

# RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.



## Clark Wilson Accompanies Harold Lloyd's *The Freshman* (1925)

**Clark Wilson** is one of the most recognized scorers of silent photoplays in America today. He works exclusively with the organ in developing accurate and historic musical accompaniments as they were performed in major picture palaces during the heyday of the silent film.

Clark was personally influenced by and became close friends with Chicago area organist John Muri, who was an original master of picture accompaniment and practiced his art well into the 1980s. His (and Wilson's) historic style was that of utilizing fine music as a basis for developing a score of musical value. If the original score is no longer extant, a new one is prepared from the organist's library and is normally transferred to a cue sheet – somewhat of a “road map” of suggested themes and notated screen actions which keep the organist fully on course. The development of themes in serious pictures is obtained exclusively in this way, and it must be considered the truest way to properly underscore screen action. Nothing is left to chance and wholesale improvisation is not relied upon. Further, the musical style of the time remains intact; no attempt is made to distract from the picture by using themes or styles that entered the musical



### Clark Wilson

Auditorium Theatre  
885 E. Main St.  
**Sunday, May 26, 2019**  
**2:30 PM**  
(Doors open 45 min early)

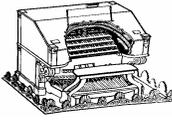
scene years later. Most important of all, the film remains the focus and star of the performance.

Clark began his scoring career in 1980 and has toured North America with hundreds of film presentations at schools and universities, performing arts centers, theatres, film festivals, and conventions. His work has led to performances for UCLA, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences where he reprised “Wings” for Paramount Studios’ 100th Anniversary, the Chautauqua Institution, Cinequest and San Francisco film festivals, the Los Angeles Conservancy, the Packard Foundation’s

Stanford Theatre film series, the Atlanta premier of the restored “Metropolis,” and annual presentations at the Atlanta Fox Theatre and for the Los Angeles Philharmonic Society at the Walt Disney Concert Hall organ. He is the organist of choice for many ATOS silent film presentations, and has scored pictures for Kino International for public DVD release. His performances have received the highest marks from colleagues and professionals, one commenting “the finest use of a theatre pipe organ that I have ever heard.”

Clark has been organ conservator and Resident Organist at the Ohio Theatre for the Columbus Associate for the Performing Arts since 1992 and is responsible for all music during the annual classic movie series, which also features one or more major silent films each season. In addition, he has led courses in theatre organ styling and silent film accompaniment at the Indiana University School of Music. He has now developed curriculum and been appointed to the organ faculty at the University of Oklahoma's Organ Department, where he teaches applied theatre organ lessons, silent film scoring, and the history of the American theatre organ, the first such

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

PO Box 17114  
Rochester, NY 14617  
Concerts & Info: (585) 234-2295  
<http://www.rtosonline.org>

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ken Veneron  
48 N. State St.  
Nunda, NY 14517  
(585) 468-1052  
423rtos@rochester.rr.com

Membership (from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31)  
Full: \$75.00  
Assoc.: (50+ miles from Roch): \$55.00  
Student (age 18-24 with ID): \$45.00

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To direct your support to RTOS,  
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**JUST \$1**

Help RTOS keep the music play-  
ing. If everyone drops \$1 into a dona-  
tion box at each concert it will pay the  
yearly cost for our publications

Harold Lamb is so excited about going to college that he has been working to earn spending money, practicing college yells, and learning a special way of introducing himself that he saw in a movie. When he arrives at Tate University, he soon becomes the target of practical jokes and ridicule. With the help of his one real friend Peggy, he resolves to make every possible effort to become popular.



**CLARK WILSON**  
(continued from Page 1)

program to exist since 1929. In addition to several articles published in *Theatre Organ* magazine, he has recently authored an article on film scoring for *The American Organist* (AGO).

Clark has been named in numerous Who's Who and Men of Achievement editions and was presented with the ATOS Organist of the Year award in 1998. An acclaimed organ technician and consultant, he has been involved with over 200 pipe organ installations to date and has earned the ATOS Technician of Merit award, the only person to receive both ATOS distinctions.



**YOUR PRESIDENT SPEAKS**



Recently, we heard a delightful concert by Justin Stahl. He is a great example of the younger generation providing enjoyable programs featuring contemporary music.

This shows how adaptable the theater pipe organ can be to changing times and tastes.

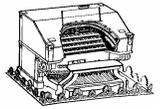
As of late April, we have 375 people registered for the 2019 ATOS Annual Convention. This represents an excellent response to our program planning. Shea's Buffalo, Rochester and Elmira are all strong attractions, as are the premier performers we have engaged.

Our ranks of seasoned organ technicians has dwindled over the past few years. Some are having difficulty with the long vertical climb to the chambers and the gymnastics involved in climbing over and under pipe chests in the chambers. Your Board has decided to engage the professional services of David Peckham of Peckham Organ company in Elmira, to tune and to assist and oversee our volunteers in doing the maintenance that is needed on a regular basis. Obviously, the cost will be higher than the volunteer labor we have depended on for over 55 years, but maintaining our iconic Wurlitzer in top condition is essential to continuing RTOS as a first class operation.

Please remember to renew your membership. We need to receive your support to keep the music playing. Hoping to see you on May 26th for Clark Wilson as he accompanies *The Freshman*.

