

PATRONS : Dr Robert Boughen OBE and David Gray

January 2024



TOSAQ 1964 - 2024
Join the party!

The monthly journal of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia - Queensland Division Inc.
www.tosaq.com.au

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**TOSA QUEENSLAND was established on
26 Feb 1964**

**Unless otherwise noted, our daytime
meetings are held from 2 pm at Kelvin
Grove State College Theatre, corner of
Tank Street & Victoria Park Road, Kelvin
Grove 4059 — ALL WELCOME!**

www.tosaq.com.au



*Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily
that of the TOSAQ committee, its membership
or the Society's policy.*

COMING UP:

Practice Nights 2024

22nd January

29th January

12th February

26th February with guest artist

Held at Kelvin Grove State College Theatre
from 7.30pm. Come along and have a play—
all welcome! Enjoy a cuppa with fellow players.
Listening/playing guests' welcome.

Live Music & Film – Peter Pan (1924)

Organist – David Bailey

Sunday 4 February

2pm @ Kelvin Grove Hall

More details later in this newsletter.

Tickets for TOSAQ events can be booked on
line by visiting

<https://www.tosaq.com.au/whats-on/>

The 2024 calendar is included in this edition.

For your consideration.

TOSAQ accepts bequests and tax deductible
donations to assist in the continuation of
presenting Theatre Organ music to our
members and the wider public audience.

More details on how to do this are included at
the end of this newsletter.

A special request from Denis Wayper.

As a colleague Organist, over here at Organ
Society of Qld, I thought of TOSAQ may be
able to help me with organ music.

I am interested in arrangements of Gershwin
songs, for organ.

Do any of your members know of useful
arrangements of Gershwin songs for organ.

Denis Wayper
0408 011 406



As we step into 2024, I am thrilled to extend my heartfelt greetings and kick off this significant year for the Theatre Organ Society of Australia Queensland Division (TOSAQ). This year marks our 60th Anniversary—an incredible milestone that we celebrate with excitement and pride.

In 1964, TOSAQ emerged from humble beginnings, and over the decades, we've evolved into one of Queensland's leading music organisations. This achievement is a testament to the vision of our founding members, whose foresight not only secured but also negotiated the installation of our beloved Christie Cinema Pipe Organ in the Kelvin Grove State College (School) during the early 1970's. This year is also remarkable as our Christie turns 90—an iconic instrument that stands as a tribute to the Hill, Norman & Beard Pipe Organ Company who manufactured our Christie organ and the countless volunteers who have dedicated their time and skills to maintain its brilliance over the years.

Our 60th Anniversary will be celebrated over a series of major concert events. The first featuring the extraordinary Tony Fenelon on Sunday 7 April. Stay tuned for further details on what promises to be a series of memorable celebration events, paying homage to our rich history and the vibrant future ahead.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all the members who attended and supported the December 2023 Annual General Meeting. The overwhelming support received by the committee has been truly heartening. Your willingness to assist with our concert events is invaluable, and I urge each member to consider sharing the load by volunteering a bit of time before, during, and/or after our events. A list of tasks is included in this newsletter, and leading up to each event, we will reach out for sign-ups. Our committee members will guide and assist, making it a collaborative effort. Your genuine offers of assistance give us the confidence to plan and execute 2024 with enthusiasm and optimism.

Looking at the 2024 calendar, it's bursting with a diverse range of events. David Bailey will grace us with a performance on Sunday 4 February, accompanying a silent film screening of *Peter Pan* (1924) on our Christie Cinema Pipe Organ. This aligns perfectly with the centenary of this classic film—a beautiful synchronicity in our anniversary year. Tony Fenelon returns on Sunday 7 April, weaving his musical magic on the Christie.

Our Club Days have undergone a refreshing transformation and are now titled 'Music on Sundays.' This series will feature a variety of TOSAQ members on the Christie and Piano, along with featured visiting artists or community ensembles. We're in the process of finalising negotiations with various talents, and you can find details well in advance in the Tibia Newsletter.

Two special events are marked on our calendar—the annual *Legends in Concert* fundraising event on Sunday 30 June and a Friday the 13th screening of *'The Rocky Horror Picture Show'*, on Friday evening 13 September. The latter promises a thrilling night of music from the 1970s performed on the Christie, setting the stage for the cult classic movie.

Our popular Monday Night 'Play Nights' are making a return, but this year, some will include a featured artist—a short 30-minute concert prior to supper and an open console. We're also introducing workshops on selected Monday Nights, with Rick Watson presenting a series on MIDI System Training including viewing, recording, editing and playback of Midi files and a second series on Theatre Organ Combinations.

