

RTOS Blower

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



Welcome to the RTOS 50th Anniversary GALA Weekend

Join in as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary
with an exciting series of events beginning
Friday, Oct 3rd through Sunday, Oct 5th.

1. Friday, October 3, - 7:30PM - Eisenhart Auditorium

RTOS Retrospective

With Don Hall as Master of Ceremonies
TIM SCHRAMM + audience sing-along
DAVID PECKHAM + A one-reeler silent comedy
Multi-media RTOS history presentation
Meet RTOS Pioneer / Founder Danny Schultz

2. Saturday, October 4, - 10AM - 4PM Daytime Organ Crawl

visit three historic Rochester churches and hear four historic pipe organs

3. Saturday, October 4, 7:30PM - Auditorium Theatre

RTOS Fundraiser

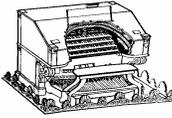
CLARK WILSON Accompanying the
1925 epic silent masterpiece **METROPOLIS**
With Introduction by Anthony L'Abbate

4. Sunday, October 5, 2:30PM - Auditorium Theatre

RTOS October Public Concert

SIMON GLEDHILL

Join us for anniversary cake and punch at the
gala on-stage reception following the concert.

**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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MEMBERSHIP NEWS*by Ken Veneron*

The Membership Committee is now accepting 2015 membership renewals and new members, either by mail (see my mailing information in the box above) or at the membership table at an upcoming concert.

The 2015 membership card will be printed in a special color...renew to find out what it is!!

**A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

My message will be brief this month so we may bring you all the important news of our October Anniversary weekend events. I hope that you all enjoyed the Terrific season opening concert presented by Jonathan Ortloff. It was a great start of our 51st concert series. Please read on to learn all about the exciting events coming in October. Your support of these programs is important. *Paul Law*

RTOS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A full weekend of organ events in Rochester
Hear six organ played by seven organists in five venues

**Friday Night "Retrospective"
Eisenhart Auditorium - 7:30 PM**

For the RTOS 50th Anniversary Weekend, we wanted to feature both of our Wurlitzers and provide a look back to our founding days. Thus we have created Friday evening's program in three parts.

To begin the evening, **Tim Schramm** will entertain us with a short program of theater organ music and an old-fashioned sing-a-long. Sing-a-longs were one of the non-movie accompaniment tasks for theater organists during the instrument's heyday.

The next part of the program will be a slide show presentation titled "The RTOS Story, The Early Days" which will focus on reviewing the theater organ happenings in Western New York in the year's leading up to RTOS founding as well as the first few years of RTOS programming, including the purchase of the RKO Palace Wurlitzer and its installation in the Auditorium Theater. Of major significance will be the year's events surrounding the founding of RTOS on August 6, 1964 and the closing of the RKO Palace Theater in August of 1965.

Next will be drawings for donated door prizes (often the highlight of early theater events) followed by a short intermission.



To conclude the evening we will be treated to a short organ program by **David Peckham** which will include a one-reel silent film comedy.

This evening should stir up memories for our early members and provide those new to theater organ with a small sample of what it was about 50 years ago.

**Saturday "Organ Crawl"
Three Churches - 10 AM - 3 PM**

Why an "Organ Crawl"? That is one of the things that organ enthusiasts did 50 years ago, about the time RTOS was formed.

Join us during the day on Saturday as we visit three historic local Churches and hear demonstrations of four significantly important pipe organs. All three locations are relevant to organ history, with two being directly related to RTOS and its very early days of existence.

First, at **10 AM on Saturday, October 4** we visit *Christ Church, Episcopal*, located at 141 East Ave, corner of Lawn Street. The two instruments there are very representative of what came before theater organs. The *Craighead-Saunders Baroque Organ* is modeled after a 1776 Caspirini organ in Vilnius Lithuania. It is a fine example of a mechanical action and the tonal voicing of early instruments.

