

TOSA NEWS

March/April 2020
Volume 59 No.2

Price: \$2.00

**Do come along to the
First Concert for 2020**

**Simon Ellis & Glenn Amer
at**

**the Orion Centre Theatre
155 Beamish St., Campsie
on Sunday March 15th**

**Come and hear
the updates to the Wurlitzer**

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#tosansw

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TOSA News David & Margaret Badman

Printer Printers of Richmond

President



Hello members,

Our concert season kicks off this month with our own Simon Ellis and fellow Southern Highlands musical artiste, Glenn Amer will entertain us with a variety of solo and duet pieces and at times Glenn will add to the musical delights with his excellent voice. Tickets are on sale now as are season tickets for this year's five concerts.

Following recent issues at Campsie, over two days in January a team of enthusiastic technicians descended upon the Wurlitzer and attachments and set to work. A new and far better computer was installed to run Uniflex, various electrical and mechanical issues inside the console were rectified. Meanwhile in the chambers leaks in the Tibia offset chest were repaired and the Marimba harp was restrung with new cord to support its bars and it has brought it back to life! It was hoped to give the new updates a good workout at the February members' day but unfortunately our plan was scuppered but we are confident it will all be better.

In concert catering news, the committee recently decided to further improve the afternoon tea service for our concerts. Percolated coffee will now be available - remember to buy your afternoon tea tickets when you arrive

for a concert.

Looking forward to seeing you on March 15 at Campsie!

Keep the music playing!

Craig Keller

Editorial



On such a windy and wet day when some people had to change trains several times to arrive and others had to avoid swollen rivers and again change trains several times on the way home or even use coaches to replace trains, TOSA very much appreciate your attendance at the historic event at the State Theatre, Sydney to hear a fully restored to original specification Wurlitzer.

Please note the change to the March Members day on Thursday 12th March at the Orion to allow Simon Ellis & Glenn Amer to rehearse for the concert.

As you read from Craig, there have been a number of items attended to at the Orion Wurlitzer to make it more reliable in terms of relay and console controls, the Marimba should be singing out nicely again and air leaks resolved. This all makes for a most enjoyable concert on Sunday 15th March. See you there with your family and friends.

Enjoy the Music Live,
Ernie Vale
editor@tosa.net.au

From the Mailbox...



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Thanks for your responses and please continue to email or write in, telling us what you think.

Where space permits we will do our best to publish your comments, but as space is limited, the editor reserves the right to edit any submitted comments and, as always, the views expressed by any individual may not necessarily coincide with the views of TOSA NSW Div.

Please submit all comments via email to:

The Editor editor@tosa.net.au
or in writing to:

The Editor - TOSA News (NSW Div)
PO Box A2322
SYDNEY SOUTH, NSW, 1235

Please Note Change to TOSA Bank Account

The Society's only bank account now is with **St George**. Details are **BSB 112-879, account number 442 088 530**

Please direct all payments to this account with St George Bank.

Immature poets imitate; mature poets steal.

T.S.Eliot, *The sacred wood*, 1920

Something New for Afternoon Tea

On Sunday 15th March we will have percolated coffee available for all to enjoy.

The Committee have purchased a coffee percolator to improve our afternoon teas. We hope that our Members will enjoy having a cup of percolated coffee or a cup of tea with a tasty treat.

To keep costs down the bulk of the food is homemade and baked fresh on the Saturday prior to Sundays Concert.

As from the March Concert we will be increasing our Afternoon Tea price to \$4. We believe this is good value for a tea/coffee plus a tasty treat. There will be a choice of 4 tasty treats, 1 of which will be "gluten free".

Most Coffee Shops now have coffee and cake for \$6.00 plus, so this is a bargain. I'm sure you'll agree.

**Hector Olivera
plays
Sydney Town Hall
Grand Organ
Monday March 23rd
12:30 - 1:30pm
& its FREE**

***To Watch Out for
You can now pay for
tickets at the box office
by credit or debit card
including Pay Pal.***

*TOSA Members please show
your TOSA membership card at
the box office when purchasing
tickets to assist Theo*

Season Tickets for 2020

There will be five concerts in
2020 including an overseas
artists from the USA.

