

# Mark Your Calendar

## Sierra Chapter, ATOS

March 7, Open Console 9:00 A.M.  
Fair Oaks Clubhouse

March 12, Friday, 8:00 P.M.  
Silent Movie  
The Iron Mask  
Bob Salisbury  
Towe Auto Museum

April 17, Saturday, 1:00 - 9:00 P.M.  
Morton Maddnes X  
Jonas Nordwall

May 14, Friday, 8:00 P.M.  
Silent Movie  
The Freshman - Harold Lloyd  
Jim Riggs  
Towe Auto Museum

## Stockton Fox Work Days

Workdays are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Please call Bob Hartzell for more details.

March 13 \* April 10  
Also, a group of people meet almost every  
Monday to work on the organ.

## NOR-CAL Theatre Organ Society

Berkeley Community Theatre  
All concerts Sundays at 2:30 P.M.

March 14 - Chris Gorsuch  
May 9 - Walt Strony

## Towe Auto Museum

Sunday 2:00 P.M. Free with Museum Admission

March 21 - Jim Brown  
April 18 - Bert Kuntz

## BONI Organ Club

Sally Maness (530) 756-9014  
March 6 - Gus Pearson - Newcastle Music Exchange

# The Organ Spiel

Newsletter of the Sierra Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

**March 2004**

Craig A. Peterson - Editor  
craigapeterson@cs.com  
Clifton - Printing/Mailing

Sierra Chapter Presents the 1929  
Silent Film Classic

# The Iron Mask

Starring Douglas Fairbanks

With live organ accompaniment by

# Bob Salisbury

On the Dale Mendenhall Memorial Theatre Pipe Organ

Friday, March 12, 2004 at 8:00 P.M.  
At the Towe Auto Museum  
2200 Front Street, Sacramento, CA  
442-6802

For a movie review and pictures,  
Please see our website:  
[www.SierraChapterATOS.org](http://www.SierraChapterATOS.org)



Donation - \$10 at the door - \$8 for Sierra Chapter Members  
\$5 Students - \$20 Family Maximum

Sierra Chapter ATOS - Organized for the purpose of preserving and promoting the Theatre Pipe Organ and its music. The Chapter was organized in 1968 as a not-for-profit corporation under the statutes of the State of California and is recognized as tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



Sierra Chapter ATOS  
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## The Iron Mask with Bob Salisbury by Matias Bombal

This sequel to Fairbanks' The Three Musketeers, recently shown by the Sierra Chapter of the ATOS, is based on the musketeer novels by Alexander Dumas and stars Fairbanks Sr., Marguerite De La Motte, Belle Benett and Nigel De Brulier. The story, with art direction by William Cameron Menzies, who would later do the same for Gone With The Wind, features the often-filmed story of twin heirs to the throne of France separated at birth by the evil Cardinal Richelieu and raised separately. Filmed during the revolutionary dawn of sound in the movie industry, this film was originally intended to be presented as a silent film, and in many theatres was. In an attempt to cash in on the "Talkie" craze, the few new theatres that had by 1929, like Sacramento's beloved Alhambra Theatre, installed Vitaphone, could present it with a special Vitaphone music and effects track on separate Vitaphone discs.

Nothing could compare with a live musical accompaniment, however, then or now. Robert. D Salisbury, noted organist of the Avalon Casino Theatre on Catalina Island, is delighted to return to the unique Sierra Chapter ATOS organ at the Towe Museum. He first showed interest in music at seven when he began piano lessons in Los Angeles. Organ lessons began at age ten, and theatre organ at age 13 with famous organist Gaylord Carter. By the age of 13, he taught music at Torrance Recreation Department to other children and was the director of the school band!

