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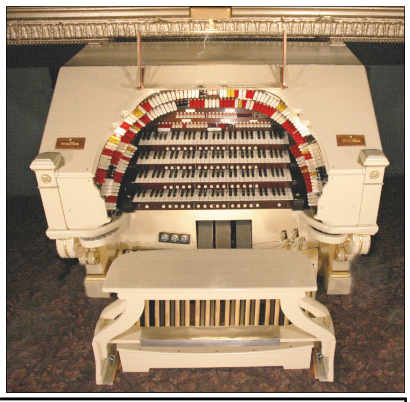
RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.



Jerry Nagano Returns to RTOS For His Lucky 7th Appearance

Jerry Nagano

Designed in Japan,
Assembled in America

Jerry Nagano was born and raised in the Los Angeles area where he began his musical training at age ten. From the very beginning the movies played a major role in his musical life. It was because of attending a silent movie show accompanied by the Theater Pipe Organ that Jerry took an interest in the organ. After instruction on electronic organ for a period, he had a chance to study with organist Gaylord Carter, the very person who played for that silent film years before.

During his college years, Jerry was also the organist at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium playing their famed Reginald Foort/BBC Moller Pipe organ. Friendships were made which led to instruction with Carter, Gordon Kibbee, and much later with the late Tom Hazleton.

For ten years he was the featured artist at Ye Olde Pizza Joynt in San Lorenzo, the original home of the "Wurlitzer in the Pizza Parlor" concept. Since the Pizza Joynt days,

Jerry Nagano
Auditorium Theatre
885 E. Main St.
Sunday, June 24, 2018
2:30 PM
(Doors open 45 min early)

Jerry has played at the Stanford Theater in Palo Alto where Classic Hollywood is screened nightly with intermissions performed on the Mighty Wurlitzer. Recent additions include duties at the Oakland Paramount and the California Theatre in San Jose, playing not only the 4 manual auditorium organ but the fabulous 2/10 Style 216 Wurlitzer in the California's lobby. Patrons of the San Jose Opera, and Symphony Silicon Valley regularly dance their way to their seats to the rhythmic beat of the Wurlitzer organ. In 2017 he was named Theater Organist of the Year by the American Theatre Organ Society.

Aside from his busy musical life, during the day Jerry is a Computer Systems Engineer for Stanford University.

In 1979 the RTOS Program Chairman "discovered" Jerry when he played the Wurlitzer theatre organ installed in the Joe Koons motorcycle repair shop in California during that year's Los Angeles ATOS National Convention. Jerry was immediately invited to play for RTOS and performed his first Rochester concert in September of 1980. Five more visits to RTOS over the span of 38 years bring us to 2018 as we welcome Jerry back for his seventh RTOS appearance.

Note: attendees at next year's ATOS National Convention will have another opportunity to hear Jerry performing on the RTOS-Grierson Wurlitzer in July of 2019 as a featured performer of the convention.

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To direct your support to RTOS, type: smile.amazon.com in your web browser and enter "**Rochester Theater Organ Society**" as your charity.

Do you use Facebook? Help us publicize RTOS:
Visit our page (*Rochester Theatre Organ Society*) and 'Like' us.
Post our concert posters on your Facebook page.

Visit the RTOS website. Find us at: **www.rtosonline.org**

JUST $1

Help RTOS keep the music playing. If everyone drops $1 into a donation box at each concert it will pay the yearly cost for the *Blower* & Concert Programs.

A Letter from your President

It was delightful to hear Brett Valliant's concert in the comfort of the air-conditioned Auditorium Theatre in May. While the A/C equipment is not a permanent fixture of the building, RBTL brings in a temporary unit each year. It is very much appreciated.
Brett's concert was lively and fresh. We enjoyed a wide variety of selections including some very well performed classical numbers and a patriotic salute to Memorial Day. Many of the tunes were 'first timers' for the RTOS audience and were made even more enjoyable by his carefully chosen use of the organ's wide array of percussion instruments and effects. I think that Brett's many years of playing the 82 rank Wurlitzer at the famous Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, AZ has been a big help in the development of his orchestral skills.

