

RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.
Published monthly September through June (exc. Jan. and April)



Hector Olivera Opens Our 52nd Season of Concerts

Maestro **Hector Olivera** is a passionate, gifted, and unique musician, whose personal interpretations of both classical and popular music have amazed and delighted audiences around the world.

Born in Buenos Aires, Mr. Olivera's first teacher (who was his father) encouraged him to begin playing the pipe organ when he was three. Two years later, he was appointed organist of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. At six, he entered the Buenos Aires Conservatory to study harmony, counterpoint and fugue. Beginning to learn the art of improvisation there, by nine, he had composed a suite for oboe and string orchestra, which was performed by the Buenos Aires Symphony Orchestra.

At age twelve, Mr. Olivera entered the University of Buenos Aires. By eighteen, he had performed more than three hundred concerts throughout Latin America, appearing frequently on Argentinean radio and television. During this time, he also served for three years as the senior improvisational



Hector Olivera

Auditorium Theatre
885 E. Main St

**Sunday, September 13, 2015
2:30 PM**

accompanist for the Collegium Musicum in Buenos Aires, vastly increasing his prodigious improvisational talent.

In 1965, the Juilliard School of Music offered him a scholarship, for which he immediately moved to the United States to study. Three years later, Mr. Olivera won the National Improvisation Contest sponsored by the American Guild of Organists,

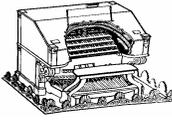
thereby launching his professional concert career.

Mr. Olivera has performed as guest soloist with orchestras throughout the world. He also consults on the design of Rodgers and Roland organs worldwide. Inspired by his love for the French pipe organ, he designed an organ, the 'Rodgers Trillium Masterpiece', for the purpose of touring.

Mr. Olivera continues to thrill audiences with both solo classical literature and his own orchestral transcriptions, now released on DVD and more than 20 classical, contemporary, and film score CDs.

Although most famous for his prodigious technical proficiency, Mr. Olivera's amazing effect on audiences has made many of the most sophisticated and demanding organ aficionados claim that Maestro Hector Olivera is "*one of the greatest organists in the world today.*"

Hector Olivera has appeared for RTOS a total of 7 times between 1973 (early in his career) and 1999. He recorded one of his first LP albums, *Pieces of Dreams*, here in the 1970s.

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

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

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

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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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Russ Shaner

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**MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

by Ken Veneron

Membership is now accepting
2016 Renewals. Renew early
and avoid the Christmas rush!

**A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

It's been an exciting summer due to the ATOS National Convention in the Philadelphia area. Ten tour buses took 470 attendees from here to there and back again. Sometimes I think we spent as much time on the bus as we did in our hotel rooms.

We heard some quite small organs and also the largest two pipe organs in the world—Macy's and Board Walk Hall. I counted at least ten Rochester folks in attendance—four from your RTOS Board. Also of note was the list of featured artists. Of the eighteen who performed for us, nine have graced our Wurlitzer in the past two years. Not a bad record which demonstrates that RTOS members hear the very best theater organ artists in the US, UK, and Australia.

Please carefully read the enclosed letter which discusses our current financial situation and the future of RTOS.

Paul Law

THE EDITOR IS BACK!

by *Laura Finger*

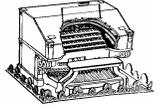
My many thanks go out to Russ Shaner and Paul Law for coordinating the production of the *Blower* since the first of this year!! Michael decided to make his entrance into the world on 1/19 (wasn't due till 3 weeks later on 2/9) and its been quite an experience ever since! Now that he is sleeping through the night, Mama is feeling better rested and able to resume working on the *Blower*. Michael is a very observant little boy and seems quite interested in music, so I look forward to his reaction to our 4/23 Wurlitzer upon which his great-great grandfather (Tom Grierson), great-grandfather (Jack Grierson), and great-uncle (John Grierson) played or maintained during their lifetimes.



Michael's 6 month portrait

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Do you shop on Amazon.com? Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. Support RTOS by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com and select Rochester Theater Organ Society as your charity. 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!



**RTOS PROUDLY ANNOUNCES:
51ST CONCERT SERIES**
BY RUSS SHANER

For more than fifty years RTOS has brought the world's finest Theatre Organ Artists to Rochester to perform on one of the world's most highly acclaimed theatre organs. From Mildred Alexander to George Wright, nearly 180 artists have entertained Rochester audiences in nearly 500 public performances since 1964. Undoubtedly more than any other theatre organ club.

Your officers and directors remain committed to continuing this long-standing tradition of seeking out and engaging the 'best-in-the-business' as we announce our selected performers for the 2015 - 2016 concert series.

September 13, 2015

Hector Olivera - the 'Maestro' himself will begin the season in a special event performance to kick-off our Fall fund-raising campaign. This will be the 8th RTOS appearance for one of our all time favorite performers.

October 4, 2015

Nathan Avakian - We are thrilled to welcome Nathan back for his third RTOS performance. Winner of the ATOS Young Organists competition in 2009, Nathan's innovative, modern approach to theatre organ is exciting audiences nationwide.

November 8, 2015

John Ledwon - John will be making his first RTOS appearance. A staff organist at Disney's El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, he will feature a variety of musical styles including Disney favorites. John encourages everyone to bring young people to his concerts as he has a special knack of appealing to their interests.

