



*PIPES*

&

*PERCUSSION*

186  
JUNE-JULY  
2018

**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)**

## ***MUSIC TO WARM THE SOUL... ..***

Our second event for this year took place back in May, when we held our *Friends of the Wurlitzer Club Afternoon* at the Playhouse Theatre. It was so reassuring for the Trust to see how well you supported this event, and enjoyed some great entertainment on video, from the Wurlitzer organ of the Blackpool Tower Ballroom and its Star Organist Phil Kelsall. It was also great to welcome a handful of new FOTW members, who got a taste of the kind of magic we will be enjoying once OUR Wurlitzer is making music once again.

The editorial leader says "Music to Warm the Soul" and I am certain this will be the case at our coming fund raising show, featuring Melbourne's **Scott Harrison**. The show is being presented with the support of *Music Planet* and *Tauranga's Bob Addison Theatre & The Tauranga Theatre Organ Society*.

As the Playhouse Theatre is booked out, our show is being held at the **Western Springs Community Hall** in Gt North Rd, on **SATURDAY July 21<sup>st</sup> @ 2pm**.

Please see inside this issue for booking details. There are no allocated seats for this show, so it's a case of being early for a good seat. Parking right next to the Hall!!

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

THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST  
OF AUCKLAND  
*PRESENT.....*

## A GIFT OF MUSIC

*FEATURING*

**SCOTT HARRISON**

AT THE  
ALLEN TH300  
DIGITAL THEATRE ORGAN

*WITH GUEST ARTISTS*

- **“TWISTIN’ THE SWING”**
- **A JUNIOR HARP TRIO**

**SATURDAY JULY 21 AT 2PM**  
**WESTERN SPRINGS COMMUNITY HALL**  
**GREAT NORTH RD (NEAR MOTAT)**  
**DOORS OPEN 1.30PM**

**SEE BOOKING FORM FOR TICKET DETAILS**  
**TICKETS ARE NOT REFUNDABLE**

**BOOKINGS CLOSE WITH ALL PAYMENTS**  
**IN BY JULY 18**

**ALL SEATS \$20.00**

### **MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:**

**The Hall seats 150 and the show will be open to the public,  
so please don't wait until the last minute to book your seats.**

**Doors Open at 1.30pm - If not sold out, there will be Door Sales  
but these will be CASH ONLY - NO EFTPOS AVAILABLE.**

**This wonderful afternoon of musical variety is to raise funds for the Wurlitzer organ installation at the Playhouse Theatre.**

The show is being made possible thanks to the wonderful support of **Roger from Music Planet** who is providing the Allen TH300 digital theatre organ - the closest we can get to the sounds of the mighty Wurlitzer, for our artist Scott Harrison.

Scott's airfare has been funded by our friends in Tauranga, **The Bob Addison Theatre & The Tauranga Theatre Organ Society**.



**Scott Harrison** was one of the many popular artists featured on the Wurlitzer organ back in our "Hollywood Days", and it is a great pleasure to welcome him back to Auckland to share more of his lively "jazz-style" music on the organ.

The show will include guest artists, the Auckland based **Twistin' the Swing**.

This is a lively acoustic gypsy jazz band influenced by the music of Django Reinhardt, from the 1930-40s featuring swing and Romani songs.

The band consists of **Asher Truppmann Lattie** on clarinet and saxophone, **Phillip Beatson** on gypsy guitar, **Travis Hill** on la pompe guitar

and **Djordje Nikolic** on double bass. The rhythm, musicality and interplay between band members creates an atmosphere that is highly energetic and engaging. They alternate this vibrancy with slow melodic ballads and medium swing tunes, something to suit everyone. If you'd like to check them out, they are regularly featured at the Occidental in Vulcan Lane in the City, on the first Sunday of the month from 2pm – 5pm.

**Twistin' the Swing** have performed extensively for the past several years, at parties, weddings, swing dance events, theatres, corporate events, markets and festivals including Auckland Arts Festival, Auckland Jazz Festival and Music in Parks.

We are thrilled to also include some even younger talent on the programme, with a guest spot featuring three incredibly talented children, who form a Harp Trio. **Rilla(5 years old) David and Lennard Burling (9 years of age)** will perform a selection of numbers together.

**Sure hope you will join us for a great afternoon of musical variety with proceeds towards the organ installation fund.**





***Twistin' the Swing - from left to right are Djordje Nikolic (Double Bass), Travis Hill (Rhythm Guitar), Phillip Beatson (Lead Guitar) and Asher Truppmann Lattie (Clarinet and Saxophone).***



***Harp Trio - Rilla David and Lennard Burling***

## ***Western Springs Garden Community Hall Great North Road, Western Springs.***



***One of our team will keep an eye on the cars in the off-street car park***

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

### ***CLOSING CHORD FOR A GENTLE MAN***

Once again, we have lost one of our Wurlitzer organ's greatest and hardworking stalwarts – I am saddened to tell you that Brian Massey passed away in mid-May after a quiet, but long battle with asbestos cancer. I shared these words at Brian's service of a life well-lived and remembered.....

