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Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



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Vox Humana

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Dave Wickerham
January 22

Dave Wickerham began playing the electronic organ at the age of four and had his first pipe organ experience at age ten. His musical education started at age seven.

When he moved to Arizona in 1976, he became Associate Organist at the famous Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson. While in Arizona, he continued his musical studies with Roseamond Crowley, one of the few remaining descendants of the Louis Vierne line of organists. He attended the University of Arizona in Tucson on a full scholarship, pursuing classical organ studies for six years with Dr. Roy Johnson.

In 1984, Dave moved to the Chicago area to become Staff Organist at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. In addition to his performance there, he concertized frequently, as well as ministering musically and serving at various churches.

In August of 1999, Dave was one of the featured Staff Organists at the Piper Music Palace in Greenfield, Wisconsin, a position he held for 10 years.

Dave Wickerham
Live Matinee Concert
January 22, 2022
3:00pm

The State of Delaware and the Red Clay School District require that masks be worn in the building at all times regardless of vaccination.

In the spring of 2000, Dave ushered in the new millennium with a limited special engagement, as a featured organist at "Roxy's Pipe Organ Pizzeria," part of a \$26M expansion phase at the FIESTA Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Wickerham's, Dave, Rhonda, and now three great kids, spent two years there before returning back home to Wisconsin in August of 2001... For the next three years, Dave resumed his position at the Piper Music Palace and was also the Principal Organist at Williams Bay Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva, WI.

He enjoys concertizing frequently to many audiences including various chapters of the American Theatre Organ Society. In April of 1999, he took great pleasure being a feature artist in Melbourne, Australia for the convention of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia for which he received rave reviews. He returned "Down Under" for a six-week concert tour in Australia and New Zealand during the summer of 2003 and 2012, as well as October / November of 2015.

Dave also enjoys recording and has recently "sold out" his fourth CD "Sounds of Music" recorded on the famous 5 Manual, 80 Rank Theatre Organ at the Sanfilippo Residence in Barrington, IL. There are several NEW recording projects that are soon to be completed and released.

Dave continues to be a Dickinson favorite and we so pleased to welcome him back!



Review of Walt Strony Live Concert - 11.20.21 by Ron Stonehouse

Most of the ATOS conventions I've attended, Walt Strony was there. Heard him here and at a couple of private homes also. He announced that due to COVID, he might be a little "rusty", but to my pleasure he polishes up very nicely and I thought tonight's performance was the best one I've attended! The evening began with our president, David Ruth's, opening announcements, but there was a little difference when projected on the screen, our president had a golden head!



Walt's opening number was a lilting version of Puttin' On the Ritz and in the middle a bit of classical styling. Composed by Irving Berlin in 1927 and introduced in the 1930 movie with the same title and by Harry Richman and chorus.

The Donkey Serenade was next and Mr. Strony used a styling arrangement similar to the famous organist Kay McAbee who would turn a simple tune into a production number. The tune originates in a 1912 operetta "The Fire Fly" by Rudolf Friml with the assistance of Herbert Stothart and later with lyrics by George Forrest and Robert Wright for the 1937 movie "The Fire Fly" and sung by Allan Jones, a tenor. Walt's arrangement was wonderful. There was a short pause near the end and the audience began to clap then Walt resumed playing to the finish.

A torch song from the 1954 movie "A Star is Born" starring Judy Garland was composed by Harold Arlen and Ira Gershwin in 1953 The Man That Got Away was next and cleverly blended with Somewhere Over the Rainbow also by Harold Arlen but with E.Y. Harburg for the 1939 movie "The Wizard of Oz". A very refreshing arrangement of both!

From a Hungarian born Jewish American composer, arranger and author, Denes Agay came Monkey On a String, Walt gave us a great history lesson for this one including the fact that the famous Ethel Smith was the studio organist for a puppet show that this piece was composed.

Showing off the classical sounds from our Kimball, Walt selected Thanksgiving by Richard Purvis who started out as a theatre organist but obviously was well versed in classical. The composition is Four Prayers in Tone for the organ 1. Repentance 2. Adoration 3. Supplication 4. Thanksgiving. For this one Walt used sheet music and said that some people don't believe he can read music.

Up next was In a Chinese Temple Garden

(an Oriental Phantasy) by Albert Ketelbey in some 1923 light classical, descriptive music. Taking us into intermission, Walt tells us that it's a variation on a theme but let us decide what theme it was. Turns out his own original title would be Variations on a Theme of I Wish I Were an Oscar Meyer Wiener. I counted about 10 different variations that were cleverly arranged. The original theme song was produced, arranged, and performed by Dominik Hauser about 1963. It is now probably the best known and longest running. A little behind the scene story on this one. Oscar Meyer ran a contest to obtain a jingle. Richard D. Trentlage found out about the contest one day before the deadline. He wrote the jingle in about one hour and with his two children made a recording the next day. Oscar Meyer announced the winner one year later, and that's the rest of the story.

