

## Membership application

Membership entitles you to reduced Wurlitzer Organ concert tickets, newsletters and monthly meetings where you get to hear the Wurli in action.

**Membership Level** (please tick your option)

**Single subscription**     \$20

**Double subscription**     \$25

Please send your cheque (made out to The Treasurer) and application form to:

**The Treasurer**

Terry Creighton  
419 Wainui South Road  
RD2  
Katikati 3178

Application forms can also be handed in at Baycourt Community and Arts Centre.

Tauranga Theatre Organ Society

*presents*



*Tauranga's hidden treasure located in Baycourt Theatre*



OPUS 1482

“ Help keep our Wurlitzer  
alive and well in Tauranga.  
Support our concerts and  
join our Society! ”

- Tauranga Theatre Organ Society



## History of the Mighty Wurlitzer

In October 1926, the Opus 1482 was shipped from the Wurlitzer factory in the United States and installed in Wellington's De Luxe Theatre to provide sound for silent movies. It made its debut in 1927 with Sydney organist Emanuel ("Manny") Aarons and quickly became a beloved feature of the theatre.

In 1959, the Wurlitzer was sold to Eddie Aikin, a theatre organ enthusiast who installed the instrument in a former honey-packing shed south of Tokoroa, before moving it to Tokoroa High School. Later the organ was sold to the Tauranga 20,000 Club, and they donated the instrument to the city of Tauranga. With the support of the Tauranga City Council, the society installed the Wurlitzer in the Tauranga Town Hall in 1972, as a concert instrument for local and overseas artists.

When plans to demolish the Town Hall were announced in 1986 the Tauranga City Council suggested that the organ be relocated to the newly-constructed Baycourt Community and Arts Centre. By the middle of 1987, the arduous task of dismantling and re-installing the instrument began, and by late 1988, the Opus 1482 was playing once again. Dennis James travelled from the United States to present the premier concert of the instrument in December 1988.

## The Organ Society

The Tauranga Theatre Organ Society was formed in 1987 to provide ongoing financial support and maintenance to the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, as the instrument was affectionately dubbed.

The Society works closely with Baycourt Community and Arts Centre and the Friends of Baycourt to promote and share knowledge about the organ.

There have been many comments that the Mighty Wurlitzer sounds better than it ever has since its installation at Baycourt. It is proving a worthy asset, both to the theatre and to the people of Tauranga.

Monthly meetings are held for members and friends to play and listen to the Mighty Wurlitzer. We welcome anyone who is interested in theatre organ music to join us, all ages are welcome.

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If you would like more information visit [www.baycourt.co.nz](http://www.baycourt.co.nz)

...MUCH MORE THAN JUST AN ORGAN