TOSA 2020 Season Tickets
Available only until the first
concert Sunday 15th March
2020

If you can't make it to a
concert you can share it with
a friend.

The following conditions and
guidelines apply:-

The Season Ticket applies to
all TOSA concerts except the
following:-

- 1.It does not apply to any
Fund Raising concerts
presented by TOSA;
- 2.It does not apply to any
Silent Movie shows presented
by TOSA or to any concerts
TOSA presents in partnership
with other organisations;

Advertising Rates in TOSA News

For Members:

Small, Organ related ads = FREE!

For all other cases:

Quarter Page = \$25

Half Page = \$50

Full Page = \$100

Full Page Insert = \$125.00

Members' Playing Dates

**The Orion Theatre Campsie
Second Thursday of the
Month**

**Wednesday March 4th
March 12th is not available
as Simon Ellis and Glenn
Amer will be practising for
the March Concert
Thursday April 9th
Convener is
Craig Keller on 0418484798
or John Batts on 0420424103**

**Marrickville Town Hall
4th Monday afternoon/evening**

**Start time is 6:00pm
March 23rd
April 27th
Convener is**

John Batts on 0420424103
will email you to confirm the day is
available or
Neil Palmer on 9798 6742 after
7:00pm
to confirm availability

ORION WURLITZER MAINTENANCE

Orion Lift report

Wednesday February 12 saw a slightly earlier Orion members' day scheduled due to an event booking for our usual day in February. A small number of members arrived to find there was a slight delay. The recent rain of the previous week or so had once again seeped into the lift shaft in the basement. An existing pump that was in the lift shaft had failed. Fortunately the water did not overflow the shaft and therefore had not affected the organ.

The water had mostly naturally subsided and plumbers and electricians were just finishing their work to install a new automatically activated pump that will keep the sump dry. Anyway, to get the day underway we loaded the Wurlitzer piano onto the lift and sent it up to the stage - at which point the lift control system decided that was it for the day. Fortunately a council officer was on site to inspect work that was happening and he was quickly onto the lift technicians to get them on site to fix the lift.

To cut a long story short, the lift technicians were soon on site and were able to manually operate the lift and we could put the piano back in the garage, pack up and leave. By the time you read this the lift will be repaired and we will be able to get the Wurlitzer console and piano out for the March concert.

In good news, while we were waiting for the lift technicians I was able to run the blower up and start the Uniflex computer. We were able to playback previous pieces from concerts and a smorgasbord of performers we've had at Campsie over the years entertained us for an hour or so - and the system never missed a beat!

Craig Keller

Christie report for March 2020 TOSA News.

Work done over the period from end of 2019 to early 2020 includes:

Accompaniment chamber:

- The custom manufactured regulator for the Orchestral Oboe has been completed with new springs installed, and adjusted for the required 6" water gauge pressure. Adjustments to the Oboe chest action are continuing. Adjustments are also continuing to the Oboe tremulant which is proving difficult to tame.
- Since tuning by John Parker the Clarinet has gone badly out of tune and regulation with recent weather extremes. John will be consulted soon about future stability.
- Work has commenced on wind lines for the three tremulants in this chamber.

Solo chamber:

- A winker (pulse absorber) regulator was installed on the front wall of the Solo chamber to supply the shutters and tuned Seigh Bells. Improved springing was needed to achieve the required 15" w.g. pressure. With air available it was found that the Sleigh Bell unit required further work; only 3 notes operated. The unit was uninstalled and is in process of rebuild. During rebuild the unit wiring will be modified to allow re-iteration control via the Uniflex system for improved future reliability. Unfortunately removal of the Sleigh Bells has delayed installation of three regulators to supply the Vox, Tibia, & Tuba/Krumet due to limited access space.
- Commenced installation of air line to pressure switch (to start computer and power supplies after blower up to speed).

General:

- A second-hand evaporative cooler was purchased to humidify blower input air when required and has helped on low humidity days.
- More wind lines have been painted in both chambers.
- New regulator spring pegs (sourced from Brisbane) sanded, drilled and shellacked.
- More tremulants being restored, including manufacture of missing inlet gates.
- Ladder for Orch Oboe access measured and trimmed to length. In process of installation.

