Thomas J. Stathes 18** *One of my earliest memories is that of my father digging around a friend's house and finding some dusty 16mm reels of silent cartoons. From the moment I first saw the primitive animation flickering on a sheet he had taped against the wall, I was hooked. A few years later a department store was closing down and I found a bin of* Silence is Golden continues on pg 4

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*Two new & one former member:*

### Phillis Lowe

2343 W Belmont Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85021  
602-995-3724

### Bill & Pat Peck

1797 W 28th Ave Sp 176  
Apache Junction AZ 85220

### Jon Thorwaldson

PO Box 5204 Glendale, AZ 85312  
thatus@cox.net

## BOARD MEETINGS

Members are always welcome to attend a board meeting. Next one is February 2 at 2:30 pm at the Beatitudes Campus Life Center building on 17th Ave & Glendale in Phoenix. Information: Bill Carr 623-694-1746

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

**Tom Fizzell** Born in Chicago Illinois, Tom moved to Arizona in 1962. He and his lovely wife, Beverly, physically built their beautiful home, which includes their 3 manual 9 rank pipe organ & a carousel organ. Tom has been working at pipe organ repair, building and restoration in the western United States for many years and would you believe, he doesn't play. The organ, that is, but he does play a Bodhran (an Irish drum, pronounced "bough run") and the banjo his father played in 1926. He loves Irish music and loves to play. Tom, our crew chief for 25 years, works on the pipe organs at First Christian Church, Orpheum Theatre and the Phoenix College, and maintains the Wurlitzer at Organ Stop Pizza. Tom is a great asset to our chapter and we are very grateful to have him. Now you know the rest of the story, as Paul Harvey would say.....  
*Interview by Ed Benoit*

If there is someone you want to see featured here, let Ed Benoit know. 623-327-1437 Wurlitzer@q.com

# VOTS MARKETPLACE

To place your ad, call 602-243-9546 e-mail [beverlyfz2@cox.net](mailto: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](mailto:beverlyfz2@cox.net). She can also help you write your ad.

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## PHOENIX COLLEGE UPDATE

Bill reported at the board meeting that things were moving along. He explained the difficulties they were experiencing in trying to put a back wall in the main chamber. Work is being done on the main chest, and everything will be like brand new again. The five horse-power blower is in good shape. There was some question about where to put the toy counter so that it was accessible. Ideas included under the stage, or in a locked, rolling cabinet on the stage.

## PHOENIX COLLEGE WORK

Hi All... Come join us at a work party at Phoenix College! Here are January & February work dates. We can work from 9:00 am till 6:00 pm on these days.

Saturday January 26    Sunday February 3

Sunday February 17    Sunday February 24

For more information call Bill Carr 623-694-1746

## Happy Birthday To You!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our February birthday cake eaters. Bill Irwin, Bill Fricke, Russell Diaz, Mary & Bruce Jacobson (they share a Feb 11 birthday). If we missed yours, let us know. Soooooo, 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, baby.

## SILENCE IS GOLDEN continued from page 3

*cheap videos featuring oddball silent shorts. I picked up armfuls, and my interest has snowballed to the point where I have now dedicated most of my free time to posting information about them online on my blog. [CartoonsOnFilm.blogspot.com](http://CartoonsOnFilm.blogspot.com).*

### Victoria Principal 57

*In 1995, I attended a silent Film Gala and soon afterward I began contributing to film restoration efforts and watched dozens of old silent movies. The arts can be a antidote to chaos in the world. If the longest journey is from the head to the heart, then silent films speed that journey. With a silent film, you don't talk or look away. It demands undivided attention - you become utterly focused. In today's world, how often does that happen?*

### Mike Gebert 45

*There are two reasons why I am a devoted fan of silent movies. As the hysterical laughter of my 6 and 9 year old sons proves, there's no one around today funnier than Laurel and Hardy, Buster Keaton or Roscoe "Fatty" Arbuckle. These films also serve as a time machine, taking you back nearly 100 years to a more innocent era. There's just something magical about films made in the 20s - the grand passions, the unique perspectives. Watch a good silent movie and you'll be swept away by the experiences in a way that today's big, noisy movies seem too clumsy to achieve.*

### Danyka Kosturak 32

*When I was 6, I sneaked into our living room and watched the horror film Nosferatu on TV. The story, the shadowy light - it was transfixing. I couldn't look away. These movies are just so much more moody and elegant than anything from my own generation. Watching a good silent film is similar to walking on air- they pick you up and take you on a ride.*

## SAN FRANCISCO PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER SEE KIDS' ENTHUSIASM FOR PIPES

Thought you'd like to see and hear this site. Very interesting... Mr. Ed.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzeUEIM\\_2oA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzeUEIM_2oA)