- Continued on Page 3



"Organ Crawl" Continued -

The *Hook and Hastings American Romantic Organ* represents the era of early American organs with a more romantic and more orchestral based tonality. It is typical of what an early 20th century church would have had. The organs will be demonstrated by **Stephen Kennedy**, Director of Music and Organist at Christ Church and an Eastman School of Music Instructor and by **David Higgs**, noted Recitalist and Professor of Organ, and Chair, Organ, Sacred Music, and Historical Keyboards Dept. at Eastman.

The second visit of the day is at **1 PM** to *First Universalist Church* located at 150 Clinton Ave South & Court St (near Xerox Tower) to see and hear the historic *Robert Hope-Jones, Opus 2*. It has many of the unique mechanical and electrical designs of early 20th century organ building, along with radical (for then) tonal components. The organ is a fine example of Hope-Jones' unique instruments, which formed the basis for the Wurlitzer theater organs. This instrument was one of several utilized by RTOS during its very earliest days of concerts. The organ will be demonstrated by **David Peckham**, assisted by **Bryan Holten**, Organist and Director of Music at the church.

Lastly we will visit the E. M. Skinner organ now located in the *Church of the Ascension*, on Lake Ave at Riverside St (one block north of Seneca Parkway) at **3 PM**. The four manual instrument is representative of one of America's great romantic or orchestral organ builders. It was first installed in the Auditorium Theatre, and was moved to the Church when RTOS installed the RKO Palace Wurlitzer in the Auditorium. Several early RTOS concerts were held using this organ prior to its move to the Church. Demonstration by the Music Director, **Brian Schoettler**.

During each locations visit, you will get a chance to hear the unique sounds of the instruments and perhaps learn something of the history and progressive changes that have occurred prior to the creation of the theater organ.



SATURDAY EVENING - 7:30 PM
CLARK WILSON
METROPOLIS
AUDITORIUM THEATRE
 AN RTOS FUND-RAISING EVENT

Clark Wilson, is considered one of the finest practitioners of the art of silent picture scoring, he has also been a visiting lecturer on Theatre Organ and photoplay accompaniment for the Indiana University organ department, and will be working with the University of Oklahoma in setting up a picture scoring program. He has concertized in the United States, Canada, Australia, and England, and done extensive silent film accompaniment, including at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, the Packard Foundation's Stanford Theatre, UCLA, and the Fox Theatre for the Atlanta premier of the restored "*Metropolis*". He plays a silent picture annually on the organ series at LA's Walt Disney Concert Hall, has scored for Kino International for commercial release, and has performed at both the Cinequest and San Francisco Silent Film Festivals, as well as for the Los Angeles Conservancy. Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience **Clark's** masterful playing of this epic with an introduction by Eastman House film preservation officer, Anthony L'Abbate.

Metropolis, which has recently been restored to its near original state with the addition of 25 minutes of previously deleted and presumed 'lost' footage is a 1927 German expressionist epic science-fiction film directed by Fritz Lang. The film, written by Lang and his wife Thea von Harbou, starred Brigitte Helm, Gustav Fröhlich, Alfred Abel and Rudolf Klein-Rogge. It is known as a pioneer work of science fiction movies, being the first feature length movie of the genre.

Made in Germany, *Metropolis* is set in a futuristic urban dystopia, and follows the attempts of

Freder, the wealthy son of the city's ruler, and Maria, a poor worker, to overcome the vast gulf separating the classes of their city. *Metropolis* was filmed in 1925, at a cost of approximately five million Reichsmarks.



SUNDAY AFTERNOON - 2:30 PM
SIMON GLEDHILL
IN CONCERT
AUDITORIUM THEATRE
 FOLLOWED BY ON-STAGE RECEPTION

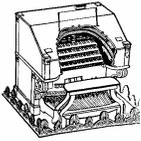
Simon Gledhill was born in Halifax, West Yorkshire in 1965 and showed a keen interest in music from an early age. He began learning the piano accordion at age five and continued with it for eleven years, winning several competitions along the way.

