



THE CAPITOL MORNING REPORT

A DAILY LISTING OF UPCOMING EVENTS AND OTHER NEWS FOR MEMBERS OF CALIFORNIA'S CAPITOL COMMUNITY...

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THE HUMAN SOUNDTRACK

By: [Tiffany Yasus](#), Capitol Morning Report

Silence is golden, unless you provide live musical accompaniment to silent films like **Dave Moreno**, a longtime theater organist from Sacramento. **Moreno** entertained an audience of about 100 people yesterday afternoon during the Music at Noon program, a free concert series held every Wednesday at Westminster Presbyterian Church at 13th & N Streets. **Moreno** played the "Mighty Moller Pipe Organ" to provide the score of two short films: "Two Tars" by Laurel & Hardy from 1929, and "Cops" by Buster Keaton from 1922. **Moreno** uses the organ to imitate the sounds of an orchestra like the trumpet, violin, flute and clarinet. But, he also creates sound effects by using various keys on the instrument and working the foot pedals. During yesterday's films, the audience heard sounds of a car horn, a barking dog and a train steam whistle, among many others. Both of **Moreno's** hands and feet move simultaneously, creating vivacious melodies and sounds that give characters depth and bring the action on the screen to life. "You have to move quickly or you'll miss the next scene," he exclaimed.

Moreno's interest in music began when he was ten years old and aspired to play every instrument in an orchestra. "But, then I heard a recording from Radio City Music Hall and heard all the instruments being played by one guy, and that sold me," he said. "It saved me all the work and hassle of trying to learn how to play every instrument." Yesterday was the third time **Moreno** has played for the Music at Noon series at the church ([click here](#) for video from 2012). Program Director **Brad Slocum** says he puts **Moreno** on the schedule every year because he's so well liked. "I sit back and I always look at the audience to see their reactions, and they're transported out of their everyday worlds and laugh," **Slocum** said. **Moreno** also performs at several pipe organ-equipped theaters across the state including the Bob Hope Theater in Stockton and Warnors Theater in Fresno. He also performs regularly at the silent film series at both Ironstone Vineyards and Winery in Murphys and Harmony Wynelands in Lodi. To prepare for a show, **Moreno** watches a film over and over again to pick out a theme, songs from the era, and appropriate sounds to



Top left: Dave Moreno at organ

match each moment on screen. He then practices a couple of hours a day on the theater organ in his living room.

Not only is **Moreno** a talented musician, he's also an organ technician and operates a company that designs, builds, installs and maintains pipe organs, especially theater organs, throughout the state. In addition to his engaging stage presence and delightful sense of humor, there are two other traits he credits for being such a great musician. "Intense interest and dedication," he said. "If you don't have those two, you'll be in trouble."

[Music at Noon](#) continues next week with pianist **Melanie Bietz**. Contact: Slocum, 916 442 8939 X315.