



Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society
PO Box 5094
Wilmington, DE 19808

dtos1@verizon.net
www.dtoskimball.org



Vox Humana

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Tedde Gibson is one of a few musicians able to play not only classical and theatre pipe organ, but also jazz and gospel on the Hammond and piano. He integrates all of these styles into his playing of the theatre and classical pipe organ which for him are the ultimate vehicles to showcase his talents.

A native of Tacoma, WA, Tedde began playing piano at age four. He has studied classical improvisation with David Dahl, and Dr. J. Melvin Butler. While attending UW, he studied pipe organ with Dr. Carol Terry. Tedde has also coached with international theatre organist Jonas Nordwall of Portland, OR and the late Andy Crow of Olympia, WA.

Tedde was an organ performance major at The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD in the organ studio of Dr. John Walker.

He cut his theatre organ teeth as an organist at Pizza and Pipes in Tacoma, WA for 5 years until that restaurants' untimely demise due to fire in 1999. He played many concerts and silent films on the premier instruments of the area including the 4-manual 48-rank

**Tedde Gibson
Virtual Concert
January 30,
2021**

The Tedde Gibson concert is a virtual concert and is available only on YouTube.

The Dickinson Theatre is NOT open.

We anticipate the next two concerts will also be Virtual.

Tentatively, the artists will be –
March 20 - Nathan Avakian
May 1 - Mark Herman

TEDDE GIBSON, continued

Wurlitzer in Harbor Manor, Gig Harbor; the Paramount Theatre, Seattle, WA; and the Mt. Baker Theatre in Bellingham, WA.

Tedde is organist/musician-in-residence at the First Baptist Church of Highland Park in Landover, MD, organist at Capitol Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church, and Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church, both in DC. He teaches general music and performing arts at Highland Park Christian Academy in Landover, MD, and teaches piano and organ privately.

Tedde performs annually on the Hardman Studio Wurlitzer located in Great Falls, VA. He is a regular at the Seattle Paramount Theatre performing on their annual "Silent Movie Mondays" series on their original Publix 1 Wurlitzer pipe organ. In addition to performing for many chapters of the American Theatre Organ Society, Tedde has performed on both the Wurlitzer and Grand Court Organ at Wanamakers/Macys in Philadelphia, PA, the Hardman Estate, the Sanfilippo Estate, Dickinson High School, and numerous theatres, schools and performance venues across the country.

Tedde is in his third year as vice chairman of the board of The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS)

President's Column

Happy New Year! I hope you had a joyous holiday – certainly a very different feel to the holidays this year than ever before. Yes, 2020 certainly had its challenges. While we all welcome 2021 with great anticipation, we also acknowledge that the COVID challenges of 2020 will be haunting us into 2021 as well.

That being said, as you can see in this edition of the *The Vox*, we have had to re-think the strategy for our January concert with Tedde Gibson. We are so grateful to Tedde for being so flexible and understanding during these challenging times – while still providing us with the opportunity to experience a Dickinson Concert, in a very different way. It will be so good to hear the magic of the Mighty Kimball after all these months. I'll look forward to enjoying the concert with you – virtually.

With the uncertainty of the coronavirus and our concerns about your health being our top priority, our Board knew we only had two options – cancel the concert or go virtual. If we cancel our concerts, we fear that the Mighty Kimball will soon be forgotten, and we certainly do not want that to happen. While a virtual concert is a best option for us for now, it is also a strain to our already struggling financial bottom line.

Not having a live concert means no revenue or income... only expenses. So during the virtual concerts we will be asking the viewers to send whatever they

can to support our efforts to help us get through these challenging times.

Dickinson was one of the first theatre organ societies to go virtual when the pandemic hit. Our March, 2020 concert with Jelani Eddington and Donnie Rankin was unprecedented. We had viewers from all over the globe enjoying that performance. Our 2019 Holiday Spectacular was uploaded to YouTube on July 1 as part of our "Christmas in July" event and, to date, we have had 1,100 viewers. So we know that we are getting noticed. We know that our beloved instrument is being heard all over the world.

DTOS needs to capitalize on Virtual Concerts and turn them into a new experience until we have live performances in the Dickinson Theatre once again!

As always, I welcome your thoughts, comments, and feedback. Please feel free to e-mail me at the address below.

