

# RTOS Blower

Official Newsletter of The Rochester Theater Organ Society Inc.  
Published monthly September through May



## Steven Ball Presents *The Phantom of the Opera*

In celebration of Halloween, Steven Ball will be accompanying the 1925 silent film classic *The Phantom of the Opera* starring Lon Chaney, with soloist Juliet Petrus singing the Mary Philbin role.

Originally from a small farm near Wright, Michigan, Dr. Ball began playing the organ at a very young age. At 6, he was studying piano and attempting to complete a single stop pipe organ which he and his father had begun engineering in the basement of their family home. Dr. Ball began accompanying church services on a regular basis by the age of 9, and started formal organ studies not long after with Dr. John Hammersma of Calvin College. By the age of 16 he was accepted as an undergraduate in the studio of Dr. Marilyn Mason of the University of Michigan. His undergraduate studies in organ performance were followed by several years of study abroad which included work at l'Institute de Touraine in Tours (France), the University of Utrecht and Royal Dutch Carillon School of Amersfoort (The



### Steven Ball

Auditorium Theatre  
885 E. Main St

**Sunday, October 27**  
**2:30 PM**

*(Doors open 45 min early)*

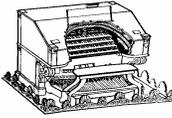
Netherlands) as well as the Royal Carillon School of Mechelen (Belgium). He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship by the United States government in 2002.

Effective July 1 2013, Dr. Ball has accepted a new appointment as Organist and Director of Outreach for the world's largest pipe organ

located at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, NJ as well as Artist in Residence at the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, PA.

Previous to this appointment, Dr. Ball was Senior Staff Organist at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, University Carillonneur at the University of Michigan as well as a member of the Faculty of the Organ Department in addition to being Director of the Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments. Dr. Ball was also Cathedral Organist at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit, an instrument recently featured as the subject of a premiere recording ([stevenball.com](http://stevenball.com)) of the works of his predecessor in Detroit, René Becker.

The recent restoration of the Charles Baird Carillon made national news and appeared across the nation on the "Big Ten" network as well as PBS stations. Dr. Ball also recently made an appearance on the nationally syndicated ESPN-ABC network performing *The*  
*(continued on page 3)*

**Rochester Theater Organ Society  
(Founded 1964)**

PO Box 17114

Rochester, NY 14617

Concerts &amp; Info: (585) 234-2295

<http://www.rtosonline.org>**MEMBERSHIP CHAIR**

Ken Veneron

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Nunda, NY 14517

(585) 468-1052

[423rtos@rochester.rr.com](mailto:423rtos@rochester.rr.com)

Membership (from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31)

Full: \$50.00

Associate: (50+ miles from Roch): \$35.00

Student (age 18-24 with ID): \$35.00

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Richard &amp; Anne Leta

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Rochester, NY 14610-1051

(585) 288-4161

**WHO TO CONTACT IF...**

*You have an ad to place in the Blower for organs/related items:*

Laura Finger, *Blower* Editor.

*You have a name/address change, change in membership status, or mail delivery issues:*

Ken Veneron, Membership Chair.

*You want to sign up for an Open Console session:* Richard & Anne Leta, Open Console Chairs.

*Everything else:* RTOS Concert & Info Line. The greeting message has the latest concert info. If you wish to leave a message afterwards about anything else, please do and the most appropriate person to handle your inquiry will return your call ASAP!

**A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

**BOO!** Halloween is coming! and what better time of year to screen the classic 1925 Silent Classic, **"The Phantom of the Opera"**. I urge you to bring everyone you know on October 27th as **Dr. Steven Ball** accompanies this memorable film. Steven will include an appearance by operatic soprano, **Juliet Petrus** to give voice to the 'Faust' portion of the film. It has been several years since we have presented a full length feature film at the Auditorium, and we hope that you and your family, friends and neighbors will be in the audience to enjoy it.

