

RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.



RTOS Announces 2021 Fall Schedule We're coming back! Join us for our return to the Auditorium Theatre on October 17th.

As we emerge from the dark days of the pandemic, RTOS has received word from RBTL management that we can resume normal operations beginning in October. We are still waiting for information on what if any seating or entry restrictions will be in effect and will announce them in the October *Blower* which you will receive early that month.

We are still working on booking actual dates for 2022. We expect to have a full schedule of concerts for the first half of the year ready to announce in October.

We can't wait to welcome you back to RTOS!

Sunday, October 17, 2:30pm

David Peckham

Western New York's own world class theatre organist will welcome us back to the Auditorium Theatre in grand style.



Sunday, November 14, 2:30pm

Donnie Rankin

Our fall festivities continue in November as we welcome Donnie back for his third appearance on the RTOS-Grierson Mighty Wurlitzer.



RTOS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A 2022 RTOS membership application/renewal card is included with this *Blower*. If you hold a 2020 RTOS membership card, you are a member in good standing for the remainder of 2021. The three fall concerts are free for current members. You will, however, need to renew your membership for 2022 by the end of this year.

If you are not a current member, we encourage you to sign up for 2022 before October. New 2022 members will also receive free admission for this fall's three concerts. You can also sign up online at:

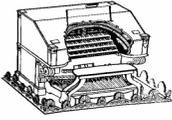
www.rtosonline.org

Sunday, December 19, 2:30pm

Nathan Avakian with soloist Claire Avakian

Known for his innovative and imaginative "out of the box" productions, Nathan will make his 4th RTOS appearance to put us all in a Holiday mood. Nathan will be joined by his sister Claire, a NYC-based singer/dancer/actor. Nathan and Claire are planning a cornucopia of seasonal treats to brighten our spirits!





**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

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OPEN CONSOLE

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

PROGRAM CHAIR

Russ Shaner
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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



We are very happy to announce the plans for the Fall live concerts! It was great to be able to see our concerts on YouTube in the comfort of our recliners when it was cold and snowing, but we are ready to get back to work at the Auditorium!

Although we have dates and artists to announce, we still don't know what the requirements for live programs will be. We will be meeting with the Auditorium management and will stay up to date with requirements as Fall approaches. We will send out information in the next *Blower* and in our email blasts – please be sure your email address is up to date.

I am anticipating we will need to have ushers/guides to help meet any spacing requirements. If you would like to assist (remember the yellow shirts – convention style!) please let me know.

The Fall concerts will be included in your 2020 membership. We are beginning to offer 2022 memberships starting in July. A membership application/renewal card is included in this mailing. All new members who sign up for a 2022 membership will also be admitted free to the three fall concerts. A great way to introduce RTOS to your friends is to buy an extra membership and ask friends to join you each concert. It is a great treat for your guests and a wonderful way to get the word out about our great organ. Despite our not collecting dues for 2021, we are not increasing the membership price for 2022.

Martin Ippolito and Kevin Scott are pleased to announce that they are now able to resume Open Console sessions at the Eisenhart Auditorium. Scheduled dates are listed elsewhere in this *Blower*.

If you have not watched the concerts on our YouTube channel, I urge you to give them a look and listen - if you have, why not give them an encore.

If you haven't checked our new website, it is a great time to do it. We will be providing up-to-date information on the website.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Fall!

Chris Van Stean (cvs250@gmail.com)

**OPEN CONSOLE
SESSIONS RESUME**

Dates for the upcoming Open Console sessions for RTOS members at Eisenhart have been set through the end of 2021. They are:

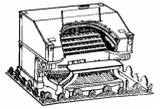
- Sunday, July 25
- Sunday, August 22
- Sunday, September 12,
- Sunday October 10
- Sunday, December 5

Information will be posted on the RTOS website. Contact Martin Ippolito at (585) 266-6337 for details or to reserve a time slot.

**ARE YOU ON THE RTOS
EMAIL LIST?**

Email is the most effective way to communicate with our RTOS family. We promise not to bombard you with "spam" but we do want to be able to get the latest information about your Society to you as quickly and effectively as possible. If you are not yet on our list, or if you have changed your email address, we urge you to contact:

Ken Wilson at
ken.wilson213@gmail.com



LOOKING FOR A FUN-FILLED SUMMER OUTING?

RTOS member Dan Wilke cordially invites you to experience the Olcott Beach Band Organ Rally as it returns to Lake Ontario's Olcott Beach for two days on Saturday and Sunday, July 24-25. See and hear a large variety of carousel and band organs scattered throughout the park from 11am - 5pm each day. It's free admission and free parking at beautiful lakeside Olcott Beach park. Load up the family and friends, bring a lawn chair, pack a picnic lunch (or visit one of the many great dining spots in the area) and spend the day. It's only a 1.5 hour drive from Rochester via the scenic route. Take the Lake Ontario State Parkway to the end then turn west on NY Rte. 18 to Olcott.

