



STOPRAIL

Arizona Chapter of
The American Theatre Organ Society

Since 1976

Volume Thirty Three ♦ Issue Five ♦ May ♦ Two Thousand Nine

May 3 Ice Cream Social Meeting At Fizzell's at 1:30

Call to reserve your chair so we have enough seats (and ice cream)
602-243-9546 or e-mail beverlyfz2@cox.net.

We moved the starting time up to 1:30 to accommodate all we have planned for the day. The schedule for the afternoon is the meeting first, then the musical program, then make it yourself ice cream sundaes. We get to enjoy the artistry of Bill Irwin, a favorite of ours. He played at a previous ice cream social and was a big hit! He is an energetic and spontaneous artist. He was featured in the Getting To Know You column in March.

Special Guest: Uilleann Piper Tom Connor. We invited a group of Irish musicians who play in a jam session on Sunday afternoons at Fibber McGee's Pub in Chandler. One of them, Tom Connor, an Uilleann Piper will be playing a duet with Bill. The pipes are a quiet relative of the bagpipes. Other instruments are the fiddle, tin whistle, flute, bodhran, banjo, guitar, and other stringed instruments. You won't want to miss this!

After the ice cream social part of the afternoon, we hope the Irish group can be encouraged to have their jam session here, for which we can all stay and enjoy.



Bill at the Fizzell's

The sheet music stash will be available again for trading. Don't forget your old stuff to trade for new. As you know, sheet music has become more scarce after organs went out of style in the 80s. You won't want to miss this event! Take Baseline Rd to 24th street and go south to Euclid, right to 22nd street left to the end of the street. We are on the left side. See you there!

Don't forget to reserve your chair.



March Silent Sundays films were a big hit!

We had a record turnout for the March silent film! 500 + people enjoyed the antics of Laurel & Hardy and Harold Lloyd. Thanks to all who worked on the films. Ron began the program with *It's A Great Day for The Irish*, and went directly into a medley of Irish tunes. He always gets us set for the films, and away we go! There was a much larger group who stayed for the question and answer segment after the movie. By the fall silent film series, we will have better advertising and promotions. Pete Knobloch has run the projector the last two films and has done a flawless job.

Don't forget the June 6 Silent Film at First Christian Church - info coming

We Will start fresh this fall with a new silent film series name. Get your ideas to the board!

Do you know someone who did not attend **Silent Sundays** because it was not clear what it was? It is not necessary to include the word "films" in the new name of our series. What we are doing will be obvious from the context in which the name appears. If it's on a flyer or poster, it ought to be instantly clear what we are offering. The generation that might not know what the word Silents refers to, knows how to Google it on their iPhone to find out. **Classic Silent Films** is not an identifying brand, it's a dull description that anyone presenting silent films can appropriate. You don't have **Rice Cereal**, you have **Rice Krispies**. You don't have **Chocolate Covered Grain**, you have **Count Chocula**. Our new name should not be a soggy description that speaks of no imagination, but should have an identifying snap, crackle, and pop! *John Bittner*

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Charlie Wowed Us At Organ Stop!

We did our usual gorging at the pizza table. There was one guy who ate 10 pieces by himself! What a great way to spend a hot afternoon.

Charle began his program with his old standby, *Clap Hands, Here Comes Charlie*, and continued nonstop!

There is so much to see and enjoy on the organ, we could stay for hours and not get tired of it. Charlie continued with Duke Ellington's *Don't Get Around Much Anymore*, and *A-Train*. There were many requests of old standbys like *Baby Elephant Walk*, *Mama Mia*, *Tico Tico*, and *Tocotta in D minor*, a piece now associated with *Phantom Of The Opera*, although it wasn't used in the film. There were many people attending that hadn't been there before. Hard to imagine, but 2 year resident Johnny Sharp was one of them. Nice to see the little squirts there, Emily Sheak and her brother Jason. Thanks, Organ Stop for a wonderful afternoon!



My new greeter job Beverly Fizzell

Well, I didn't get fired after what I did at the Orpheum, but I should have. The board asked me to write about the experience. At the theatre, I told an annoying fellow that silent film means to shut up. Oops. I did discover some things that need changing by talking to many people.

I did better at the Organ Stop. I greeted everyone with a hearty "Come on in! It's nice to see you again!" That went over better than what I did at the Orpheum and pretty soon I realized I really meant it. It really was nice to see and greet all the folks at the door. New names have a face to go with them now and it seemed that a greeting was appreciated. You should try it.

2008 Audit in the work

An annual audit of the books will be scheduled soon. People who will work on it are Pat Ingramm, Beverly Fizzell and Joanne Harris.

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 Arizona.

