

# RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.  
Published monthly September through May



## Jelani Eddington Presents Our November Concert

Jelani Eddington was born in Muncie, IN to Louise Eddington and the late Robert Eddington and grew up in a very musical family. Between the interests of his mother, a professional music teacher of many years, and those of his grandmother Florence Arnold, a well-respected piano instructor, it was no surprise when Jelani demonstrated an inclination toward music at an early age.

Shortly after beginning piano instruction at age 4, Jelani began studying classical piano under the direction of his grandmother. At the age of 8, a trip to hear the 4/42 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in the Indianapolis, IN Paramount Music Palace restaurant introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ. Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John Ferguson.

At age 13, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition, prevailing over competitors ages 13-21 from



### Jelani Eddington

Auditorium Theatre  
885 E. Main St

**Sunday, November 17**  
**2:30 PM**

(Doors open 45 min early)

the U.S., England, Australia and New Zealand. Jelani remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title.

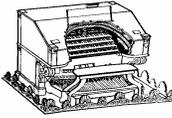
Jelani went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in 1996, and then received a Juris Doctor degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, after which he was admitted to practice

law in New York State.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional ATOS conventions, and has toured extensively throughout the world, including numerous concert appearances in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe.

In addition to his work as an organist, Jelani has also distinguished himself as a concert pianist, appearing recently as a guest pianist for performances of Edvard Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A Minor*, George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Leroy Anderson's *Piano Concerto in C Major*. In February 2008, Jelani was invited to perform two special performances of Anderson's concerto with the Tulsa Signature Symphony as part of a celebration of Leroy Anderson's centennial.

Jelani has also produced and marketed more than 30 theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country.



**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](mailto:423rtos@rochester.rr.com)

Membership (from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31)

Full: \$50.00

Associate: (50+ miles from Roch): \$35.00

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

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Laura Finger

22 Blue Avocado Ln.

Rochester, NY 14623

(585) 298-9786

[laurab78@rochester.rr.com](mailto:laurab78@rochester.rr.com)

**OPEN CONSOLE CHAIRS**

Richard & Anne Leta

312 Humboldt St.

Rochester, NY 14610-1051

(585) 288-4161



**WHO TO CONTACT IF...**

*You have an ad to place in the Blower for organs/related items:*

Laura Finger, *Blower* Editor.

*You have a name/address change, change in membership status, or mail delivery issues:*

Ken Veneron, Membership Chair.

*You want to sign up for an Open Console session:* Richard & Anne Leta, Open Console Chairs.

*Everything else:* RTOS Concert & Info Line. The greeting message has the latest concert info. If you wish to leave a message afterwards about anything else, please do and the most appropriate person to handle your inquiry will return your call ASAP!



**A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**



Once again Autumn is nearly past and Winter will soon be here. For RTOS officers and directors it is a busy time as we prepare for the election of those will serve during 2014, our 50th year. As you can see from the election materials included in this mailing, I have chosen to not run for another term. I will however remain on the board in the position of 'Past President' for

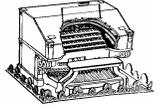
the next two years. While most of the names on the ballot are familiar ones, we are happy to have a new person running for a director's seat.

As has been the case for the past number of years, the nominating committee has not been successful in finding more than one candidate for each open seat. This is unfortunate and I wish we could find more members interested in vying for these positions. In any case, I thank our nominating committee, David Higgs, Richard Neidich and Greg Spring for their work in preparation of the election. I hope that you will take a moment to complete your ballot and return it.

Were you in the audience as the Phantom of the Opera arose from his watery lair to wreak his havoc upon the hapless Christine last month? We thank organist **Steven Ball** and soprano **Juliet Petrus** for their excellent accompaniment of the Halloween classic. While concerts that include silent movies are challenging for RTOS, as the added expense for renting the screen and projector greatly increase the overall cost of these programs, we are gratified by the enthusiastic response from the audience when we do them.