John Weismantel

TOSA NSW Concert Schedule 2020 and Season Ticket Details

Concert artists booked for 2020

Simon Ellis & Glenn Amer Aus play Orion - Sunday March 15

David Bailey Aus plays Marrickville - Sunday May 17

Justin Stahl USA plays Orion - Sunday July 12

John Giacchi Aus plays Orion – Sunday October 18

Tony Fenelon & John Atwell Aus play West Ryde –
Saturday December 5

Season ticket prices for 2020:

only available until the March 15th Concert

5 concerts for the price of 4

Members \$100; Conc/Senior \$140; Non Members \$160

Eftpos to St George Bank:

BSB 112-879 A/c No 442088530

Please include your name in this transaction

Post the completed Season Ticket Form to:
Ticket Secretary, 14 Warrah Place, Greystanes 2145

OR

Scan and email the completed form to
www.tickets@tosa.net.au

OR

Phone Theo on 0410 626 131 with your details to book

Free to a good home. Yamaha E45 organ in very good condition.

At Lake Munmorah, Central Coast. Easy pick up, no steps.

Contact Cliff Bingham: phone 0412 967 902 or email: cliffbingo@gmail.com



Show & Membership Prices

	All Artists
Non-members	\$40
Non-member Pensioner/Seniors Card holder	\$35
TOSA Members	\$25

All Students FREE on confirmation of Student status

All Children FREE accompanied by an Adult

Group Booking for 10 or more Adults \$22 per person

First time Adult \$25 by completed Voucher at Box Office

Annual Membership Fees 2019-20:

\$50.00 Full membership, \$40.00 Concession, Interstate or Overseas \$50. \$5 discount if TOSA News emailed to you

Membership enquiries David & Margaret Badman

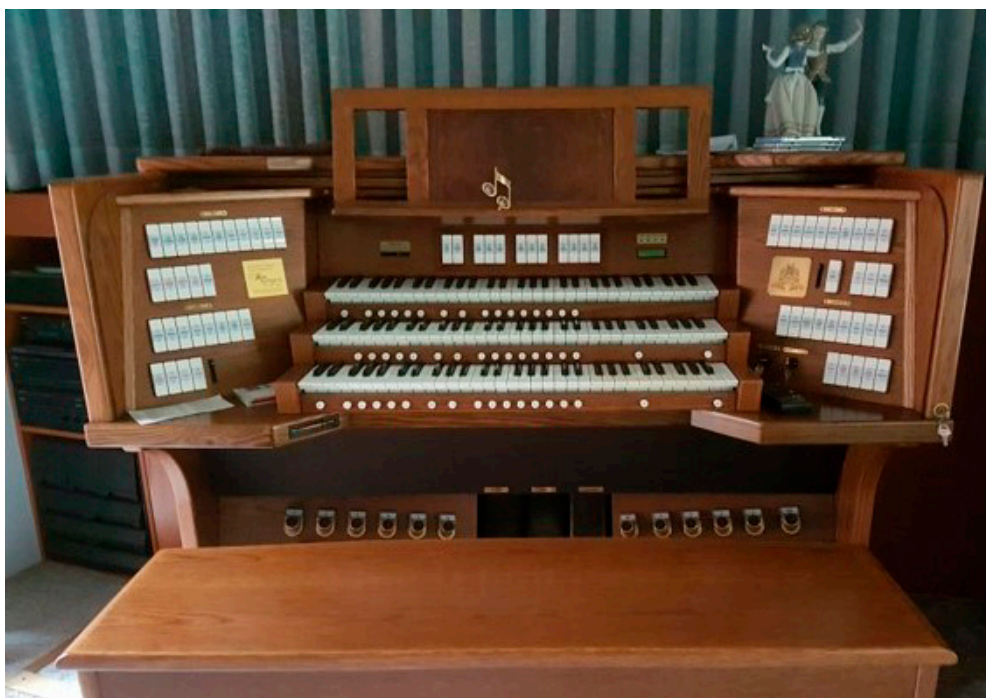
(02) 4776 2192 membership@tosa.net.au

Associate Membership for a spouse/partner is an additional 50%

THE PARSONS FAMILY ARE REGRETTABLY SELLING TWO OF DAVID PARSONS MUCH LOVED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

We are selling this three manual "AHLBORN GALANTI Chronicler III" electronic organ. It is a "pipeless pipe organ" that is to say it features note by note recordings of some of the most famous pipe organs from Europe and the sound is authentically reproduced as you play it giving you the thrill of hearing an actual pipe organ without the impossible size or cost of a pipe organ. The Organ comes with its own external speakers and 1500 watts of power to fill any concert hall or church. The tone is true and accurate to the name of each stop. **An absolute bargain at only \$15,000.00 subject to negotiation.** Come and test this organ for yourself or contact me for any further information you require. Location is West Pennant Hills.

