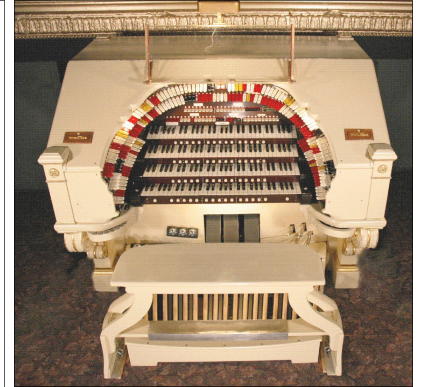


RTOS Blower

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



The Eastman Bunch “Then and Now” Featuring Eastman Alumnus David Peckham



David Peckham has been a theatre and concert organist for over 30 years. He first entertained RTOS audiences at age 13 at our 10th Anniversary Gala in 1974.

David studied classical organ as a high school student with Albert Zabel in Elmira, NY and then studied with David Craighead at ESM. Upon graduation, he returned home to join his parents' pipe organ service business which now cares for over 50 instruments across NY state.

David has been organist at the First United Methodist Church in Horseheads, NY since 1985 and recently added the duties of choir director. He has been Resident Organist at the Clemens Center (Elmira, NY) for many years; this restored 1925 movie theatre is now reverberating to the sounds of its renovated Marr & Colton theatre organ.



David Baskefield is a doctoral student at ESM under David Higgs and William Porter. David read Law at Oxford as organ

Eastman Bunch

Auditorium Theatre
885 E. Main St

**Sunday, February 9
2:30 PM**

(Doors open 45 min early)

scholar at St. John's College, studying with John Wellingham and David Sanger. Between Oxford and Eastman he spent a year as organ scholar of Christ Church Cathedral and St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin.

Aside from solo performance, David is active as a piano accompanist, continuo player, and occasional cocktail pianist. He has taken to accompanying silent movies; recent engagements have featured *The Phantom of the Opera* (1925) and *Nosferatu* (1922).

David has been broadcast a number of times on American Public Media's *Pipedreams*, playing repertoire and improvisations. He has occasionally given theatre organ recitals.

Nicholas Halbert is working toward a BM degree in Organ Performance at ESM where he studies with Nathan Laube. He



holds a merit grant as well as the Charles R. Nicholls Memorial Scholarship. Nicholas served two years as an Organ Scholar at

St. Paul Cathedral in San Diego, CA. Concurrently he served on the boards of the San Diego AGO and Spreckels Organ Pavilion.

Currently, Nicholas serves at Christ Church in downtown Rochester as one of three VanDelinder Fellows.

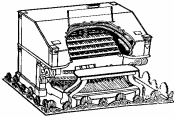


Bryan Holten, of Wilmington, OH, is a DMA degree student studying with Edoardo Bellotti. He began piano studies at age eight, and organ in

his early teens. He soon became an Organ Scholar of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Cincinnati, OH. His recent areas of interest include improvisation pedagogy at the clavichord, and French organ repertoire.

Bryan currently serves as Director of Music at the First Universalist Church of Rochester.

(continued on page 3)

**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

Laura Finger

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OPEN CONSOLE CHAIR

Martin Ippolito

PO Box 17438

Rochester, NY 14617

(585) 266-6337

CLASSIFIEDS

Wurlitzer Model 4059-4060. Dimensions are 44" wide, 22" deep and 36" high. A matching bench is included. Both the organ and the bench are in very good condition. Located on the 1st floor of a home with easy access. The only requirement is that it be removed by the buyer. Free to a good home. Please call Len at (585) 586-5375 or email him at lenspat@prodigy.net.

Estey Parlor Organ circa 1873. Dimensions are 3ft 10.5in wide, 1ft 11in deep, and 5ft 10in high. Fancy walnut case, original finish, brackets for candles. All stops work, bellows are good, all reeds cleaned. You pump. Asking \$145. Call Ron at (585) 889-3249.

**A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Happy New Year to all. Remember, this is the 50th anniversary year for RTOS and it promises to be a memorable year!

As your newly elected President, I wish to introduce myself. I have been an RTOS member, on and off, since the 1960s. I remember going to the RKO Palace on Sunday mornings for concerts before the theater opened for the current movie. My career at the formerly prosperous Kodak plus family responsibilities kept me from becoming active till

I retired. I am now in my second term on the Board and have been Secretary for two years. I also am a member of the Tuesday evening organ maintenance crew. At home, I have a three manual Hauptwerk virtual organ which has a magnificent sound until I play wrong notes. I should have practiced more when I was younger!

My goals for 2014 include getting our organization on a better financial footing. We could balance the budget by having no concerts but that would negate the purpose of the Society. We will search for more creative ways during the year. Your thoughts and suggestions would be appreciated.