As promised last month, on page three of this *Blower* you will find information relating to our financial status. I reiterate that this report is both good and bad news. While we are not poor, it should be obvious to all that unless we take steps soon to establish and adhere to a more balanced budget we will continue to deplete our reserves. Although we constantly strive to contain costs as much as possible, recent years have brought dramatically higher costs to produce our programs. Along with this, the cost for postage and printing and for the liability insurance that we are required by law to carry and insurance on the organ itself continues to rise significantly year by year.

During the past ten years we have invested significantly in improvements and upgrades to our organs, particularly to the 4/23. These costs include nearly \$30,000.00 to replace the original relay and piston combination setting system and provide the MIDI record/playback capability that make shows like June's Tony Fenelon piano/organ duets possible. We have also added the new solo vibraphone, 16' metal diaphone extension and a new hi-hat cymbal to the organ. Along with this was the cost to recover from two incidents of water damage to the chambers. We have also refurbished many components that were badly in need of new leather and other materials to replace the original 1928 parts. Although in most cases the work itself has been done by RTOS volunteers, for several projects we have had to engage professionals to assist us. The good news here is that the organ is presently in excellent condition and we do not foresee any significant expenses for the next several years. (Continues on page 3)



**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**  
*(continued)*

As these expenses continue to tax our reserves, we must face the fact that income from memberships, plus proceeds from ticket sales to non-members and CD sales and the little interest our money earns has not covered our annual expenses for several years, despite our best efforts. It is obvious that we must do something soon.

At our annual meeting on December 15th we will vote on two proposed changes to the RTOS By-Laws. Members are welcome to attend and comment on these changes and participate in the vote.

Please don't forget to renew your membership before the end of December. Remember that you may bring in NEW members for only \$25.00 per member once you have renewed your own membership at the regular (\$50) price. The offer expires on 12/31.

I hope to see you all on November 17th as our good friend **Jelani Eddington** leads us into the Thanksgiving season.

- Russ Shaner

**LIBRARY NEWS**  
*by Greg Spring*

We are continuing to inventory our collections, and will be putting out more material for lending at each concert. We are concentrating on cassettes and CDs, as they are the most frequently signed out by our membership.

This process will continue to be on the slow side, as we are rebuilding as we go. We also need to be cognizant of what the rules are as to what we can properly do. It really helps to have a retired librarian (Chris VanStean) with contacts for advice on how we should proceed.

See you at the concert!

**PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES**

The By-Laws committee has proposed changes to two articles of the RTOS By-Laws. These changes will enable RTOS to better manage costs in future years. These changes will be voted on during the annual meeting to be held on December 15, 2013 at the Eisenhart Auditorium.

It is proposed that:

**ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

G. The Board of directors shall see that there shall be at least eight (8) concerts a year, providing proper facilities are available.

**Be Changed To Read:**

G. The Board of Directors shall determine the number of concerts produced each year. At its April meeting the Board, based upon financial resources and prevailing costs, will set the number of concerts for the coming year. Whenever possible, the Board shall endeavor to produce at least eight (8) concerts provided that proper facilities are available. The board must reflect its decision in an annual budget approved by the board and reported to the membership.

**ARTICLE VIII - DUES, FINANCES AND CORRESPONDENCE**

Membership dues shall be determined by the board of directors but shall be no more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per year. Annual dues shall become payable as of the first day of January of each year and shall be paid no later than the first day of February to retain membership privileges.

**Be Changed To Read:**

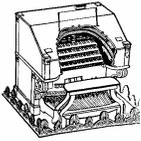
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**RTOS FINANCIAL REPORT**

A recent in depth review of our income versus our expenses has confirmed that RTOS will soon be faced with some extremely difficult choices if steps are not taken very soon to reverse this trend. Currently our cash assets are approximately \$130,000.00. While that sounds like a considerable sum, it must be noted that this reserve exists only due to sizeable 'inheritances' from the estates of several of our members in the past few years. The chart below shows the most recent of these in the "Special Bequests" column. Excluding these bequests shows the true picture that during the past three years we have out spent our 'normal' yearly income by nearly \$48,000.00. We must find ways very soon to reverse this hemorrhaging of our treasury or we will be out of funds within six years.

