

assisted by The Office of Student Life

SILENT MOVIE NIGHT

featuring Robert Salisbury, organ

Friday, October 17th, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

MEMORIAL CHAPEL

The program tonight calls to mind the anniversary of World War I. The evening will begin with a short talk by Professor/Historian Dr. Larry Burgess. He will be introduced by Charlotte G. Burgess, Vice President and Dean of Student Life.

Frederick Swann, University Organist and Artist Teacher of Organ, will introduce the guest organist. Mr. Salisbury will proceed to play a brief "curtain raiser" based on the theme song from the movie *LILAC TIME*, following which he will speak briefly about the use of pipe organs in movie theaters during the silent film era.

LILAC TIME

DIRECTED by George Fitzmaurice

PRODUCED by Joseph M. Sehenck

WRITTEN by Jane Muffin and Jane Cowl

adapted from a book by Gary Fowler

CAST

Colleen Moore - Jeannine Berthelot

Gary Cooper - Captain Philip Blythe

The story is about young American aviators fighting for Britain during World War I who are billeted in a field next to a farmhouse in France. The daughter who lives on the farm meets one of the new aviators, and the romantic attraction is mutual. As the flyers head off on a mission, the young aviator promises to return to her.

RELEASE DATE

August 3, 1928

Robert (Bobby) Salisbury is one of a bare handful of organists who specialize in the art of accompanying silent movies. [Before the "talkies" came into being, many theaters had a pipe organ and an organist would improvise music to accompany the action on the screen.]

Bob first exhibited his interest in music at the age of 7 when he began piano lessons in Los Angeles. He moved on to organ lessons at the age of 10. When he was 13 Bob began the study of theater organ performance with the legendary theater organist Gaylord Carter. He quickly became a protégé of Mr. Carter and enjoyed a 45 year friendship that resulted in Bob being considered by many to be Mr. Carter's successor in the art of accompanying silent movies.

In his home town of Avalon, on Catalina Island, Bob played the Page Theater Pipe Organ on a nightly basis before the movies in the Casino theater, and he also played on occasion at the Avalon Community Church. Interestingly, Bob was an employee in the Sheriff's Department on the island, a rare position to be held by an organist!

Among the venues in which Bob has performed are many of the well-known theaters throughout Southern California. He has also been heard on TV shows, including the CBS series "Touched by An Angel." His credits as a composer include background scores for Disney Sea in Toyko.

Bob and his wife, Mary, are now semi-retired and living in Desert Hot Springs. He continues to play silent movies and concerts, and is organist and choirmaster for The United Church of Christ in Palm Desert. He is also a Product Specialist and instructor for the Church Keyboard Center in Glendale.

This year marks Bob's sixth performance at the University of Redlands.