

## The Lloyd E. Klos Legacy

Lloyd's 7th series of concert program articles featured personalities and places associated with Rochester. For the March 1977 program he wrote about local organist Dick Betts and the Piccadilly (later Paramount) organ.

ROCHESTER ALBUM

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Dick Betts at the Piccadilly  
2- Manual Console

This is believed to be the only picture in existent which shows the 2-manual "slave" console of the Piccadilly (later Century, Paramount) Theatre which was located on Clinton Avenue at Mortimer St.

In 1928, a 13-rank Wurlitzer was installed in the theatre as part of the house's renovation, with both 3-manual and 2-manual consoles, the latter on a movable platform. The Piccadilly had the only 2-console organ in the city.

In the picture is organist Dick Betts, who had engagements at Loew's Rochester and the Piccadilly in the thirties. Betts could not read a note of music, but he was able to play any popular or classical composition after hearing it only once or twice. Though he came from a musical family, he disdained early music study in favor of sports, but upon leaving school, took up the piano, "and found I could play without notes, so never bothered to study, "

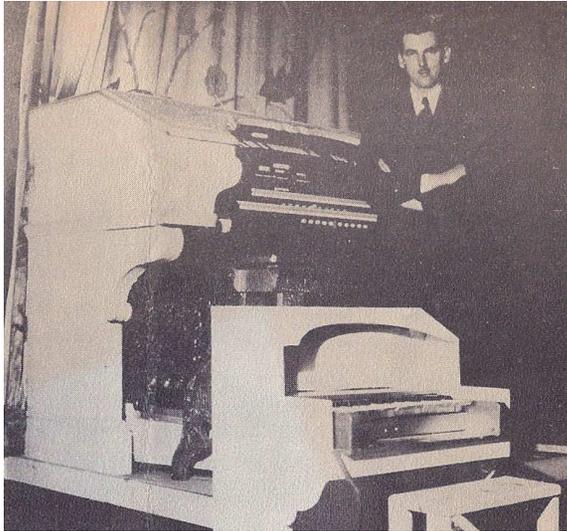
For his novel routine, Betts built a portable keyboard (inserted in the baby console above) which was wired in to the main organ with an extra-long cable. Dick walked up and down the aisles, asking patrons to play the organ. It was a highly successful presentation,

The "console twins", Hugh Dodge and r. Gordon Baldwin, used the two consoles for their spotlight feature presentations. In April 1934, the 2-manual console was borrowed by the RKO Palace and wired into that theatre's Wurlitzer (the one you're hearing this evening) so that Mrs. Jesse Crawford could play duets with her husband. The noted pair was appearing during Easter week.

Whereabouts of the 2-manual console is a mystery. Betts, in 1977, was living with his wife and four children in a General Electric medallion home in Florida. The Piccadilly organ was installed in a restaurant in Louisville, Colorado in the sixties, but in 1975, it was removed and re-installed in a pizza parlor in Provo, Utah where it saw daily service. It later was moved to Colorado State University in Fort Collins, CO where it is currently in storage.

The Paramount Theatre was razed in 1975.

*Series Notes by Lloyd E. Klos  
Program design by Russ Shaner*



# The Rochester Theater Organ Society Proudly Presents



Justin Stahl  
*In Concert*

Auditorium Theatre  
April 14, 2019 - 2:00pm

# 2019 ATOS Annual Convention June 30 - July 4



Auditorium Theatre June 30, July 1, July 4



David Gray



Jerry Nagano



Dave Wickerham



Eisenhart Auditorium July 1



Luke Stasiunas



Riviera Theatre July 2



Nathan Avakian



Mark Herman



Shea's Buffalo July 2



Richard Hills



Clemens Center July 3



Simon Gledhill



Paragon Ragtime Orchestra



David Peckham



First Universalist July 4



Alex Jones

Rochester Riverside Hotel

- Meetings
- Seminars
- Cocktails
- Gala Banquet
- Fireworks



# Today's Artist Justin Stahl

**Justin Stahl** is a native of Beech Grove, IN. Beginning at age five with encouragement from his great-grandfather, Justin was mostly self-taught in piano and organ. His passion for music has reached many venues that have included teaching/accompanying for several choral departments, playing for community theatre, and serving for over sixteen years in the Indiana Army National Guard's 38th Infantry Division Band.

Justin has entertained thousands of patrons of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in the last eight productions of their annual Yuletide Celebration, playing the Wurlitzer pipe organ installed at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Theatre organ has always been a passion of Justin's and has taken him to performance venues across the world, including a five-city tour of Australia.

A graduate of Marian University-Indianapolis with a Bachelor's degree in piano performance, Justin presently serves as director of choirs for Pleasant Local Schools in Marion, OH, teaching students from 6th-12th grade. His approach and philosophy includes the continued promotion of the theatre organ by using a wide base of musical genres.

RTOS takes great pleasure in welcoming Justin back for his encore Rochester performance.



**CELEBRATE MEMORIAL DAY WITH RTOS**  
**Sunday, May 26, 2019 at 2:30 PM**

**CLARK WILSON**  
**ACCOMPANYING THE CLASSIC**  
**1925 SILENT FILM**  
**THE FRESHMAN**  
**STARRING HAROLD LLOYD**