Our Officers and Directors are initializing a Ways and Means committee to explore our options. While dues are set for 2014, it is likely that they will have to be increased for 2015 unless new funding sources are put into place. Meanwhile we will continue to contain costs to the extent possible

RTOS ANNUAL INCOME vs EXPENSES			
	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013
NORMAL' INCOME	\$29,634	\$29,887	\$26,994
TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$40,936	-\$46,195	-\$47,306
YEARLY LOSS	-\$11,302	-\$16,308	-\$20,312
SPECIAL BEQUESTS	\$45,810	\$14,736	\$0
Actual Income vs. Expense	\$29,634	-\$1,572	-\$20,312



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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Russ Shaner, *President*  
Tim Schramm, *Vice-President*  
Paul Law, *Secretary*  
Ken Veneron, *Treasurer*  
David Higgs, *Director*  
David Kniese, *Director*  
Ted McWharf, *Director*  
Richard Neidich, *Director*  
Greg Spring, *Director*  
Roger Wood, *Director*  
Kevin Scott, *Past-President*

**RTOS EVENTS**

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

Jelani Eddington	Nov 17	2:30PM
Tim Schramm Christmas	Dec 22	2:30PM
NO CONCERT	Jan	
Eastman Bunch	Feb 9	2:30PM
Jonas Nordwall	Mar 9	2:30PM
Scott Foppiano	Apr 6	2:30PM
TBA	May 25	2:30PM
TBA	Jun 29	2:30PM

\*\*\*\*\*

Rochester Museum & Science Center  
Eisenhart Auditorium, East Ave. & Goodman St.  
**Open Console**  
*Sundays From 9:30 AM to 4 PM*

Nov 10  
Dec 15 (Also Annual meeting)

"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.

**OTHER WESTERN NY ORGANS**

**Spencerport Theatre Organ Society** (3/17 Hybrid Wurlitzer) Dick and Fran Noah, 19 Sias Lane, Spencerport, NY 14559. Call (585) 352-1148 or email [wcms2@juno.com](mailto:wcms2@juno.com) for details.

**The Niagara Frontier (Riviera Theatre & Organ Preservation Society)** 67 Webster St, N Tonawanda, NY. Box Office (716) 692-2413. [www.rivieratheatre.org/organ.html](http://www.rivieratheatre.org/organ.html)

**Capitol Theatre** (3/7 Moller, 1928) 220 W. Dominick Street, Rome (315) 337-6453 [www.theatreorgans.com/ny/rome/](http://www.theatreorgans.com/ny/rome/)

**Empire State Theatre & Musical Instrument Museum** (3/11 Wurlitzer) 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse (315) 687-3580 [jrjunction.com/estmim.htm](http://jrjunction.com/estmim.htm)

**Binghamton Theatre Organ Society** (4/24 Morton) P.O. Box 1353, Binghamton (607) 773-1495 [www.theatreorgans.com/btoc](http://www.theatreorgans.com/btoc)

**Please invite your friends and acquaintances to attend this month's concert by giving them one of the discount coupons below:**

**Pops "Theater Organ" Concert**

at the Auditorium Theatre, 885 E. Main St, Rochester, NY  
Sunday, Nov 17 @ 2:30PM

**Jelani Eddington**



**On the Mighty Wurlitzer 4/23 Pipe Organ**

Presented by the Rochester Theater Organ Society

\$10 admission per person with this coupon (regularly \$15)  
(Coupon may be copied and is valid for Bearer & Family)

Name:  
Address:  
Email:

THIS BOX MUST BE FILLED IN FOR COUPON TO BE VALID!

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