

Valley  
of the Sun  
Chapter

# STOPRAIL

Arizona Chapter of  
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976

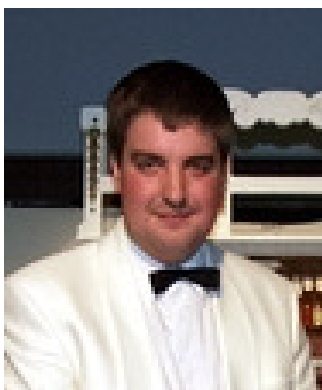
Volume Thirty Three ♦ Issue Seven ♦ July ♦ Two Thousand Nine

## Two great organist from the UK to play at the Orpheum in July!

We are fortunate to get these two outstanding artist in the same month. Bring family, friends and everbody you know to these fun events! More information about the July 26 event coming in the August Stoprail. Use the stage door on Adams street as the front doors to the Orpheum will not be open. Map and directions on page 6. See everybody then!

July 11th 2:30 - *Christain Cartwright* from England

July 26 2:30 - *Matthew Bason* from England



**Christian** is one of the younger generation of organists who is not only interested in playing, but also in the intricate restoration side of these fine historic instruments. Along with his brother, Christopher, he is completely renovating a Christie organ. He was taken to the Ballroom at Blackpool Tower from early infancy,

and from around the age of 3 he started 'playing' a keyboard. He then progressed to an electronic organ and eventually used a vintage Compton 357 Melotone. He first sat at the console of a theatre organ in January 1999 (the Wurlitzer 3/8 of Burton Town Hall in fact) and has since played a varied selection of British and American theatre organs, most notably the 74+ rank Wurlitzer at the Organ-Stop Pizza Parlour in Phoenix Arizona, and also the 80 rank Wurlitzer of the amazing Sanfillippo residence in Chicago, Illinois. ?During 2001, Christian was made assistant organist at the Pipes In The Peaks Compton. Christian is completely self taught, and has spent many, many hours listening, watching and studying recordings of the masters of the instrument past and present. He likes to present a wide selection of music for all tastes and ages, and his many styles of interpretation are his own arrangements. He found influences from the likes of American artistes such as Lyn Larsen and Ron Rhode, to the British counterparts in particular the late Vic Hammett, and of course the ever popular Phil Kelsall. Christian is a Bachelor of Science, having graduated from Staffordshire University. His other interests are Steam and Traction Engines, Classic Cars, and F1 Motor Racing.

**Matthew** began his performing career in 1994. Originally classically-trained on the piano, at the age of 12 he began to teach himself the organ. In 1998 he went on to study Music and Education at the University of Reading, U.K. Matthew has had a varied career in music - both as an organist and pianist - as a soloist, accompanist and teacher. Amongst his work as a



freelancer he accompanies music students for examinations, plays for choirs and provides backing for cabaret and solo artistes. From 1997 to 2004 he was resident pianist at Sopwell House, St. Albans where he played as a solo jazz pianist and accompanied singers and cabaret acts. From 2000 to 2003 he was resident musician and musical director for shows at Ashorne Hall, Warwick where he played both organ and piano (Wurlitzer and Compton Theatre Organs, Yamaha HX-1 and Piano) to thousands of visitors as part of "The Nickelodeon Collection" museum tours and for the various daytime and evening variety shows. This residency was cut short by the sudden death of the owner, Graham Whitehead, who was largely responsible for Matthew becoming increasingly involved with theatre pipe organs. From 2005 to 2009 Matthew was resident pianist at Kettering Park Spa where he performed 3 nights per week as a solo pianist playing both light classical and jazz favourites. In 1999, Matthew made his European debut playing pipe organ concerts in the Netherlands, where he has since made many return visits to very enthusiastic audiences.