Since its beginning RTOS has depended on volunteers to maintain and tune our Wurlitzers. Now, many of us have difficulty climbing the ladders to the pipe chambers, and last year our long-time tuning crew had to retire. We have a good group of "new" volunteers who are learning the "tricks of the trade". Additionally, Jeff Vincent and John Lukes have stepped up to perform the painstaking but essential tuning duties. With the 2019 convention closing in on us, we must keep the organs in first class condition during the coming year. With this in mind, your Board has agreed to contract with David Peckham to provide overview of tuning and maintenance needs. He will also tutor our new volunteers in the fine art of caring for our treasure.

As we come to the end of our 54th concert series, I would like to recognize the fantastic group of individuals who volunteer to keep RTOS one of the finest theatre organ clubs anywhere. No, I'm not going to name names. If you are an RTOS member and read our publications and attend and enjoy our concerts, you pretty much know who I'm talking about. It takes a lot of people to keep things going. Starting with your Officers and Directors, who map the course and often do double and triple duty, and whose efforts would be useless without the many individuals who make the magic happen. The many "pieces" of RTOS include finance, membership, secretarial, maintenance and tuning, publications, programming, artist hosting, ticket sales, security/ushering, library, social, concert recording, video production, CD sales, concert lighting, archives and probably some I have missed mentioning. I sincerely thank each and every one.

I would also like to thank our landlords and hosts, the Rochester Broadway Theatre League. It is through their generosity and good graces that RTOS has been able to enjoy its home in the beautiful Auditorium Theatre for more than 50 years. Thank you to John and Linda and their staff and to our stage manager, Gary Zaccaria and his crew. We couldn't do it without them.

Be sure to attend the last concert of the 2017-18 season on June 24th as one of our all-time favorite artists, **Jerry Nagano** returns to RTOS for his lucky 7th appearance.

Have a great summer.

Paul A. Law
paullaw018@gmail.com
585-755-4144

More Information on the 2019 Convention

Submitted by Chris Van Stean

Were you at last month's concert? Did you see the ATOS convention video? Did you read the information on the inside page of your program? Here is some more information about how an ATOS Convention "works"!

It is important to note that while RTOS is hosting this event for ATOS, RTOS is not a member organization of ATOS. According to their rules, all attendees must actually be dues paying members of ATOS.

Our goal as hosts will be to bring recognition to the wonderful organs available in this area, as well as to have RTOS benefit financially in bringing the convention to Rochester. In order to attend the whole convention, individual RTOS members must join ATOS. The RTOS member cost for ATOS membership will be announced this summer. The best rate for convention attendance will be during early bird registration which begins next January. Rates will increase after that. We will let you know the actual costs when they are finalized.

Registrations will be in three sections. In addition to the main convention registration for the evening of June 30 – July 4th, the Pre-Glow registration will be for Sunday, June 30, and the After-Glow registration will be for July 5. Attendees may also sign up for the optional banquet. You may register for 1, 2 or 3 parts and the banquet with your ATOS membership.

If you are unable to attend the whole convention, but are interested in the Auditorium held concerts, they will be open to RTOS members and to the general public for approximately $20 each. The evening concert in Elmira will also be open to the public for about the same price.

Volunteer bus captains and artist drivers (who do not register for the entire convention) will be able to enjoy the concerts at that day's events at no charge. We will need approximately 8 bus captains for Tuesday in Buffalo and North Tonawanda, and for Wednesday in Elmira . Please let one of the Convention Committee members know if you are interested in driving artists or being a bus captain.

One of the benefits of membership in ATOS is the bimonthly journal "Theatre Organ", which starting later this year will feature articles on the organs and venues for our upcoming convention. We encourage you to find out more about ATOS by going to their website at: www.atos.org

Library News

Submitted by Greg Spring

It's inventory time. If you have any items checked out of the RTOS library, please remember to return them at the June 24th concert.

Postal Service FYI...

Submitted by Ken Veneron

As a further reminder from last month's column, it is important that members keep us advised if their address changes, even for a short time (such as wintering in Florida, etc).

Please call Ken Veneron (585) 261-0119 cell or (585) 468-1052 ahead of time if you are moving or will be having first class mail forwarded, even temporarily.

