

The Lloyd E. Klos Legacy

For the 1994-1995 concert season Lloyd Klos featured nine articles he titled "Glimpses of the Past" for the back page of the programs. The one reprinted below originally appeared in May of 1995. The Strand Theatre was located at the northeast corner of St. Paul and Mortimer streets, directly behind the RKO Palace on the lot now occupied by the new RTS Transit Center.

Glimpses of the Past No.9

(March 25, 1953 local press)



One of Rochester's first movie houses, the 1200-seat Strand Theatre at 62 St. Paul St., closed its doors for good last night. The 105-year old building is to be demolished for enlargement of the Mortimer-St. Paul parking lot, operated by the building's owners.

James J. Hayes, who, with Vincent B. Faga, has operated the theatre for the past few years, confirmed a report that audiences were told last night that the theatre was open for its final show.

The building was erected by St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1848. When St. Paul's moved to East Ave.

in 1896, the building was sold. For 10 years, it was known as Colonial Hall, housing wrestling and skating events. In 1907, George D. Curtis, a motion picture pioneer here, purchased the building and opened it as the Happy Hour Theatre. Its name was changed to the Strand in 1913 when it was remodeled. When Curtis opened the Happy Hour, it was the second nickel movie house in the city. First was the Bijou Dream on Main E. at North Water.

In 1921, a 3/14 Marr & Colton organ was installed in the Strand, and five years later, it was enlarged to 18 ranks and a fourth manual added to the console. Among the 20 or more who played it were Frank "Gus" Clement, Gladys Clark, Margaret Culp, Hugh Dodge, George Garis, Ira Shirk and Harry Sullivan.

With the demise of the Strand, the organ was removed and sent to Ouray, Colorado where it was installed in a building belonging to the religious sect "The Great I Am." Fire shortly after destroyed the building and organ.

Front cover design and historical text by Russ Shaner

The Rochester Theater Organ Society

Proudly Presents

Ron Rhode



Celebrating 40 years of performing for RTOS

Auditorium Theatre

Sunday, June 14, 2015 - 2:30 pm

Our 50th Year



THE RTOS STORY

A Chronological History of the Rochester Theater Organ Society

1999 - RTOS RETURNS TO NORMAL OPERATIONS

Following nearly two years of turmoil during the rebuilding of the Auditorium's 4-manual console we all breathed a collective sigh of relief as we began the final year of the 1900s. Before the calendar rolled over to 2000 RTOS would feature nine of our all-time favorite artists.

Exactly 30 years (almost to the day) after **Dennis James** first performed for RTOS, he was back in Rochester for his 10th appearance on January 10, 1999. A promising young Indiana University college student in 1969, we celebrated his 30th anniversary in style. In February, **David Peckham** drove up from Elmira to entertain us. David first played for RTOS at age 12 as part of a talent night and was now back for his 8th performance. March brought us the ninth Rochester appearance of Arizona's **Ron Rhode**. We note with great pride that Ron is celebrating 40 years of playing for RTOS today.

In a first ever collaboration with the Rochester chapter of the American Guild of Organists, RTOS was privileged to present internationally famous **Hector Olivera** in a very special appearance on April 17th. Well known to RTOS audiences, having played for us on six previous occasions, Hector wowed the AGO members present with a program that included both "Theatre" and "Classical" selections. **Ken Double** was on hand to close the concert season in May. Edging up on the list of favorites, this was Ken's third (of eight, so far) trips to Rochester.

We moved into summer giving thanks that the refurbished console had worked nearly flawlessly for the seven concerts played on it since its return, and we had received many compliments from the artists who performed on it.

The September, 1999 Blower noted the passing of three long-time RTOS members during the summer. Founding member Stu Moffatt, and Gerri Kummer left us during May of 1999, and this reporter's good friend Walt Schwind died in July following a tragic accident. All three were highly involved in RTOS for many years. Stu's son Ron and Gerri's son Brad are still active members.

Another old friend of RTOS, **Don Thompson** opened our 'Millennium' season on September 17th. Don also was making his 8th RTOS appearance. October brought longtime favorite **Len Rawle** back to RTOS to celebrate 25th years of Rochester appearances. First here in 1977, this was Len's 7th RTOS concert. In addition to the concert, Len also conducted a well attended 'Master class' at the Eisenhart during his visit.

A relatively new 'kid on the block', **Dave Wickerham** had shared his tremendous talent with the RTOS audience at the Eisenhart in 1997 and we 'moved him up' to the big organ for the November concert. As of this March, Dave has now been here eight times. Organist and technician extraordinaire **Clark Wilson** 'rang out' 1999 in December. It was his 4th RTOS concert.

Two weeks later we all held our breath as we experienced Y2K. Remember?? As the calendar turned to 2000, the planes still flew, the computers still computed, the lights did not go out and RTOS was ready for a new century.



We Welcome Today's Artist - Ron Rhode



It is with the greatest of pleasure that we welcome Ron Rhode, back to the Auditorium Theatre for his 12th Rochester appearance.

Today marks the 40th Anniversary of Ron's first RTOS concert!

Ron Rhode is in his 46th year as a professional theatre organist. His recordings have received "**Top Rating 10/10**" from *CD Review Magazine*, and he was awarded "**Theatre Organist Of The Year – 1989**" by the American Theatre Organ Society. He has had the privilege of playing throughout the United States, Canada, England, and Australia on nearly all of the major theatre organ installations.

Ron is a native of Illinois, where he began his musical career on the piano. He quickly advanced to classical pipe organ, and in 1968 held his first theatre organ job playing for roller skating. In 1973 Ron moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to start a long association with the Organ Stop Pizza restaurants. In 1975 Ron moved to Mesa, Arizona, where he held the Featured Organist post and played for pizza patrons until November, 1986. In July, 1988, Ron again joined the staff as Associate Organist until his retirement in 2000. In Phoenix, he has been the Featured Organist for the Orpheum Theatre Silent Sunday Series, a silent movie series, since its inception in May of 1999.

Since leaving the pizza parlor in 1988, Ron has completed a Bachelor of Education degree in Early Childhood Education at Arizona State University, and in 1995 he earned a Master of Elementary Education degree from Northern Arizona State University. In November 2011, Ron retired from Mesa Public Schools. He enjoyed a short retirement of seven weeks before accepting a job with Veritas Preparatory Academy, in Phoenix, and in August, 2013, joined the staff of Arizona School for the Arts where he is teaching 5th/6th grade Piano Lab. In addition to teaching, recording, and concertizing, Ron has been a church organist/service musician in Phoenix since 1974. In January, 2015, he became organist and director of the Rejoicing Handbells at 1st United Methodist Church of Phoenix. He continues to be the Vesper Musician, Choir Director, and coordinator of service musicians for the Beatitudes Campus in Phoenix, a position he has held since 2007, and the accompanist for Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix since Fall, 2005.

With all of the commitments in Phoenix, Ron still finds time to maintain an active concert and recording career. He is a favorite at American Theatre Organ Society national and regional conventions. He has more than twenty-five recordings to his credit.



Join us at the Auditorium Theatre

Sunday, September 13th at 2:30 PM

HECTOR OLIVERA