We are welcoming a new Board member Christine Van Stean and saying thanks to Kevin Scott who is leaving the Board. Kevin is one of the technical wizards who keep both of our instruments in top shape.

The February concert will feature four Eastman organ students (The Eastman Bunch) who will apply their classical musical skills to the theater pipe organ along with a promising young student of Don Kinnier from Lititz, PA. To provide an introduction to the instrument, the Board has engaged Jelani Eddington, Dr. Bill Porter (retired Eastman professor) and David Peckham to provide instruction through classes on our 4/23. We are very pleased that these skilled performers have agreed to share their knowledge. You will recall that David Peckham is an Eastman grad and he will headline this concert. Thus, we will have former and current Eastman representation.

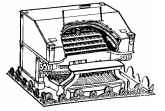
The refurbished glockenspiel is being reinstalled in the 4/23 and will sound like new. We removed it from Russ Shaner's dining room table just in time for his Thanksgiving dinner!

Please take a few minutes to visit our newly revamped web site at www.rtosonline.org. There are many interesting pages of both historical and current interest. Our thanks go to Board member Richard Neidich for leading this effort.

Those of you who are regular listeners to Classical 92.5 WXXI-FM radio will have noticed that RTOS is offering free tickets to those who call in during their frequent ticket giveaways. This brings new folks to concerts plus gives us "free advertising." We are thankful to Julia Figueras and the WXXI staff for this opportunity.

Remember to bring your friends to our concerts. We are the best kept musical secret in Rochester...please spread the word!

Paul Law



EASTMAN BUNCH

(continued)



Connor Ream is a sophomore at the Pennsylvania College of Technology, where he is pursuing a BS degree in Information Technology. A lifelong resident of Lititz, PA, he is a 2012 graduate of Lancaster Mennonite High School.

Connor began piano lessons at age 6, and is now an organ student of Don Kinnier. For the past 4 years he has attended the ATOS Summer Youth Adventure. He calls the Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society his "home" ATOS chapter, and is the House Organist at the Allen Theatre, Annaville, PA.

Connor is a close friend of RTOS Honorary Members Jim and Lorraine Stetts, and with their encouragement enjoys unlimited access to the 3/14 Wurlitzer in their Williamsport, PA home.



Brian Schoettler is a doctoral student at ESM where he studies with David Higgs. Brian earned his BM degree in Organ Performance, Church Music, and Instrumental Music Education from Carthage College, and his MA degree in Organ Performance and Composition from Westminster Choir College.

Last summer, Brian was part of the European American Musical Alliance's Composition Program at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, where he studied composition.

Brian currently serves as Music Minister at Church of the Ascension in Rochester.

OBITUARY: ANNE LETA

by Laura Finger

Former Open Console co-chair Anne Leta passed away on December 26 at age 65. Services will be held at a later date in the springtime.

Anne is predeceased by her son Tony and parents Arnold and Beth Perry of Arkport, NY. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Richard; son, Freddie (Laurie); grandchildren, Vanna and Garland; and many siblings, nieces, and nephews.

Outside of RTOS, Anne was a security guard at the George Eastman House.

We at RTOS extend our

deepest sympathies to Anne's husband Dick (the other "half" of the Open Console co-chairing) and their family and friends.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

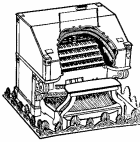
by Ken Veneron

If the mailing label on this issue of the *Blower* says "EXPIRED" then this is the last one you will receive until you renew your membership! Stop by the membership table at the concert or contact me (see page 2) to get signed up for 2014!

DECEMBER CONCERT - A HOME CHRISTMAS

Photos by Ted McWharf





**Rochester Theater
Organ Society**
P.O. Box 17114
Rochester, NY 14617-0114

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Ted McWharf, *Vice-President*
David Kniese, *Secretary*
Ken Veneron, *Treasurer*
David Higgs, *Director*
Richard Neidich, *Director*
Tim Schramm, *Director*
Greg Spring, *Director*
Christine Van Stean, *Director*
Roger Wood, *Director*
Russ Shaner, *Past-President*

RTOS EVENTS

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

Eastman Bunch	Feb 9	2:30PM
Jonas Nordwall	Mar 9	2:30PM
Scott Foppiano	Apr 6	2:30PM
Richard Hills	May 25	2:30PM
David Gray	Jun 29	2:30PM

Rochester Museum & Science Center
Eisenhart Auditorium, East Ave. & Goodman St.
Open Console
Sundays From 9:30 AM to 4 PM

Feb 23
Mar 23
Apr 27
May 18
Jun 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

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

Clemens Center (4/23 Marr & Colton/Wurlitzer) 207 Clemens Center Pkwy., Elmira (607)-733-5639 www.clemenscenter.com
(The organ is back in service following a complete restoration)

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, Feb 9 @ 2:30PM

The Eastman Bunch

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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