*Continued on page 6*

## 2009 Elected Officers & Board Members

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## First Christian Church silent film day

Over 40 people went to the show! We had a sing-a-long which was a big hit. Included in the afternoon was Ed's great musical program. Popcorn is always good at a movie and we collected over \$150.00 in donations. Thanks to Pete



for stepping in at the last minute to take the popper and being responsible for its safe return to the Fizzells. He even washed the thing out. Ed spent considerable time at the church practicing and planning his program and it went smoothly except for one sing-a-long piece that he played a different tune than what was on the screen. Oops. Children especially enjoy the silent films. Bring young 'uns to the films when you can. They are our future. The First Christian Church Fellowship hall is a great place for our events. The great kitchen is at our disposal, parking is a breeze and the Wurlitzer not too intimidating for

those brave people who try their hand at it. There is discussion going on about the possibility having our Christmas party there with our usual great cooks bringing dishes for a potluck!

## Never too old to play music

An old couple walked into the lobby of the Mayo Clinic and spotted a piano. They've been married for 62 years and he'll be 90 this year. It's all attitude. Enjoy!! <http://www.fark.com/cgi/vidplayer.pl?IDLink=4365716>  
This video shows us that there is still hope for all of us..... Mr. Ed.

## Historic Recording 85 years old

[Kinsley-PoorButterflyMP3.mp3](#)

Here is one of the items recorded June 14, 1924 - Frederick Kinsley, Hippodrome, NYC, Midmer-Losh 3/7 - Poor Butterfly. 85 years ago last month. Diamond Discs were often much longer in duration than lateral-cut 78s. This one runs for more than 4½ minutes, whereas standard 10" 78s of the time would not run for much over 3 minutes.

*Ian McIver*

## The Stoprail

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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.

## 2009 Calendar of Events

For more information : Fred Watson 602-993-7266 mrfgw@cox.net

**Saturday July 11 - 2:30 pm** Christian Cartwright at Orpheum Theatre

**Sunday July 26-2:30 pm** Matthew Bason Orpheum Theatre

**July 28-30?** May host Youth Camp reception at First Christian Church

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

**October 24-7:00 pm** Fright Night! Phantom of the Opera at Orpheum

**Silent Films** - October 24 & November 21, 2009. January 9 & March 20, 2010

## Phoenix College Organ Work Dates

If you want to work at Phoenix College, call Bill Carr at 623-694-1746 for more information and to let him know you are coming.

## Organ Progress Reports

Chris Gorsuch will be working on the organ at the Phoenix College, doing voicing, regulation and tuning from July 1st through the 7th. It will be in better shape soon, and may be used by the ATOS summer camp students. Work has recently been done on several percussion instruments by the usual crew at First Christian Church. Last word is that it is ok for the organ to remain there even though they donated it to us. Work is ongoing at the church, Phoenix College and the Orpheum Theatre.

## Letters to the editor

*Send letters to [beverlyfz2@cox.net](mailto:beverlyfz2@cox.net) or Beverly Fizzell 2201 E Siesta Drive Phoenix Arizona 85042 We can even include photos with your letter!*

### Ed Benoit

Good morning, Bev; While going through my archives of useless information I found the following, which might be of interest to our members: "If an exhibitor should be forced to choose between a poor orchestra and a good organist, he should consider it his duty to give the organist the preference. After all, it is quality and not quantity that really counts. Besides, it has been my experience that audiences would rather hear music played extremely well than extremely loud"

CARLEDOUARDE, Musical Director of the Mark Strand Theatre, New York — 1921

### Bill Irwin

Hi Bev: Another super issue! I think the "Letters" are a good addition to the publication. Keep up the great work! Hi Tom! Thanks for all your help with the organ. Best wishes "Bill"

### Ed Benoit

Tom and Pete: JUST WANTED TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU FOR THE SUPER DUPER JOB YOU DID AT THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH'S WURLITZER. IT NOW SOUNDS AMAZING. I WAS THERE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND COULD HAVE STAYED ALL NIGHT IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO GO TO CHOIR PRACTICE. When someone does a very good job, appreciation should be shown. Thanks again. Sorry you won't be there, Tom to hear the fruits of your labor. Mr. Ed.

### Susan Fancher

MY DARLING JACK & HIS DOCTORS ARE ALL IN GOD'S HANDS; PLEASE KEEP YOUR WONDERFUL PRAYERS GOING FOR US. WE NEED YOU!! Much love & thanks to ALL of you, Susan & Jack :- ) (Jack is in treatment for lung cancer.)