Contact GREG PARSONS 0421 604040



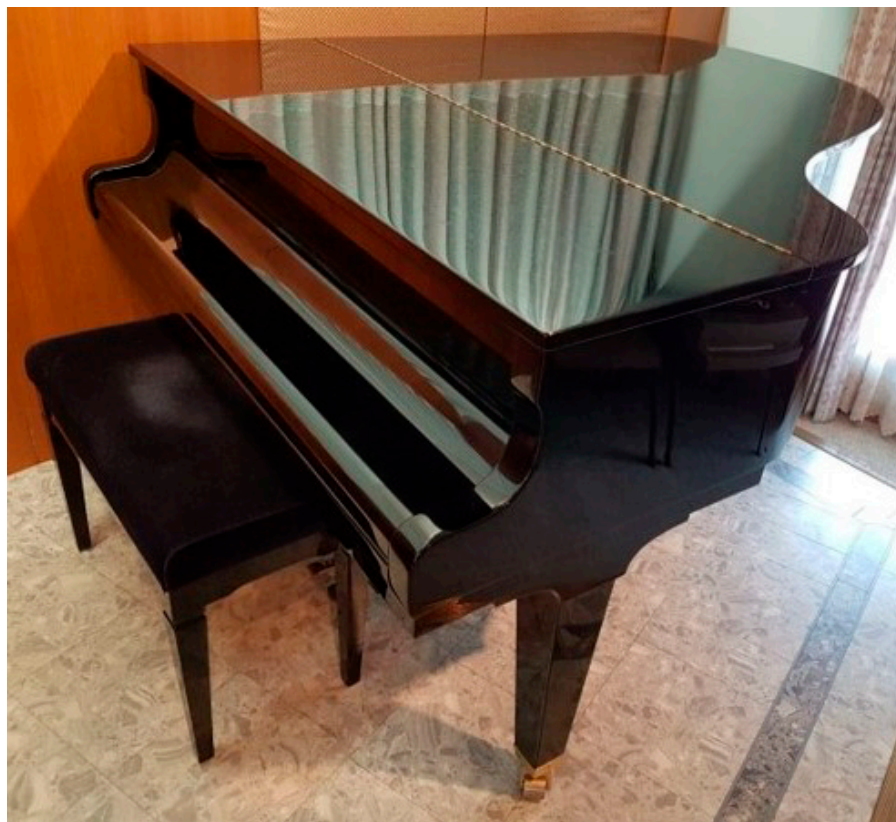
We are also selling our beautiful Schimmel 174T Baby Grand Piano in a stunning ebony/black highly polished case. According to its serial number and original documentation, this piano was manufactured in 1990 and is in near-new condition. Measuring

173cms long and 147cms wide, this is a medium sized instrument with an 88 note keyboard. It benefits from having an additional 3rd pedal to allow control of sustain on particular notes for more advanced piano pieces. With a medium touch and powerful German Schimmel tone, this piano is without doubt suitable for the advanced piano player. Owned since new by a true music lover, this instrument has been tuned regularly to maintain its perfect pitch. This lovely piano would take pride of place and become a centrepiece in any modern or traditional styled property.

Schimmel have been manufacturing pianos for over a century in Germany and are seen to be one of the world's leading piano makers. Schimmel pianos are commonly found on concert hall stages all over the world and are known for a consistent level of top quality. **Asking price is \$25,000.00 negotiable.**

Inspections are welcome by appointment only. Location is West Pennant Hills, NSW.