In closing, let's always remember that we are better together—with great music, cherished friends, and our amazing Christie Cinema Pipe Organ! Your unwavering support ensures that TOSAQ continues to thrive and brings the magic of theatre organ music to our community. Thank you for being an integral part of our 60th-year celebration, and here's to a year filled with harmonious melodies and shared joy.

Brett Kavanagh
TOSAQ President

TOSAQ CALENDAR 2024

January	July
22 nd Monday practice night 7.30pm	1 st Monday Practice Night 7.30pm
29 th Monday practice night 7.30pm	7 th Sunday Hall reserved for members practice or organ maintenance.
February	15 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm
4 th Music on Sunday's Series David Bailey Silent movie Peter Pan 2.00pm	29 th Monday Practice Night includes Combi workshop 7.30pm
12 th Monday Practice night 7.30pm	August
26 th Monday Practice night 7.30pm	12 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm
March	26 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm
11 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm	September
25 th Monday Practice Night includes MIDI workshop 7.30pm	1 st Music on Sunday's Series 2.00pm
April	9 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm
1 st Monday Practice Night 7.30pm	13 th Friday Special event Rocky Horror Picture Show
7 th Music on Sunday's Series Tony Fenelon 2.00pm	23 rd Monday Practice Night 7.30pm
15 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm	30 th Monday Practice Night includes Combi workshop 7.30pm
21 st Pomona Majestic Theatre Concert Debbie and Brett	October
29 th Monday Practice Night includes MIDI workshop 7.30pm	6 th Music on Sunday's Series 2.00pm
May	November
5 th Music on Sunday's Series 2.00pm	11 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm
13 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm	December
27 th Monday Practice Night includes MIDI workshop 7.30pm	1 st Sunday AGM and Music on Sunday's Series 2.00pm
June	9 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm
2 nd Music on Sunday's Series 2.00pm	16 th Monday Practice Night Christmas theme 7.30pm
10 th Monday Practice Night 7.30pm.	
24 th Monday Practice Night with featured artist 7.30pm	
30 th Sunday Legends in Concert 2.30pm	

TOSAQ Gold Coast News

TOSAQ Member House Parties 2024

These parties are held on the third Sunday of the month

February - Pam Webb

March - John Buchanan

April - Fred Stein

May - Graham and Shirley

June - John and Murray

July - Deb and George (TBC)

August - Vacant

September - David and Dell Heaney (TBC)

October - Graham and Shirley

November - Deb and George

Please bring a small plate of goodies to share for afternoon tea.

If you can host a home party, please contact Gary Ivory. We try to have one each month to keep the tradition, music and fellowship alive. Gary can be contacted by email on pengary1@onthenet.com.au

House Party Report John and Murray Rattray Reis

The busy Christmas season drew attendees away on this occasion, however those who were able to attend enjoyed the afternoon.

Kevin Purchase, Kev Collins, Brian, Merv, Grahame and Jim all played a few numbers each and we enjoyed a lovely afternoon tea.

The Allen sounded divine as it always does.

Do you want to help set up for TOSAQ concerts?

Your committee is always open to welcome more volunteers to set up the hall for our major events.

Despite the professional appearance of our shows, there is always room for you to bring fresh ideas to our shows.

It is always rewarding to be a part of the big show and you don't necessarily need special skills.

You may have a passing interest in stagecraft, table decorating or catering.

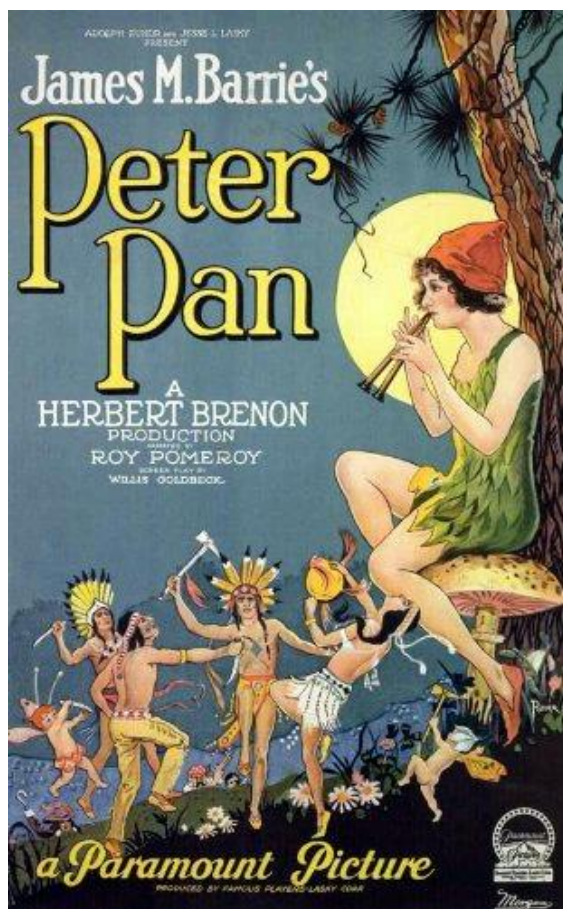
There is room for you!

