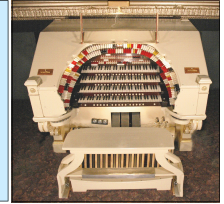


RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.



The Rochester Theater Organ Society

Proudly Presents

Virtually Yours.....



Photo by Bob Bower

Join us in welcoming this exciting new artist for his premiere performance on the RTOS Mighty Wurlitzer

**A Salute to RBTL's Auditorium Theatre Featuring
A Cornucopia of All-Time Favorites From
Broadway and Hollywood!
Stephen Sondheim - Lerner & Loewe
Julie Stein - Lin-Manuel Miranda - Jerry Herman
Marvin Hamlisch - John Williams
and Richard Rogers "Slaughter on 10th Avenue"**

Brett Miller was the youngest of the three finalists in the ATOS Young Organist Competition in June of 2018. He has attended and performed organ concerts and silent films for the past five years around Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York area as well as Chicago and Boston. He recently played for the 35 mm Film Fest Awards Program honoring the Library of Congress and their work. Along with his brother, he founded "musicalpromise.org" a musical initiative to help fund the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Brett and his brother received

the White House Student Film Festival honorable mention for a film featuring their community service work. Brett was also the recipient of the Kohl's Care, Prudential Spirit of Community Awards as well as the Music and Spirit award for his high school and marching band. He is a member of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra Organization where he received an award in May of 2019 for his performance of the Leroy Anderson Piano Concerto. Brett also performed in his high school band and jazz ensemble where he was recognized at the Cavalcade Champions as a superior soloist.

The Brett Miller concert is a virtual concert and is available only on YouTube.

The Auditorium Theatre is NOT open.

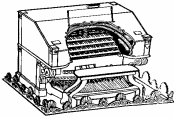
Live streaming on YouTube will begin on Saturday, April 17, 2021.

To view the concert, search YouTube for: "Rochester Theater Organ Society"

He has been featured as a pianist at the Pennsylvania District Orchestra and in October 2018 at the New York All-State Band and Orchestra ensemble.

Aside from music, Brett enjoys traveling, biking, skiing, and spending time with family and friends. He studies theatre organ with Jelani Eddington and has played as a featured organist at his church in Bucks County PA, the Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville, PA, Union County Performing Arts, Rahway, NJ, Loews Jersey Theater in Jersey City, NJ, the Brooks Performing Arts Center in Clemson, SC, and the Trenton, NJ War Memorial. In Fall 2018, Brett opened for the sold out appearance of George R.R. Martin, author of the *Game of Thrones*, and on New Year's Eve was featured on the Möller with the Capital Philharmonic at the Trenton War Memorial.

Brett is currently studying at the Eastman School of Music to pursue a BM in Music Education. Since moving to Rochester he has embraced the Rochester Theater Organ Society and participated in the 2020 Tim Schramm RTOS Holiday program. He is thrilled to be performing his debut solo concert on the RTOS Wurlitzer at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre.



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

PO Box 17114
Rochester, NY 14617
Concerts & Info: (585) 234-2295
<http://www.rtosonline.org>

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Ken Wilson
11 Bly St.
Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 690-5479
Ken.wilson213@gmail.com

Membership (from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31)
Full: \$75.00
Assoc.: (50+ miles from Roch): \$55.00
Student (age 18-24 with ID): \$45.00

BLOWER EDITOR

Laura Finger
22 Blue Avocado Ln.
Rochester, NY 14623
(585) 298-9786
laurab78@rochester.rr.com

OPEN CONSOLE

Martin Ippolito
PO Box 17438
Rochester, NY 14617
(585) 266-6337

PROGRAM CHAIR

Russ Shaner
(585) 266-2854
r.shaner@rochester.rr.com

Visit the RTOS website at:
www.rtosonline.org



Shopping on Amazon?

To direct your support to RTOS, type smile.amazon.com in your web browser and enter "Rochester Theater Organ Society" as your charity.

Do you use Facebook? Help us publicize RTOS:

Visit our page (*Rochester Theatre Organ Society*) and 'Like' us.
Post our concert posters on your Facebook page.



JUST \$1

Help RTOS keep the music playing. If everyone drops \$1 into a donation box at each concert it will pay the yearly cost for our publications.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



While the world has been turned upside down, your RTOS Board has been busy at work. We continue to maintain contact with the Auditorium Theatre and monitor current laws in effect that affect our ability to offer live concerts. We have brainstormed ways of offering programs this calendar year. We have met monthly on Zoom, even holding our Annual Meeting on Zoom on January 6 with several members attending.

Highlights of the last several months:

Several repair projects were completed on our organs. David Peckam rebuilt the vibraphone last summer and attended to several minor maintenance problems with the 4/23. Kevin Scott, Andrew Magin, and Mark Smith completed a re-leathering project on the Eisenhart organ.