Thanks for your cooperation!

It's A Boy!

Congratulations to our *Blower* editor, Laura Finger and husband Tom on the arrival of the newest member of the Grierson family. Daniel Laurence Finger arrived at 6:58pm on 5/27. He was 6 lbs 10oz and 21 inches long.

Laura is taking a well deserved break from her editing duties. We look forward to her return later this year.

Laura is the Great Granddaughter of RKO Palace organist Tom Grierson, Granddaughter of former RTOS Director Jack Grierson and Niece of former RTOS President, John Grierson. We can't wait to welcome Daniel into the RTOS family in a few years.

1928 - In the Beginning!

Submitted by Russ Shaner

At this time 90 years ago construction of Rochester's RKO Palace Theater was well underway on North Clinton Av. 76 miles west in North Tonawanda at the Wurlitzer factory, components that would become Opus 1951 were being assembled. On December 25th, 1928, Tom Grierson brought the massive white and gold 4 manual console into the spotlight. The rest is, of course, our history.

Where are next year's concert dates?

Submitted by Russ Shaner

Yes, your Program Chairman has fallen a bit behind in setting up the dates and artists for our 55th concert season. I managed to get September booked but I'm still negotiating with RBTL for dates for the rest of the season. As soon as the dates are set and the artists are booked, we will post the information on the RTOS website. Check at: www.rtosonline.org

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Ken Veneron, *Director, Membership*
Ken Wilson, *Director*

RTOS EVENTS

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

Jerry Nagano	**Jun 24**	**2:30 PM**
Dan Minervini	Sep 9	2:30 PM

Note: Artists and dates are subject to change
Check the RTOS website often for latest information on 2017-2018 dates and artists.

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

Open Console
Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4 PM

2018 Dates

Jun 17	*Sep 16*	*Dec 16*
Jul 15	*Oct 21*	
Aug 19	*Nov 25*	

"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 music.

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Riviera Theatre & Organ Preservation Society (RTOPS)
(3/15 Wurlitzer) 67 Webster St, N Tonawanda, NY
Box Office: (716) 692-2413. Info: http://www.rivieratheatre.org/

Empire State Theatre & Musical Instrument Museum (ESTMIM)
(3/11 Wurlitzer) 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse (315) 687-3580
Info: http://www.empiretheatre.org/index.htm

Kingston Theatre Organ Society (KTOS)
Kingston Korean Church 89 Kirkpatrick St., Kingston, ON, CA
Info: (3/28 Kimball) Info/ticketing: http://ktos.ca/

Toronto Theatre Organ Society (TTOS)
Concerts currently held at: St. Andrew's United Church,
117 Bloor St. East, Toronto ON, CA. Check website for details.
Tickets: (416) 492-6262 email: box-office@ttos.ca
Info/ticketing: http://theatreorgans.com/toronto/

Binghamton Theatre Organ Society (BTOS)
236 Washington St, Binghamton, NY. Box Office (716) 692-2413.
Info/ticketing: http://www.binghamtontos.org/

Please visit the web sties for these venues for the latest information for their upcoming 2018 concert season

2019 Convention News

Submitted by Paul Law

Attendees of the recent Brett Valliant concert were given an opportunity to preview the promotional video that will be shown to attendees of this year's ATOS convention in Pasadena, CA. The ten minute long presentation begins with the historic 5th ATOS National Convention held in Buffalo and Rochester in 1964, then introduces viewers to Rochester with a stunning series of photos of area attractions. Next the week-long event is described and pictured beginning with the Sunday in-town preglow followed by a day-by-day rundown of the venues and artists that will be presented throughout the week including the July 5th afterglow trip to Niagara Falls and North Tonawanda.

Following its presentation at next month's convention the video will be available to be viewed by local ATOS chapters and online in hopes of boosting attendance for next year. The video was conceived, produced and directed by Ted McWharf and Russ Shaner and created by local video engineer Greg Winter. Tim Schramm composed and performed the music score on the RTOS - Grierson Wurlitzer. The script was written and narrated by ATOS's Ken Double. They will accompany and narrate the video live in Pasadena.