

RTOS Blower

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



Richard Hills To Entertain On Memorial Day Weekend

Richard Hills is one of the very few musicians truly to have bridged and mastered the divide between the world of the classical organ and that of the theatre organ.

Having commenced classical organ studies under William Whitehead at Rochester Cathedral, he became Organ Scholar at Exeter College Oxford, studying with David Sanger. Further organ scholarships followed at Portsmouth Cathedral, where he studied with Rosemary Field and at Westminster Abbey.

Richard has numerous prizes and awards to his credit, both in the UK and in the USA, where he was named by 'Organist of the Year' in 2010 by the American Theatre Organ Society. He has appeared many times on national and international TV and radio, including solo appearances on programs as diverse as Radio



Photo by David Reed

Richard Hills

Auditorium Theatre
885 E. Main St

Sunday, May 25
2:30 PM

(Doors open 45 min early)

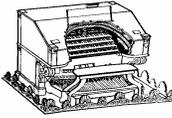
3 Choral Evensong and Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night'. His most recent solo recording was made on the

magnificent dual-purpose Compton organ of Southampton's Guildhall.

Richard now pursues a freelance career and is organist at St Mary's, Bourne Street, London. When not on the bench he serves as Musical Advisor to the Cinema Organ Society and maintains a practical interest in organ building.

This is a concert that should not be missed! Richard first entertained the RTOS audience in January 2001 when he performed on the 3/12 Wurlitzer at the Eisenhart Auditorium. Richard is considered to be one of the finest theatre organists of his generation and his concerts regularly draw audiences from far and wide when he performs in the US. The combining of his spectacular talent and the equally spectacular RTOS- Grierson Wurlitzer is certain to be a highlight of the current RTOS season!



**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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Russ Shaner
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r.shaner@rochester.rr.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Wurlitzer Model 4059-4060. Dimensions are 44" w, 22" d and 36" h. 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 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**

We had a good turnout for April's Friday concert featuring **Scott Foppiano**. He certainly praised our instrument highly and gave us a varied and pleasant evening of music.

This may be a first for us, but the June 15 Open Console will be at the George Eastman House from 11:00 till 4:00. Come and listen even if you don't want to play. Show your RTOS membership card for admission. Thanks to Joe Blackburn and Kevin Scott for arranging this. Call Martin Ippolito (585-266-6337) to be put on the list to play this historic organ.

Your Board is preparing for our 50th Anniversary celebration. Initial plans call for several special concerts featuring each of our Wurlitzers, a movie, and possibly an out of town trip. The weekend chosen is October 4-5. We will do our best to make our golden anniversary celebration a memorable one.

Speaking of special concerts, do not miss the last two events in the 2013-2014 season. Two of the premier English theater organists will be here. On May 25, **Richard Hills** will be our guest and on June 29, **David Gray** will amaze us with his talents. Bring friends, they will enjoy these performances. Both these concerts will be on Sundays at 2:30 PM as is our normal schedule.

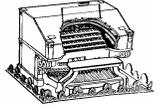
Frequently, I mention our need for new members in order to keep the organization alive and well. Bring family and friends. Many will come back when they see and hear what RTOS offers!

On page 3 you will read about the recent Board decision to raise RTOS dues. Please believe that this decision did not come easily. The last increase was back in 2008. RTOS membership is still a terrific bargain! What do you get for your money? For the most part your dues are in actuality two "season tickets" to each year's concert series. Your 'family membership' admits two adults and your children to all of our regular concerts. To put this into proper perspective, in the past your \$50 'bought' 18 adult admissions per season ($\$50 \div 18 = \underline{\$2.78}$ per ticket). In addition to this you receive the *Blower*, the opportunity to play on the organs, use of our free lending library, etc.

Next year you will pay a bit more and receive a bit less. Your membership dues will 'purchase' 16 admissions. If you take full advantage of your membership that means you will 'paying' \$4.06 per ticket. Nowhere in this world will you ever find quality entertainment as inexpensive as this!