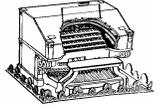
At our recent Board of Directors meeting a lengthy discussion was held concerning the financial status of RTOS and concerns regarding future funding. While we are not in financial difficulty at the present time, a careful review of our income and expenses for the past several years reveals that we need to find ways to increase our annual income and reduce our expenses. Your officers and directors work hard to make our dollars go as far as possible. However, our membership is not increasing significantly and our costs continue to escalate.

We have been fortunate to have very understanding landlords (RBTL and the RMSC) who understand our plight and continue to allow us to use their facilities for very reasonable fees. However, nearly every other expense category, including Artist fees, insurance, printing & postage, advertising & promotion and organ maintenance continue to increase on a yearly basis. Several years ago we were fortunate to have received significant bequests from the estates of several members who passed away. These funds greatly bolstered our financial position but we are now having to draw from these funds each year to meet our expenses. Also, when we suffered water damage to the solo chamber a few years ago we received a substantial grant from the Lloyd Klos Foundation to help repair the damage.

Last year we ran a membership 'special' which brought us quite a few new members. However, it did not make us any extra money. We are crossing our fingers that these new folks will recognize the value of their RTOS memberships and renew for 2014. We have discussed several ways to control expenses. The obvious methods would be to either increase dues or shorten the concert series from nine to eight concerts each year. While we do not consider either of these desirable or necessary at this time, we may have to consider them or other cost saving measures in the future. Where else in today's world, can two people enjoy nine afternoons of beautiful live entertainment each year for \$50.00 ! That is less than \$3.00 per person per concert if you attend all of our shows each season. Even if you only come five times during the year it is only \$5.00 per ticket. That's about half the cost of a movie ticket.

We are preparing a statement and charts which will illustrate our financial situation. I had hoped to publish it in the issue of the Blower, however it is not finalized.. It will be made available to members soon. We may have copies at the upcoming concert or we will make them available shortly thereafter.

*(Continues on page 3)*



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued)

At our upcoming annual meeting in December we will be proposing a couple of change to our By-Laws that will allow us to raise dues in a future year. Obviously there will be no dues increase for 2014, and as I said, there are no current plans to raise dues in ensuing years. However, it is necessary to raise the 'ceiling' above the current \$50.00 limit, 'just in case'. The other proposed change would allow us to reduce the number of concerts from nine to eight, should this ever be deemed necessary. Again, please let me stress that we have **no** current plans to decrease the number of concerts each year.

- Russ Shaner

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST RTOS HONORARY MEMBERS

I am pleased to announce our newest RTOS Honorary Members, **Jim and Lorraine Stetts**. A plaque was presented to Jim & Lorraine during intermission at the September concert. The wording on the plaque says it all:

*Given in recognition of their many years of service and dedication to the Rochester Theater Organ Society. Jim has given generously of his time and expertise, devoting untold hours to the rebuilding of many of the components of the RTOS - Grierson Wurlitzer.*

*Together Jim and Lorraine have been among our most active and dedicated ambassadors for nearly 25 years, rarely missing a RTOS concert despite the long drive from their home in Williamsport, PA. As proud owners of their own Wurlitzer, Jim and Lorraine have welcomed many artists and enthusiasts to their home for many years.*

Congratulations and thanks to Jim & Lorraine for all they do for RTOS.

- Russ Shaner

## ARTIST BIOS

(continued)

*Victors* and is literally responsible for writing the dictionary definition of "bellringing" and its related entries for the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*.

### Soloist Juliet Petrus



Ms. Petrus, a Farmington, Michigan native, received her Master of Music in voice from Northwestern University, and a

Bachelor of Music, summa cum laude, from the University of Michigan.

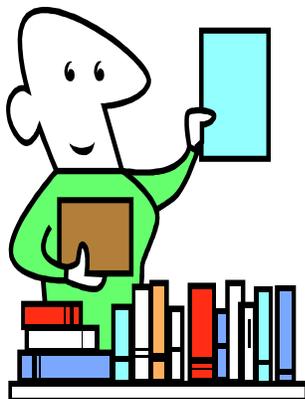
Getting her start as a choreographer and performer in musical theater as a teenager, Ms. Petrus is now a dedicated educator and teaching artist working for the City Colleges of Chicago and Lyric Opera of Chicago,

as a singer highly sought after in the worlds of opera, operetta, concert, and recital. Also an accomplished violist and pianist, she currently freelances in the Chicago area.