*Bill Carr to Susan: We are able to get the Phoenix College Organ moving ahead thanks to your donations.*

### Johnny Sharp

Thanks Beverly, for the nice article in the Stoprail. I was hoping you and Tom wouldn't mind if I posted that video. Some folks are funny about that. Maybe, in the future, I can do a couple songs without the background noise! Hope you had a great vacation...see you soon!  
Johnny Sharp

## Organ Stop Pizza has a new toy playing

You must see the tuned cow bells recently installed at Organ Stop. When they first came up I wondered what kind of music they could possibly use them for. Lew is always creative with anything new and he uses them in conjunction with the xylophone and sleigh bells often and they are actually really nice. They are near the ceiling directly in front of the Marimba Harp. Go check it out!

Other OSP news: Organ Stop is a new sponsor of ATOS website: Theatre Organ Radio station. For the moment the station is only available via the ATOS web site via the following link: <http://www.atos.org/radio/> In the coming months, they will offer a variety of new scheduled programmed content including: interviews with theatre organ personalities, musical, historical and technical educational content along with "live" concert broadcasts.

## PHOENIX COLLEGE PROJECT

### Help Wanted

Carpenters & Construction Workers To insulate and fir out a chamber wall. Install shelves, make a work table. New elevated floor in the main chamber.

Cabinet Maker To build wind trunks & chest legs.

Painter, Master finisher To paint walls and floors, Refinish some organs parts in shellac.

Apprentices To clean up and help move & install organ parts.

Work Days Needed, Saturday Sunday or Wednesday at Phoenix College from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Pay The good feeling you get when you know you helped make a project sing.

Full training provided. Contact Bill Carr at (623) 694-1746

### ATOS Summer Youth Camp 2009 plans

Hello everyone, Thanks to Madeline, Pete, Adrian and Bill for meeting to review the tentative schedule for the ATOS Summer Youth Camp in July.

Madeline has done a beautiful job as camp registrar. She has sent out a welcome letter to each camper. Jelani has just sent out a reminder e-mail to 70+ addresses of students. I know several plan to attend, and we are making sure they register pronto! We are based at the Embassy Suites less than 3 miles/2 minutes from Adrian's. Adrian found the best rate at A-1 Van Rentals for a 12-passenger van. First Christian Church in Phoenix is available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for break-out sessions if we need it. They are located 15 minutes from Adrian's. We will be there on Thursday from 5:00-9:00 pm for dinner and open console as planned. Bill said the church has been very welcoming and is even planning to help serve dinner for the kids. For planning purposes, Organ Stop is about 45 minutes from Adrian's. Lew plans

to welcome our group on Wednesday for the lunch and following session. The Orpheum Theatre is not available. The stage is being worked on. The Friends of the Orpheum is planning to give the kids a tour of the theatre. The Orpheum is about 30 minutes from Adrian's. Matthew Bason will be playing the free concert on the Sunday before the camp begins. Friday's dinner will be a cookout at Adrian and Deb's, and catered by Outback. This will be a pool party for the kids, and we will hand out certificates and recognitions at that time. I asked Adrian about presenting a Technician's Session, and he can have a Wurlitzer chest and offset, the voicing machine, various standard rank examples, original relay, etc. Chris Gorsuch should be here to work on Phoenix College. Tom and Beverly Fizzell have invited the camp to their home to see the installation there. It is about 40 minutes from Adrian's. This will be a great experience for all, I know! Donna Parker

### Audit committee

Bill Carr decided to have an outside neutral firm audit the books for 2008 and has contacted a CPA about it. It will be completed by the annual meeting.

Beverly Fizzell, Pat Ingramm and Joanne Harris were ready to boogie on this and were sorry to find that they lost their job.

Please send information pertaining to membership, including complaints, birthday info, new and former member info, address, phone or e-mail changes to Ed. Benoit, 30110 W. Latham St. Buckeye, AZ 85326  
Tel: 623-327-1437 or E-mail WurliTzer@q.com



We wish you a  
Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our March birthday cake eaters, Leonard Clark, Harold Lewis, Karl Warner, Bill

Carr, Cherie Carr, Richard Hurley, Donna Parker, Adrian Phillips Jr., Bob Mackie, Bob Ryan, Annie Ryan & Mary Rich. If we missed yours, let us know. So, blow out those candles and have a blowout of a good time!