Paul A. Law

paullaw018@gmail.com  
585-755-4144



## FOR SALE



1904 Steinway upright piano, good condition. \$7000 or best offer. Contact Steve at (585) 953-5942.

## ARE YOU SPRING CLEANING?

Do you have closets and shelves filled with old theatre organ LP records and CDs that you no longer play? Perhaps you have transferred your favorite albums to tape or digitized them on the computer, or have simply tired of them but you just can't bring yourself to dispense with them.

There is a great opportunity for you to help these items find new homes and help RTOS at the same time. During the upcoming convention, RTOS will operate a 'store' where we will sell new theatre organ CDs along with gently used LPs, CDs, and cassette tapes to attendees, all donated by you.

Please confine your donations to theatre organ-related items that are in good, playable condition. Save your Frank Sinatra and Mantovani LPs for your summer yard sale. We will have a drop-off area at the May and June concerts in the lobby.

We thank you in advance for your donations!!

## SPRING ROAD TRIP TO BINGHAMTON

by Bob Bower

I had the opportunity to visit fellow pipe organ parts collector Dave Clark on Sunday, April 7. He mentioned when we talked that he had a theater organ concert to attend that afternoon. I looked it up and found our own Alex Jones playing at the Forum Theater as part of the Binghamton Theater Organ Society program. So, on Sunday morning, Ken Wilson and I, along with my parents, loaded up in the truck and were on our way. I met with Dave Clark and relieved him of some of his collection. I asked Dave for a lunch suggestion and he sent us to Cortese Restaurant, a great Italian restaurant with half portions for everything. The food was yummy and the prices were very reasonable.

Then it was off to the Forum. As we walked in the door we were immediately greeted by Alex and Nancy Wildoner. We entered a very nice theater and started to read about the Robert-Morton organ. It has 4 keyboards and over 1700 pipes, and was originally built in 1922 for the Denver Theater. The organ was moved to Binghamton and played its first concert in the Forum in 1978.

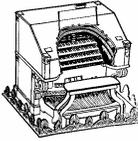
Alex played a wonderful concert. He spoke of a ghost in the relay that every now and then when you push a piston you just get air noise and we all got a chance to experience it a few times during the performance. There



was also a significant air leak associated with the swell shades of the one chamber. However, the organ sounded great. In talking to Nancy afterwards, she told me there were little problems here and there, but Alex found a way to play around them and we all got a fantastic experience.

Binghamton Theater Organ Society puts on 4 programs a year and focuses on silent movies. They bring in a touring artist once a year and rely on grants to get that performer. Alex was that artist this year. Next season they are running the movies *Phantom* on Oct 27, the movie *Safety Last!* on Dec 29, an artist TBA on Feb 9, and Pop Pipes: *Women* on May 10. The web site is BinghamtonTOS.org.

Long and short, a visit to Binghamton to hear the Robert - Morton is worth the trip!



**Rochester Theater  
Organ Society**  
P.O. Box 17114  
Rochester, NY 14617-0114

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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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. Please check out our website for latest information.*

**Clark Wilson - Silent Movie May 26 2:30 PM**  
Ron Rhode Jun 16 2:30 PM

**UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS**

**Riviera Theatre & Organ Preservation Society (RTOS)**  
(3/15 Wurlitzer) 67 Webster St, N Tonawanda, NY  
Box Office: (716) 692-2413. Info: <http://www.rivieratheatre.org/>  
Upcoming: Greg Gurtner, 8/7/19 (7:30 PM). Free - donations accepted

**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>  
Upcoming: Dennis James accompanying "Wings" (1927), 6/2/19 (2:30 PM)

**Kingston Theatre Organ Society (KTOS)**  
Kingston Korean Church 89 Kirkpatrick St., Kingston, ON, CA  
Info: (3/28 Kimball) Info/ticketing: <http://ktos.ca/>  
Upcoming: Lance Luce, 5/10/19 (7:30 PM)

**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 2019 concert season

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

**Open Console**

Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4 PM

May 19	Jul 21	Sep 15	Nov 17
Jun 9	Aug 18	Oct 20	Dec 22

*"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.*

**FREE TO GOOD HOME**

Baldwin CT100 Orgasonic purchased new in the 70's. Everything on it works. All electronic, no tubes. The person or group interested in obtaining this organ would need to supply the mover at their expense to move it from my home to the new home. Please contact Bruce Holroyd at 585-953-2051 or BAHolroyd@aol.com

**Pedal Stops**  
Diaphone 16  
Bourdon 16  
Flute 8  
Piano Bass

**Accompaniment Stops**  
Horn Diapason 8  
Flute 8  
Tibia Clausa 8  
Dulciana 8  
Tuba 8  
Flute 4  
Violin 4

**Solo Stops**  
Tibia 16  
Post Horn 16  
Muted Reed 16  
Tibia 8  
Salicional 8  
Saxophone 8  
Clarinet 8  
Oboe 8  
Kinura 8  
Tibia 4  
Salicet 4  
Quint Flute 2 2/3  
Piccolo 2

**Percussion Stops**  
Marimba  
Mandolin  
Banjo  
Solo Piano  
Vibra Harp  
Harp Celeste  
String  
Chimes

*Also has*  
Bass Drum, Brush, Symbol,  
Clave, Snare Drum, Temple Block  
Wood Block, Bongo, Snare Drum