2009 Calendar of Events

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

May 2 - 2:30 pm Board Meeting at Beatitudes. Call Bill 623-694-1746

May 3 - 1:30 pm Ice Cream Social & General Meeting at Fizzell's

June 6 - 7:00 pm Silent Film with popcorn at First Christian Church

July 26 - 2:30 pm Matthew Bason (from England) Orpheum Theatre

July 28-30? Maybe host youth camp reception the First Christian Church

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

December Festival postponed. Christmas party somewhere!

Silent Film series - Oct 24 & Nov 21, 2009 Jan 9 & March 20, 2010

June 6 Mark your Calender silent film comedy shorts!

At First Christian Church including Tom's popcorn and a sing-a-long!

Organ Work

Phoenix College May Schedule

Wednesday 6th Sunday 10th

Saturday 16th Saturday 23rd

Wednesday 27th Saturday 30th

Call Bill for info 623-694-1746

Letters To The Editor

Beverly:

Thanks for the newsletter, I am so glad to see that we are using e-mail to save your time and expense for printing the newsletter. You do such a great job!

Just continue sending my newsletter by e-mail, I don't need a printed copy anymore.

Thanks again,
Michael Alyn

Hi... Thanks for the news letter. I had trouble printing it off at first but went to the store and when I came home it was all printed and sitting there for me.... Oh Well!!! Good looking and newsy! Mary Jacobson

Greetings from Sun City.

Thanks for sending me the VOTS newsletter via E-Mail. At least this means one less stamp and less paper required as part of the VOTS newsletter expense.

Take care and I hope to see you at the Silent Sunday presentation this coming Sunday.
Hassell Moores

Beverly,

I like this A LOT better! No waiting until Tempe Mail services decides to give us our mail. I now get it instantly. Thanks again Bev, and I'll see you on the 5th :)
John Baker

Bev, Love the stop rail in color!
Good job. Thanks, Joan McFadden

THE NEW INTERNET COPY OF STOPRAIL IS MAGNIFICENT!
THE COLOR AND LAYOUT IS TOP PROFESSIONAL AND I HOPE YOU GET ALL THE PLAUDITS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP THAT YOU DESERVE!

It's an honor to be in the pages for the inaugural issue of the newsletter.

I think you should send a copy to the national Board and show them what you have accomplished

I suggest you send a short article with the copy and explain how and why you did what you did. Perhaps get some recognition in the ATOS magazine.
Best wishes, "Bill" Irwin

Hi Beverly!

I have been wanting to write to you and tell you what a fabulous job you are doing on the StopRail. I have been putting out the newsletter, "Punchline," for the Phoenix Guild of Puppetry and I know that newsletters are a lot of work, and your last issue was especially interesting.
Thanks, take care, Ed Rogers

Beverly:

I couldn't open this file. I would appreciate your sending it to me in the mail. Sorry if this is causing you a problem. Thank you very much.
Vic LaFave

Beverly,

If you get any complaints from recipients about these PDFs not opening, particularly if the error message says something about the file being corrupt, let me know. I am currently researching an issue with some of my client's customers who have this problem with PDF files that I have no problem opening ... trying to get to the bottom of it. Maybe I can help out.

Thanks,--Bob Grommes

Letter to the President

Dear Bill, It was a wonderful day Sunday. All my people enjoyed the program. We could all have watched two or three episodes of Laurel and Hardy they are so funny. What a wonderful way to see a great show. If only today we could have films decent to see. The tour was great and of course your beautiful theater is simply awesome. I more than appreciate your kindness and certainly putting up with all my phone calls. You were more than a delight to work with. Thank you again for everything and I certainly look forward to future programs. Thank you also for putting me on your mailing list. Have a wonderful day and thanks again for everything.

Sincerely, Jody Aubin, leader of the Sunland Travel Club in Mesa

How many organists does it take to change a light bulb?

Two. One to change the bulb, and one to complain that the switch doesn't have any combination pistons.

VOTS/ATOS March Board Meeting Minutes

The April board meeting was held Saturday, April 4, 2009 at the Beatitudes Campus. Attending were Bill Carr, Fred Watson, Madeline LiVolsi, Pete Knobloch, Warren Bechhoefer, Ed Benoit, Beverly Fizzell and Tom Fizzell. Absent were Adrian Phillips and Don Reasor. Meeting was called to order at 2:35 pm.

Bill stated that the theme for the chapter this year is all together with one goal, with nothing done in secret. Nothing is impossible. He spoke of a video he had shared online about a man who had filmed different people around the world all doing the same song. He also read an item about how we all survived our childhood years, and learned how to deal with it all.

Bill is checking with our website person regarding the automatic feature for membership. He would like to see a section on the website featuring photos from our Desert Winds Weekend. He would also like to see a section on local member organs, both pipe and electronic.