## Comments about e-mail and online newsletters

The Richmond, VA AGO chapter has over 300 members and they have been successfully sending out their newsletter by PDF file for a couple of years now. All of their announcements, concert brochures, etc. are either on the website or sent out as email. Even membership renewal is handled with a form that is downloaded from the website. As some have mentioned previously, in today's world most people either have a computer or can get access to one.

*John DeMajo*

One great thing about going to electronic version of a magazine is that you can increase content dramatically. Advertising goes with this, as advertisers not only are in the newsletter, but get preference on the website and email blasts as well. 90% of the professional publications I get I now get on electronic document. We get back to forcing this issue, gradually, on memberships. But, when you start offering expanded photo coverage, additional articles, more in depth features, etc. you more than make up for it. What fun! We have also found that those that don't have email, or are afraid of the internet, may have a fax machine. It is quite easy to program an electronic fax blast to all of those folks, along with the email blast. And, you can really build your promotional list by adding, as Bill Rowland mentioned, all the senior centers and family activity organizations to that. *Steve L*

Same experience here at MCTOS with our newsletter, you pretty much nailed the issues. It's a transitional thing. I figure eventually people will figure out that instead of having a member go through the paces to print, address, stamp and mail a newsletter with all the attendant expenses and time, they will make their \$ contribution by simply buying the paper and ink to print it out on their own printer...until then..... *Ed Seward*

NO! The older I get I find I hate the computer and email more each day. *Tom S*

Here in the Phoenix area, VOTS has had our news letter <http://thetoprail.com/> available online since Jan 2008. Sean DeDanaan has been adding our newsletter for many years now. Now that Beverly, our news letter editor can create PDF files, the board decided to see how sending the newsletter via email would work. With over 107 people in our group, less than 15 are now getting their newsletter the old way. We have received lots of compliments about the change and this is a big saving to our pocket book. We also reserved the domain name <http://vots-atos.org/> which is our official web site which tracks what we are doing in the Valley of the Sun. You can also get to us from <http://theatreorgans.com/az/phoenix> *Pete Knobloch*

Here in Oklahoma our Sooner State Chapter mails out our Windline every month via mail and there are no plans to change it. Something about having a hardcopy around that helps folks remember to come to our meetings. Since we use bulk mailing, and have to have at least 200 copies, and only 116 or so paid families, we send out some free to interested parties like nursing homes and senior citizens groups (hey, we know our audience!). We also have it available each month on our website a few days earlier than the mailing - *Bill Rowland*

We use several options with our newsletter. We have opted not to limit mailing as most of our membership is not that computer literate and do not want to risk anyone missing the newsletter. The newsletter is available on-line on our website, is mailed (hard copy) to the membership and we also maintain an email list on which we send the newsletter (pdf) and other information which we think our e-mail list might find interesting...concert notices, organ info etc. *jch*

Old geezers we figured wouldn't know a computer from a Yugo turned out to be not just computer literate, but chiding some of the younger folks for not "keeping up". I think this is a trend that will continue, and the key to success seems to be giving the member the choice. *Mike*

## Pipe Organ Extravaganza #13 Recordings To Be Released

Dear friends: We are pleased to announce the release of the commemorative 2-CD recording of the 2009 Pipe Organ Extravaganza "Rialtofest" concert weekend. This year's concert was titled "A Change Of Seasons," and featured Jelani Eddington, Jonas Nordwall, Donna Parker, Martin Ellis, Rob Richards, Alex-Zsolt, and the award-winning Joliet American Legion Band. The 2-CD set features over 2 1/2 hours of music, including material from concerts at other Chicago-area theatre organs used during the Rialtofest weekend. The instruments featured include the 4-manual 27-rank Barton at the **Rialto Square Theatre**, the 5-manual 80-rank **Sanfilippo Residence** Wurlitzer, the 4-manual 27-rank **Krughoff Residence** Wurlitzer, and the 4-manual 26-rank **Van Der Molen Residence** Robert Morton. Some of the many highlights of the recording include: *Medley From "Wicked"*, *Strike Up The Band*, *Clair de Lune*, *George M. Cohan Medley*, *The Stars & Stripes Forever*, and many more. The album is expected to be released on or about June 28, 2009. For more information and to reserve your advance copy, visit us online at: <http://www.rjeproductions.com/recordingsEX13.shtml> Thanks and happy listening! RJE Productions



# VOTS Marketplace

To place your ad, call Beverly Fizzell at 602-243-9546  
or 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.