OLCOTT BEACH
BAND ORGAN RALLY
presented by the *Carousel Organ Association of America* - www.coaa.us



Saturday & Sunday
JULY 24-25, 2021
11am — 5pm

**A SIGHT AND SOUND SPECTACULAR FOR
YOUR LISTENING AND VIEWING PLEASURE**

American Carousel Organs — European Fairground Organs — Hand-Cranked Street Organs
Organs located in Krull Park & throughout Olcott



**Free Parking,
Free Admission**

**More Info:
Rally Host
Dan Wilke,
(716) 825-7266,
evenings**



ATTEND THE 2021 ATOS "UNCONVENTIONAL" ANNUAL CONVENTION ONLINE

Due to COVID, the American Theatre Organ Society was forced to cancel their planned Indianapolis 2020 convention. Facing a similar cancellation for 2021 they have produced a full slate of concerts that were placed online beginning July 8th. There is no charge to view the concerts although donations are being accepted. The concerts will remain available throughout the summer and fall. To access the videos go to www.atos.org. There you will find information and links to each performance.

RTOS ON YOUTUBE

The following video content is still 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
Virtually Yours...Brett Miller

Concert Selections

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

Informational

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

To find the RTOS on YouTube, click the search bar and type: "Rochester Theater Organ Society".

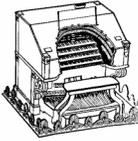
Be sure to click "Subscribe" to add us to your subscribed site list.

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT THE NEW RTOS WEBSITE ?

In March, a new and improved RTOS website was launched by our webmasters Richard Neidich and Bob Bower. It contains much updated and expanded content. Considerable content about RTOS history has been added and many other sections have been updated. The website address has not changed. Please check it often for the latest RTOS news and information. You can find us at:
www.rtosonline.org

BALDWIN ORGAN FREE TO A GOOD HOME

Baldwin organ, has two manuals, a full 32 note pedalboard and some really nice voices, including a very effective viola celeste stop. Roll top console. Free to a good home. Contact John Auer at 585-586-6683.



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

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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 Announces our Fall Concerts. See page 1.

RTOS EVENTS

Auditorium Theatre, 885 E. Main St.
All artists and dates subject to change. Please check out our website for latest information.

David Peckham	Oct 17	2:30 PM
Donnie Rankin	Nov 14	2:30 PM
Nathan Avakian	Dec 19	2:30 PM

Rochester Museum & Science
Center

Eisenhart Auditorium, East Ave. &
Goodman St.

Open Console

Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4 PM

July 25	Aug 22	Sep 12
Oct 10	Nov 7	

"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 music.

ORGAN MAINTENANCE

Although our organs are not enjoying much usage during the pandemic, normal maintenance of them continues. Work crews continue to watch over both instruments to ensure their safety. Plans are currently underway to have the 15 HP Spencer Orgoblo that powers the 4/23 refurbished. When fully rebuilt it will have new fans in its interior, a newly refurbished motor and a new state-of-the-art starter/controller.

Two "New" Theatre Organs are Coming to Town

New RIT Performing Arts Center to add creative stages

Plans are being developed to build a performing arts center that will feature a 750-seat theater and, in a second phase, a 1,500-seat orchestra hall.

The project is intended to provide more practice and performing venues for the RIT community as well as options for community groups to hold concerts, talks, and other events.

RIT intends to develop the leading performing arts program in the nation for non-majors. This will attract talented and creative students who can continue their passions for music, dance, theater, and other performing arts.

Construction on the 750-seat theater, designed for musical theater but useful for a range of programming, is expected to begin in the fall of 2021, with a completion date of fall 2023.

The facility will be more than 40,000 square feet, three stories tall and have truck access. It is expected to have two balconies **and feature a historic, restored 4/21 Barton theatre pipe organ.**

New Canandaigua Performing Arts Center to feature Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ

In 2017, five RTOS members purchased a 2-manual, 7-rank Wurlitzer. The organ is Opus 1584 and was originally installed in Rochester's Liberty Theater located at Dewey Ave and Driving Park Ave in 1927. In the early 1940s it was moved to a church in the Boston area then later installed in a Rhode Island residence.

The organ was moved to Rochester and has been in storage as the owners looked for a suitable location for a new home for it.

Recently, the auditorium of the former Canandaigua Academy high school built in 1928 underwent a \$6 million renovation by the Fort Hill Performing Arts Center (FHPAC) to create the Sands Family Foundation Theatre. Seating 427, it is now a modern first class multi-purpose venue serving the Finger Lakes region.

In June of 2021, the organ's owners made the decision to donate to the FHPAC.

Fundraising is underway for the organ's expansion to ten ranks, refurbishing, and installation by David Peckham.