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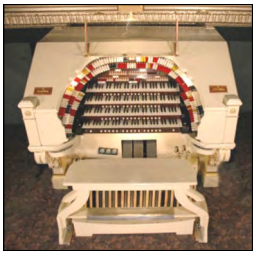
RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of the Rochester Theater Organ Society, Inc.



"Hooray for Hollywood!" featuring Mark Herman

Mark Herman is one of America's busiest theatre organists, performing over 30 concerts and silent film presentations annually in the US and abroad. In 2012, he was named ATOS Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive this prestigious honor. Previously, he was overall winner of the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition in 2004.

Mark studied theatre organ with the late John Ferguson of Indianapolis, who was well known as a teacher of the art of the theatre organ. He also studied classical piano with Christine Freeman of Fort Wayne, IN. Mark holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts/Management from DePaul University in Chicago.

Mark has been featured in several episodes of American Public Media's *Pipedreams* and has performed for countless conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, American Guild of Organists, and Organ Historical Society. On the international stage, he has toured in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. His compositions, arrangements, and performances have been heard both on television and in motion pictures. In 2019, Mark was honored to be featured alongside the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra for a rare organ solo cameo.

Mark Herman
Auditorium Theatre
885 E. Main St.
Sunday, November 17, 2024
2:00 PM
(Doors open 45 min early)

As a film accompanist and scorer, Mark has developed a reputation for dramatic period-authentic film scores with historically informed presentations that not only resonate with but captivate modern audiences. In 2019, he was commissioned to compose and record two new scores for The Criterion Collection's latest Harold Lloyd Blu-ray release.

Mark currently resides in Los Angeles where he is President of Mark Herman Music LLC, a provider of organ-related services and products. He is in demand as an organ consultant and project manager, as well as a voicing specialist and tonal consultant for Allen Organs and is proud to be an Allen Artist, showcasing new Allen Organs in the US and beyond.

We are pleased to welcome Mark to Rochester for his fourth RTOS appearance.

Annual Meeting: West Herr Auditorium November 17 at 1PM—*just before Mark's concert!*

RTOS Bylaws require an Annual Meeting to be held with reports on the status of the organization and the election results. This is your opportunity to hear the status and accomplishments of the organization. It is a time for members to interact, ask questions, and offer their assistance. Please plan to join us!

60th Anniversary a Success!

Due to the amount of time-sensitive material that needed to go in this *Blower* issue, we will feature photos from our celebration in December!

Rochester Theater Organ Society (Founded 1964)
PO Box 17114
Rochester, NY 14617
Concerts & Info: (585) 234-2295
http://www.rtosonline.org

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Rochester, NY 14620
(585) 690-5479
membership@rtosonline.org
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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www.rtosonline.org

Watch RTOS on YouTube!
Our YouTube channel is growing! Look us up and click Subscribe to see videos of complete concerts, chamber tours and more on your phone, computer or TV.
youtube.com/@Wurlitzer1951

Just $1

Help RTOS keep the music playing. Just a $1 donation at each concert pays for the *Blower*.

President's Letter

Now is the time to support your Officers and Directors if you are enjoying the programs that have been presented in the past year. Each person is a volunteer, spending hours (and sometimes days!) each month to plan and execute programs, keep the organs in concert-ready condition, write and distribute the *Blower* and program handouts, present community programs, create and distribute publicity and posters, manage and update the website, complete required business paperwork and overall keep the RTOS an active and successful organization.

RTOS Bylaws require an election each year. Each person on the ballot is committed to offering their skills and hours of service to RTOS. Returning your ballot shows you support the work that is being done.

Our membership dues do not begin to cover the costs of offering eight concerts each year. It is through the generosity of members during our annual fund drives (see page 4 of this *Blower*) and the bequests of those who left us that we are able to continue as an active organization. Please send your donations to Ken Wilson or bring them to the concert. All amounts, large and small, are greatly appreciated!

—Chris Van Stean (president@rtosonline.org)

Tim Schramm Named Honorary Member

At the September concert, RTOS President Chris Van Stean and the Board conferred Honorary Member status on Tim Schramm. This is the 38th time in its 60-year history that RTOS has conferred this honor to someone who has made significant contributions to the society. The plaque that Tim received reads:

"Honorary membership is hereby bestowed upon Tim Schramm in recognition of exceptional service to RTOS. Tim's lifelong association with the Mighty Wurlitzer began at age 10. Throughout his career as an organist, Tim has spent more hours at the Wurlitzer console than anyone else since its days in the RKO Palace Theater. Tim has presented fifteen formal concerts for RTOS since 2003. This includes eleven holiday programs that Tim produced and directed featuring talented guest musicians and vocalists. Additionally, he has served as RTOS House Organist for many other events at the Auditorium Theater. Tim's other notable service includes terms on the RTOS Board of Directors and several years as Program Chair. This award is presented with sincere appreciation."