I look forward to the day when I will "see" all of you in the Dickinson Theatre, enjoying the beautiful sounds of our Mighty Kimball theatre organ. Please continue to stay well! Happy 2021!

David A. Ruth, Ph.D.
President and Chairman
DTOSPres@gmail.com



Save Your Tickets

Yes! Save your tickets from the 2019/20 season's Hills/Gledhill and Peter Richard Conte concerts. They can be used for any concert in our opening series once we get the green light to reopen. We hope it will be for the 2021/22 season or...??

We still hope that we might be able to hold a live concert in June 2021. If so, it will be **David Peckham** with the **Paragon Ragtime Orchestra**. A final decision will be made on that concert about late April when we see what is happening with the Covid-19 situation.

We know this has been a trying time for all of you. It has for us as well. We hope that you have not forgotten about the Dickinson Kimball and our concert series and will come back as soon as we open.



Editor's Musings

This has been quite a time - dealing with COVID-19, staying at home, interminable TV, Thanksgiving and Christmas with no visitors, no special trips.

I found myself sitting in front of my computer with the latest Solitaire game in progress, my mind not truly on the game, listening to the music pouring from my computer through a set of additional speakers. I became rather emotional.

For me, the emotion stems not only from the beautiful sound, but from the knowledge of what is behind that sound. The skill of the artist in his arrangements and orchestration and choice of music are all part of it. Then, too, there is the organ, which must work perfectly.

The recording that, to me, best exemplifies all of these parts is Dave Wickerham at the ATOS Convention on July 4, 2015. Naturally a good part of that concert

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This holiday season has been a time to reflect on the past and to enjoy the present moments with immediate family members. For the DTOS community, music and togetherness have helped to sustain us in tough times, for many years. Whether we are listening to music via CDs, records, or even YouTube recordings, may we all be lifted up at this time of year in particular.

In 2005, the reception committee, then chaired by Kat Helmstader and Margaret Earl, released a "Cookie Corner" column for the Vox Humana. The spirit of this column was to encourage active volunteerism and sharing of resources with others in the DTOS Community, in the form of baked goods for receptions. This year, we hope that you share these or similar treats with your immediate family. I know that for me personally Christmas music and baking have kept me grounded during this strange Christmas season. Here is the first "Cookie Corner."

Editor's Musings, continued

was patriotic in nature which in itself can be exciting, but Dave's treatment and the overall sound "get to me".

Each of the selections in this concert was given a showcase treatment, not just a single play through of the verse and then the chorus. Instead, there were variations that built to a very emotional and satisfying conclusion.

I particularly like the patriotic selections including a medley of songs related to the first World War. A particularly emotional touch was a sensitive insertion of "Taps" in this portion. A second medley, ending the concert, consisted of both "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America". The first part of that medley consisted of extensive variations on this familiar patriotic song, each building toward a climax, leading into several variations on "God Bless America" the unofficial national anthem. This is always an emotional climax to a concert with the audience joining in at the end. I had, and still have, chills at this point.

Almost too weak to stand at the end of that concert, I wanted to thank not only Dave but also the organ. I cannot picture any other organ that could have done what the Kimball did that night. Not only was its sound superb but the organ performed flawlessly. I think of all the parts that have to work properly in providing that sound. Each of the 4500 pipes has 3 moving parts to

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The Cookie Corner -----

Christie and I have enjoyed many fun-filled moments baking together. When Christie was a young child, we both pretended to be well-known chefs and created a running commentary of our cooking capers. We would always make enough so that we could afford to leave some at home but could bring a few tins to DTOS. If this recipe sounds intriguing, try making a batch or two with your family. Or you could try baking one of your favorites and tell us about it. You too can have lots of fun and support DTOS.

Sinfully Delicious Peanut Butter Cookies

- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 1
- cup creamy peanut butter
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking soda 1
- cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder 1
- cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt 2
- eggs or 1/2 cup Egg Beaters
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, softened 20
- oz. of peanut butter chips
- 1/2 cup shortening

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. In a small bowl, combine flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. Beat butter, shortening, peanut butter, sugars, and eggs in a large mixing bowl and beat on medium speed until well blended. Gradually add flour mixture, beating well. Stir in peanut butter chips. Using a small melon-baller, place cookie dough about 2 inches apart onto an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8-10 minutes or until set. Cool slightly, remove from cookie sheet and place cookies on a wire rack. Cool completely before consuming.