When I got involved with the Auckland Wurlitzer in 1984, all the hard work had been done installing it in the Hollywood Cinema between 1979 and 1982. Brian & his wife Margaret, were involved right from day one, Brian in there helping with the building of the organ chambers, behind the movie screen at the theatre, that house the organ's 1100 odd pipes and all the percussion instruments.

In 1993 when a Trust was formed to take on the ownership and care of the organ, both Brian and Margaret served as Trustees for some years, helping to manage the organ and the 6-7 shows it performed each year. Margaret was herself in the spotlight as one of those gifted artists who knew how to master this mighty beast, playing the organ on many occasions, always with Brian in the shadows encouraging and supporting her.

Brian & Margaret also helped by hosting some of the touring concert organists who visited from all points of the globe.

In 2015 we received the bomb-shell – the Hollywood Cinema was to be sold and we were asked to remove our Wurlitzer organ. Already unwell, Brian immediately jumped in to help the team, with the unhappy task of packing this huge pipe organ into crates then taking apart all his hard work of some 35



odd years previous. I'm just so sorry that this kind, hard-working gentle man, will not get to see and hear our Wurlitzer organ in its new home at the Playhouse Theatre in Glen Eden.

When I sent out news of Brian's passing to the theatre organ community, such heart-warming messages came flooding in from all those around the world who had come into contact with Brian and Margaret.

Tony Fenelon from Australia really summed up what the rest of the world was also saying. Tony wrote;

*"Brian was one of those wonderful people who couldn't do enough for you! I was so fortunate to have stayed with Brian and Margaret on two occasions - (once with my wife Noella) when I was playing at the Hollywood. They always treated you just like members of their family and it was always a highlight of a visit to Auckland to stay in their beautiful home situated on such a magical part of the Auckland harbour.*

*I know he'll be missed by so many people who were touched by his life. I was really looking forward to catching up with him again on a future visit to New Zealand, maybe even when the ex-Hollywood Wurlitzer sounds forth again in its new home, sadly something Brian will never get to hear.*

*Please pass on our thoughts and prayers to Margaret and all his friends on the Wurlitzer team. We will all miss him greatly."*



The last wonderful gesture of help Brian and Margaret gave to the Organ Trust was to host two concerts in their home by touring USA organist Rob Richards who had been a regular performer at the Hollywood Cinema. Last year Rob advised that he was to be performing in NZ and said he could not come to our country and not play for all his friends in Auckland. So with no organ available, Brian & Margaret offered their beautiful home to us. Obviously we'd never get

the 300 odd audience Rob usually plays to here in Auckland, but in February almost 80 "Friends of the Wurlitzer" members enjoyed two stunning shows on Margaret's Rodgers electronic organ. Having 2 lots of 40 strangers in your lounge is a huge ask of anyone, let alone someone fighting a serious illness. The two shows were a huge success and I think Brian was justly proud of what he and Margaret had been able to do for us in hosting these two concerts.

Rob Richards on hearing the sad news wrote yesterday;

*"Oh what Devastating news. Brian and Margaret are like family and the recent February visit was filled with priceless memories. Sending much love to Margaret and the family."*

Ladies & Gentlemen, I have enjoyed so many fun, laughter filled times with these two wonderful people, and Brian particularly, has provided me with encouragement and support on so many levels. Here shines a kind, generous and giving soul whose tireless hard work in so many spheres, is now at an end.

Journey well Brian, I'm certain you will be rewarded in the new world.

## **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**



**SATURDAY JULY 21 at 2pm – *Scott Harrison (Aus) A Gift of Music***

**NOTE WELL not the usual day for one of our shows – it's on a SATURDAY!  
VENUE – Western Springs Community Hall – Gt North Rd, Western Springs**

An afternoon of musical variety with Melbourne's **Scott Harrison** at the Allen Digital Theatre Organ, the lively acoustic gypsy jazz band **Twistin' the Swing** and a guest spot from a very youthful Harp Trio.

Please bring your friends along to enjoy a wide range of music and together, help raise funds towards the next phase of the organ installation at the Playhouse Theatre.

**Please book through the WOTA booking system –  
a form is enclosed with this newsletter.  
There may be door sales on the day, and if so,  
these will be CASH ONLY – NO EFTPOS.**



### **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)**

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

<b>CHAIRMAN:</b>	Mr James Duncan <i>Concert Manager/Newsletter Editor</i>	PH: 373-9818
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	Mrs Carol Neill	PH: 575-8645
<b>TREASURER:</b>	Mr John Palmer	PH: (07) 855-3267
<b>PROJECT LEADER ORGAN REINSTALLATION:</b>	Mr Neil Warrington	PH: 828-4934
<b>TRUSTEES:</b>	Mrs Margaret Cox Mrs Jackie Crawford Mr John Kleingeld	PH: 636-5277 PH: (09) 236-3998 PH: 838-8419

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

Mrs Jan Nancekivell

PH: 522-8944



**SUPPORTING  
THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST  
OF AUCKLAND**