

*PIPES*

&

*PERCUSSION*

187  
FEBRUARY  
2019

**NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE FRIENDS OF THE WURLITZER**

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

**EDITOR: James Duncan  
E-MAIL: [tremsoff@extra.co.nz](mailto:tremsoff@extra.co.nz)**



**UNDER THE AUSPICES OF  
THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND  
[www.theatreorgans.com/wota](http://www.theatreorgans.com/wota)**

## ***NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO ALL!***

As building work on the annex at the Playhouse Theatre that will house our Wurlitzer pipe organ has already commenced, we are sure hoping that this year is going to be the start of a new beginning for the Trust, our Wurlitzer pipe organ and you, our loyal *Friends of the Wurlitzer*.

We have three shows confirmed this year, the first will be presented in March on the Allen TH300 digital theatre organ and, fingers-crossed, the other two shows will be part of a "soft-opening" we have planned for the Wurlitzer in its new home at the Playhouse Theatre. The Official Premiere Show for the "Playhouse Wurlitzer" is planned for 02/02/2020!!

Once the organ is playable towards the middle of this year, a whole raft of work is needed to bed the pipes in and that mostly involves playing it! So, we may be having one or two FOTW afternoons where you can come along and hear some of our own number putting the organ through its paces while we iron out the bugs as they pop up. These will be interspersed with our two overseas artists from the USA in September and October. But first, see inside for details on our **Sunday March 3** show at the Playhouse Theatre, with the highly entertaining **Chris Powell**.

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

THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST OF AUCKLAND

*PRESENT.....*

**CHRIS POWELL**  
**ON TOUR FROM GT BRITAIN**

A LIVELY, FUN AFTERNOON OF MUSIC  
ON THE  
ALLEN TH300  
DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN

**SUNDAY MARCH 3 at 2pm**

**The Playhouse Theatre**  
**15 Glendale Rd, Glen Eden**

**SEE BOOKING FORM FOR TICKET DETAILS**

Tickets are not refundable

**BOOKINGS CLOSE - 27th February**

**All Seats \$25.00 on the day**  
**DOORS OPEN 1.30pm**

**MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE: All Payments must be received by Wednesday February 27, when Bookings & Discount offer closes!**

Our first show for 2019 is a real cracker! We are welcoming back a favourite entertainer for so many of you – Great Britain's Chris Powell. Although we had hoped the Wurlitzer would be ready, the show will still go on with grateful thanks to Roger Smith of MusicPlanet, who is providing the Allen TH300 for Chris' show.

**Chris Powell** has firmly established himself as one of the UK's premier 'entertainment organists' as well as a truly international ambassador in the field of electronic and theatre organ music. Born in Manchester in 1971, he emigrated to New Zealand with his parents when just 2 years old.

Returning to England at the age of 5, his education and formative years while growing up in Lancashire saw him pursue his love of music with piano and organ studies culminating in a string of engagements for both local concerts and dances from the age of 14 onwards. By the time he was 18, he had successfully auditioned to join the team of organists playing for dancing at the Tower Ballroom Blackpool and began to be recognised for his musical talents leading to a succession of invitations to perform at electronic and pipe organ venues.

Following his experience at Blackpool, Chris widened his talents to include work as a demonstrator

for several manufacturers including Farfisa, Orla and more recently Roland with whom he is now associated on a freelance basis and as such tours with their state-of-the-art AT-900C Atelier instrument.

1994 saw an invitation to return to New Zealand for a month-long concert tour on pipes and electronics which led to an exciting invitation to spend all of 1996 as a Resident Organist at the 'Baycourt Theatre' in Tauranga. This was a unique and exciting experience; he undertook all manner of concerts, functions and dances while playing the Theatre's 10 rank Wurlitzer as well as accompanying the Operetta - 'The Merry Widow' on this much-loved vintage instrument to capacity crowds.

Since then, he has gone on to become one of the most popular performers in the UK and intersperses his regular annual diary of engagements in Britain with frequent overseas concert tours which have included Holland, Australia and the US as well as NZ in recent years. Chris was also interviewed and filmed in action for a documentary on cinema nostalgia which screened in NZ in 2002. 2019 sees his 16th tour of NZ and 9th of Australia.



---

***As usual Chris will have an array of CDs and DVDs available for sale***

---

## TH300 BY ALLEN

12 RANK and 17 CLASSICAL RANKS / THREE-MANUAL THEATRE ORGAN

Plus 8 dynamic GeniSys™ Voices!

### FEATURING:

- ~ Multiple Theatre Specifications w/Classic Voices ~
  - ~ Acoustic Portrait™ ~
- ~ Stop-by-Stop and Note-by-Note Voicing ~
  - ~ LED Colored Stop Tabs ~
- ~ Industry Standard Velocity-Sensitive Keyboards ~

*Allen theatre organs are widely acclaimed for their authentic sound of theatre pipe organs. These organs start with the finest theatre pipe organ samples, including the attack, steady state and decay. When combined with authentic digitally sampled theatre organ tremulants, the result is a magnificent ensemble!*



This instrument is available for sale  
Phone Roger on  
0800 Allen Organ (toll free)  
Hear it online at [ww.allenorgan.com](http://ww.allenorgan.com)

# 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 not up and playing yet, it is our fervent hope that you will stay with us and together, we can work towards that wonderful day when the organ once again rises up to thrill us all with its sweet and powerful sounds of music!

So, with this newsletter you will find your sub-renewal form together with the Chris Powell Booking Form. Please do check the Membership Form carefully to confirm that we have your contact details, email address etc correct.

