

RTOS Blower

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



Byron Jones, The Welsh Wizard, Opens the RTOS 2013-2014 Season

Byron was born in 1949 in Risca, Gwent, South Wales - hence the name of The Welsh Wizard.

As a child, Byron showed great promise on the piano, and then later on the organ. He played in a local church, and developed his style over the years. While still in school, Byron played at the local chapel and then progressed to the working mens clubs of Wales when he was a teenager, accompanying many of the big stars who came to Wales in cabaret - Donald Peers, Ruby Murray and many more. He later progressed to the larger clubs, where he would be engaged to play for artists straight from the London Palladium.

Over the last thirty years, Byron has played for many Summer Season Spectacular shows, made countless radio broadcasts and made many television appearances in Great Britain and America, as well as produced his own recordings on CD and DVD. Byron has his own Music Society of loyal fans and friends



Byron Jones

Auditorium Theatre
885 E. Main St

Sunday, September 15
2:30 PM

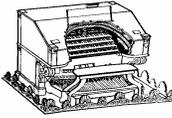
(Doors open 45 min early)

Byron plays regularly for organ societies the length and breadth of Britain as well as at dance venues for ballroom and sequence dancing. For many years Byron has produced his own music festivals and holiday breaks, much to the delight of his devoted supporters and earning new friendships all the time.

An accomplished organist, Byron has also played most of the major theatre pipe organs in Great Britain, namely Comptons, Christies and WurliTzers including the famous Blackpool Tower WurliTzer. He is a much sought after concert performer, and travels all over the country, giving concerts on many of the loved and cherished theatre cinema organs that have been preserved and held in affection. He also cannot resist the temptation to sample all kinds of church organs when he has the opportunity.

In recent years Byron has achieved an increasing international success, with many new friends in Canada and the USA who look forward to seeing him during his visits there. Never happier than when seated at the console of some of the world's finest organs, Byron's magic touch is appreciated all around the world.



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

PO Box 17114

Rochester, NY 14617

Concerts & Info: (585) 234-2295

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

Ken Veneron

48 N. State St.

Nunda, NY 14517

(585) 468-1052

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

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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**EASTMAN HOUSE TO
DEDICATE 'NEW' NORTH
ORGAN**

by Russ Shaner

As noted recently in the local newspaper, The **George Eastman House** has recently acquired an Aeolian Pipe Organ, circa 1916. A gift of a California donor, the new "North" organ replaces a similar instrument that was lost to history some 50 years ago. Eastman House organ curator **Joe Blackburn** along with **Tim Schramm** and others will play the organ in public on Sunday September 22nd. Those wishing to attend must pay the house tour admission fee.

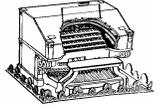
**A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Greetings and welcome back for another year of exciting activities. I hope that everyone has had a safe and happy summer. It has been an exciting one for me that included a trip to the Midwest to hear the magnificent SanFilippo Wurlitzer. With 5 manuals and 80 ranks, it is the world's largest theatre organ. Lyn Larsen, Tony Fenelon and Jelani Eddington all gave inspired performances that included a number of piano/organ duets. It is always a treat to visit the SanFilippo estate and collection of automatic musical instruments. Next up was a week in the Atlanta, GA area for the National ATOS convention. The highlights were two full days of concerts featuring Moller organ at the Fabulous Atlanta Fox and a day trip to Birmingham, AL for two concerts on the 4/32 Wurlitzer at the Alabama Theatre. The convention was a great success and featured many of the world's finest performers.

As I write this in late August, I find I have hit a small 'bump in the road' and am 'enjoying' a few days of rest here at Rochester General Hospital. Unexpected, but apparently necessary to remind me that I'm not the young 'whippersnapper' I like to think that I am. I fully expect that by the time you read this I'll be back to normal and ready to greet you on Sept. 15th when **Byron Jones** returns to open our fall season.

And, speaking of our upcoming season, it is really going to be a spectacular one for RTOS. Please check the schedule on page 4 or the one on the included renewal notice. Although we have not firmed up next May and June, if current plans work out, I can guarantee that you will not be disappointed. Just to whet your appetites, I will let you know that we will be showing the classic silent film "*Phantom of the Opera*" with **Dr. Steven Ball** providing the accompaniment on the Mighty Wurlitzer on October 27th. This is an excellent opportunity to bring all of your friends and family, church groups, etc along. This classic is a Halloween treat for all. Please note also that our own **Tim Schramm and friends** will be on hand to brighten our Holidays as he treats us to another edition of his fabulous Christmas show. We are also pleased to welcome back **Jelani Eddington**, **The 2014 Eastman Bunch**, **Jonas Nordwall** and **Scott Foppiano**, all RTOS favorites.

