



*PIPES*

*&*

*PERCUSSION*

184  
FEBRUARY  
2018

**NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE FRIENDS OF THE WURLITZER**

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

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

## ***ROB BRINGS THE MUSIC HOME !***

With all the costs involved in bringing an artist to N.Z. to play for us, together with the added complication of only being able to have a small audience, the Trust is thrilled at the bookings coming in for Rob Richards coming two shows at the Massey Residence on Sunday February 18. The afternoon show has sold out leaving only a small number of seats remaining for the 10.30am morning show.

Please contact our Ticket Secretary pronto to secure your seats for what is going to be a very pleasant morning's entertainment. If you have transport concerns, we can arrange for one of our team to pick you up from the Devonport Ferry Wharf and get you to Brian & Margaret's home and drop you back to the ferry afterwards.

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.

**Please note:** we have a change of date for the Club Afternoon for our *Friends of the Wurlitzer*, it is now being held on **Sunday May 6** 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 ONLY**

**2.30pm – NOW SOLD OUT!**

**THE MASSEY RESIDENCE  
116A VAUXHALL RD  
NARROW NECK**



***Doors open  
10am for the 10.30 show  
and  
2.pm for the 2.30 show.***

***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!***

**Price is \$25.00 covering a concert by Rob Richards, a play-in from Margaret Massey of the Feurich grand piano and a cuppa after the show!  
Our Ticket Secretary will have a list of those who have paid to attend, this to ensure we have enough seats for each show.**

***Bookings Close February 14***





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

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## ***SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS!***

God Bless the many of you who are staying with us by renewing your Friends of the Wurlitzer membership for another year! You must believe us when we say that we are working hard with the Waitakere Playhouse Theatre Trust to follow due process that will see the building work start on the chambers that will house our Wurlitzer pipe organ. We have TWO red-letter dates for 2019 that make it essential that the organ is playing in its new home THIS year – Chris Powell in March 2019 then later in the year Dave Wickerham.

Heartfelt thanks also to those of you that have included a donation with your sub renewal – this is appreciated more than you can know!

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**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**

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## 2017 – IN REVIEW!

Below are some clippings from the 2017 Chairman's Report to the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland.

### **The Shows:**

With our resources being drained by \$1200 per month in storage charges, we needed to cut our coat according to the available cloth, so regrettably, our presentations were few in number.

A Club Afternoon in March with a presentation on the story of Auckland Trams was an unusual subject matter, but as our Wurlitzer pipe organ featured in a video screening that formed part of the story, there was a link between the trams and the Wurlitzer and was well received by the membership.

June saw our next gathering of the *Friends of the Wurlitzer* members when we revisited previous shows our organ had performed back in the Hollywood Cinema days via the medium of video.

Finally in November, we made an encore screening of further video highlights from the Hollywood Cinema shows, covering a wide variety of playing styles and musical moods.

### **Organ Works**

Neil Warrington together with his trusty *Organ Tech Crew* has continued the refurbishment of pipe chests and percussion instruments. This work continues with the focus being on refurbishing the percussion as they will be the first items installed. The percussions appear to be basically in good condition but there is much releathering required for primary motors most of which still have their original zebra skin which is perishing badly.

We are managing to use the fresh leather economically with careful cutting. New leather is currently US\$15 a square foot plus shipping, available from Columbus organ

leathers in America. Our supply of fish glue is holding up well.

Alan Burrows (Playhouse) has our electrical requirements for the install. Playhouse will be responsible for ensuring power supply is available to the organ.

Neil has contacted Julien Arnold our Organ Builder in Melbourne, and asked if there is anything we don't need in the storage unit that we can dispose of. His advice at this stage is to keep everything as things we get rid of now might become useful later if money remains tight. We will be able to dispose of the lift. I will be talking to Stan Henshaw about moving some of the organ to the Playhouse. This will reduce our storage costs by a third.

Julien is still keen to come over for several days or a week to help us with advice regarding the work we are doing.

The last show for the Playhouse was the 10/12/17. The theatre may be hired out over this time but only for the occasional day here and there so work can begin as planned.

However, our hopes were dashed in late November, when our funding application to the Trusts Community Foundation (TTCF) was declined citing that the Funding Committee chose to support other organisations or projects in this funding round. From further investigations, it would seem that we are perhaps collateral damage in a bigger picture regarding their frustration in not gaining control of all theatres in West Auckland.

This decision was about to destroy our efforts to get the first stage of the install project underway this year as planned. However, a long-time supporter of the Trust's work, hearing our plight and

determined to get the installation underway, offered us an interest free loan which the Trust has gratefully accepted. So now our builders, Commres Contractors, have commenced construction of the percussion chamber at the rear of the stage and the console pit at the front of the stage in the Playhouse Theatre. We have ordered the new lift for the organ console from Phoenix Elevators; date of installation has yet to be confirmed.

### **The Playhouse Theatre**

The Waitakere Playhouse Theatre Trust are very committed to having the Wurlitzer organ at the Playhouse and took up the offer of an architect for the project, from one of our *Friends of the Wurlitzer* members, Mr Graham Upton.

Through Graham's careful planning work and fastidious background research, the Resource Consent for building of the organ chamber was applied for and granted by Auckland Council. The next stage, the actual Building Consent was not lodged by the WPTT until quite late in the year, and a number of questions were raised by the Council requiring a speedy response from the WPTT appointed engineer. As at the time of writing, December 25, the consent is still being "processed" awaiting the WPTT engineer's input in providing the required information..

### **General**

Our loyal team of helpers continue to do their bit to assist the Trust on show days from ticket sales, membership secretary, to ushers and house staff.

Our *Friends of the Wurlitzer* members have dug so very deep this last year with donations towards the storage costs for the organ and they will never really know how much their generosity is appreciated by the Trust.

Again, this last year was one which saw us lose long-time supporters of the Trust and our Wurlitzer organ. The year concluded with the sad news of the passing of founding Trustee Graeme Priestley. Graeme looked after the lighting of our shows at the Hollywood Cinema for many years, and together with wife Barbara, hosted many of our visiting artists through the 1990s.

The Trust is still in good heart, as we look forward to having the Wurlitzer organ installed in its new home later in 2018.

James Duncan

**Chairman - Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland.**



## **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***

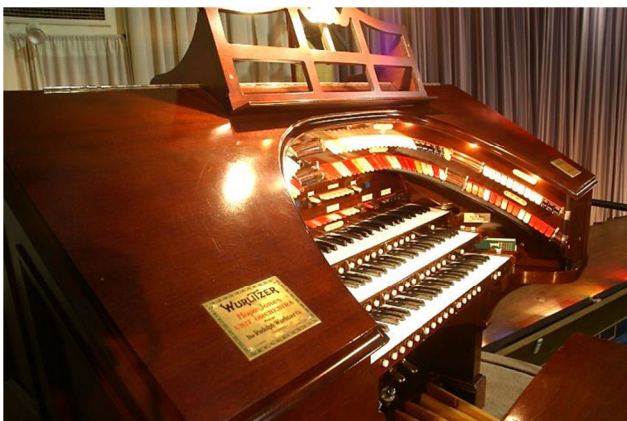
Two special shows featuring the wonder sounds of Margaret Massey's Rodgers theatre organ. Rob will present music from the shows, the movies and more....  
Because of the limited seating, there will be two Shows – 10.30am and 2.30pm

**NO DOOR SALES!**

**SUNDAY MAY 6 - FOTW Club Afternoon @ The Playhouse**

A video presentation from Britain's Star Theatre Organist Phil Kelsall, who recently celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

Mrs Jan Nancekivell

PH: 522-8944