## Ad Rates

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Business Card          | one year \$90.00 or one month \$10.00    |
| VOTS Member Card       | one year \$70.00 or one month \$6.00     |
| Classified Ads         | one issue \$10.00 (free to VOTS members) |
| Add a photo to your ad | \$5.00                                   |

## Wurlitzer for sale

Stytle B+ Opus 1675 I substituted the diapason for a tibia because of ceiling height. Meidinger blower, Klann remote key action, most of chests have been releathered and rewired. console refinished. Summary of repairs and photos on request. [pparker25@cox.net](mailto:pparker25@cox.net)

quence dancing, to which he plays around 100 dates per year. As a teacher, he spent 4 years with the highly-acclaimed Northamptonshire Music and Performing Arts Service teaching piano and theory to all age groups around the county. For 2 years he taught music in schools on a freelance basis in Berkshire and now teaches in his home studio in Higham Ferrers, Northamptonshire.

Matthew won the ATOS Young Organist of the Year award in 1999 and Dean Herrick Award in 2000. He has also been featured on BBC Radio 2's "Organist Entertains" and other BBC local radio station programmes.

His travelling music show features either the Yamaha EL-90 Organ with Hammond XCM1 or the new Orla Lusso with Yamaha Tyros 2, along with the Casio Privia digital grand piano and Royal Standard accordion. As an added novelty to the shows, he occasionally includes a silent film comedy classic accompanied on the organ – a highly entertaining performance from start to finish with a huge range of music played with total competence.

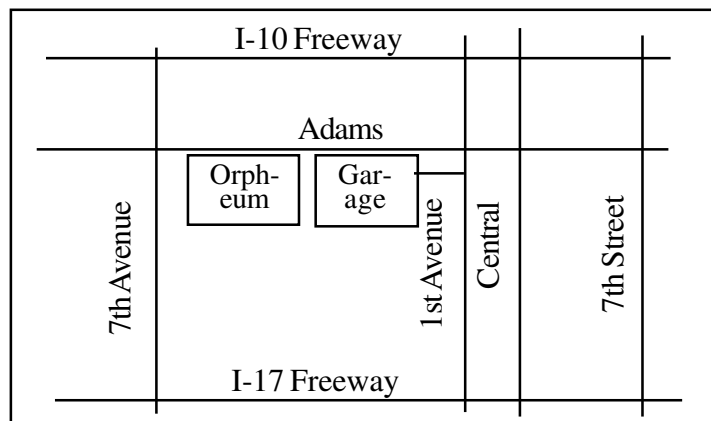
## Matthew Bason *Continued from page 1*

To date, he has made 2 concert tours of the USA, with another return visit to the Orpheum Theatre, Phoenix, Arizona in July 2009 and a third inter-state tour planned for Autumn 2009. Summer and autumn 2010 will see Matthew perform in Australia for the first time.

In the UK, Matthew has travelled almost every inch of the country and surrounding islands. He is pianist for the Radio Days Big Band and has recently formed a partnership with top comedian and singer, Richard C. Parker creating a highly entertaining double-act with music and comedy. One of Matthew's strengths is playing for ballroom and se-

**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!

## North



Are you having a DEVIL of a time with the tedious job of balancing your checkbook? Forget to pay bills? No time for these tasks?

Here's Pat the Accounting Angel to the rescue! Let me take care of your personal financial chores for you! I have over 20 years of Clerical experience and I am Quickbooks certified! Call 602-368-2128 or e-mail me at: [aangelpat@aol.com](mailto:aangelpat@aol.com) for a free estimate.