For those wonderful members who have paid a couple of years in advance, you will only have a Booking Form for Chris Powell'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](mailto: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 making all donations tax deductible. Our Charities Commission Number is 10966

---

## **PLEASE REMEMBER ....**

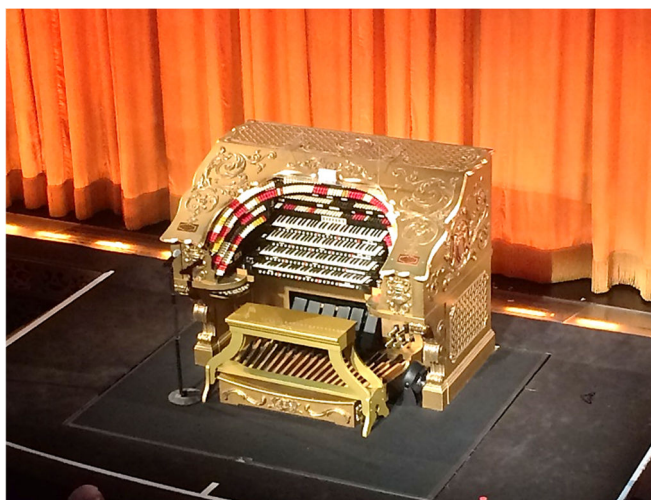
- **Tea & coffee will be available during the interval but note well, No food or drink in the auditorium.**
  - **Because of the Performing Rights Act absolutely NO video or audio recording is permitted at our shows.**
-

## **2018 ATOS CONVENTION MEMORIES**

Each year, the American Theatre Organ Society hold their annual convention, and last year *Friends of the Wurlitzer* member Mr Graham Upton was making a business trip to the USA and decided to combine it by joining in on this annual pilgrimage of theatre organ enthusiasts from all over the world.

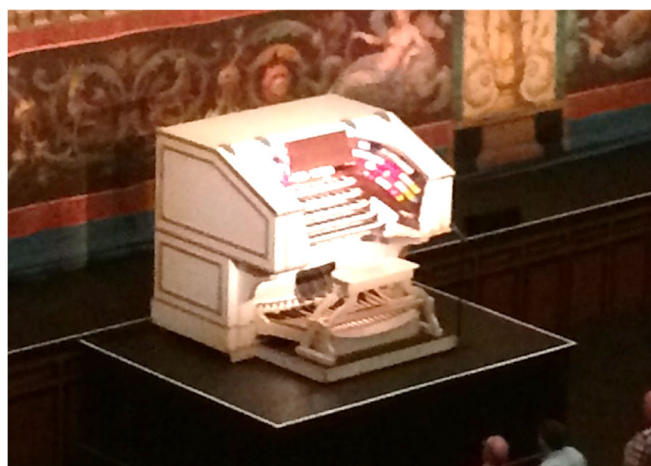
Graham wrote in his return;

"....Well, needless to say, I had a fantastic time at the ATOS convention in sunny Pasadena! A great finish to my whirlwind American trip. The programme was very tight, and we barely had time to grab a meal between some events – travel distances are all so huge in the States but particularly in Los Angeles.



For me, the stars of the show were the British artists, particularly Richard Hills and David Gray who were incredible. David finished his concert with a full transcription of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture which really did sound like a full orchestra; this was on the El Capitan Wurlitzer (ex San Francisco Fox) which is probably the best maintained instrument in the USA by all accounts. (See photo left)

The "Young Organist Competition" was also a highlight. Great to see 16-20 year olds that are so accomplished.



The second photo is the Reginald Foort 4/28 Moller touring organ now in Pasadena (played by R. Hills).

The last image is in a quirky little hall near LAX airport – the curtains open to reveal the pipework & traps all lit with coloured LED lights.



I returned home feeling very envious of the sheer number of theatre organs that are available in the USA – there must be hundreds. Looking forward to getting our own Wurlitzer back into service soon!!

Jelani Eddington and Mark Herman both send their regards to all, and I also had a great chat with John Atwell from Oz.

Fantastic trip!!

## **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 MARCH 3 at 2pm – *Chris Powell (Aus)***

Our first show for 2019, featuring Chris Powell at the Allen TH300 digital theatre organ will give us some lively theatre organ entertainment.

#### **SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1 at 2pm – *Ken Double (USA)***

A welcome back to Auckland to this popular star of American T.V. as a sports newscaster, play-by-play commentator – and a darn good theatre organist!! Ken was also CEO of the American Theatre Organ Society for some years and always presents a great program of music. We are hoping the Wurlitzer will be ready for this show.

#### **SUNDAY OCTOBER 20 at 2pm – *Dave Wickerham (USA)***

Here's another very lively entertainer coming back to play for us! Dave was last booked for a show in 2015 but we were forced to cancel because of the sale of the Hollywood and our need to remove the Wurlitzer from the cinema. A great treat is in store for us with Dave's welcome return – hopefully he will also be performing on our Wurlitzer organ!



### **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)

**CHAIRMAN:** Mr James Duncan PH: 373-9818  
*Concert Manager/Newsletter Editor*

**SECRETARY:** Mrs Carol Neill PH: 575-8645

**TREASURER:** Mr John Palmer PH: (07) 855-3267

**PROJECT LEADER**

**ORGAN REINSTALLATION:** Mr Neil Warrington PH: 828-4934

**TRUSTEES:** Mrs Margaret Cox PH: 636-5277  
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



**SUPPORTING  
THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST  
OF AUCKLAND**