Contact GREG PARSONS 0421 604040



The Next Concert -TOSA Presents



Simon Ellis



Glenn Amer

**playing
The Orion Theatre Wurlitzer
& Grand piano
Sunday March 15 2020 at 2:00pm
Orion Centre Theatre
155 Beamish Street, Campsie**

Free Parking behind the theatre & Good Public Transport

Tickets: \$40 Adults; \$35 conc/Seniors; \$25 members

Family of 2 Adults and one or more children \$75

Group of 10 or more Adults \$22/person

First Time patrons, including Seniors, \$25 by voucher at Box

Office - Credit & Debit Cards accepted

see www.tosa.net.au for details and to book securely on-line
or

Phone Theo on 0410 626 131 before 8:00pm please

Known for bringing wit and humor along with their lyrical
arrangements, Simon & Glenn are thrilled to be coming
to the Orion Centre Theatre Wurlitzer
to entertain you

Simon Ellis is a native of Sydney, and has a background in Philosophy, English, Law and Theology.

After initial piano studies from the age of 6, he studied organ with Robert Broughall and then with the late Eric Smith. He served as Assistant Organist to Eric at Wesley Central Mission for 6 years, and was regularly heard playing the Christie theatre organ in the Lyceum Theatre, playing for both church services, and before and after movies.

Simon was Organist/ Choirmaster at Northmead Uniting Church for 9 years until the early 1980's, and concurrently Director of Music at a large reception venue, Fairfield House, at Windsor. He also served several years as Associate Music Director for the Sydney Touring Theatre Company, and was Director of the highly successful Blue Mountains Consort for 6 years until 1998.

Simon has performed in both theatre and classical organ venues in many parts of Australia, America, Britain, and Europe. He has accompanied many singers, both in Australia and overseas, and also studied singing with the late Florence Taylor. He was for many years affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music, and is currently in his 15th year as Senior Staff Organist for a large Sydney church.

Glenn Amer is featured as a Headline Entertainer on the Regent, Cunard, Royal Caribbean, Silversea, Celebrity, Crystal, Norwegian, Orient, Princess, Holland America, NHK, Saga, Oceania and Seabourn cruise lines. Touring with these companies has taken him all over the world and, extensively, throughout Australia. His Liberace style of piano playing has proved extremely popular with audiences who are also impressed with his Robert Goulet/Mario Lanza style singing.

Encompassed in **Glenn's** repertoire is a wide-ranging variety of styles. Whether playing a major Bach organ work or a popular song by Burt Bacharach, he is equally at home!

2015 was filled with international and Australian tours, as well as new recordings which were released early 2016.

When he's in Sydney, he can be heard playing the magnificent three manual pipe organ at St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cremorne, (where Glenn is the Director of Music), every Sunday at 9am!

2016 began with a flying start, Glenn undertook a 3 month world tour, and the remainder of the year was busy with concert appearances and Australian tours.

State Theatre Wurlitzer (Style 270SP, Opus 2005)

The State Wurlitzer Returns! by *Chris Styles* Photos *Barry Tooker*



Well, we've waited for years to see the 4/21 Wurli rise from the depths of the State Theatre Sydney and at last on Sunday 9th February, up it came in all its glory.

So wonderful to walk through that magnificent foyer and on to the grand staircase which we passed on our way to the Stalls. I think I last heard the Wurlitzer in its then poor condition in 1973 at a TOSA convention.

A goodly number of TOSA and OMSS members – 320 to be precise – graced the Stalls for the grand reopening of this magnificent instrument.

After a short introduction by TOSA President Craig Keller, our own Cliff Bingham brought the console up with the "*Stein Song*", a fine reintroduction to that wonderful sound of a Mighty Wurlitzer, so at home in a real picture theatre.



Cliff continued with a medley of songs which included Lyn Larsen's composition "*Stanley*", "*Music of the night*" from Phantom of the Opera, and from Eric Coates London Suite - "*Covent Garden*" which is when we first chance heard and felt the magnificent 32' rank of pipes from under the floor of the auditorium.



We also learnt how to clear a cipher when Cliff lent on two of the four manuals a couple of times and the cipher disappeared. Must try that next time I am at a pipe organ that ciphers!