Makes about 8 dozen cookies.

*This recipe was submitted by Margaret & Christie Earl.



Questions

How are you coping with the Covid-19 restrictions? What are you doing to keep theatre organ in y our life? What suggestions do you have to make DTOS better?

Send your answers to dtos1@verizon.net

Editor's Musings, continued

produce a sound. Of course the pipes have to be in proper condition as well, not only to make a sound but the proper sound (voicing) and in tune. Then there is the control system that has to work properly - the console sending the proper signals to the chambers and the relays sending the proper signals to the mechanism under the pipes. It is mind boggling thinking of all that has to happen as the organ is being played.

Another aspect of the experience is the sound. Not all organs sound the same. Part of that comes from how the pipes are constructed. The sound is modified by the material (wood or metal) of the pipe, the shape of the pipe, the wind pressure, and other factors. To get the best possible sound, the voicer is the final step. He must adjust the timbre of the sound and its volume. This person must know exactly what to do. Otherwise, the pipe can be ruined. We have been fortunate to have Brant Duddy to head up that part of the project.

Another factor that is often overlooked is the acoustics of the room. Our organ would not sound the same in another auditorium. The sound would be similar, but not be the same. Even the shape, size and construction of the organ chamber have an effect on the sound. Here at Dickinson, these factors all worked

Found on our website

Take some time and look at various options on the DTOS website (www.dtoskimball.org). There are videos of some of our concerts available to watch. On the home page, look in the upper right corner and in red you will see "YouTube". Click on that and you will find several full concerts there as well as the previous Christmas Spectacular and several other shorter videos.

In the section called Store, you may have missed a new release of "The Dickinson Story". This is the story of how the organ came to be located at Dickinson and some of the history since its relocation. There are many pictures taken "behind the scene" in the organ chambers to give you an idea of what is behind the walls and what makes the sound.

What began as a "pipe dream" became a reality. Find out how. There is a lot more to deal with moving a pipe organ than just moving a piece of furniture into (or out of) your living room.



together to create the magnificent sound of the Dickinson Kimball. To say that we lucked out would be a gross understatement.

I hope that you can understand where I'm coming from when I say I got emotional at Dave's concert when the ATOS world was introduced to the completed Dickinson Kimball. I do hope that you also get emotional at times when you hear the organ.

COVID-19 has prevented us from hearing the organ live. But we can still enjoy its sound via recordings and on YouTube. Although it is not the same as hearing the organ live, it is better than nothing. We have over 200 recordings of our concerts (starting back 1982) available for purchase. We have a wide selection of Artists.

From our website <www.DTOSKimball.org> you can access YouTube to enjoy 7 concert recording videos. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to hear good theatre organ music.

This project has been a major part of my life for over 50 years. When we began the project, none of us had any idea where our journey would take us. Our only thoughts were to get the organ moved, installed, and playing. The idea of concerts was certainly part of our thinking but we certainly did not dream of 50 years of concerts, world famous artists and a world wide reputation of excellence for the organ and for our organization.

When I'm listening to a concert, or even a recording, of the Kimball, I thrill to the sounds and the music. I also think back to all the work that has been done by a great many people to make all this happen. In the beginning it was the student group that provided the needed help in dismantling the organ for the move, and then reassembling it in the school. Many more people became involved in the presentation of the concert series as it developed.

I have to confess that I love the variety of sound that professional artists are able to amass during their programs. It is not only the massive roar of the full combinations but the ability to quiet down almost too soft to hear – with a very pleasing effect to both and all in between.

What pleases me the most in Dave's 2015 Convention recording is that both extremes and all the in-betweens are present.



The Vox Humana is the official Dickinson Theatre Organ Society newsletter and is published six times per year.

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 CONTRIBUTING EDITORS.....David Ruth
 Mary Ann Dilworth,
 Christie Earl

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A few of Our Friends

Macy's Store - Wanamaker Organ Philadelphia, PA

The Wanamaker Organ in the Grand Court Philadelphia. Played at noon every day (except Sunday) and at 5:30pm (Wednesday and Friday at 7pm). Visitors welcome at console following each concert. For more information see web site www.wanamakerorgan.com/events.php

Organ Stop Pizza - Mesa, AZ

Hours: Sun-Thur 4:30 - 9pm, Fri & Sat 4:30 - 10pm. Charlie Balogh & Lew Williams.

