

# RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.



## The Sound of the Silents at RTOS David Peckham Accompanying WINGS



### David Peckham

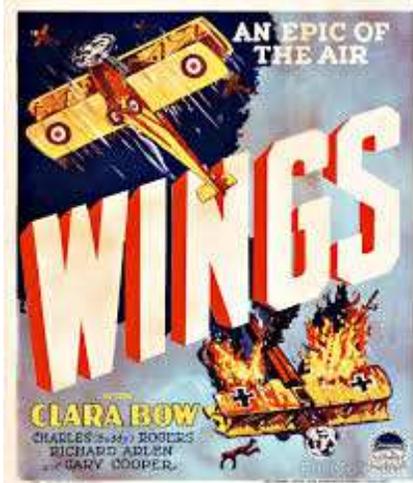
Auditorium Theatre  
885 E. Main St  
Sunday, October 16, 2016  
2:30 PM  
(Doors open 45 min early)

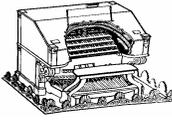
**David Peckham** has been entertaining RTOS audiences since 1974 when he played at our 10th Anniversary Gala at age 13. The upcoming program will mark his 14th appearance on the RTOS organs. David began studying piano, then organ, while in grade school. He studied at the Eastman School of Music with Dr. David Craighead and theatre organ with Don Kinnier.

David has performed on nearly every major theater organ in the US as well as tours of Australia, Canada, and the UK. He has served as house organist on the 4/27 Marr & Colton at the Clemens Center in Elmira since 1977 and has been the organist for the First United Methodist Church in Horseheads, NY since 1985. David owns his own company which services and refurbishes pipe organs throughout western New York and northern Pennsylvania. Most recently David was named 2016 Theatre Organist of the Year by the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) at its national convention this past July.

**Wings** is a 1927 American silent war film set during the First World War directed by William A. Wellman. It stars Clara Bow, Charles "Buddy" Rogers, Richard Arlen and Gary Cooper appears in a role which helped launch his career in Hollywood.

The film, a romantic action-war picture, was rewritten from a story by John Monk Saunders to accommodate Clara Bow, Paramount's biggest star at the time. Wellman was hired as he had World War I combat pilot experience, although Richard Arlen and Saunders had also served in the war as military aviators. The film was shot on location on a budget of \$2 million at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. Hundreds of extras and some 300 pilots were involved in the filming, including pilots and planes of the United States Army Air Corps which were brought in for the filming and to provide assistance and supervision. Wellman extensively rehearsed the scenes for the Battle of Saint-Mihiel over ten days with some 3500 infantrymen on a battlefield made for the production on location. (*'WINGS' continues on page 4*)



**Rochester Theater Organ Society  
(Founded 1964)**

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Concerts &amp; Info: (585) 234-2295

<http://www.rtosonline.org>**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ken Veneron

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Membership (from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31)

Full: \$65.00

Associate: (50+ miles from Roch): \$45.00

Student (age 18-24 with ID): \$35.00

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**MEMBERSHIP NEWS***by Ken Veneron*

Ted McWharf (artist record sales) and I (membership table) are working on getting a credit card (Square) processing system for our operations at RTOS concerts. It will work off of our cell phones. We hope to have it available for our October concert!

Visit the RTOS website frequently for the latest news and information. find us at:

[www.rtosonline.org](http://www.rtosonline.org)

**A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

The new season of concerts began a bit early—late August. This was due to the Auditorium Theater being fully booked for the month of September. We are always happy when the Theater does well, but it makes our programming much more difficult!

There were about 250 enthusiastic audience members to hear a spirited performance by Ken

Double. Ken came to town early so that he could participate in checking out hotels and organ venues for the 2019 ATOS convention which RTOS will sponsor. We visited two local hotels, Shea's Buffalo Theater, Riviera Performing Arts Center (PAC), Clemens PAC in Elmira, and the First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca. We are very close to signing a contract with a local hotel in downtown Rochester. Other possible venues will be the First Universalist Church in Rochester (Hope-Jones Opus 2), Syracuse, and Rome. We'll have more to say next month.