Please contact anyone on committee if you would like to find out how it all happens or email the secretary info@tosaq.com.au

Contact us

Phone: 0412 879 678

TOSAQ first event for 2024



Live Music & Film – Peter Pan (1924)

Organist – David Bailey

Sunday 4 February

2pm @ Kelvin Grove

[Click Here and Book Now](https://www.tosaq.com.au/events/peterpan/)

Experience the timeless classic Peter Pan (1924) presented by TOSAQ on the big screen at Kelvin Grove, Sunday 4 February 2024. Peter Pan enters the nursery of the Darling children and, with the help of fairy dust, leads them off to Never Never Land, where they meet the nefarious Captain Hook.

Organist David Bailey will provide a newly composed live musical accompaniment to the film on the TOSAQ Christie Cinema Pipe Organ.

Enjoy a complimentary drink (wine or fruit punch) on arrival and afternoon tea at interval.

Join us in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of TOSAQ – Queensland's premier music organisation. Experience the magic of theatre organ music at our special events throughout this landmark year!

Tickets can be secured in the following ways:

1. Online at <https://www.tosaq.com.au/events/peterpan/>
2. Post a cheque / Money Order to the TOSAQ Secretary – U4167 / 37C Harbour Road Hamilton, Queensland, 4007. Be sure to include a short note with your name and how many tickets you want.
3. Direct transfer to our TOSA Bank Account – Make sure you use your surname as the reference.
Account Name Theatre Organ Society of Aust Qld Divn Inc.
BSB Number 638 070
Account Number 5537819
Reference <insert your name>

Tickets:

General Admission	\$18.50
Concession	\$16.50
TOSAQ Members	\$15.50
Primary & Secondary School Students	\$10
Child Free	



From the Past

Humorous extracts from an article by Scott Smith published in Theatre Organ magazine July/ August 2001
This article compiled by Robert Weismantel

One of the greatest challenges facing an organ tuner at any given time is that of finding a good keyholder. To the casual observer, it would appear to be a simple, straightforward, albeit boring job that anyone remotely familiar with a keyboard could perform well. In a pinch, tuners occasionally have to use whoever is available, but as with any other skilled labor, knowledge and experience are the keys to a job well done.



Virtually every person who tunes pipe organs to any degree began as a keyholder.

The best of these have picked up tips and methods from the various tuners they held keys for over a period of time, as well as developing their own. It all adds up to a tighter, more long-lasting tune with greater musical (and neurological) satisfaction for all.

First and foremost is a good, solid relationship between the keyholder and the tuner.

The best results will come with mutual patience, trust and respect. If not, it's going to be a grim time with lots of stress for both parties. There can also be times of misunderstanding because of distance, console or chamber placement. To be heard clearly in large rooms, tuners often have to yell instructions to the keyholder. This can be misinterpreted as dissatisfaction. Don't let it bother you. While the tuner is generally the one to be calling the shots, both parties are absolutely equal in their importance in this job.

The first thing any reputable tuner will do is to establish a tuning or reference rank. Ideally, this is the set of pipes to which all others in the organ are tuned.

Church tuners traditionally use the 4' Great Octave, as it is generally not under expression and can be heard in the enclosed divisions. However, the Principal or Diapason ranks normally found in theatre organs are too fat, too dark and too hootey to fill the bill adequately. A medium-scaled string, like a Salicional will work as long as it doesn't "dither" or fly off speech. The best tuners use a string rank at two pitches for razor-sharp tuning. Remember that the theatre organ is full of exaggerated sounds and, because of that, sometimes there is a need to use a tuning fork to tune a single pipe (generally "A") in the middle of the reference rank. From there, the tuner will tune the rest of the middle octave to it, using intervals of fourths and fifths, tweak it carefully, and then tune the rest of the reference rank to it. On long or late night tuning sessions, occasionally laying down on the bench is legal, but not good if you're being monitored by the customer



If you hold keys for church tuners, you're going to run into mixture ranks. These will go slow, trust me.

