



*PIPES*

&

*PERCUSSION*

185  
APRIL-MAY  
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](http://www.theatreorgans.com/wota)**

## ***THANK YOU FOR THE MUSIC !***

Yes – a favourite song by the popular group “ABBA” and also used as a signature tune by Blackpool’s famous organist Phil Kelsall. At our coming Club Afternoon in May, we will be enjoying one of Phil’s very popular video productions featuring the equally world-famous Blackpool Tower Ballroom Wurlitzer organ. See inside for details on this coming event on **Sunday May 6 @ 1.30pm** at the Playhouse Theatre.

What a wonderful afternoon of music we enjoyed back in February at the home of Brian & Margaret Massey, when Rob Richards entertained on the Massey’s Rodgers 340 theatre organ. Both shows were well attended and we managed to break-even thanks to the kind support of one of our *Friends of the Wurlitzer* members, who gave a substantial donation towards the Trust’s work. It certainly put the icing on the cake for all of us, making the hard work of setting the event up and taking over Brian and Margaret’s home for three days, so meaningful. Three days you say? Yes – there was Rob’s rehearsal time and prep-work on the organ undertaken, and for Margaret, 50 strangers tramping through her house on the day. God bless both of them for making the show possible and opening up their home to us.

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



## THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND

*Invite you to our*

### FRIENDS OF THE WURLITZER CLUB AFTERNOON

Sunday May 6 @ 1.30pm  
Playhouse Theatre  
15 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden  
*Doors open 1.pm*

**With this, our third year without a playing Wurlitzer organ, no doubt you, like the WOTA team, are starving for some great "live" Wurlitzer entertainment. So who better to help us out, than Blackpool's star of the triple keyboards – Phil Kelsall-MBE!**

Phil has just celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> year playing the World-famous Wurlitzer organ in an extremely unique setting – the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. As you all know, the Wurlitzer pipe organ was created to provide the musical accompaniment to the silent movies, before the days of sound. This particular Wurlitzer organ has never accompanied a silent movie in its 83 year life in the Tower Ballroom; its purpose here is to play music for dancing! ....and what happy music it is!

The name many people associate with the Tower Ballroom Wurlitzer is the late Reginald Dixon, who created the spectacular playing style we now associate with this Wurlitzer. Reg played there for dancing from 1930 to 1970. Now, the current Resident Organist, Phil Kelsall, has also topped the 40 year mark and he celebrated this amazing achievement with a special celebration concert in the Ballroom, last year. We will be sharing one of Phil's very early videos with you at this coming Club Afternoon.

As well as some VERY lively theatre organ entertainment on video, we hope to be able to show you some new developments closer to home at the Playhouse Theatre.

➤ ***\$12.00 - NO TICKETS ISSUED AND NO DOOR SALES!  
Attendees will be checked off on arrival***

➤ ***NOTE DIFFERENT START TIME of 1.30pm***

➤ ***Light-Afternoon Tea during the interval***

***Bookings Close Tuesday May 1***

Phil's website [www.philkelsall.co.uk/](http://www.philkelsall.co.uk/) provides an informative background to the amazing achievements that he has accomplished in his musical life-time.

The demands on Phil for concert appearances have always been heavy and his touring season begins at the end of October and continues until May each year when he returns to the Tower Ballroom for the summer season. A significant engagement is playing the Wurlitzer at the Thursford Collection for their season of Christmas shows, which runs to around 70 performances each year, performing to an estimated audience of over 110,000. Phil performs frequent concerts in the USA and made a highly successful tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1995.

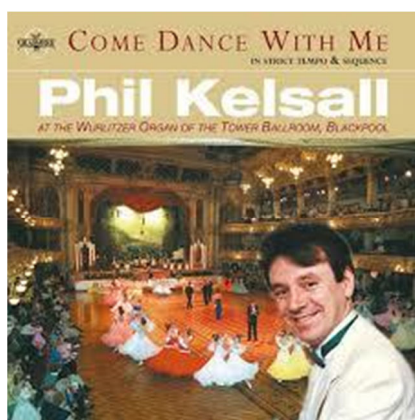
Few will forget Phil Kelsall's stunning concert at the Hollywood Cinema here in Auckland in May of 1995 – a show sold-out four weeks before the event!!



