

# RTOS Blower

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



## 2007 ATOS Organist of the Year Scott Foppiano Returns in April

Scott Foppiano was born in Memphis, TN in 1965. He studied piano with Evelyn Maschmeyer of the Memphis Beethoven Club, organ with Dr. John Hooker at Calvary Episcopal Church, and began playing the organ in church while a student in the Parish School of St. Paul the Apostle. During his years at Christian Brothers High School, he discovered his love for the sound of the Mighty Wurlitzer theater pipe organ at Memphis' Orpheum Theatre and soon began playing overtures and intermissions.

Following high school, Scott's family relocated to Charlotte and he entered the NC School of the Arts as a scholarship student of Dr. John and Margaret Mueller. His formal studies also brought him under the continued tutelage of Donna Robertson, Dr. David Lowry and Dr. Robert Glasgow. In addition to being thoroughly trained as a classical organist, he continued private study of classical organ repertoire with the late William Whitehead and



### Scott Foppiano

Auditorium Theatre  
885 E. Main St

**Friday, April 11**  
**8:00 PM**

*(Doors open 45 min early)*

the study of theater and symphonic organ stylings with his mentor and best friend, the late, great Thomas Hazleton.

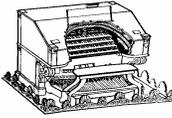
Critically acclaimed and sought after as a recitalist, theatre organist and silent film accompanist, Scott has

played and recorded some of the greatest classical and theatre pipe organs in the US, Canada and Europe. To date he has eight solo organ CDs with future projects pending.

Scott has served on the administrative boards of and has been a featured artist for regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, Organ Historical Society, and American Theatre Organ Society. He was an adjudicator for ATOS's young organist's competition at both local and national levels for many years. He holds the Service Playing and Colleague certifications of the AGO.

In 2001, Scott took his choir on a 14 day tour of Italy where they sang in the Cathedrals of Milan, Assisi, and Florence. The culmination of the choir's tour was being presented to and singing for His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

Scott currently serves as the Organist-Choirmaster at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Kansas City, MO where he now calls home.

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

PO Box 17114

Rochester, NY 14617

Concerts &amp; 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

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(585) 266-6337

**Program Chair**

Russ Shaner

(585) 266-2854

[r.shaner@rochester.rr.com](mailto:r.shaner@rochester.rr.com)**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](mailto:lenspat@prodigy.net).

Estey Parlor Organ circa 1873. Dimensions are 3' 10.5" w X 1' 11" d X 5' 10" h. 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**

I hope you all enjoyed the "Eastman Bunch Concert" as much as I did. We had three Eastman students, plus one student from PA, in their inaugural public theater organ presentation, one seasoned student and a professional level graduate of Eastman as featured artists. We thank Professor David Higgs and David Peckham for their support in this annual venture. We anticipate continuing this series in 2015.

The schedule for the refurbished glockenspiel slipped due to revised specifications and an emergency digital glock was used for the Eastman concert—did you notice? hopefully not. Don't fear, the "real" glock is now in place and working well! Thanks to all the volunteer work crew who have spent untold hours to complete this project. As Russ Shaner has said, "it should be good for another 85 years."

As mentioned last month, RBTL continues to improve the Auditorium facilities. Check out the handicap accessible restrooms outside the main lobby, just past the elevators.

Please pick up a poster for the next concert from the lobby table and post it in a prominent public place such as your social organization, church, or neighborhood market. We need to grow our membership base to be financially strong for the future. Invite your friends and use the discount coupons in the Blower and on line at our website ([www.rtosonline.org](http://www.rtosonline.org)).

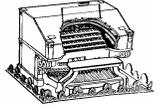
By the time you read this, we will have heard Jonas Nordwall on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March. I am confident it was a great concert based on his previous visits to Rochester.

On Friday April 11 at 8:00 PM (NOTE THE DATE, DAY AND TIME CHANGE) we will feature Scott Foppiano. The change was necessary due to a schedule conflict at this theater. We apologize for any inconvenience, but remember that daylight savings time has started and it should still be light as you arrive at the theater.

Open Console sessions at the Eisenhart Auditorium are in full swing. Sign up to play a half hour on the beautiful 3/11 Wurlitzer organ. If you don't want to play, come and listen in an informal setting.

Visit our website ([www.rtosonline.org](http://www.rtosonline.org)) for more information. New material is frequently posted.

*Paul Law*



## OBITUARY: ROLLO CLARK

*by Laura Finger*

RTOS charter member Rollo Vincent Clark, Jr. passed away on December 10, 2013 at the age of 95. A couple of years ago he and his wife Alyce moved from Rochester to Maryville, Missouri to be nearer to their four daughters.

Rollo was originally from the Midwest, his childhood spent in Nebraska and Kansas. He graduated from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, where he received his law degree. He served in the Army from 1942-1946. Afterwards he worked in government-related jobs, which eventually brought him to Rochester where he was

employed for 40 years in the contract department at Harris R.F. Communications.

In addition to being a charter member of RTOS, Rollo was a Director and served as President from 1988-89. He was also very active with regard to organ maintenance. Rollo and Alyce organized many RTOS social events, and were made Honorary Members in 1995.

Rollo is survived by his wife of 70 years, Alyce; daughters Pamela (Bob) Rees, Deborah Clark, Sarah Clark, and Candace (Clark) Montgomery; grandsons



Dane (Mallory) Montgomery and Reade Montgomery; great-granddaughter Ava Rose Montgomery; and nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Memorials may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Maryville organ maintenance fund or RTOS.

## A NEW CYMBAL JOINS THE 4/23 TOY COUNTER

*by Russ Shaner*

A new 'voice' has been added to the percussion section of the 4/23 RTOS-Grierson Mighty Wurlitzer. Perhaps you noticed a new sound coming from high in the arch during concerts beginning last November?

We commissioned a new "hi-hat" cymbal unit that was custom designed and built for us by Don Phipps of Mattapoisett, MA.

Hi-hat cymbals are a normal component of the drum 'kits' used by professional percussionists and are proving to be very useful in theatre organs. Our artists really like having them available and many of

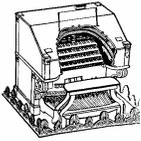
the organs in use today have added them to their toy counters.

Many thanks to the members of the RTOS maintenance crew who installed and fine-tuned the unit in the arch outside of the solo chamber next to the roll/crash and jazz cymbals which were added several years ago.

Major funding for this addition was provided by a generous memorial gift from the family of Gale Smith. When Gale passed away, his niece donated his Hammond M-101 spinet organ to RTOS. The Hammond was subsequently sold and the proceeds used



to purchase the cymbal action. We are deeply indebted to Gale's family for this generous and most useful gift.



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

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Tim Schramm, *Director*  
Greg Spring, *Director*  
Christine Van Stean, *Director*  
Roger Wood, *Director*  
Russ Shaner, *Past-President, Programs*

**RTOS EVENTS**

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

Scott Foppiano	<b>FRIDAY Apr 11</b>	<b>8:00PM</b>
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 11:00 AM to 4 PM*

Apr 27  
May 18  
Jun 15

"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](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)

**Clemens Center** (4/23 Marr & Colton/Wurlitzer) 207 Clemens Center Pkwy., Elmira (607)-733-5639 [www.clemenscenter.com](http://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  
Friday, Apr 11 @ 8:00PM

**Scott Foppiano**



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

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