Do what you can to break the boredom. If you're skilled at all with key holding, you can easily multi task. While holding keys, I've been known to dust the console, screw on name plates, re-set the clock, even read a book. In fact, most of this article was written while holding keys!

Nearly every console in the universe has a collection of pencils and/or pens. (In fact, most of them are usually below the pedal keys!) These will come in handy in more ways than one. I usually like to have some sort of writing implement at my disposal, a lined pad and craft or Popsicle sticks. The lined pad will come in handy if the tuner asks you to remember where a certain pipe is that he may have handled and wants to cool off before attempting final tuning. It's the key holder's job to keep track of these things. A tuner's chief pet peeve is a keyholder who can't remember where he was if they stop tuning in the middle of a rank. The craft sticks will come in handy to lay on the keys for reference later on, and won't roll off like pencils and pens. If the tuner takes a pipe out to work on it, marking the note with a pencil or craft stick will help you to easily find it later. Use the keyboard directly above or below the one you're using to tune to mark any reference notes so as not to impede your progress.

So, remember, if the tuner asks you to *"find the hole,"* know that he's

not talking about the orchestra pit!

The keyholder has to be the Great Diplomat. If the organist comes in during a tuning session, tuning should stop immediately (remember to mark where you stopped!). The organist should communicate his needs to the keyholder, or better yet, the keyholder should summon the tuner to come down and speak directly with the organist. If the organist has left a list of priorities, it's the key holder's job to gently remind the tuner of what's on it, to ensure completion of the list. The diplomacy needs to work the other way, too. When others are talking loudly or making excessive noise, it's the keyholder's job to diplomatically ask that they either stop or leave. Most people, even long-term organ buffs don't realize that tuners need *complete* silence in the listening space in order to complete their task accurately and in a timely manner. So, if you enter a room where an organ is being tuned, and you're not the tuner or the keyholder, be pre-pared to use sign language!

Some years prior to his untimely death, Fr. Jim Miller was engaged to play a concert at one of his least favorite venues. Finding the organ to be horribly out of tune, he asked to have at least the reeds tuned. One of the more eager volunteers mentioned how he knew how to tune and would be happy to comply with the request. Fr. Jim, equally skilled as a keyholder and tuner happily held keys for the volunteer to tune the Tuba. As the volunteer descended the ladder, Fr. Jim checked the rank. The tuning was awful! So back up the ladder the volunteer went and with the entire process repeated, down he came. Again, the tuning was terrible; maybe even worse than when they'd started. Fr. Jim, puzzled by this turn of events asked the volunteer to show him what he was doing. When both had ascended the ladder into the chamber, the volunteer said, " ... well, first I stand on this big box over here ... " The big box turned out to be the Main regulator! Standing on it probably raised the wind pressure by several inches of pressure! No wonder the tuning was so bad! The moral of this story is that, even though the volunteer tuner could probably tune all right, his knowledge of other factors that affected the operation of the organ was sorely lacking

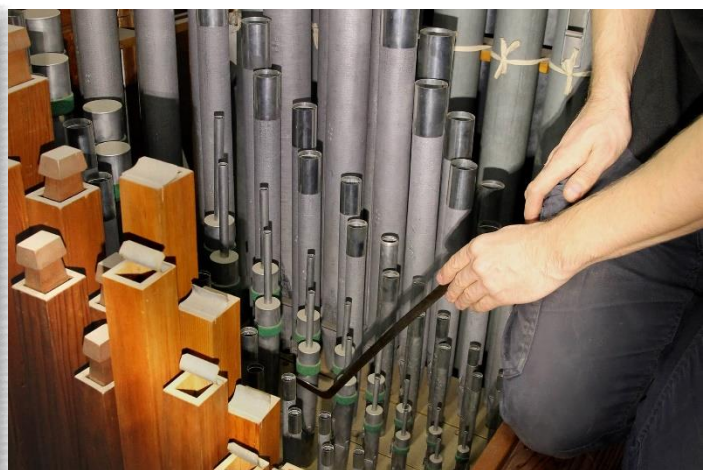
There have been numerous attempts at replacing us with automation. Hard-wired stepping switches have been around for years, and aren't that hard to build. Modern software-based relay/control systems now utilize cordless telephones, allowing the tuner to advance notes, go back, repeat, change ranks and do nearly everything a keyholder can do. They can't, however, carry on an intelligent conversation over lunch, they won't bring tools to you, they won't drive you home if you're tired, and they won't offer to get coffee for you. They don't smile, they have no sense of humor and they don't play silly little tunes on individual ranks after you've successfully completed tuning them. I guess they have their place.

