

Renowned for his tasteful blending of twenty-first century virtual instrument technology with theatre organ music, Nathan offers performances that satisfy contemporary musical tastes and pay tribute to the historical legacy of the theatre organ. As resident organist and composer for the International Youth Silent Film Festival, Nathan creates music that inspires young filmmakers around the world as they reinvent the art of silent film. He helped pioneer the festival's expansion which now includes regionals in

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# Review of Teddie Gibson Virtual Concert by Ron Stonehouse

As the season continues with virtual concerts, on this evening I was amazed at the many different views of the concert I have never seen since coming to Dickinson in 2008. We saw views inside the pipe chambers with interviews and introductions to the next selection, also the introduction of Tedde by our president Dr. David Ruth seated on the front row of the auditorium, at a respectable distance of course, and on either side of where I normally sit for my reviews. In addition, at least two different views of the organ and the organist. One is a view from above and over the right shoulder of the organist to the keyboards and the other, my favorite shot, the opening number as the concert began as viewed from the rear of the console as it rises from the pit. A wonderful beginning to this special evening.

Tedde Gibson, the star performer tonight, began with one of my favorite pieces. Composed by a Danish violinist and composer, Jacob Thune Hansen Gade. As the leader of the orchestra of the Palads Cinema, he introduced there for the first time in 1925 on the premier of the silent era American movie "Don Q. Son of Zorro" starring Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Astor, his most famous tune Jalouise. A nice arrangement by Tedde. It's known by several titles such as **Jealousy**, Tango Jalousie, and Jealousie Tango Tzigan.

David Ruth next introduced Tedde to us on the front row of the house, after which Mr.Gibson played **You Raise Me Up** by a Norwegian composer, Rolf Lovland in 2001 and recorded by his band at that time. It was covered by Josh Grobin as his first career Grammy nomination for Best Male Pop Vocal Performance in 2003. Tedde did a beautiful job showing off some of the liturgical sounds of our Kimball.

Before presenting the next piece, he gave us a brief history lesson about the origination of the word cakewalk. The music was written by a young teenager believed to be between 1895 and 1901. His name was Robert Nathaniel Dett a Canadian-American black composer and wrote hundreds of African-American folk songs and spirituals. Tedde, in a ragtime piano style, then played **After the Cakewalk**, and "take the cake". (pun intended)

Next up some Duke Ellington music with lyric support from Irving Mills, Henry Nemo, and John Redmond. It was composed in 1938 for a Cotton Club show but was cut from the program. Very nice styling and arrangement, one could get that Ellington sound as Tedde performed I Let a Song Go Out of My Heart. Following closely was a 1974 piece from a Brazilian singer and song writer doing both for Feelings by Morris Albert.

Made popular in 1928, the jazz and blues song, **Makin' Whoopee** was performed by Eddie Canter. It was composed by Walter Donaldson with lyrics by Gus Kahn. It's still around, Ray Charles in 1965, Michelle Pfeiffer in 1989, and Cyndi Lauper in 2003. One can sense that Tedde likes jazz too.

The **Price is Right Theme** closed the first half. Edd Kalehoff did most of the music since 2007. Levinsky did it prior to that. The show has over 11,000 episodes, starting in 1956 until about 1966, then from 1972 until now.

There was a 5 minute intermission at this point.

Get Me to The Church On Time opens the second half. Composed by Frederick Loewe, lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner for the 1956 musical "My Fair Lady". Tedde surprised us with his arrangement on this one by giving us some liturgical styling with some Toccata and Fugue. Rather effective indeed!

From 1959's "Sound of Music" Tedde gives us Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein's **Climb Every Mountain** in an excellent interpretation.

Changing the mood a bit, we are entertained with a 1952 classic written by Max C. Freedman and James E. Myers, under the pseudonym Jimmy De White, and performed by Bill Hailey and the Comets in 1954 **Rock Around the Clock**.

