



PIPES

&

PERCUSSION

183
JANUARY
2018

**NEWSLETTER FOR
THE FRIENDS OF THE WURLITZER**

**& THE "KIWI CHAPTER" of the
AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY**

**EDITOR: James Duncan
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**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF
THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND
www.theatreorgans.com/wota**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Greetings to you all as we arrive at the dawn of another new year. Our 2017 year almost ended in despair for the Trust, when to our dismay, our funding application to The Trusts Community Foundation for the first stage of the organ install, was declined! This decision was about to destroy our efforts to reinstall the organ. Thankfully there are some good people out there, as a loyal supporter for many years has now offered the Trust a Loan on favourable terms which we have accepted. The Loan along with your generous donations will get this vital part of the Project completed as we had planned.

Our calendar for 2018 starts off quite early this year with a show unlike anything we have done before – an intimate presentation on a Rodgers electronic theatre organ, in a residence. USA theatre organist **Rob Richards** will be our guest artist, on **Sunday February 18** at the home of Brian & Margaret Massey. See inside this issue for the details.

Coming up.....we will also be presenting a Club Afternoon for the *Friends of the Wurlitzer*, on Sunday March 25 at the Playhouse Theatre – details will be in our next newsletter!!

++ *The opinions expressed in this Newsletter* ++
are not necessarily those of The Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland.

THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST
OF AUCKLAND
PRESENTS...

ROB RICHARDS
IN CONCERT ON THE
RODGERS CENTURY 340
THEATRE ORGAN

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18
10.30am OR 2.30pm

THE MASSEY RESIDENCE
116A VAUXHALL RD
NARROW NECK

During our years at the Hollywood Cinema, we enjoyed several wonderful afternoons of music from the USA's Rob Richards at our Wurlitzer pipe organ. Next month, Rob will be making another trip "down under", touring the theatre organ venues around Australia and a whistle stop to Christchurch for a show at the Drury Residence. Rob contacted me to say he simply cannot visit New Zealand and not play for his many friends in Auckland. So with the help of Brian and Margaret Massey, we WILL be enjoying some of Rob's music on Margaret's Rodgers Century 340 electronic theatre organ.

Rob Richards is a well-known face in Hollywood, California due to his role as House Organist at Disney's El Capitan Theatre right in the heart of Hollywood, where he has presided over the console of the Wurlitzer organ there for almost two decades. Together with his busy schedule at the El Cap, Rob Richards maintains a successful concert and recording career. His most recent recording being "NETHERCUTT DUETS" with pianist Alex Zsolt recorded at Nethercutt Museum.

He was named "Organist of the Year" in 2005 by the American Theatre Organ Society which coincided with his thirtieth year of concerts.

His innovative "FUSION" presentation integrates computer music technology with the pipe organ. The concept, once controversial among the purists in the organ world, introduces a new kind of music in which Rob is conductor, arranger and performer.

Marrickville Town Hall Wurlitzer organ,
Sydney, Australia. *Ernie Vale*



He has written songs for *Kidfit*, a children's TV series on physical fitness and the theme music for legendary Hollywood puppeteer, Bob Baker's Marionette Theatre.

He is passionately committed to arts programming for young people and is well known for his concerts which introduce children to the wonders of the theatre organ.

As well as his passion for Disney music, he is equally at home playing the wonderful music of "PHANTOM OF THE OPERA" and composers of similar great musicals. His concerts contain a pot-pourri of styles and genres which guarantees something for everyone on the programme

The Rodgers Century 340 is probably the most complete and well specified theatre organ of its period. Rodgers only manufactured around eighty of these, they being custom-made for their customers. This wonderful organ is a masterpiece in analogue technology with external speakers for full surround sound together with a real Glockenspiel and Chimes.

During Rob's last visit to Auckland, he spent some time specially voicing and balancing the organ to suit Brian and Margaret's music room, which forms the lounge of their spectacular Narrow Neck home. Margaret is as attached to "Ginger", as the organ has become known, as she is to her beautiful Feurich grand piano.



