

## The Lloyd E. Klos Legacy

This month our 'wayback' machine returns us to January of 1971 and Lloyd's first series of articles for RTOS programs. When Lloyd wrote this article the Regent was still in business. Who knew that it would cease operation in early 1973 and be razed in the ensuing months.

### THEATRES OF ROCHESTER

### 5. The Regent



The 1800-seat Regent at East Avenue and Chestnut Street, "while not a large house, it compares favorably with any theatre in the country, owing to its artistic finish and air of refinement", so said the advertising of the day of its opening, November 10, 1914.

Interior finish was rich mahogany, with side walls, proscenium, boxes and ceiling in old rose, old ivory and gold.

The 3 -manual Hope -Jones Wurlitzer was designed especially for the theatre by Mr. Robert Hope -Jones. (He took his own life in Rochester three days later). The organ was opened by W. Raymond Burroughs Others who played it in the golden days included Joseph Briggs, Gladys Clarke, Frank Clement, Margaret

Culp, Grace Drew, Anna Walker, Chester E. Klee, Edward C. May, Bernice Ryan and Harold Osborn Smith.

After the demise of the silent :movies, the organ fell into desuetude. It is still in the theatre, what's left of it. Considerable effort would be necessary to restore it. The Regent remains as one of the few downtown houses still in business.

*Editor's notes: The Regent was torn down in 1973. The site remains a parking lot to this day. Before the wrecking ball arrived, several members of RTOS (led by yours truly) were granted access to the building and allowed to remove the remains of the Wurlitzer 3 manual organ (Opus 44). Plans to refurbish the organ and install it in Midtown Plaza never materialized. The organ had suffered considerable water damage and much of the pipe-work had been destroyed or removed by parties unknown. Being a very early Wurlitzer, many of the components were of early designs and it was decided that it would not be practical to attempt to refurbish it as a whole. However, some of its parts have been added to both of the RTOS organs and others are still in storage for possible reuse.*

*Despite its age, the Regent's interior was still in relatively good condition. It is interesting to note that the building was originally powered by 'Edison's DC' (Direct Current) electricity. The organ had two blowers, one on each side just outside the organ chambers. During the organ removal activities we noted that the original DC motors were still there, although they had been replaced by newer ones which were powered by AC current. Sadly, the blowers came down with the building.*

- Russ Shaner

*Front cover design by Russ Shaner*

## The Rochester Theater Organ Society

Proudly Presents

## Jelani Eddington



Auditorium Theatre

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016 - 2:30 pm



## TODAY'S ARTIST—JELANI EDDINGTON

Jelani Eddington was born in Muncie, IN to Louise Eddington and the late Robert Eddington and grew up in a very musical family. Between the interests of his mother, a professional music teacher of many years, and those of his grandmother Florence Arnold, a well-respected piano instructor, it was no surprise when Jelani demonstrated an inclination toward music at an early age.

Shortly after beginning piano instruction at age 4, Jelani began studying classical piano under the direction of his grandmother. At the age of 8, a trip to hear the 4/42 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in the Indianapolis, IN Paramount Music Palace restaurant introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ. Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John Ferguson.

At age 13, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition, prevailing over competitors ages 13-21 from the U.S., England, Australia and New Zealand. Jelani remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title.

Jelani went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in 1996, and then received a Juris Doctor degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, after which he was admitted to practice law in NY State.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional ATOS conventions, and has toured extensively throughout the world, including numerous concert appearances in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe.

In addition to his work as an organist, Jelani has also distinguished himself as a concert pianist, appearing recently as a guest pianist for performances of Edvard Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A Minor*, George Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* and Leroy Anderson's *Piano Concerto in C Major*. In February 2008, Jelani was invited to perform two special performances of Anderson's concerto with the Tulsa Signature Symphony as part of a celebration of Leroy Anderson's centennial.

In 2014, Jelani became the first—and to date only—musician to have a video of his theatre organ performance go “viral.” Within a few short weeks, Jelani's performance of John William's *Star Wars Symphonic Suite* was viewed on YouTube over 1 million times in more than 200 countries around the world. As of 2016, that video has earned more than 2.2 million views worldwide.

We are pleased to welcome Jelani Eddington to the bench of the ROS-Grierson Mighty Wurlitzer for his ninth Rochester appearance.

## WE WELCOME TODAY'S SPECIAL GUESTS

### RTOS EXTENDS A WARM WELCOME TO TODAY'S SPECIAL GUESTS

**DON HALL**

AND

**MEMBERS OF OASIS/ROCHESTER**

Earlier today RTOS Honorary Member Don Hall conducted a demonstration of the RTOS-Grierson Mighty Wurlitzer for members of the Rochester area OASIS organization. It is our sincere wish that they are enjoying their visit and will want to join us for our upcoming events throughout the coming months and years.

We also urge RTOS members to learn more about this fine organization and the many social and educational programs it offers.

### ABOUT OASIS/ROCHESTER

When you want to grow, learn and give, where do you turn? If you are like many over the age of 50, OASIS Rochester is where you go to grow - mentally, physically, and socially - in a welcoming, exciting and comfortable environment that helps lead to a fulfilling and healthy life. Oasis Rochester provides camaraderie, high-quality educational programs and the opportunity to explore your passions. It's your time to try something new, to enjoy yourself and be happy, and Oasis Rochester wants to be a part of that lifelong adventure. Please, share our excitement and sign up for classes the fall and winter. Contact us at (585) 730-8800

or visit our website at [www.oasisnet.org/Rochester-NY](http://www.oasisnet.org/Rochester-NY).



Join us at the Auditorium Theatre on  
**Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 2:30 PM**

As RTOS Presents

**A Tim Schramm Christmas**

Start your Holidays at RTOS with Tim and his musical guests.