December 13, 2015

Tim Schramm - Yes! Tim and his friends will return for another Christmas spectacular. Tim is working very hard to bring holiday joy to RTOS as he brings back this beloved biennial event. A great way for the entire family to begin the Holiday season.

January, 2016

Open Console on the 4/23 - although a date has not yet been booked, we plan on holding an open console session on the 4/23 in January.

February 21, 2016

Justin Stahl - A talented and innovative young organist, Justin received a standing ovation for his outstanding performance at the 2014 ATOS annual convention. This will be his debut RTOS concert.



**RTOS 'AUTUMN LEAVES'
FALL BUS TRIP**



Join your RTOS friends for a fall bus trip to Williamsport, PA on Saturday, October 17th. Our destination is the music room at the home of RTOS Honorary Member Lorraine Stetts for an informal afternoon of music played on Lorraine's 3 manual - 14 rank Mighty Wurlitzer by our good friends **Tim Schramm** and the multi-talented young organist **Connor Ream**. Tim needs no introduction to RTOS members and you may remember Connor from his electrifying performance with "The Eastman Bunch" in February, 2014. Tim and Connor often play duets at Lorraine's and we can look forward to a fun afternoon of organ and piano duets and possibly some 'dueling' organs between the Wurlitzer and the Hammond that shares the music room.

As we return to Rochester we will stop at the famous Fry's Turkey Ranch atop Steam Valley Mountain for a turkey (or ham) dinner, complete with all the trimmings. Due to seating capacity at Lorraine's, there is a strict limit of 45 persons, first come, first served. Please check out the enclosed flyer and sign up today!

52ND CONCERT SERIES
CONTINUED

April 24, 2016

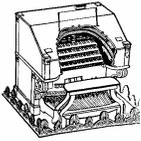
Justin LaVoie with 'The Eastman Bunch' hosted by **Michael Barone** - Michael Barone will return to Rochester for a weekend-long "Pipedreams Live" event featuring Friday and Saturday recitals on two of Rochester's finest classical instruments and concluding with a Sunday afternoon RTOS performance by this year's "Eastman Bunch" students and Justin LaVoie. Winner of the 2014 ATOS Young Organists competition, Justin is a rising star in theatre organ.

May 22, 2016

David Gray - Named 2015 ATOS organist of the year, David will be making his 2nd RTOS appearance. David's 2014 concert here was an amazing display of his tremendous talent.

June 19, 2016

Dan Minervini - As a first time RTOS performer, Dan will amaze you. Winner of the 2015 ATOS Young Organist competition, he is well on his way to becoming a superstar of the next generation of theatre organ artists.



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

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Russ Shaner, *Past-President, Programs*

RTOS EVENTS

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

Hector Olivera	Sep 13	2:30PM
Nathan Avakian	Oct 4	2:30PM
John Ledwon	Nov 8	2:30PM
Tim Schramm	Dec 13	2:30PM
Justin Stahl	Feb 21	2:30PM
Eastman Bunch/Justin LaVoie	Apr 24	2:30PM
David Gray	May 22	2:30PM
Dan Minervini	Jun 19	2:30PM

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

Open Console

Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4 PM

Sept 27	Nov 8
Oct 18	Dec 20

"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.

Encourage your friends to attend this month's concert and join RTOS by giving them the reminder coupon below:

Pops "Theater Organ" Concert

at the *Auditorium Theatre*, 885 E. Main St, Rochester, NY

Hector Olivera

Sunday, September 13 @ 2:30PM

On the Mighty Wurlitzer 4/23 Pipe Organ
Presented by the Rochester Theater Organ Society



All seats for this special fund-raising concert - \$15.00
(2015 RTOS members admitted free with membership card)

Name:
Address:
Email:

Drop this coupon at the membership table to learn more about RTOS!

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Riviera Theatre & Organ Preservation Society

(3/15 Wurlitzer) 67 Webster St, N Tonawanda
Box Office: (716) 692-2413. Info: www.rivieratheatre.org/

Empire State Theatre & Musical Instrument Museum (ESTMIM)

Sunday, Oct. 18th, 2:30 PM - \$15

Jason Comet accompanying "Nosferatu"

(3/11 Wurlitzer) 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse (315) 687-3580
<http://www.empiretheatre.org/index.htm>

Kingston Theatre Organ Society (KTOS)

Kingston Korean Church 89 Kirkpatrick St., Kingston, ON, CA
(3/28 Kimball) Info/ticketing: <http://www.ktos.ca/index.html>

Toronto Theatre Organ Society (TTOS)

Concerts at: Casa Loma, 1 Austin Terrace, Toronto ON, CA
(4/21 Wurlitzer) Tickets: (416) 492-6262 email: box-office@ttos.ca
Info/ticketing: <http://theatreorgans.com/toronto/>

Binghamton Theatre Organ Society

Sunday, Oct. 4th, 2:00 PM - \$20

Jim Ford accomp. Harold Lloyd's "The Freshman" & "Hot Water"

Sunday, Nov 22nd, 2:00 PM - \$20

John Ledwon

236 Washington St, Binghamton, NY. Box Office (716) 692-2413. Info/ticketing: <http://www.binghamtontos.org/>

Important information for RTOS members:

- RTOS has classified the Hector Olivera concert as a 'special event' to kick-off our 2015-2016 fund-raising efforts.
- RTOS members **MUST** present their valid 2015 Membership Card at the door to obtain free admission for themselves and their spouse or companion or guest and minor children.
- There are no discount coupons. The ticket price for adult non-RTOS attendees is \$15.00 per person.