In 1958, he moved to Avalon on Catalina Island. Where he played Page Theatre Pipe Organ in the Casino Theatre and was pianist at Avalon High School. A year later, Bob was hired as the organist at the Jade Pagoda Restaurant in Avalon, causing a problem when the Alcoholic Beverage Control discovered the 16-year-old playing organ in the bar. The Jade Pagoda quickly solved the problem by knocking a hole in the wall so that Bob and the organ bench were in the dining room and the organ was in the bar! Bob also played for three churches in Avalon. Each church would schedule services so that a cab would wait at each church to transport him to the next service.

In 1964 Bob played for nine years at the 488 Keys nightclub in Redondo Beach followed by a five-year period playing for Princess cruises as the musical director for "Arden and Maize", a British musical comedy team.

Bob returned in 1979 to manage the Avalon Casino Theatre, playing the Page Pipe Organ on a nightly basis before the movie. In 1985 Bob became a civilian worker for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. However, he continued playing the Page Organ on Friday and Saturday nights before the movie, also playing for concerts at the Community Church. In 1997 the American Theatre Organ Society awarded him first place in their respected Hobbyist Competition for the United States.

Bob lives in Running Springs, California. He continues to return to Avalon annually to play for high school graduation and for a silent movie performance to benefit the Catalina Island Museum. Bob continues to perform solo concerts, many for the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society and the San Diego Theatre Organ Society.

Bob Salisbury has four CD's on the Page Theatre Pipe Organ including "A Page From Avalon", "Christmas Island", "Avalon Sunday", and "Before the Movies"

## Morton Madness with JONAS NORDWALL

Saturday, April 17, 2004 1:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

The tickets for this year's Morton Madness are now available! This fun event will once again take us to the Hartzell's "Blue Barn" in Lodi and to the Kautz's Ironstone Vinyard Winery in Murphys. Two great concerts, winery tours and a Mesquite grilled beef tri-tip & BBQ chicken dinner are included in the day's events. This year the artist will be Jonas Nordwall.

Jonas Nordwall is an internationally renown virtuoso organist with the unique ability to perform both classical and popular music with equal virtuosity.

For nearly three decades he has toured North America presenting concerts and workshops. International concert appearances include China, Japan and five tours of Australia. He has over 24 LPs, CDs and Cassettes on various labels to his credit. He has appeared on national television in both the United States and Australia, and his recordings are frequently heard on "Pipe Dreams" the syndicated PBS weekly radio program.

Last fall he was a guest recitalist and adjudicator at the International Organ Competition in Geneva, Switzerland.

Jonas serves as organist for the First United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon. a position held since 1971, and also is the organist for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra. His has made solo performances with the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, Portland Chamber Orchestra, Portland Festival Orchestra and both the Vancouver, B. C. and Vancouver, Washington Symphony Orchestras.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Mr. Nordwall studied with Goldie Poz and received his Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Portland where he was a pupil of Arthur Hitchcock. Additional study was with the noted English/Canadian virtuoso, Frederick Geoghegan, American virtuoso organist Richard Elisasser and noted composer and organist Richard Purvis.

For many years he was the Senior Staff Organist for the Organ Grinder Corporation, which had large theatre organs installed in restaurants in Portland, Denver, and Colorado. Mr. Nordwall has been a very influential force in the musical instrument manufacturing industry having been a product designer, marketing consultant and recitalist for several organ manufacturers.

Jonas has been a frequent ATOS convention artist and a former organ design specialist for the Rodgers Organ Company. He was interested in keyboard instruments at an early age and started taking accordion lessons at the age of 4. He quickly became interested in the organ and began classical organ studies at the age of 12 . At the age of 18, Jonas began studies in organ at the University of Portland. For "kicks," he served as assistant staff organist at Oaks Park Skating Rink.

Tickets are \$45 for inside seating at the Hartzell residence, and \$40 for outside. Both tickets include everything at the Ironstone Vinyards. To obtain tickets, Please send your check, made payable to Sierra Chapter ATOS, with a self addressed, stamped envelope, to Dave Sauer, P.O. Box 101, Sacramento, CA 95812. Order forms are available at [www.SierraChapterATOS.org](http://www.SierraChapterATOS.org)