The pipe chambers of the organ are of course high above the proscenium so there could be some thought of the best place to sit in that theatre to get the best sound from the instrument eg stalls, mezzanine lounge or the dress circle. Here's hoping we all have many opportunities to visit the Sate in future to try all the different areas. *Editors Note - the best place to hear the Wurlitzer is in the Dress Circle so that you are reasonably high up and facing the chambers.*

A note of nostalgia for those "of a certain age". Who, like me on their regular trips "into town" in the Fifties and early Sixties visited the State Newsreel Theatrette for an hour's break or so from shopping? Of course, the theatrette has long since ceased to show newsreels.



Next was Titus Grenyer, one of Sydney's very fine young organists who commenced his bracket with "*Washington Post*", a march by J P Sousa. Another chance to feel the 32' rank. Knowing Titus's talents on the organ in the classical genre, it was delightful to see him completely at home at a theatre organ. Next came Billy Mayerl's "*Autumn Crocus*" - as grown in the garden of Chinoiserie in the Southern Highlands (soon to be sold as the owners downsize!). Simon Gledhill on one of his recordings also made a fine version of this sweet number.



Titus also included W A Mozart's "*Rondo Alla Turca*" and concluded his segment with his own composition especially for the State Wurlitzer reopening, "*Back to the Twenties*". Thank you Titus for your creating a musical tribute to the instrument that was at the height of its popularity in the 1920's.



Last, but not least, Simon Ellis had his time at the console of this magnificent sounding instrument. He commenced with two tunes "Great Day" and "*This could be the start of something big*" intermingled together. Following this we had the 1936 melody "*Poinciana*". Simon is a great fan of American organist Ashley Miller (Miller's style is wonderful!) and from 1951 "*Non Dimenticar*" which Nat King Cole also made famous (again for those of us of a certain age!).

Everett Nourse at the San Francis Fox made a great arrangement of "*Slow Poke*" and this sweet little tune sounded delightful on our "newest" Sydney Wurlitzer. Lastly a Neapolitan Medley to take the organ down into the pit and this included "*Matinata*", "*Santa Lucia*" and "*O Sole Mio*".

What a joy to see this Wurlitzer take a small turn before descending into the pit. Hopefully those organists who graced the console of this instrument from its early days in 1929 are looking joyfully down from above!

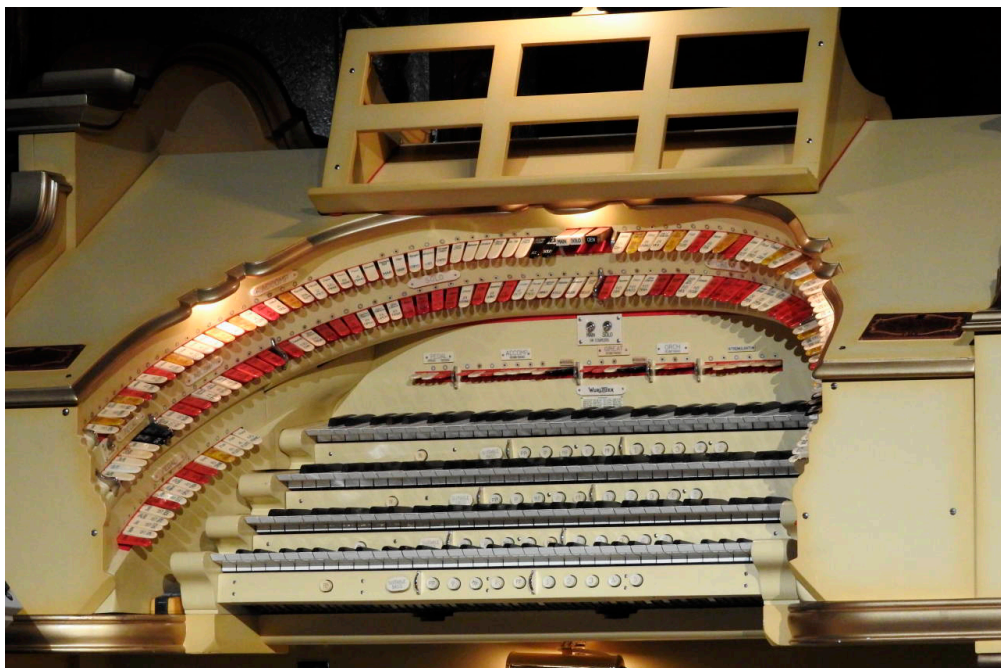
Grateful thanks go to the management of the State Theatre for allowing we organ tragics a delightful afternoon, and with a sincere hope that we will all be back in there before long to hear another

burst of theatre organ music in that wonderful picture palace.