This year (2013) has already proven to be exciting for Ms. Petrus: her Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center debut with the I Sing Beijing US Premiere received great acclaim, one reviewer noting that she performed with "tremendous clarity and improvisatory zest, with her vocalized laughter a particular treat and an impressive in-the-moment ending." She also recently completed a tour throughout the US, singing Chinese repertoire. In addition, Ms. Petrus made her debut with the Tower Chorale and International Chamber Artists in Chicago, expanding her repertoire to include the soprano II solos in Mozart's C minor Mass.

## LIBRARY NEWS

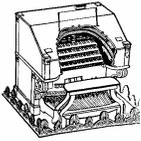
by Greg Spring



I hope you all enjoyed the Byron Jones concert, and look forward to seeing the *Phantom* this month!

Awaiting you at the Library will be more CDs and then more cassettes, from concert to concert.

If you find anything wrong with the material, please let us know so that we can take it out of circulation and investigate the issue before it is passed along to someone else!



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Organ Society**  
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**RTOS EVENTS**

Auditorium Theatre, 885 E. Main St.  
*All artists and dates subject to change*

Dr. Steven Ball	Oct 27	2:30PM
Jelani Eddington	Nov 17	2:30PM
Tim Schramm Christmas	Dec 22	2:30PM
NO CONCERT	Jan	
Eastman Bunch	Feb 9	2:30PM
Jonas Nordwall	Mar 9	2:30PM
Scott Foppiano	Apr 6	2:30PM
TBA	May 25	2:30PM
TBA	Jun 29	2:30PM

\*\*\*\*\*

Rochester Museum & Science Center  
Eisenhart Auditorium, East Ave. & Goodman St.

**Open Console**

*Sundays From 9:30 AM to 4 PM*

Oct 21  
Nov 10  
Dec 15

"Open Console" is when members are given a time slot to play one of the Society's theater pipe organs. Come to play, or enjoy the sound.

**OTHER WESTERN NY ORGANS**

**Spencerport Theatre Organ Society** (3/17 Hybrid Wurlitzer) Dick and Fran Noah, 19 Sias Lane, Spencerport, NY 14559. Call (585) 352-1148 or email [wcms2@juno.com](mailto:wcms2@juno.com) for details.

**The Niagara Frontier (Riviera Theatre & Organ Preservation Society)** 67 Webster St, N Tonawanda, NY. Box Office (716) 692-2413. [www.rivieratheatre.org/organ.html](http://www.rivieratheatre.org/organ.html)

**Capitol Theatre** (3/7 Moller, 1928) 220 W. Dominick Street, Rome (315) 337-6453 [www.theatreorgans.com/ny/rome/](http://www.theatreorgans.com/ny/rome/)

**Empire State Theatre & Musical Instrument Museum** (3/11 Wurlitzer) 581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse (315) 687-3580 [jrjunction.com/estmim.htm](http://jrjunction.com/estmim.htm)

**Binghamton Theatre Organ Society** (4/24 Morton) P.O. Box 1353, Binghamton (607) 773-1495 [www.theatreorgans.com/btoc](http://www.theatreorgans.com/btoc)

**Please invite your friends and acquaintances to attend this month's concert by giving them one of the discount coupons below:**

**Pops "Theater Organ" Concert**

at the Auditorium Theatre, 885 E. Main St, Rochester, NY  
Sunday, Oct 27 @ 2:30PM

**Steven Ball**



**On the Mighty Wurlitzer 4/23 Pipe Organ**

Presented by the Rochester Theater Organ Society

\$10 admission per person with this coupon (regularly \$15)  
(Coupon may be copied and is valid for Bearer & Family)

Name:  
Address:  
Email:

*THIS BOX MUST BE FILLED IN FOR COUPON TO BE VALID!*

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