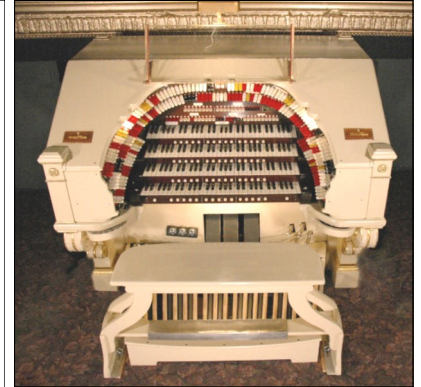


RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.
Founded 1964



Nick Renkosik Makes Debut Appearance with RTOS

Born in 1998 and based out of the Chicagoland area, **Nick Renkosik** is a nationally acclaimed young organist who has performed at such venues as Sanfilippo's Place De La Musique in Barrington Hills, IL; the Oriental and Riverside Theatres in Milwaukee, WI; the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, IL; the Rialto Theatre in Joliet, IL; Allen Organs of Chicago in Bolingbrook, IL; the Tampa Theatre in Tampa, FL; the Fox Theatre in St. Louis, MO; the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar, CA; Orchestra Hall in Chicago, IL, and Church of the Gesu in Milwaukee, WI.

Nick also competed in the 2017 American Theatre Organ Society's Young Organist's Competition in Tampa, FL, and was placed as a runner-up.

When he is not performing in a solo setting, Nick is an organist/accompanist on staff at several



Nick Renkosik

Auditorium Theatre
885 E. Main St.

Sunday, May 15, 2022

2:30 PM

(Doors open at 1:30 PM)

churches in Northern Illinois, and is an organ restoration technician for JL Weiler, Inc. in Chicago, IL. He has also appeared as a guest organist at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, WI, for the annual Milwaukee Film Festival.

Nick studied instrumental performance at Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, where he pursued a major in classical organ performance and a minor in classical piano performance. He was a student in the studios of Mr. Christopher Berry (organ) and Dr. Wael Farouk (piano).

For those desiring a preview of Nick's performance skills, please visit his website at www.nr-organist.com where you will find links to several videos.

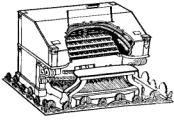
This will be Nick's first RTOS appearance and we hope that YOU will come to help make him welcome as we conclude our 2021 – 2022 concert season!

NOTICE FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE MAY RTOS CONCERT

Effective March 31, 2022, proof of COVID-19 vaccination will no longer be required when attending performances at RBTL's Auditorium Theatre.

Appropriately worn masks will still be required for all patrons, regardless of vaccination status, at all times while in the facility. Brief removal for food and drink consumption is permitted. This precaution is critical to RBTL's ability to continue to present shows and the cooperation and understanding of patrons is appreciated.

Questions and concerns can be directed to RBTL at 585-222-5000 or mail@rbtl.org.
For the latest information on the Auditorium Theatre's safety policies, visit rbtl.org/safety/.



**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

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Russ Shaner
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r.shaner@rochester.rr.com

Shopping on Amazon?

To direct your support to RTOS,
type: [smile.amazon.com](https://www.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.

Visit the RTOS website. Find
us at: www.rtosonline.org



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
the *Blower* & Concert Programs.



A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



This is the end of the 2021-2022 concert season.
(Yes, our membership runs January – December).
It is important to recognize all the people who
volunteer their time and talent to make our concerts
happen and successfully continue RTOS. Many
people work behind the scenes and are never
seen. Some spend hours each week on their tasks.
Our maintenance crews keep the organs

performing in concert ready states. This has been a difficult two
years and we are pleased that with all the volunteer help we have
been able to provide eight wonderful concerts this season. I'd
like to thank:

Roger Wood who is our "Mr. Fixit" and readily available to
solve electrical and mechanical issues and who stands by during
all the concerts.

Kevin Scott who is constantly making minor adjustments and
repairs to the console and runs for Syphers at the concerts.

Kevin Scott and **Martin Ippolito** who coordinate Open
Console at the Eisenhart Auditorium for members.

Kevin Scott and **Andrew Magin** who maintain and repair the
Eisenhart Auditorium organ.

Auditorium Theater work crew: **Russ Shaner** (crew chief) and
members **Bob Bower**, **Kevin Scott**, and **Ken Wilson**.

Bob Bower who produces the YouTube videos, on screen
announcement messages, and live screen shots during concerts.
He also sets up and takes down the organ for concerts and
practices.

Ted McWharf who creates lighting during concerts and helps
set up and take down.