As we can only seat 25 comfortably in Margaret & Brian's lounge, Rob has agreed to perform two shows on the same day to enable as many people as possible to enjoy the programme.

- The first show is at 10.30.am with the doors opening just after 10.am.
- The second show is at 2.30.pm with the doors opening just after 2.pm.

Both shows will be "played-in" by Margaret Massey on the Feurich grand piano and a cup of tea or coffee after the show is included in your ticket price.

The views from the Massey's lounge are breath-taking, looking out, straight across the harbour to Rangitoto.

Please note that being a "Residence Concert", the two shows will not be the usual two hours duration. They are not open to the general public, only to you, our Friends of the Wurlitzer members and your friends are welcome too! Parking is out on the street only and as there is a marathon over the Harbour Bridge that morning, traffic in and out of Devonport will be heavy – allow plenty of time.

NO TICKETS WILL BE ISSUED AND THERE ARE NO DOOR SALES!

Our Ticket Secretary will have a list of those who have paid to attend, this to ensure we have enough seats. Please refer to the Booking Form with this newsletter.

Bookings Close February 12



THIS & THAT FROM HERE & THERE.....

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

Yes my friends, it is subscription renewal time once again, and despite the fact that our Wurlitzer organ is still not up and playing, it is our fervent hope that you will stay with us and together, we can see these dark days over when the organ once again rises up to thrill us all, with its sweet and powerful sounds of music!

As with last year, we will work hard to present a couple of musical events so that we won't be altogether starved of theatre organ entertainment.

More news to follow in later newsletters.....

So, with this newsletter, together with the Rob Richards Booking Form, you will find your sub-renewal form. Please do check the form carefully to confirm that we have your contact details, email address etc correct. For those of you, who were with Vodafone as your email provider or with their host providers Ihug or Paradise etc, please remember to update us with your new email address.

For those wonderful members who have paid a couple of years in advance, you will only have a Booking Form for the Rob Richard's Show enclosed.

**In all cases, please contact our Membership & Ticket Secretary
FIRST, before you make any internet payments!**

Jan-Denise
Phone: 522-8944
Email: jandenise@xtra.co.nz

When writing or updating your will, please consider a gift towards the ongoing operation of Auckland's historic Wurlitzer pipe organ.

The Organ is owned and operated by the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland, for the enjoyment and entertainment of our friends and supporters.

The Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland is a registered Charitable Trust which makes your donations tax deductible.

Our Charities Commission Number is 10966

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY....

CONCERT TICKET ENQUIRIES & RESERVATIONS

**JAN NANCEKIVELL – PH: 522-8944
OR E-MAIL: JANDENISE@XTRA.CO.NZ**

**THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE
15 GLENDALE ROAD, GLEN EDEN**



SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18 – Rob Richards (USA)

Residence concert at the home of Brian & Margaret Massey

Two special shows featuring the wonder sounds of Margaret Massey's Rodgers theatre organ. Rob will present music from the shows, the movies and more.... Because of the limited seating, there will be two Shows – 10.30am and 2.30pm

NO DOOR SALES!

SUNDAY MARCH 25 - FOTW Club Afternoon @ The Playhouse

A video presentation from Britain's Star Theatre Organist Phil Kelsall, who recently celebrated his 40th year playing the world-famous Wurlitzer organ of the Blackpool Tower Ballroom.

There will be some other events organised during the year.



THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST OF AUCKLAND

*(A REGISTERED
CHARITABLE TRUST - CC 10966)*

**PRESERVING THE HISTORIC
FORMER REGENT THEATRE AUCKLAND,
1926 WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN.**

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**THE
WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST
of AUCKLAND**

(REG. CHARITABLE TRUST No.10966)

Visit us at:

www.theatreorgans.com/wota

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**FRIENDS of the WURLITZER MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
and CONCERT TICKETS:**

Mrs Jan Nancekivell

PH: 522-8944

