

RTOS Blower

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



Tim Schramm & Friends Present “A Home Christmas”

The lights are ready! The Wurlitzer is in splendid voice and the stage of the Auditorium Theatre is once again set for a special RTOS concert you won't want to miss!

Tim Schramm is a native of Rochester, NY. He started playing the piano at the age of 6. At the age of 10 he was introduced to the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Auditorium Theatre in Rochester and it was love at first sight. Since that time the organ has become his passion. He played his first church service at the age of 11. Since then he continues to play church services, weddings, funerals, organ dedications and theatre organ concerts. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of RTOS and is their Program Chair.

Tim had been in the piano and organ business for almost 25 years specializing in church organ installations. He has since left retail altogether and now makes his living as a full time musician. He is an assistant accompanist for the Rochester City School District and Director of Music Ministries at



Tim Schramm & Friends

Auditorium Theatre
885 E. Main St

Sunday, December 22

2:30 PM

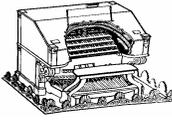
(Doors open 45 min early)

St. Michael's Church in Newark, NY. Tim is frequently hired by the George Eastman House International Museum of Photography and Film to play Mr. Eastman's four manual Aeolian pipe organ.

In April 2005, Tim traveled to England as an artist in the Byron Jones Organ Festivals and to concertize on the restored Compton in Bristol. He returned to England again in 2007 and will play again in 2014. Tim has also concertized for the Kingston Theatre Organ Society in Kingston, Ontario.

Tim has invited some very talented guests to join him on stage. The voice of jazz tenor Mark Hasman will simply melt your heart. Harpist Amy Walts will grace us with her angelic artistry. The beautiful voices of sopranos Cecile Saine and Kirstie Mosher will let our spirits soar to the heights. The smooth sax styling of the very popular Tim Burdick will leave your toes tapping. The amazing violinist Courtney Johnson will inspire along with her string students from St Rita's School in Webster. Baritone Chip Rosenthal will sing about our homes and hearts being blessed.

Please plan to join us as we wish all our members and friends a very Merry Christmas!

**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: \$50.00

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

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

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Martin Ippolito

PO Box 17438

Rochester, NY 146617

(585) 266-6337

CLASSIFIEDS

Wurlitzer Model 4059-4060. Dimensions are 44" wide, 22" deep and 36" high. A matching bench is included. Both the organ and the bench are in very good condition. Located on the 1st floor of a home with easy access. The only requirement is that it be removed by the buyer. Free to a good home. Please call Len at (585) 586-5375 or email him at lenspat@prodigy.net.

Estey Parlor Organ circa 1873. Dimensions are 3ft 10.5in wide, 1ft 11in deep, and 5ft 10in high. Fancy walnut case, original finish, brackets for candles. All stops work, bellows are good, all reeds cleaned. You pump. Asking \$145. Call Ron at (585) 889-3249.

**A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Happy Holidays to all. I hope you are all ready for another great Christmas show starring **Tim Schramm** and Friends. Tim has been hard at work rehearsing with everyone to bring you a fun-filled afternoon of music and merriment. Tim has named this year's edition "**A Home Christmas**". We hope you will bring all of your family and friends and especially the children.

I am happy to report that we have been able to engage artists for the May and June 2014 concerts. On May 25th we will feature **Richard Hills** from Great Britain. Some of you may recall his appearance at the Eisenhart Auditorium in December, 2001. We have been trying to find a date compatible with his busy schedule for him to come back and play the 4/23 ever since. On June 29th, **David Gray** from Scotland will be on hand for his first RTOS appearance. This young man was the stand-out performer at last summer's ATOS convention and is rapidly becoming recognized as one of the top artists of the current generation. These are two artists whom you will not want to miss.

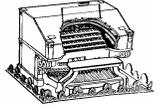
You will note that we have a new chairman for our Open Console sessions. Dick and Anne Leta have retired from the position after many years of coordinating open console. On behalf of all of us I want to sincerely thank them for all they have done. Thank you, Anne and Dick! Dick plans to continue his job of operating the lights for our concerts so be sure to stop and say hi to him. I'm happy to announce that long-time member Martin Ippolito has agreed to coordinate the open consoles. His contact information is listed elsewhere on this page. Thank you Martin!

Although I am writing this in late November, I believe that it is safe to speculate on the results of our current elections. It has occurred to me that this is the last time I will be writing this column as your President. It has indeed been both a privilege and a pleasure to serve as President of RTOS for the past four years. This of course was my second 'go' as President having previously held the office from 1996 - 1999. For the past four years I have been blessed to have had the excellent support and assistance of our dedicated directors and fellow officers. And of course, you, our members are the true heart of RTOS.

Without all of you filling the seats at the concerts RTOS would soon cease to exist. We can reminisce of the days when RTOS regularly drew 1500+ people to each concert and our membership was triple the current numbers, but the reality is that although our numbers are fewer, RTOS is still among the world's largest local or regional Theatre Organ groups. We still produce more concert events each year for our members and the public than any other similar group. The RTOS-Grierson 4/23 Wurlitzer is still ranked as one of the best of the best instruments anywhere and the Eisenhart 3/12 is still very highly regarded among the existing smaller instruments.