*' Photos courtesy Michael Kinter, The Mole Hole of Marshall
(Michigan)*

*-4 Author Scott Smith is an organist, organ builder and tuner from
Lansing, Michigan and is recognized as one of the world's great
keyholders. Sez him.*



When there is difficulty for some reason, the keyholder can and should suggest alternate methods of tuning, even the unorthodox, to make the job easier or simpler for the tuner.



Above image Australian Pipe Organs Pty. Ltd.

Flashback

Recently Trevor Himstedt posted a TV Week snippet from November 1967 on the Facebook page [Brisbane Television & Radio](#)



Wilbur Kentwell is struggling to read through the enormous amounts of mail that arrive at TVQ0 studios for him. Wilbur's request music show is seen eight times a week, but he has enough requests to run for three weeks.

Wilbur Davies Kentwell (1914–1981) by [G. D. Rushworth](#) [Australian Dictionary of Biography](#), Volume 17, 2007

Wilbur Davies Kentwell (1914-1981), musician, was born on 20 January 1914 at Castle Hill, Sydney, sixth surviving child of John Amos Kentwell, carpenter, and his wife Lucretia, née Davies, both born in New South Wales. Wilbur attended Parramatta High School to Intermediate level. Possessing innate musical ability, he had begun some limited formal musical tuition at the age of 8. After later instruction in organ playing, in his early teens he played for services at his local church. He was introduced to the theatre organ and public entertainment through the large Christie

instrument at the Roxy Theatre, Parramatta, where he later performed professionally. From 1939 he was resident organist at the Savoy Theatre, New Lambton, Newcastle, for some five years, using a Hammond electronic organ. He also worked as a salesman.

In the later 1940s Kentwell became resident organist at the Vogue Theatre, Double Bay, while playing regularly at several other theatres and at the Trocadero ballroom, Sydney—sometimes dashing between two engagements in the one evening. He was also staff organist at radio-station 2CH until appointed director of music to Macquarie Broadcasting Services Pty Ltd. There he attained national fame, particularly through his association with [Jack Davey](#), who enjoyed an enormous following. Kentwell undertook freelance work for 2KY and 2UE, and for Australian Broadcasting Commission radio, on which he performed both as a soloist and in a trio. He also composed songs, writing words and music. His musicianship brought him engagements on radio as an associate artist with many celebrities, including Bob Hope, Nat King Cole, Anne Ziegler and Webster Booth, [Peter Dawson](#), [Gladys Moncrieff](#) and George Formby.

After local television transmission started, Kentwell moved to Brisbane as director of music at Channel 9; he later worked for Channel 0. He also began teaching his techniques of theatre organ entertainment, and continued until his death. As well as making many recordings on traditional theatre organs, he used electronic instruments, particularly the Hammond organs (produced in the United States of America from the 1930s), which became popular with radio stations, theatres and nightclubs.

Reputed to be able to play more than one thousand melodies from memory, Kentwell was one of the last of a group of versatile musicians who provided 'live' incidental, accompaniment and effect music, which was a characteristic feature of radio broadcasts up to the end of the 1950s. Predeceased by his wife, he died of head injuries and barbiturate intoxication on 9 February 1981 at Toowong and was cremated. His daughter survived him.

Other groups of interest

Brisbane City Hall Organ Concerts

Check the Brisbane City Hall events website for further details
[click here to read more](#)



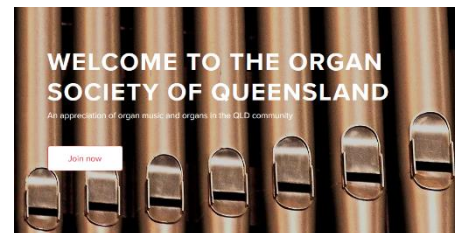
Don't forget that the Organ Society of Queensland (OSQ) has interesting classical organ links and information.