At age ten, his parents purchased a small electronic organ. After initially teaching himself to play it, he began formal studies in classical organ and piano with a local teacher, Michael Woodhead.

In 1982 he won the Northern Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition. BBC radio 2 organist Nigel Ogden was in the audience and invited him to make some recordings for the program on the BBC organ at the Playhouse Studio, Manchester.

Simon has performed at all the major theatre organ venues in Britain, as well as tours of Germany, Holland, Australia and the USA where he has played nearly all of the major US instruments.

Simon's music has won high praise from such people as Lyn Larsen, one of America's leading theatre organists, and Nigel Ogden, who said: "Here is someone who was born to be a theatre organist. His ability has earned him the admiration of both audiences and colleagues alike." He combines his concert and recording activities with a full-time career in corporate banking, based in London. Simon has made many fine recordings on some of the world's most famous theatre organs.



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Christine Van Stean, *Director*
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Russ Shaner, *Past-President, Programs*

Ticketing Information for RTOS Golden Anniversary Weekend Events

- Friday Evening - Eisenhart Auditorium Retrospective - Free admission for RTOS Members. - but due to limited seating capacity you must request tickets. Seating limited to 400 persons. Limit of two tickets per membership limit please. Request tickets on-line at **www.rtosonline.org** or call Chris Pucher at (585) 621-7108 between 9am - 8pm only. Tickets can be picked up at the will-call desk in the lobby. Lobby opens at 6:30 PM. No tickets will be mailed. Non-member tickets are \$10.00 online or at the door.
- Saturday Daytime church organ crawl - open to the public. No tickets required.
- Saturday Evening - Auditorium Theatre - Clark Wilson/*Metropolis* - This is a fund-raising event for RTOS. Everyone MUST have a ticket. RTOS members may obtain their own tickets for a requested donation of \$20.00 per ticket. Non-members may purchase tickets for \$20.00 per ticket. Students with ID may purchase tickets for \$15.00. Please purchase tickets on-line at **www.rtosonline.org** or call Chris Pucher at (585) 621-7108 between 9am-8pm only. Tickets can be picked up at the will-call desk at the Auditorium. No tickets will be mailed. Tickets for this event will also be available on Friday night at the Eisenhart. The Auditorium box office will open at 6:30 PM on Saturday.
- Sunday Afternoon - Auditorium Theatre - Simon Gledhill - RTOS members will be admitted by showing their 2014 or 2015 RTOS membership card. Non-members may purchase tickets for \$20.00 per ticket. Students with ID may purchase tickets for \$15.00. Buy tickets on-line at **www.rtosonline.org** or call Chris Pucher at (585) 621-7108 between 9 am-8pm only. Tickets can be picked up at the will-call desk at the Auditorium. No tickets will be mailed. Tickets for this event will also be available at Friday and Saturday events. The box office opens at 1:30 PM.

Upcoming RTOS EVENTS

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

*RTOS Retrospective	Oct 3	7:30PM
Clark Wilson	Oct 4	7:30PM
Simon Gledhill	Oct 5	2:30PM
Donnie Rankin	Nov 9	2:30PM
TBA	Dec 7	2:30PM
Open Console ONLY	Jan 11	11-4
Eastman Bunch	Feb 15	2:30PM
TBA	Mar 8	2:30PM
NO CONCERT	Apr	
Scott Harrison	May 10	2:30PM
Ron Rhode	Jun 14	2:30PM

**Pgm at Eisenhart Aud-Limited Seating*

Eisenhart Auditorium,
2014 Open Consoles
Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4 PM

Sep 28 Nov 9
Oct 19 Dec 21
Annual Meeting - Dec. 21

CHECK OUT THE RTOS WEBSITE!

Be sure to visit our website frequently for the latest information about RTOS. You can find us at:

www.rtosonline.org

or by using the bar-code reader app on your tablet or smart-phone to scan this QR symbol.