We continue to assess long overdue refurbishing of the 4/23 blower and issues with our aging chamber humidifiers. Bob Bower, Roger Wood, and Russ Shaner are working on needed upgrades to our concert recording system.

Bob Bower has received permission from several previous artists to put their concerts on the RTOS YouTube channel. Bob and Richard Neidich are preparing these virtual concerts and will soon add them to the channel. Be sure to check the RTOS YouTube channel regularly for new content.

Our first online Christmas concert, "*We Need A Little Christmas*", produced and created by Tim Schramm and Bob Bower, has been viewed over 3000 times to date! We are grateful to the administration of RBTL for sending out an email blast to their members announcing our program.

Richard Neidich, a charter member of RTOS, has worked with Bob Bower to create a wonderful new website. The website is very user friendly and offers history and pictures from the beginning of RTOS. Additionally, the website offers easy access to information on the next event/program, membership information, donation information, and contacts. Russ Shaner has updated the history of all concerts/artists offered by RTOS. See new website at the same place on the internet: www.rtosonline.org

Our secretary Ken Wilson has been working on revising our membership information and mailing. He is keeping members informed with his email blasts in between the issues of the *Blower*. Be sure to add your email to our growing list if you haven't yet done it.

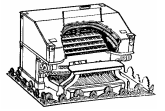
Although we have had very limited use of the Auditorium Theatre because the RPO has been using it to record their virtual concerts, we were able to have Brett Miller practice and record our new virtual concert. We are pleased to be able to offer this concert and we welcome Brett to the Rochester community.

We have reviewed the RTOS Mission and 2020 goals and revised the goals for 2021. Our priority for 2021 will be a goal to "Expand Participation in RTOS Events". We will work on offering a variety of programming including silent films, familiar popular music, and theme concerts. We will offer musical program content of concerts in publicity in advance. We will also research and cross promote programs with other organizations.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who donated to RTOS this year, allowing us to exceed our goal of \$10,000. Although we do not have the expense of offering live concerts right now, we do have continuing expenses of organ maintenance and repair, insurances, and printing and mailing. The online programs require the purchase of equipment, in addition to performer's costs. We will recognize 2020 membership cards for all of 2021. Memberships for 2022 will be available this fall.

Hoping for a healthful and much happier New Year for everyone.

Chris Van Stean (cvs250@gmail.com)



ARE YOU ON THE RTOS EMAIL LIST?

Email is the most effective way to communicate with our RTOS family. If you have not signed up to receive our email notifications, we urge you to do so. Instructions can be found on the new RTOS website, or contact Ken Wilson at ken.wilson213@gmail.com

OPEN CONSOLE MAY RESUME SOON

Efforts are underway to resume monthly Open Console sessions for RTOS members at the Eisenhart Auditorium. Information will be posted on the RTOS website when available, or contact Martin Ippolito at (585) 266-6337 to inquire.

RTOS ON YOUTUBE

The following video content is now available for viewing on the RTOS YouTube channel:

Full Programs

Tim Schramm, 2020 Holiday
Dan Minervini, 9/9/2018 concert
Ken Double, 10/26/2018 concert

Concert Selections

Luke Stasiunas, 2/3/2019
Aaron Hawthorne, 2/9/2020

Informational

Behind the scenes - tours of the organ chambers and the theater

Coming on April 17

Virtually Yours...Brett Miller

Additional content is in development. Check back often.

To find the RTOS on YouTube, click the search bar and type:

“Rochester Theater Organ Society”

Be sure to click “Subscribe” to add us to your subscribed site list.

NEW RTOS WEBSITE AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

On Thursday, March 27th the new and vastly improved RTOS website was launched by our webmasters Richard Neidich and Bob Bower. It contains much updated and expanded content. Please check it often for the latest RTOS news and information.

The address is still the same: www.rtosonline.org

THEATRE ORGAN BLOOMS ON THE WEB

As a result of the shutdown of live performances due to COVID-19, many of the theatre and classical organ clubs, venues, and artists are producing concerts for online viewing like we have at RTOS. YouTube shows are the most prevalent and easiest to access. If you are a Facebook user, much is available there as well.

While you can find content on your smart phone, it is best to view these shows on your smart TV with a good sound system connected.

While it would be difficult to provide a comprehensive list here, searching YouTube for “Theatre Organ” or “Classical Organ” will produce many possibilities.

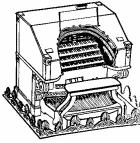
DON SCOTT OBITUARY

Donald M. Scott, age 96, passed away Saturday, March 13, 2021 in Canandaigua. He is survived by three nieces, Amy (Ciocci) McCarthy, Elizabeth

(Sternberg) Albiez and Penny (Scott) McCartney; two nephews, Kurt Sternberg and Craig Scott; six great-nieces; five great-nephews; and four great-great-nephews. Don was predeceased by three siblings, Robert and Raymond Scott, Eleanor Ciocci; and nephew, Gregory Sternberg.