The secretary read the minutes from the March 14, 2009 meeting. Warren moved to accept the minutes as read, second by Ed. The motion passed.

In the absence of the treasurer, Bill read the treasurer's report. The checking account balance was \$6845.19; money market was \$1494.87; savings account was \$1015.61; for a total of \$9355.67. Bill reported on some transactions he had made, including deposits, checks to national for dues, and Desert Winds refunds. The adjusted balance was \$8086.67. Even though our balances are looking better, we still have obligated items that need to be paid for, so we really do not have a lot of extra cash. We made money on this last Silent Sundays, with five hundred people attending. Some of the tickets were comps to the Friends of the Orpheum. We need to have an audit done this year, and need to find someone to do it who is not on the board. Beverly suggested Pat Ingramm because of her bookkeeping skills. Warren moved to accept the treasurer's report, second by Ed. The motion passed.

Fred spoke about upcoming chapter events. April 5 is the pizza buffet at Organ Stop. May 3 is the ice cream social at the Fizzell's. Beverly stated that they would like to have some of their friends from the Irish pub to participate. June 6 will be Ed Benoit with a silent film at First Christian Church. July 26 is Matthew Bason at the Orpheum. July 26-30 is the ATOS youth camp, to be held here in the Valley area. We may have a possible pot luck reception for the young people at First Christian Church sometime that week. Nothing is planned yet for August or September. October will be the "Phantom of the Opera" silent film at the Orpheum, with other "fright night" activities included. Dates for next silent film season are 10-24-09, 11-21-09, 01-09-10, and 03-20-10. We will have a Christmas party in December, date and place to be announced. Fred moved that we continue to pay the artist that plays for us at Organ Stop pizza buffets, even though they are paid by management for the afternoon, second by Warren. Motion passed. Fred & Beverly are currently the promotions committee, and would like help.

Crew Chief report Orpheum -- Tom and Pete are still working on replacing gaskets.

First Christian Church -- Nothing is currently happening. We need to make sure that it is in good shape for the youth camp dinner/reception.

Phoenix College -- Bill reported that cables are cut and ready to be pulled up into the chamber. The organ plays from two manuals, third should be playing by next work session. Warren is checking on prices for longer wind line. We are still seeking donations to help pay for completion of different sections of the organ. Fred is pursuing the Piper Foundation and others.

Membership Ed reported that we have 106 local members, 48 of which are national members. Some of these live out of state, and we may not be their primary chapter. Beverly has volunteered to be a greeter at chapter functions. Ed, Beverly or Madeline will be responsible for membership table, sign, applications, etc.

Newsletter The sending out of the newsletter online in PDF form was successful and well-received. Beverly will need to readjust the bottom margin for some printers to copy correctly. Beverly said that Pat Ingramm had sent in an ad for bookkeeping service. Is it okay to run it even though it is not organ related? Everyone agreed that such ads are okay as long as they are in good taste.

Old Business The silent film series will no longer be called "Silent Sundays". We need a new name for the new season, which is all Saturday nights. Dates have been approved by Ron and are set with the Orpheum. The film selection committee is Ron Rhode and Fred Watson. Films will be sent directly to Pete. We will continue the comps to Friends of the Orpheum.

Christmas At the Orpheum will be either December 4 or December 11, 2010.

Chapter survey is available to all online. We will discuss it at the May chapter meeting. Board members should check on comments made on the survey to address at the meeting.

New Business Fred had a meeting with **Luis Ruiz**, Orpheum Theatre manager on March 23. Luis is enthusiastic about our activities at the Orpheum. They came up with ideas to help with Orpheum events, including a fundraiser, using the organ at non-ATOS events prior to shows, inclusion in city electronic sign sequencing, etc.

Open Items Ed - The Purple Box - what is it, where is it? We need to spotlight it, identify it for donations. Tom has an organ pipe he made for donations, shaped like an organ pipe with a place to put the money. Ed also said that Beverly should put something in the newsletter about how much fun it is to be a greeter, and to encourage others to participate.

ATOS youth summer camp - we might have a pot luck reception at First Christian Church for the students on a weeknight. Then they could play the organ.

Beverly will talk to Pat Ingramm about trading audit work in exchange for putting her ad in the newsletter. The audit should be done after tax season.

Madeline sent a get-well card to Bill Challberg after his surgery. She will send a sympathy card to Bette Underwood for John Underwood's passing.

Beverly moved to adjourn, second by Warren. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 *Respectfully submitted, Madeline LiVolsi*

Note from Eric Fricke:

Hello Everyone!