In comparison, this year a single ticket for one of the Broadway shows coming to the Auditorium will cost as much as \$132 for a 'good' seat or as little as \$40 for the rear balcony. One rear orchestra seat will cost as much as an entire year's RTOS membership! We thank you for your continuing support. If we are to keep the music playing, we need **you** and your friends. Please renew this coming fall and help us keep RTOS alive and healthy.

Paul Law



RTOS DUES WILL INCREASE IN 2015

Following a thorough review of RTOS finances for the past two fiscal years by the Ways and Means committee, a discussion was held at the April Board meeting.

All aspects of our operation were reviewed by your Officers and Directors. Unfortunately we are experiencing increasing reliance on our savings to subsidize our annual operating budget. Ideally our yearly income from dues, ticket sales, interest income, donations and inheritances should equal or exceed our annual operating expenses. For many years this was the case. Sadly, as a result of decreasing membership and spiraling costs to produce our concerts, we are operating at a serious deficit. For the past two years the shortfall was over \$10,000/year. We're sure that you will agree that this is unacceptable.

Since the major portion of our annual expenses are for artist fees and for Auditorium Theatre and Eisenhart Auditorium rental fees, they can only be reduced by producing fewer concerts each year. RTOS produces more full scale concerts featuring major artists each year than any other similar organization and at considerably lower cost to members. The good news is that we aren't broke - yet. Mostly due to two sizeable inheritances several years ago, we currently have sufficient reserve funds to sustain operations for the

next few years.

These funds are primarily meant to be used for maintenance and improvements to our two organs. We need to preserve them if RTOS is to survive long term. The not-so-good news of course is that things must change if we are to remain solvent.

To address the reality of this situation, the Board has taken the following actions:

Dues will be increased. This is the first increase in nearly 10 years. Recently we have offered incentives to increase membership by offering half price memberships to new members for their first year. This has helped, but not enough. Thus, 2015 dues for a Full Membership will be increased by \$15 to \$65, with an Associate Membership (for those residing more than 50 miles from Rochester) set at \$45, an increase of \$10.

Beginning with the 2014 - 2015 concert season, we will eliminate one program resulting in 8 annual concerts instead of 9. The exact month to be skipped will be selected by the Program Manager, per available dates for our venues and artist availability.

The Ways and Means Committee has proposed that we hold two annual events focused on increasing our community presence. For the 2014-2015 concert season, these will be our Annual Christmas Concert and a

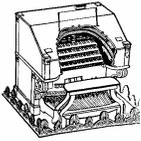
Silent Movie Night. These two types of events have historically produced an increase in box office revenue and provide an opportunity to attract new members.

We are investigating new ways to increase our income by seeking grants and corporate (or individual) sponsorships. We will continue to have the monthly Open Console sessions and will be looking at other events we can produce for members that will not incur major expense.

We appreciate your past support and encourage your continuing membership and support of RTOS presentations and organ preservation. As always, suggestions and input from you is greatly appreciated. Please don't hesitate to let us know what you are thinking. We sincerely hope that these combined efforts will increase our revenue, curtail our expenses, and secure our future.

AUDITORIUM PARKING

We recommend that you park in the lot directly behind the theatre when coming to RTOS concerts. RTOS members are charged \$3.00 for parking. If there are other events in the building or at the Main St. Armory, a higher fee will be posted at the entrance. Tell the attendant you are going to the organ concert and they will only charge you \$3.



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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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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

Richard Hills	May 25	2:30PM
David Gray	Jun 29	2:30PM
TBA	Sept 14	2:30PM
Simon Gledhill	Oct 5	2:30PM
TBA	Nov 9	2:30PM
TBA	Dec 7	2:30PM

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

Open Console

Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4 PM

May 18

**June 15 - George Eastman House
900 East Avenue**

Jul 20	Oct 19
Aug 17	Nov 9
Sep 28	Dec 21

“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, May 25 @ 8:00PM

Richard Hills

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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