Don was born in Canandaigua and was the son of Maurice and Mildred (Smith) Scott. He was a graduate of Canandaigua Academy and Simmons School of Mortuary Science. Don worked as a funeral director for Kennedy & Son Funeral Home and as a salesman at Kennedy Furniture Store for over 50 years. He was a very talented musician and played the organ at several local churches. Don also gave piano and organ lessons to many students in Canandaigua and Rochester. He was the organist at the Town Pump restaurant in Orleans for many years.

Don was a significant person in the early days of RTOS. He had been a student of Tom Grierson and officially performed 11 times for RTOS between 1964 and 1987 including the first “official” concert at the RKO Palace on September 19, 1964 following the founding of RTOS, the last performance at the Palace on July 21, 1966, the first performance at the Auditorium on Jan. 21, 1967, and the dedication concerts of the Eisenhart Wurlitzer on Oct. 13-14, 1978. He also recorded an LP, *An Evening at the Palace*. Released in 1966 as part of fundraising for the purchase and relocation of the RTOS-Grierson Wurlitzer, it was the last recording of the organ prior to its move to the Auditorium. Although Don was not listed among the first 50 (founding) members of RTOS, he was named its second Honorary Member in 1965.



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

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rochester, NY 14692
Permit No. 190

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Christine Van Stean, *President*
Bob Bower, *Vice-President*
Ken Wilson, *Secretary, Membership*
Robert Hunter, *Treasurer*
Paul Law, *Past-President*
David Higgs, *Director*
Ted McWharf, *Director*
Greg Spring, *Director*
Russ Shaner, *Director, Programs*
Ken Veneron, *Director, Mailing*

RTOS Presents: Virtually Yours... **Brett Miller**

Streaming on YouTube beginning Saturday, April 17, 2021

Thank-you to our 2020-21 fund drive donors. We have exceeded our \$10,000 goal!

Guardian (\$500 or more)

Myron J. Biggar
Janice Brewer
Bruce A. Clark
Patricia M. Gaglio
Christopher L. Haag
Elizabeth M. Haag
Robert Hunter*
Theodore McWharf Jr.*
Russell E. Shaner
Ken Veneron
Carole H. Webster

President's Circle (\$250-\$499)

Bruce & Marilyn Burkey*
Peter M. Depew
Robert E. Green
Norman L. Horton
Paul A Law
Ronald Moffatt
John L. Strawway
Dennis A. Unks
Christine Van Stean
Lisa Wemett*

Benefactor (\$100 - \$249)

John H. Auer Jr.
Robert and Georgianna Becker
Kathy Bentley
John and Marie Bower*
Edgar H Borkhuis
Garth and Martha Brokaw
Gary and Lana Brumbaugh
Margaret D. Compton

Benefactor (\$100 - \$249) (Contd)

Keith B. Conrad
Charles Courtsal & Lisa Gwinne
Mendal W. Dick
John A. Dunham
Clara S. Firth
William S. Galloway Jr.
Keith Grierson**
Gary D. Haines
Alex and Debra Heinonen
Thomas and Janette Keenan
Jack L. Kellogg
Phillip M. Leutz
Gregory Marshall
Bruce and Dinah Mayer
Scott M. McCarthy
Karen C. Noonan
Glen G. Roat
James T. Shott
William Smith
Louis J. Volino
John M. Wright

Sponsor (\$50 - \$99)

Brad Bovenzi
Gordon J. Estey
Richard & Kay Frenz
Sandra L. Glantz
Charles L. Hahn
Peter and Donna Head*
Mary L. Hockenberger**
Glenn R. Hufnagel
Edgar L. Jorolemon

Sponsor (\$50 - \$99) (Contd)

Kevin D. Long**
Gail McShane*
Gary E. Newman
Carol E. Samuel
Lawrence N. Schuth
Dorothy A. Schulz
David R. Searle
Carol S. Stephenson
Ellen Teichman**
Ruth A. Unzicker
Daniel W. Wilke
Sasha Yaworsky

Patron (\$25 - \$49)

Bruce T. Benson
Walter and Carol Bettin*
Nancy L. Burdulis
Lois Cornell
Colleen Dill*
Gail L. Hatch**
Jean I. Iazard
William Limburg
Malvin A. Long**
Roxanne L. Saxton**
Cecil Wolcott

Friend (\$10 - \$24)

Lawrence Tyndall

*Includes Memorial Gift for Doris Montgomery

**Memorial Gift for Gail Grierson