Organ Piper Music Palace, Milwaukee, WI (414)-529-1177)

Hours: Tue. Wed. Thur. & Sun. 5:30 -9pm, Fri. & Sat. - 5-10:15pm.

ACCOS (Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall)

Offering tours of the Boardwalk Hall – both organs

Southern Jersey TOS - Broadway Theatre, Pitman, NJ

3/8 Kimball is played at all stage shows and special events.

Free State - Rice Auditorium Baltimore, MD - 410-987-1334

theatreorgans.com/freestate/

Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society – Capitol Theatre, 50 North George Street, York, PA - 717-274-2254
wwwvtos.org

DTOS Publications

CD Recordings

An Affair To Remember recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Tony Fenelon. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

Tribute recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Ken Double (organ) and Skip Stine (trumpet. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

Graduation recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Richard Hills. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

dave @ dickinson recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Dave Wickerham. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

Discovering The Unit Orchestra - recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Jelani Eddington. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

Kavalkade - recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Simon Gledhill. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

Double Touch - recorded on the Dickinson Kimball by Ken Double. CD \$20.00 postpaid (USA only)

DVD The Magic Is the Sound - About the DTOS Kimball and its music, with Steven Ball and Tony Fenelon

The Dickinson Kimball Story, - an illustrated 52 page booklet. \$10.00 postpaid

Order from: DTOS Music Shop
 PO Box 5094
 Wilmington, DE 19808
 (Make check payable to DTOS)

A few of Our Friends, cont.

Theatre Organ Society of Delaware Valley - Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville web site - www.tosdv.org

Garden State Theatre Organ Society Loews Theater, Newark, NJ for coming events, check <www.gtos.com>

Rahway Sen. Center 1-2pm check <www.gstos.org>

Trenton War Memorial - for coming events, check <www.gstos.org>

Grand Theater, East Greenville, PA 3/13 Marr & Colton played before many shows. All films are \$10 and start at 3pm.

Most of our neighbors are not presenting any live in-theatre programs until further notice

Concert Stereo CDs

Following is a listing of CDs available. For 1982-2008 concert CDs, see Bob Dilworth or send for list.

- 2008/2009**
 233 Reseigh 234 Richards
 235 Smith 236 Schwandt
 237 Rhode 238 Olivera
 239 Lundy
- 2009/2010**
 240 Double/Stine 241 Nagano
 242 Wickerham 243 Gledhill
 244 Ball 245 Williams
 246 Lewis
- 2010/2011**
 246B Fenelon 247 Ortloff
 248 Smith
 249 Eddington/Gorsuch
 250 Hills 251 Wickerham
- 2011/2012**
 252 Nordwall 253 Herman
 254 Luce 255 Valliant
 256 Wilson 257 Avakian
- 2012/2013**
 258 Strony 259 Peckham
 260 Rankin 261 Gledhill
 262 Smith 263 Fenelon
- 2013.2014**
 264 Wickerham 265 Eddington
 266 Ball 267 Parker
 268 Nagano 269 Gray(\$16)
- 2014/2015**
 270 Hills 271 Gray
 272 Double 273 Schwandt
 274 Olivera 275 Lavoie & Minervini
 CC1 Peckham
 CC2 Wickerham CC3 Olivera
 CC4 Gledhill/Hills (duet)
- 2015/2016**
 276 Avakian 277 Edington
 279 Gibson & Kinnier
- 2016/ 2017**
 280 Wickerham(\$16)
 282 Dick Smith 283 Ron Rhode
 284 Mark Herman
 285 David Gray (\$16)
- 2017/18**
 286 Scott Foppiano 287 Brett Valliant
 288 Rosemary Bailey 289 Simon Gledhill
 290 Clark Wilson
- 2018/19**
 292 Alex Jones 293 Carol Williams
 294 Nathan Avakian 295 Richard Hills
 296 Phil Kelsall 297 Ken Double
- 2019/20**
 298 Zach Frame 299 Hector Olivera
 300 David Gray
 301 Jelani Eddington / Donnie Rankin

The Music Shop is open on concert nights from 6:00pm
Order by mail
 Concert Memory CDs are \$14.00 by mail postpaid