The second half began with I've Got Rhythm by George and Ira Gershwin, for the stage musical "Girl Crazy" in 1930. Ethel Merman made her stage debut and turned Ginger Rogers into an overnight success. Walt favored us with several different rhythms.

More Than You Know followed and was composed by Vincent Youmans and lyrics by Billy Rose and Edward Eliscu in 1929 for the Broadway musical "Great Day". First performed by Mayo Methot and later by Jane Froman. The first recorded and most popular was by Helen Morgan and covered by many artists since. Walt's version was very soulful and beautiful almost bringing me to tears.

Written from the perspective of a prostitute advertising "love for sale", Cole Porter composed Love For Sale for the 1930 musical "The New Yorkers". It opened with a young white girl Kathryn Crawford in that part but didn't go over very well for that time period causing Cole to leave town for a while. She was soon replaced by Elisabeth Welch an African American. Walt's version was very sensual to be sure and said his next piece was a hymn and he had to do it. Therefore Joyful, Joyful and often called The Hymn of Joy and Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee was Walt's follow up. The music is Ode to Joy melody of the final movement of Ludwig van Beethoven's final symphony, Symphony No 9. The words were written by Henry van Dyke in 1907 as a poem with the intention of musically setting it to the famous "Ode to Joy".

People by Jule Styne and Bob Merrill for the 1964 Broadway musical "Funny Girl" starring Barbara Streisand was respectfully played in memory of all our COVID losses.

The last piece Carmen Fantasy was

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How do I get tickets for this concert?

You may use any of the unused **50th season** tickets or you may purchase tickets for \$15:

- on our website <www.dtoskimball.org>
- by mail at DTOS, PO Box 5094, Wilmington, DE 19808
- at the door on concert night



Walt Strony Review, continued

Walt's arrangement of various selections from the 1875 opera "Carmen" by Georges Bizet, which he received a after well deserved Standing Ovation.

Walt's encore was about a 14- minute collage of music from "Phantom of the Opera" followed by another standing ovation. My only disappointment in tonight's gathering was not being able to chat with Mr.



Strony after the show. Looking forward to a concert CD!



Pipe Organs and Winter

Wintertime is not kind to the workings of pipe organs. The wooden and leather components of the wind chests and the pipework itself are sensitive to changes in both temperature and humidity. Too low humidity of the environment in the chambers causes shrinkage of the wind chest components which can result in ciphers (pipes that speak when they shouldn't). Variations in temperature and humidity between the three pipe chambers results in changes in pitch that cause the organ to not be in tune with itself. So it is essential for good technical performance of the Kimball to control the temperature and humidity in the chambers. In order to accomplish this, each of the three pipe chambers has a dedicated heat pump system which heats the air in winter and cools it in summer. Each of these HVAC systems has a humidity control unit which adds moisture to the air on demand. It is also important that the wind which blows the pipework has the proper amount of moisture so that there is not a large difference between the air inside and outside the wind chests. Each of the three blowers which supply the wind for the organ has a misting system which adds moisture to the organ wind when required.

Maintenance of these environmental support systems is a task which requires considerable effort on the part of the organ crew in the winter months.

President's Message

You may have noticed that this newsletter is a little bit different and a little bit shorter than usual. Well, in fact, it is! Our founder, Bob Dilworth, who handles the creation and publication of this newsletter, among many other tasks for DTOS, was recently ill and hospitalized. He is making good recovery, and, of course, we have assumed his duties during his recovery. Your DTOS President, who is also serving as the Interim Treasurer, also served as newsletter editor this month! So my apologies in advance! I know the limits of my talents, and newsletter editor is not one of them! I am a very good baseball umpire as I sit on my couch and watch the games on TV, but one time I was asked to fill in as umpire for one of my son's games, and I promised to never criticize the umpires ever again! I learned very quickly that I am also not a very good baseball umpire! So I am sure that you will all join me in wishing Bob a speedy recovery and look forward to his return to all of things he does for DTOS! Bob – we appreciate you for all you do – and Mary Ann as well!

As the holidays approach us, all of us at Dickinson want to wish you a wonderful holiday season and a bright and prosperous 2022! We hope that the pandemic gets further behind us and that more and more of you are able to enjoy our concerts that we have lined up for the rest of our 52nd season.



David A. Ruth, Ph.D.
President / Chairman

DTOSPres@gmail.com



Remaining Concerts in our 52nd Season:

January 22, 3 PM *Matinee Concert*: Dave Wickerham
 March 19, 3 PM *Matinee Concert*: Peter Richard Conte
 April 30, 7 PM: Jelani Eddington
 June 11, 7 PM: Dave Peckham & Paragon Ragtime Orch



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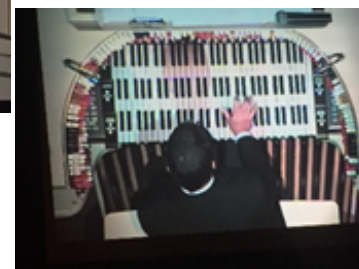


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Dave Wickerham



Live *Matinee* Concert
Saturday, January 22, 2022
at 3:00pm

The Dickinson Theatre

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