Phil Kelsall's first recording, *Thank You for the Music*, was released by EMI in 1978. Together with recordings made on various electronic instruments, notably the Technics SX FA1, Phil has over 40 albums to his credit, excluding compilations and re-issues, and it has been estimated that he now has more recordings available than any other organist in the world. In 1987 Phil Kelsall became the first British theatre organist to release an album on CD.

No fewer than three of Phil's recordings have won the Music Retailers Association's award as best middle of the road non-vocal recording.

In the 1980s the video was becoming a popular form of home entertainment and, determined to respond to continually changing trends, Phil released the first known commercial theatre organ video in 1983, recorded naturally at the Tower, which for the first time brought the unique visual atmosphere of the Tower Ballroom into the home. A series of videos followed, many of which are now available on DVD.



Some recent CD titles.... - Images courtesy Phil Kelsall website

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

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## *IN APPRECIATION!*

It's that time of year again to say a truly heart-felt "thank you" to the large number of you wonderful people, who continue to dig deep and support the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland with your donations. Some of these have been breathtaking!

Thank You For Your Support!  
Together, We Make A Difference.



A.L.	Bartlett	M.	Grace	J.	Pettersen
D.	Billing	S.	Hamp	S.	Phillips
M.	Blayney	I.	Helberg	H.	Plesner
J.	Bouwman	B.	Hemming	F.	Pogson
G.	Bowden	J.	Herle	J.	Prujean
L. & J.	Boyd	K. & J.	Hill	D.	Rainbird
P.	Brady	J.	Hipperson	D.	Rawlinson
J. & B.	Briand	J.	Holdaway	P.	Retter
J.B.	Burnett	L. & J.	Howe	V.	Richmond
C.	Carstairs	W.	Hutchinson	B.	Ridge
L.	Carter	W.	Johns	B.	Sherson
T.	Clements	D.	Johnson	J.	Speer
D.	Clouston	A & I.	Johnston	D & S.	Swallow
L.	Clunie	J.F.	Jones	B.	Teague
T & R.	Coppard	R.	Ketko	L.R.	Thompson
S.	Crawley	A.	Koke	C.	Tyler
L.	Davey	M.	Lewis	G.	Upton
R.	Davis	DC & MI.	Matheson	G.	Urquhart
G.J.	Davy	M. & L.	Matthews	P.	Vellekoop
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S.	Downer	V.E.	McMurtry	N.	Warrington
V.	Duff	T.	McNally	G.	Watt
J.	Duncan	I.	Mison	K.	Webster
A.D.W.	Edie	B.	Mitchelhill	M.	White
J.	Fryer	C.	Mounfort	N.	Whitehead
B.	Galvin	W.	Oldfield	G.	Wills
P.	Garlick	D.	Parker	A.	Wolstenholme
S.	Goddard	H & J.	Perkins		

### ***Substantial Donations were received from:***

A.	Bartlett	B.	Lawson	R.	Reade
A.	Burns	B & M.	Massey	R.	Wainwright

## ***HAPPY SUMMER MEMORIES***

Some photographic gems from the Rob Richards show at the Massey Residence back in February.