Were you in the audience on the 23rd of June for **Tony Fenelon's** outstanding performance on the Wurlitzer and the wonderful Yamaha grand piano? I can tell you that a tremendous amount of planning and arrangements by a number of people was required to make the show happen. By all accounts, this was one of the finest RTOS performances in memory. Our thanks of course to Tony Fenelon for his flawless performance, to Tim Schramm for arranging the rental of the piano from The Piano and Organ Center in Henrietta and to the management and stage crew at the Auditorium Center for providing us sufficient rehearsal time and setup arrangements to make this complicated show possible. We have received a number of calls and notes from our members concerning this concert, all filled with praise. It is the type of program we would like to be able to present more frequently. In fact we would love to have programs featuring actual duets by a pianist and an organist. Unfortunately, the cost to rent, transport and tune a piano



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued)

plus paying two performers greatly limits our ability to do this too often

Knowing that Tony Fenelon is one the world's finest theatre organists and pianists and enjoys performing one-person 'duets', and would be available in June, we concluded that this was an opportunity that we could not pass up.

Please note that our Membership Chairman, Ken Veneron, has been hard at work preparing the 2014 renewal information. I can not stress strongly enough the need for all of our members to renew for 2014. Many of you were able to renew for 2013 at half price if you brought in a new member, (also for half price). While this did help our membership numbers, it obviously did not significantly help our income for this year. For 2014, all current members must renew for the regular price. However, you may sign up any number of new members through Dec. 31st for half price.

Do you participate in Open Console sessions? Would you like to be part of the Open Console 'Social committee'? Our good friends Phil & Bev Frank, who have handled the snack and beverage part of these sessions for many years have announced their retirement. We thank them for all they have done, we wish them the best and hope that they will still attend the open console sessions in the future. If you would like to find out more, please contact Dick & Anne Leta or Kevin Scott .

- Russ Shaner

LIBRARY NEWS

by Greg Spring

Welcome back from the Library!

We have received quite a number of donations, even during the summer! A couple of folks who have been influential to the Shea's Buffalo, and Riviera instruments have sold their Buffalo home and are moving to Florida. We deeply appreciate **Brian and Norma Pawley** for choosing RTOS for donating their theater organ collection! This was a valuable gift that includes RARE material in MINT condition. Thank you Norma and Brian! We also acquired some records from Marie West in June. We will still be sorting things out by concert time in September, but we will be open and running as usual.

To refresh your memory, or if you are new to RTOS, we have the following in our collection: 78s, LPs, cassette tapes, reel to reel tapes, VHS tapes, DAT tapes, 45s, CDs, DVDs, clippings, magazines, books, pictures, and more! Any current member of RTOS can take out material FREE OF CHARGE! It's part of your membership.

We will also be providing a FREEBIE bin of material anyone can have for free, first come first served.

We (Chris VanStean, Gary Newman, Marty Ippolito, and I) hope to see you at the September concert...come down and say hi!

2013 EROI FESTIVAL

The Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) is now in its 12th year of presenting workshops, master classes, and performances. Tickets will be available for purchase at the door one hour before these public performances:

Thursday, September 26

8:30pm: "Rhythm and Color: Organ Music 1962-2012."

Organ recital and multimedia presentation by Martin Herchenröder. Christ Church, 141 East Ave, Rochester.

Friday, September 27

8:00pm: Organ concert by David Higgs, Nathan Laube, and Douglas Reed. Works of Bolcom and Albright. Asbury First United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave, Rochester.

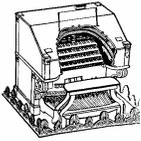
Saturday, September 28

8:00pm: Peter Planyavsky, Hans-Ola Ericsson, and Nathan Laube, organ; Edoardo Bellotti, harpsichord; and the Eastman Graduate Chamber Orchestra. Works of Heiller and Bolcom. Third Presbyterian Church, 4 Meigs St, Rochester.

Sunday, September 29

2:30pm: Recital by Jon Gillock. Works of Messiaen. Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, Rochester.

EROI website is at <http://www.esm.rochester.edu/eroi/2013-eroi-festival/>



**Rochester Theater
Organ Society**
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Rochester, NY 14617-0114

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Russ Shaner, *President*
Tim Schramm, *Vice-President*
Paul Law, *Secretary*
Ken Veneron, *Treasurer*
David Higgs, *Director*
David Kniese, *Director*
Ted McWharf, *Director*
Richard Neidich, *Director*
Greg Spring, *Director*
Roger Wood, *Director*
Kevin Scott, *Past-President*

RTOS EVENTS

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

Byron Jones	Sep 15	2:30PM
Dr. Steven Ball - Silent Film	Oct 27	2:30PM
Jelani Eddington	Nov 17	2:30PM
Tim Schramm Christmas	Dec 22	2:30PM
January - No Concert		
Eastman Bunch	Feb 9, 2014	2:30PM
Jonas Nordwall	Mar 9, 2014	2:30PM
Scott Foppiano	Apr 6, 2014	2:30PM
TBA	May 25, 2014	2:30PM
TBA	Jun 29, 2014	2:30PM

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

Open Console
Sundays From 9:30 AM to 4 PM

Sep 22	Nov 10
Oct 21	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 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

Capitol Theatre (3/7 Moller, 1928) 220 W. Dominick Street, Rome (315) 337-6453 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

Binghamton Theatre Organ Society (4/24 Morton) P.O. Box 1353, Binghamton (607) 773-1495 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, Sep 15 @ 2:30PM

Byron Jones



On the Mighty Wurlitzer 4/23 Pipe Organ

Presented by the Rochester Theater Organ Society

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

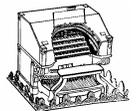
Name:
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Email:

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