I know that I am long overdue for sending an update. I know some of you haven't heard any of this and I apologize. Other may have heard all of this, so feel free to skim. As you'll see, I've been very busy.

First off, I am no longer a student at North Carolina School for the Arts. I withdrew last semester for a variety of reasons, mostly having to do with my musical needs not being met or dealt with promptly. I had a good time there overall; met some nice people, enjoyed the academics, experienced dorm life, but music was the reason I went and the reason I left. Since then I've moved back to Benton, PA (in the northeastern part of the state) and have been taking online courses for my high school diploma with a program similar to the one I was doing in AZ. I only have 7 more credits until I complete high school!

Musically, I've been very busy. I have started taking organ lessons with Cameron Carpenter in New York City and piano lessons from his piano teacher, Miles Fusco. I was just there three weeks ago for a session (several lessons and practice time on his state-of-the-art Virtual Pipe Organ over the course of 3-7 days) and I will be heading back next week for another session. Working with Cameron and Miles is a truly great experience and each of our lessons are very information dense leaving me with a load of things to work on at home. I feel that I have made the right decision and I feel the proof is in my greatly improved playing. I have no regrets and the highest hopes for my future.

My Christmas season was also very busy with short trips to California, Arizona and Florida. The highlight was playing in California at the Entertainment Gathering, a multi-media/science convention of very powerful people in their respective fields (Amy Tan, Adam Savage, Steve Wozniak, Mike Rowe, and hosts of Harvard and MIT professors were fellow attendees). Cameron Carpenter was a presenter and in addition to playing on his program I provided an accompaniment to the comedy routine of Emily Levine, who followed violinist Joshua Bell's act.

So there are the newsflashes of my life from the last few months. I apologize for not keeping in better touch, for sending mass emails and for my writing skills at this moment (I've had a busy day of essay writing and practice and figured I needed to get this email out too). I know this email is brief so feel free to ask any unanswered questions.

I have a new email address, which is much easier for most people to remember: virtualorganist@gmail.com. Either email address works. Also, if you think of someone I forgot to send this to, send it to them for me please. I hope you have all been well. Best, Eric~

Oh no! It was his toe!

Bill Challberg is recovering from surgery on his foot which was done in March. We hope he recovers enough by October to run around the theatre in his costume and scare people at the Phantom Of The Opera silent film.

Organ donors wanted

No toes, just money

Want to help pay for a particular part, or maintenance of the organs in our care? We are going to need financial help for the Phoenix College organ in particular. The economy is to blame. Adrian Phillips III is putting together a list of what we need and the estimated cost.

Reg Kehoe & his Marimba Queens

Check out this U-tube clip. The bass player obviously needs to cut down on the caffeine! The original film was apparently made to play on one of those old juke boxes that had film along with music.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1tQNqQqIU8>

Do we have your correct address?

Please check to see if we have your correct information, including your e-mail address and phone numbers. *Send information pertaining to membership, birthdays, new and former member info, address, phone or e-mail changes and complaints, (especially complaints) directly to Ed Benoit 30110 W. Latham St. Buckeye, AZ 85326 phone:623-327-1437 E-mail Ed at WurliTzer@q.com*

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)
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or e-mail your information to beverlyfz2@cox.net. She can also help you write your ad.

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Note from Walt Strony

Many of you remember our dear friend Stan Kann and his incredible vacuum cleaner collection. I was stunned to learn today that this collection is for sale on E-bay!

I had hoped that this important collection would go to some type of museum do to its scope and how it shows the evolution of American design. May Stan rest in peace and I hope he isn't spinning in his grave over this! Walt

John Underwood We are sorry to report the passing of our long time former member John Underwood in March. He was our bookkeeper for many years and worked on the Wurlitzer in the First Christian Church and the Orpheum Theatre organ in the 1980s.

The purple box

Years ago we acquired a small sturdy carton from B&B Printery which originally held nice envelopes. We began using it to collect donations for the artist at meetings. It just happened to be purple. No one knows where it is now and the board would like to see us using a nicer container for this worthy cause.

Years ago, Tom Fizzell made a wooden organ pipe bank with a money slot in the top to use for donations for popcorn at our Orpheum programs. This new box in which to slip your cash donation, will be available at meetings now unless we get another purple box.



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 email me at: aangelpat@aol.com for a free estimate.



Happy Birthday!

Birthday time! A slice of cake goes out to our May birthday cake eaters,

Dale Caplin, John Cox, Pete Knobloch, Eloise Dale, William Kohler, Dave Lindsay, Clark Wilson, Charles Creighton, Bill Truman, Linda Johnson, Sandy Thomas, Ron Thomas, Vic LaFave & Richard Soper. If we missed yours, let us know. Blow out those candles and have a blowout of a good time.