L-R Simon Ellis, Cliff Bingham, Titus Grenyer



State Theatre Wurlitzer (Style 270SP, Opus 2005)



State Theatre Event *from President of TOSA Craig Keller*

After decades of being more or less silent, the day came that many thought would never be. The State Theatre Wurlitzer sang once more! Sunday 9 December saw more than 300 people somehow make their way through that awful weather to get to the theatre.

There were some organisational challenges that we had to address but eventually they were sorted and we made our way into the theatre to sit in the stalls.

Soon it was time for the afternoon's playing to commence. A report above from Chris Styles gives performance details.

Thank you to Cliff Bingham, Titus Grenyer and Simon Ellis for performing for us on the day. They had all been at the theatre twice in the previous fortnight to learn about the instrument and prepare their pieces - a big effort for all concerned.

Thank you also to the State Theatre management - in particular General Manager Mark Harris for making the event possible. We hope to see more events using the Wurlitzer at the State in future. We'll let you know what's happening as we find out.

Last but not least, thank you to all the TOSA members, OMSS members and especially those who travelled from interstate to be at this special event.

Changes to members day at the Orion for March

This month TOSA(NSW) has again had to bring forward the usual second-Thursday-of-the-month meeting. This time it's a double change, from a Thursday to a Wednesday and from the usual second Thursday to the first Wednesday of the month. So, as a one-off event on Wednesday, March 4th we will meet at the usual 10.30 am time at The Orion, Beamish Street, Campsie. The 3-17 Wurlitzer (Op. No. 1813) plus piano should be ready (fingers crossed!) for play by 10.30 a.m. I should mention that last month players were stymied by water at the bottom of the hoist-well; a new float mechanism has now been installed so that a pump should function properly even if water accumulates.

Tea & coffee will be provided as usual, but please bring something to munch on if you can.

Please enter by one of the doors in the north side overlooking the car-park behind the building and NOT through the glass front-doors (pictured above). Reminder: Orion management has asked TOSA to avoid using the front door entirely for security reasons.

Once more the TOSA Library boxes should be available for returning or loaning sheet music and/or albums.

Remember to sign the TOSA Insurance Book soon after you arrive; this record is for your own protection as well as the Society's.

Yet again it should be mentioned that socially-inclined members are particularly encouraged to attend. Limited but free parking is available both behind the Orion Centre and on adjacent streets.

The Orion is about 4 minutes' walk north & downhill from Campsie railway station on Beamish Street. Many buses (including the 400 – Burwood to Bondi Junction) serve Beamish Street with a stop (if travelling from the north) just south of the theatre and on the same side as The Orion. North-travelling buses along Beamish Street (i.e. coming from the south, e.g. Rockdale), stop on the west side of the street and within sight of the Orion.

BTW: Looking ahead into March, I should remark that well-known organist **Hector Olivera** is advertised to play a free concert at Sydney Town Hall 12.30-1.30 p.m. on Monday 23rd March.

Best wishes, *John Batts.*

Members Diary

Next Committee Meeting - Monday April 6th 2020

West Ryde Anglican Church 7:00pm

Sunday 15th March 2pm - 4:30pm

**Come along to enjoy
the wonderful sounds of the
Orion Centre Theatre
3/17Wurlitzer with the latest
uniflex computer relay**

played by TOSA Secretary

Simon Ellis

and the **Grand Piano**

played by TOSA Member

Glenn Amer

www.theatreorgansaustralia.info (history of cinema organ installations in Australasia)

www.omss.org.au (our sister society, Organ Music Society of Sydney OMSS)
www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

****Theatre Organ Magic* on RNB - FM from Sydney, NSW, Australia.***

88.7 FM and 90.3 FM 12 noon first Sunday of the month for one hour

Web Sites of Interest: <https://www.facebook.com/tosansw>

www.ATOS.org American Theatre Organ Society

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