Visit their web page:

<https://www.organsociety.com.au/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/organsocietyqld/>



Gallery of Modern Art web page has a wonderful description of the Wurlitzer and upcoming screenings. [Click here to read more](#)



Majestic Theatre Pomona

Current screenings and information on the theatre and organ can be found here <https://www.themajestictheatre.com.au/>

[The Majestic Theatre Pomona](#)



TOSA CONTACTS

TOSA ACT (Canberra)

3/8 Compton

Albert Hall, Canberra

Contact: tosasec@emailme.com.au

TOSA New South Wales

Orion Theatre Wurlitzer 3/17;

Marrickville Town Hall (TH) Wurlitzer 2/11;

West Ryde Anglican Church 2/10 Christie

Events Contact: Geoff Brimley (02) 6351 3122.

TOSA Victoria - MTO

Kingston TH Wurlitzer 4/21;

Malvern TH Compton 3/17;

Capitol Theatre Wurlitzer 3/16;

Coburg TH Christie/B & H 2/9;

Regent Wurlitzer 4/36.

Contact: Margaret Sutcliffe on (03) 9891 7227.

Warragul Theatre Organ Society (VIC)

Wurlitzer 3/10.

Meetings held first Saturday of the month.

Events Contact: Di Yuill (03) 5623 3301.

TOSA South Australia

Tuesdays and weekends TOSA (SA) members play the 4/29 Wurlitzer in their Capri Theatre, Goodwood Road, Goodwood (08) 8272 1177.

TOSA Western Australia

3/12 Compton.

John Leckie Music Centre

25 Melvista Ave, Nedlands.

Member's days first Sunday of the month at 2pm.

Contact: Rodney Raymond (08) 9310 2838.

Stirling Productions (WA)

Wurlitzer 3/21

Perth, Western Australia.

John Fuhrmann on (08) 9447 9837.

TOSA Tasmania

Like TOSA Tasmania's new Facebook Group for the latest happenings on the apple isle.

www.facebook.com/groups/tosatas

Donations and Bequests— Our Vision is unlimited, but our funding is not. Your support is vital to ensure we can continue to support emerging organists and ensure our magnificent Christie Cinema Pipe Organ allows audiences a glimpse back through time, into the jazzy, carefree nights of the golden age of cinema. Donate via the PayPal link on the TOSAQ website or contact the Secretary to discuss payment options.



Donations and Bequests of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. The Theatre Organ Society of Australia Queensland Division Public Fund is a tax-deductible fund listed on the Australian Government's Register of Cultural Organisations maintained under Subdivision 30-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. An official tax-deductible receipt will be issued for all donations.

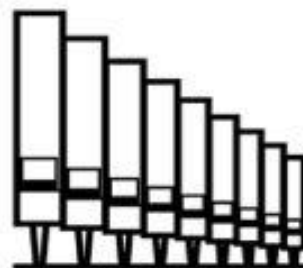
Donations can be included with your membership or at any time throughout the year.





Theatre Organ Society of Australia - Queensland

Membership Application / Renewal 2024



APPLICANT'S NAME _____ (Please Print)

PARTNER'S NAME * _____

POSTAL ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

(Required for full colour version of the monthly Tibia Newsletter)

TELEPHONE (Home) (____) _____ MOBILE _____

❖ I/we hereby apply to become/remain a member/members of the **Theatre Organ Society of Australia Queensland Division** (TOSA Qld Inc.) and state that I/we will abide by the rules of the association if accepted as a member.

Signature _____

Date ____ / ____ / 2024

Parents Signature _____ Date ____ / ____ / 2024 (Required for under 15 years)

Membership will be granted by the management committee upon receipt of this written application. The only qualification for membership is a genuine interest in the theatre pipe organ as a means of entertainment.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

☐ DOUBLE * \$60 ☐ SINGLE \$35 ☐ LONG DISTANCE \$30 ☐ JUNIOR (FREE- 15Yrs & Under)

I enclose payment of \$ _____

(Optional) donation of \$ _____

Total Cash / Cheque / Transfer / Online \$ _____

(Donations of \$2 or more
are Tax Deductable.)

- Direct Bank Transfer Information - **remember to include your name as the reference**

Account Name Theatre Organ Society of Aust Qld ~~Divn~~ Inc.
BSB Number 638 070
Account Number 5537819
Reference <insert your name>

- Cheques should be made payable to: Theatre Organ Society of Australia – Qld. ~~Divn~~ Inc.
- This signed form and payment can be posted to:

The Secretary
TOSA Qld ~~Divn~~ Inc.
4167 / 37C Harbour Road
HAMILTON QLD 4007

Receipt Book Number (Cash / Cheque): _____ Electronic Transfer / Online Reference Number: _____

www.tosaq.com.au

info@tosaq.com.au