

The Lloyd E. Klos Legacy

Lloyd's 6th series of concert program articles featured organists who lived and performed locally. For the March 1976 program he wrote about an Eastman School graduate who lived in Rochester for much of her career.

Rochester Theatre Organists Of The Golden Era

No.7: Helen Ankner Kondolf

"A varied career" best describes that of Helen Ankner Kondolf. For she has been a pianist, organist, accompanist, arranger and teacher.

Elmira-born Helen was graduated from Elmira College with a degree in piano, and then entered the Eastman School of Music as an organ student. She became a professional shortly afterwards, playing silent movies in the Regent and Piccadilly theatres. Later, she did spotlight solos and special programs at the RKO Palace. On Sundays, her versatility enabled her to play at Corpus Christi and later at Good Counsel Church.



During radio's expansion with "live" musicians in the thirties, the young lady became staff artist at the Strombeg-Carlson station WHAM. She did fill-ins, a children's program, and a Sunday night organ recital. Perhaps her most famous program was "The Major and the Minor", a two-piano show with Clyde Morse, done in the mezzanine studios at the Sagamore Hotel (now III East Ave.).

After marriage, she moved to Philadelphia where she taught four years at the Richter School of Music and played organ for a radio station. Upon her return to Rochester, she resumed her radio career and taught at the Eastman School's Preparatory Department. The picture above shows her providing music for a state teachers' convention held in the RKO Palace in October 1941. Daughter Connie looks on.

Mrs. Kondolf provided music between acts at the East Rochester Artists' Playhouse and at Nazareth College where she made musical adaptations for Winifred Soldon's choreography for dancing classes there. She had also run a day school in crafts and music. She lived her remaining years in Fairport.

(Editor's note) During her days at WHAM she provided the music for the very popular "True Stories of the New York State Police", a weekly radio drama produced by WHAM. In 1980 RTOS recreated one of these scripts which was broadcast on WXXI radio. Mrs Kondolf recorded the musical portions using the RTOS-Grierson organ at the Auditorium Theatre.

Program design by Russ Shaner

The Rochester Theater Organ Society Proudly Presents



Scott Foppiano *In Concert*

Auditorium Theatre
October 13, 2019 - 2:30pm

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Sunday, November 3, 2019 at 2:30 pm.

Today's Artist Scott Foppiano

RTOS is thrilled to welcome **Scott Foppiano** to the Auditorium Theatre for his tenth RTOS performance. **Scott Foppiano** was born in Memphis, TN in 1965. While a student at the Parish School of St. Paul the Apostle, he began playing for school liturgies and eventually weekend Parish Masses. During his years at Christian Brothers High School, he experienced his first movie palace and theatre pipe organ at the Orpheum in Memphis. "Bitten by the bug," he was allowed to begin learning to play the theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer and soon played for shows and movies.

Following his family's relocation to Charlotte, Scott entered the NC School of the Arts as a Kenan scholarship student and continued organ studies with William Whitehead and Thomas Hazleton. Meanwhile, he served as Senior House Organist of the Fox Theatre in Detroit and performed often at Detroit's Redford Theatre and Ann Arbor's Michigan Theatre.

Scott holds a BMus, MMus, Serv Pl, and CAGO of the AGO, Certification of Liturgy Programming from Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit and training in Gregorian chant with the Benedictine Monks of L'Abbaye St. Pierre in Solesmes, France.

Having served on administrative boards of AGO, OHS, and ATOS, Scott has performed and accompanied silent films for conventions at local and national levels and for organ societies nationally and internationally. In 2001 his choir made a pilgrimage-tour of Italy, singing the Latin Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. Following the Mass, they were presented to +His Holiness Pope St. John Paul II.

Scott has served several congregations nationwide. In January 2016, he returned home to the Carolinas to be nearer to his family. He is the Organist and Director of Music at First United Methodist Church of Cheraw, SC and the Organist/Accompanist at Temple Beth El in Charlotte, NC.

Scott teaches piano, vocal coaching, classical organ, and theatre organ privately. One of his students placed as one of three finalists in the 2012 ATOS Young Organist Competition and went on to make his debut at the ATOS national convention in Los Angeles. In 2007, Scott was honored with the title of ATOS Organist of the Year and presented a solo recital at the Cadet Chapel of the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Scott maintains an active schedule as a performing organist.