*Ken Double presents August 2016 concert.*

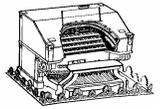
*Photo by Greg Spring.*

We are very pleased to announce an addition to the RTOS Board of Directors. Bob Bower will bring a fresh perspective to our planning and I thank him for agreeing to join the Board.

Several of our RTOS members were at the dedication concert of Jon Ortloff's Opus 1 at St. Joseph Church in Penfield. Jon is a graduate of the U of R and the Eastman School of Music. He has served on our Board and now is President of his own organ building company. The concert and the instrument were greatly successful. The church will have regular organ concerts on the second Friday of most months. Check their website for more [details: [www.stjosephspenfield.org](http://www.stjosephspenfield.org)].

Be sure to put our next concert on your calendar and tell your friends. David Peckham will play a score for the silent film *Wings* (1927). This film won the very first Academy Award for "Best Picture."

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**SUPPORT RTOS THROUGH AMAZON SMILE!**

*by Chris Van Stean*

Do you shop Amazon? Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to a charitable organization of your choice. To direct your support to RTOS, Type:

[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)

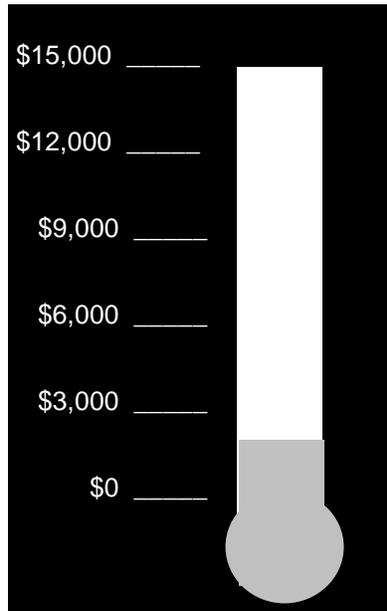
in your web browser and enter "Rochester Theater Organ Society" as your charity. you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to RTOS. Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know—same products, same prices, same service. Every time you shop Amazon Smile you can provide additional support to RTOS. Thank you for your consideration!

**RTOS 2016 FALL FUNDS DRIVE**

As was announced at the August concert and further explained in President Law's letter, our 2016 drive to raise the dollars needed to keep RTOS solvent is now underway and will run through the end of December.

This year's goal is set at \$15,000.00. As of September 20th the total amount received stands at:

**\$2674.00**



**HELP RTOS FILL THE SEATS!**

Help us promote the October 16th program! After all these years RTOS remains Rochester's best kept musical secret. Our budget does not allow us to purchase paid advertising. You, our members, are our best hope to spread the word. Please go to:

[WWW.RTOSONLINE.ORG](http://WWW.RTOSONLINE.ORG)

Download the poster, print some copies and spread the word at your church, school or shops.

**IN MEMORIAM LORRAINE STETTS**

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Lorraine Stetts, 84, of Loyalsock (Williamsport), PA on Saturday, August 27, 2016. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Stetts, of 43 years in 2014. She is survived by a son, Robert Gregg Stetts of West Chester; two grandchildren; three great grandchildren.

She was a 1949 graduate of Hughesville High School and retired from Schnadig Corporation after 32 years of service. Lorraine was a member of Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist Church. She was active in many clubs, among them are: Antique Automobile Club of America, Susquehannock Region of AACA, Classic Thunderbird Club, Vintage Thunderbird Club, American Theatre Organ Society, Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society, and Rochester Theatre Organ Society.

Lorraine and Jim were Honorary Members of RTOS and were among our most enthusiastic and loyal members. For many years they welcomed guests into their home to enjoy their beautiful Wurlitzer Theatre Organ. Most recently 45 RTOS members visited there in the fall of 2015 Fall Foliage bus trip..