While it is extremely difficult (and dangerous) to single out individuals whose efforts stand out from those of others, I do want to mention a few people who, because the jobs they do regularly go above and beyond the call of duty in RTOS.

Continues on page 3



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued)

First, as an administrator, I consider **Ken Veneron** far and away the most versatile and knowledgeable person in RTOS. He has held every office and 'done' every job in the club. As treasurer and membership chair he continues to devote an enormous amount of time and effort to the 'nuts and bolts' that hold RTOS together. Thank you Ken! Programming is crucial to the success of RTOS. **Tim Schramm** has, for many years, produced for us the steady stream of talented artists who provide the entertainment we so very much enjoy. Tim will be retiring as Program Chairman at the end of this year and we will miss his talented input to this job. Thank you Tim! A third critical area is of course organ maintenance. **Roger Wood** has been involved in maintenance since day one. We have photos of him as a 'college kid' hauling the organ out of the RKO Palace in 1965. Roger's unique skills and expertise about everything electrical and mechanical are key to keeping the organ running smoothly for nearly 50 years. Thank you Roger! And, last but not least I thank **Kevin Scott** and **Larry Delahooke**. As our 'tuning team' they devote at least one entire evening each month to tuning the 4/23 prior to our concerts. It's a repetitious and tiring job. Thank you guys!

I leave this office with the knowledge that no individual is indispensable. I hope that you have enjoyed having me as your President at least half as much as I have enjoyed being your President. I am confident that **Paul Law** is going to be a very capable leader in the coming years. It has been a pleasure to work with him on the board and I have come to recognize and highly respect his excellent managerial skills. I know that he will be a breath of fresh air for us all. And, you won't be rid of me anytime soon, as I will continue to serve on the board as 'Past President' for at least the next two years. Again, I thank each and everyone who makes up our wonderful RTOS family. May God bless us all during this joyous Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

- Russ Shaner

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Ken Veneron

Reminder that membership dues for 2014 need to be submitted by December 31st, 2013!! Year 2013 members who do not renew as of this time will only receive the *Blower* through February 2014. Don't delay—
renew TODAY!



RTOS Holiday Shopping

Looking for that perfect gift for your friends who enjoy the music of the Theatre Organ? Check out the available CDs and DVD on our website or at the Christmas Concert on the 22nd for that last minute gift. Remember, you can give a gift membership to a new RTOS member for only \$25.00 through December 31st.

VISIT THE NEW RTOS WEBSITE

By the time you read this RTOS will have a new website up and running. The web address will be the same -----
(WWW.RTOSONLINE.ORG)
but the format will be 'new and improved'. The former site which was first developed by Ken Evans has undergone many changes and upgrades over the years by our webmaster Tom Murray who took over from Ken several years ago. The new site was initially designed by Mark Herman. Richard Neidich has skillfully expanded on Mark's layout and produced a thoroughly modern site which will provide for easier access to all of the content. Look for more photographs and historical data about the RKO Palace and RTOS on the new site now with more features coming soon.

Concurrent with this change Tom is retiring as webmaster. We are deeply indebted to him for the many hours he has spent maintaining and improving our website and he deserves our sincerest thanks. Thank you Tom!

Richard Neidich and Ted McWharf will take over the webmaster duties and will welcome your ideas and suggestions for any additions that will further enhance the new site.

LIBRARY NEWS

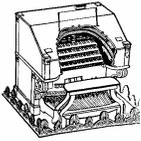
by Greg Spring

We hope you enjoyed the *Phantom of the Opera!*

As far as the Library is concerned, we are working on adding more material to loan out, but it has been slow work. We have to work around RBTL scheduling in the Auditorium, which limits when we can get access to the Library.

We have a good start on cassettes for our concerts, and will now start work on CDs of our concerts. It's become apparent that a number of cassettes are missing and we will try to replace them when we can.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday season!



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

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David Higgs, *Director*
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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

Tim Schramm Christmas	Dec 22	2:30PM
Jan NO CONCERT	see Open Console schedule	
Eastman Bunch	Feb 9	2:30PM
Jonas Nordwall	Mar 9	2:30PM
Scott Foppiano	Apr 6	2:30PM
Richard Hills	May 25	2:30PM
David Gray	Jun 29	2:30PM

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

Open Console
Sundays From 9:30 AM to 4 PM

Dec 15 (Also Annual Meeting)
Jan 19, 2014 on the 4/23 at the
Auditorium Theatre
February 23
March 23

"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

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

Capitol Theatre (3/7 Moller, 1928) 220 W. Dominick Street, Rome (315) 337-6453 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

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

Clemens Center (4/23 Marr & Colton/Wurlitzer) 207 Clemens Center Pkwy., Elmira (607)-733-5639 www.clemenscenter.com
(The organ is back in service following a complete restoration)

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, Dec 22 @ 2:30PM

Tim Schramm Christmas

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!

Pops "Theater Organ" Concert

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