Ken Wilson our membership chair who maintains
membership files and mailing labels, sends Mail Chimp
messages, and mails the *Blower*. He sets up and takes down the
lobby.

Russ Shaner who schedules the concerts and artists,
provides artist hospitality during their stay, creates the concert
posters, and assists with the *Blower* (among other things).

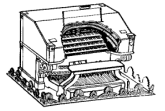
Laura Finger our skilled *Blower* newsletter editor who is
always "encouraging" us to get it out on time (!).

Gary Brumbaugh our publicity chairman who sends out
monthly concert news releases to media sites, emails to
prospective concertgoers at schools, senior centers, and
community centers. **Carol Day** assists with the media releases.

Greg Spring who is responsible for all things in the Lending
Library. He is assisted by **Gary Newman**.

Richard Neidich and **Bob Bower** who maintain our website
www.rtosonline.org

Bob Hunter our treasurer who pays all the bills, keeps
donation records, and assists at the membership table.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER *(continued)*

Gail McShane and **Marie Bower** who work the Box Office at concerts and recruit new members.

Brett Miller has been available to help with everything: jack of all trades, master of the keys.

Beth & Chris Haag who have welcomed members in the parking lot with wheelchairs and assisted them at every concert in the freezing cold weather. They also assist in closing down the organ.

Tom & Jan Brewer, John Lukes & Carol Zimmerlin, Jack Kellogg, Dave & Geraldine Speck, Susan & Al Shukis, Joanna & Bill Ruffino, and **Matthew Smith**

who are our ushers that welcome members and guests with programs, seating and directions, and selling CDs.

Bob Day and **Harold Rose** who help us with safety.

Brian Volkmar who has been helping with video tear down/move out.

Charlie Lytle who has been helping with getting the organ up and video setup/tear down.

Gordon Wood who records some of our shows.

I'd also like to recognize two other people who have been essential in our ability to offer quality concerts:

Auditorium Theater Stage Manager **Gary Zaccaria** and his staff. Gary is so much more than a theater employee. Everything he does shows that he cares about RTOS – the organization and the people. He is part of the RTOS family!

Member, artist, tuner, and repair artist **David Peckham**. David has kept our organ in superb concert-ready condition, making it a favorite of performing artists.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the May concert to celebrate another season well-done!

—Chris Van Stean
(cvs250@gmail.com)

NOW IN THE RTOS LIBRARY:
TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Recent concerts are now available on USB 2.0. You can get the following from the RTOS membership library:

*Donnie Rankin 2021

*Avakian Holiday 2021

*Brett Miller 2022 (freshman concert and YouTube special)

*Jelani Eddington 2022

Each USB device includes concert video files (MP4) and audio files (WMA and MP3). They can be used on smart TVs, Blu-ray players, more modern DVD players, current car radios, and yes, even your computer.

Experience RTOS in the high definition the way music was meant to be heard!

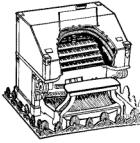


KEEPING IN TOUCH THIS SUMMER (AND BEYOND!)

We are still in the process of making sure our membership data is up to date! Also, the next *Blower* will be mailed out towards the end of the summer, prior to the first concert in the fall. Therefore, please take this opportunity before the summer break to do one of the following:

1. At the May concert, stop by the membership table and fill out a card with your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number and leave with membership chair Ken Wilson.
2. Email Ken Wilson at ken.wilson213@gmail.com and provide your name, mailing address, email address, and phone number.





**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*
Christopher Haag, *Director*
David Higgs, *Director*
Andrew Magin, *Director*
Ted McWharf, *Director*
Brett Miller, *Director*
Greg Spring, *Director*
Russ Shaner, *Director, Programs*

RTOS EVENTS

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

Nick Renkosik May 15 2:30 PM

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

Open Console

Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

May 22
Jun 26
Jul 24
Aug 21
Sep 11
Oct 9

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Binghamton Theatre Organ Society (BTOS)

236 Washington St, Binghamton, NY
607-773-1495; <http://www.binghamtontos.org/>
May 1 2:00pm Dennis James "Harold Lloyd in Speedy"

Riviera Theatre & Organ Preservation Society (RTOPS)

(3/15 Wurlitzer) 67 Webster St, N Tonawanda, NY
716-692-2413; <http://www.rivieratheatre.org/>
July 6 7:30pm Nathan Avakian

Please visit the websites for these venues for the latest
information for their 2021 - 2022 concert seasons.

APRIL CONCERT: DAVE WICKERHAM

Photos by Ted McWharf