Fall News From Our Friends in Elmira and Canandaigua

Submitted by Tim Wagner

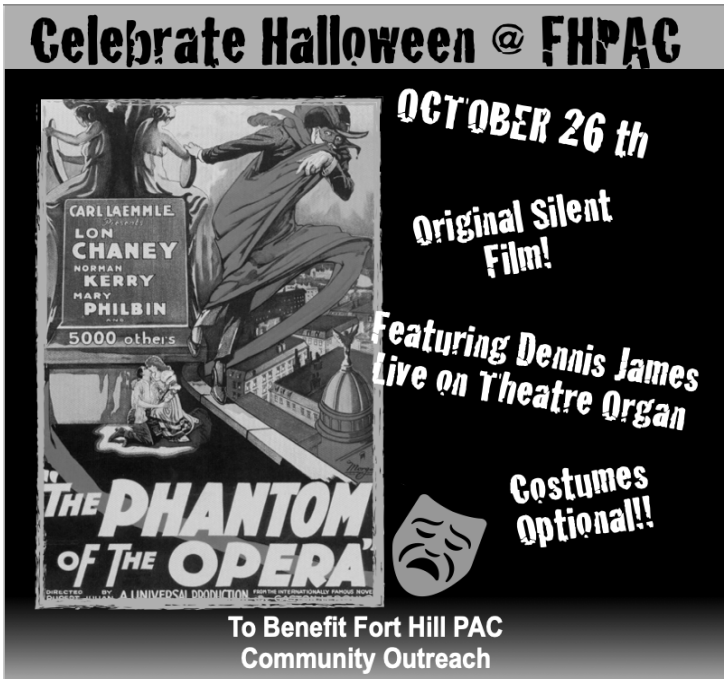
Thanks to friend and fellow RTOS member Dan Wilke, I became aware of the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra's 39th Season Opening Performance at the Clemens Center in Elmira, NY at the end of September. It is the world's only year-round, professional ensemble specializing in the authentic recreation of "America's Original Music" – the sounds of early musical theater, silent cinema, and vintage dance.

On Saturday, September 28th, my wife Ruth and I joined Dan Wilke as well as Cathy and David Peckham and friends at the Clemens Center for a screening of the 1923 Harold Lloyd comedy *Safety Last!* This silent feature film was accompanied by the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra and David Peckham performing on "his baby" the 4/31 Marr & Colton theater pipe organ. The combination of these musical talents with a classic comedy of the silent film era, in a beautifully restored 1925 movie palace, provided an experience that's rarely found today—what a treat!

During intermission, we were delighted to witness another treat. The Clemens Center's Executive Director, Karen Cromer, called David onstage to present him with a plaque and bestow his name upon the organ as a show of appreciation for his years of dedication, talent, and work on preserving, restoring, improving and performing on the Marr & Colton theater pipe organ, an effort begun by his dad Lauren. The audience likewise showed their appreciation with a standing ovation.

In honor of this well-deserved recognition, a reception was held in the lobby following the screening.

In addition to the plaque for David, Karen also presented him with a metal placard for the organ console to further commemorate his commitment to the marvelous instrument.



WHO: Dennis James
WHAT: *The Phantom of The Opera* (1925) silent film screening with accompaniment on the Don Scott theater organ.
WHERE: Fort Hill Performing Arts Center
20 Fort Hill Ave.
Canandaigua, NY 14424.
WHEN: Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 7:00 PM
OTHER DETAILS:
**VIP Package includes: mezzanine seating and pre-show reception including complimentary appetizers and bar service which will continue in the mezzanine throughout the show! Orchestra seating add-on option includes pre-show reception. Limited number of tickets available.
**Feel free to come in costume!!
FOR MORE INFO:
Phone: 585-412-6043
Website: FHPAC.org

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

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Greg Spring, *Director, Librarian*
Brian Volkmar, *Director, Safety Coordinator*
Tim Wagner, *Director*
William Porter, *ESM Liaison*

RTOS 2024-2025 CONCERTS

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

Mark Herman	**Nov 17**	**2:00 PM**
Nathan Avakian	Dec 15	2:00 PM
Zach Frame	Feb 2	2:00 PM
Eastman Bunch XVI	Mar 23	2:00 PM
Dave Wickerham	Apr 6	2:00 PM
Pierre Fracalanza	May 4	2:00 PM
Justin LaVoie	Jun 8	2:00 PM

OPEN CONSOLE

Rochester Museum & Science Center
Eisenhart Auditorium, East Ave. & Goodman St.
Sundays from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Oct 13 Nov 10 Dec 8

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS

Binghamton Theatre Organ Society (BTOS)
236 Washington St, Binghamton, NY
(607) 773-1495; https://www.binghamtontos.org/

Riviera Theatre & Organ Preservation Society (RTOPS)
(3/15 Wurlitzer) 67 Webster St, North Tonawanda, NY
(716) 692-2413; https://www.rivieratheatre.org/

Empire State Theatre & Musical Instrument Museum (ESTMIM)
(3/11 Wurlitzer) 581 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse, NY
(315) 687-3580; https://www.syracusewurlitzer.com/

Clemens Center
(Marr & Colton) 207 Clemens Center Pkwy, Elmira, NY
(607) 734-8191; https://www.clemenscenter.org/

Call or check venue websites for latest information

The Rochester Theater Organ Society

2024 Annual Fund Drive

Suggested Donation Levels:

Sponsorship Level	Single Donation	Sponsorship Level	Single Donation
President's Circle	$500+	Sponsor	$50 - $99
Guardian	$250 - $499	Patron	$25 - $49
Benefactor	$100 - $249	Friend	$10 - $24

Send completed form and your contribution to:
RTOS c/o Ken Wilson - Secretary
11 Bly Street
Rochester, NY 14620

Method of Payment:
☐ Check/Money Order ☐ Credit Card

Amount of Contribution _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ CSC _____
Make checks/money orders payable to: RTOS MM/YY 3 digit code on card back

Please print legibly and include phone and/or email

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: ( ) -

RTOS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
100% of your contribution may be tax deductible and will be acknowledged in the annual list of donors unless otherwise specified