***Margaret Massey warming up before her play-in to the show***



**Rob Richards  
at the  
Rodgers 340  
electronic  
theatre organ.**

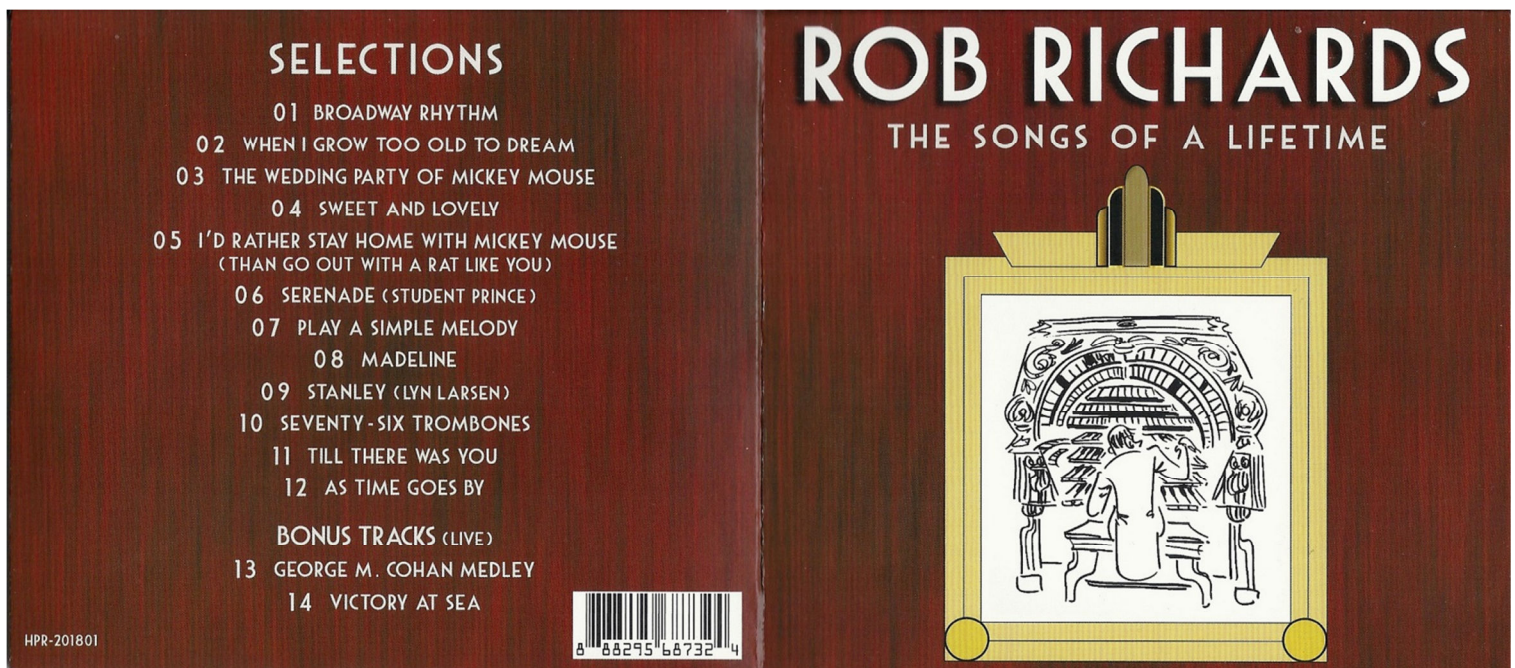
**FOR  
THE RECORD**  
—  
**A GEM FOR YOUR  
LISTENING  
PLEASURE**



Members who attended Rob Richards' show back in February, had the opportunity to purchase his latest theatre organ CD "The Songs of a Lifetime"

Rob has kindly left us several copies of this new release which we will have available at our Friends of the Wurlitzer Club Afternoon on May 6.

\$20.00 each.



## **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 MAY 6 - FOTW Club Afternoon @ The Playhouse – 1.30pm**

A video presentation from Britain's Star Theatre Organist Phil Kelsall MBE, who recently celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> year, playing the world-famous Wurlitzer organ of the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. Auckland loves "The Blackpool Style" of playing the Wurlitzer, so here it is in its native environment. Bring your friends along!!

**A PRIVATE EVENT – NO DOOR SALES**

**No Tickets issued - attendees will be checked off on arrival**

**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.**

**[www.theatreorgans.com/wota](http://www.theatreorgans.com/wota)**



**THE  
WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST  
of AUCKLAND**

**(REG. CHARITABLE TRUST No.10966)**

Visit us at:

[www.theatreorgans.com/wota](http://www.theatreorgans.com/wota)

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Mrs Jackie Crawford PH: (09) 236-3998  
Mr John Kleingeld PH: 838-8419

##

**FRIENDS of the WURLITZER MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY  
and CONCERT TICKETS:** Mrs Jan Nancekivell

PH: 522-8944