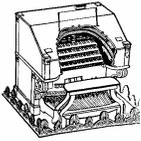
A celebration of Lorraine's life was held on Sept. 2, 2016.

The family suggests memorial contributions in Lorraine's name be made to the Lycoming County SPCA, 2801 Reach Road, Williamsport, PA 17701

**CASH OR CHARGE??**



In his 'Membership News' column, Ken Veneron mentioned that RTOS will begin accepting credit cards for membership fees, CD sales, etc beginning with our October 16th concert. If you plan on using your card at the concerts, please have a bit of patience as this is a new venture for us and there may be a bit of a learning curve for Ken and Ted.



**Rochester Theater  
Organ Society**  
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Rochester, NY 14617-0114

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Bob Bower, *Director*  
David Higgs, *Director*  
Rick McCutchan, *Director*  
Tim Schramm, *Director, Programs*  
Greg Spring, *Director*  
Russ Shaner, *Past-President*

**RTOS EVENTS**

Auditorium Theatre, 885 E. Main St.  
*All artists and dates subject to change*

David Peckham acc. 'Wings'	Oct 16	2:30PM
Jelani Eddington	Nov 13	2:30PM
Tim Schramm & Friends	Dec 11	2:30PM

Note: Artists and dates are subject to change  
**Check the RTOS website often for latest information on 2017 dates and artists**

Rochester Museum & Science Center  
Eisenhart Auditorium, East Ave. & Goodman St.

**Open Console**

*Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4 PM*

Oct 23    Nov 6    Dec 18

*"Open Console" is when members are given a time slot to play one of the Society's theater pipe organs. Come to play, or enjoy the sound.*

**UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS**

**Riviera Theatre & Organ Preservation Society**

Artist 'TBA' Wednesday, October 5, 7:30 PM—\$10.00  
(3/15 Wurlitzer) 67 Webster St, N Tonawanda  
Box Office: (716) 692-2413. Info: <http://www.rivieratheatre.org/>

**Empire State Theatre & Musical Instrument Museum (ESTMIM)**

**Steven Ball/silent film Oct. 16, 3:00 pm**  
(3/11 Wurlitzer) 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse (315) 687-3580  
<http://www.empiretheatre.org/index.htm>

**Kingston Theatre Organ Society (KTOS)**

**Check their website for further details**  
Kingston Korean Church 89 Kirkpatrick St., Kingston, ON, CA  
(3/28 Kimball) Info/ticketing: <http://ktos.ca/>

**Toronto Theatre Organ Society (TTOS)**

**Check their website for further details**  
Concerts at: Casa Loma, 1 Austin Terrace, Toronto ON, CA  
(4/21 Wurlitzer) Tickets: (416) 492-6262 email: [box-office@ttos.ca](mailto:box-office@ttos.ca)  
Info/ticketing: <http://theatreorgans.com/toronto/>

**Binghamton Theatre Organ Society**

**Jim Ford / Phantom of the Opera Sat, Oct 29, 8:30 PM - \$20**  
236 Washington St, Binghamton, NY. Box Office (716) 692-2413.  
Info/ticketing: <http://www.binghamtontos.org/>

*('WINGS' continued from page 1)*

Although the cast and crew had much spare time during the filming because of weather delays, shooting conditions were intense, and Wellman frequently conflicted with the military officers brought in to supervise the picture.

Acclaimed for its technical prowess and realism upon release, the film became the yardstick against which future aviation films were measured, mainly because of its realistic air-combat sequences. It went on to win the first Academy Award for Best Picture at the first annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award ceremony in 1929, the only fully silent film to do so. It also won the Academy Award for Best Engineering Effects (Roy Pomeroy). *Wings* was one of the first to show two men kissing (in a fraternal moment between Rogers and Arlen during the deathbed finale), and also one of the first widely released films to show nudity. In 1997, *Wings* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant", and the film was re-released to Cinemark theaters to coincide with the 85th Anniversary for a limited run in May 2012. The Academy Film Archive preserved *Wings* in 2002. *(Text from Wikipedia, used with permission)*