Talking from one of our pipe chambers, Tedde told us the background of the next song, **Take My Hand Precious Lord**. Written in 1932 by Rev. Thomas Dorsey and often referred to as the father of black gospel music, it was penned days after the death of his wife, Nettie Harper, in childbirth and his infant son. The most famous version was by Mahalia Jackson. Tedde dedicated this song to Dave and his late wife Rhonda Sue Wickerham. She passed just recently after a very long suffering. God be with them both. It was a fitting arrangement and his heart was in it.

Cheering things up again, we hear **Isn't She Lovely?** By Stevie Wonder in 1975 celebrating the birth of his daughter, Aisha Morris. The song appears on his 1976 album "Songs in the Key of Life". A very jazzy version I might add.

Jesus Christ is the Way was written by Walter Lee Hawkins, a singer and pastor of  ${\rm American}_{\rm continued on page 3}$ 

## Teddie Gibson Review, continued

gospel music. He was born in 1949 and passed in 2010. This song is the title piece on the 1977 album with his family. He performed in the White House and was joined on stage with his older brother, Edwin, in June 17, 2008 in honor of Black Music Month.

The final piece in this concert was a jazzy finish with **Cheek to Cheek** by Irving Berlin in 1935 for Fred Astaire to sing to Ginger Rogers in the movie "Top Hat". Of course you all knew that.

## How Can You Help?

This past year has complicated our lives in many ways. For DTOS it has added to The Challenge of keeping our excellent instrument available for a diverse audience. This will need the support of the entire "DTOS family".

There are 2 ways to support a cause like DTOS. The obvious one is with money – buying tickets and donations. But for those of us on a limited budget, there is another way.

Although many of the activities of DTOS can be performed by outside professionals (such as finances, publicity, newsletter, ticket sales, etc.), that takes money from our resources. But our resources are limited, with no guarantee of future ticket sales to restore them soon.

It would help DTOS if the "professional" jobs could be done by volunteers from the group.

Helping to maintain the organ and to present the concerts makes members feel more involved – more a part of the project – by knowing our help goes beyond buying a ticket. Another benefit is getting to know some interesting people working with you.

Volunteer opportunities exist all through the DTOS organization, calling for a wide range of skills and talents. There are many volunteers already involved in making DTOS work smoothly, but more are needed.

Below is a list of openings currently available.

CONCERT NIGHT -

- assist in setting up and clearing the lobby
- ushering
- "the Music Shop"
- assist after-concert reception

## **President's Greetings**

#### **Greetings DTOS Friends!**

I hope that you had the chance to view and enjoy the Tedde Gibson concert. There's nothing like sitting in the Dickinson Auditorium feeling the rumble of the floor as the Mighty Kimball roars. But until we are able to be together in person again, these virtual concert experiences will have to suffice. If you missed it, the concert can be viewed by going to our home page at www.dtoskimball.org. Be sure not to miss it!

Thanks so those of you who have responded to our appeal for contributions! These virtual concerts go completely against our business model! There is no revenue and yet so many expenses! (Just keeping the Dickinson Kimball up-and-running takes a lot of resources.) Treat a virtual concert as if you were buying a ticket to one of our shows; You may contribute any amount. Whatever amount, great or small, is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

#### Nathan Avakian

And now we prepare for Nathan Avakian's virtual presentation, which will go live on Saturday, March 20 at 7 PM. Again, to access that performance go to our home page, www.dtoskimball.org. Nathan joins us for his fourth performance at Dickinson. Believe me, you are in for a real treat!!

### 52nd Season

Our Board of Directors and the Artist Selection Committee is actively working on the lineup for our 52nd Season (2021-2022). We are hopeful that we will be able to provide most, if not all, of those concerts "live" and look forward to seeing all of you once we get on the other side of this Coronavirus pandemic. So stay tuned, as you are going to be pleased with what we have in store for you!

Please stay well and we all look forward to a beautiful spring!

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

You can join us on YouTube via our DTOS homepage on your computer, www.dtosKimball.org. "YouTube" is found in upper right hand corner of the homepage.

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## Bob Dilworth Elected Into the ATOS Hall of Fame



Bob Dilworth, founder of the D i c k i n s o n Theatre Organ Society, was elected into the A m e r i c a n Theatre Organ Society's Hall of Fame. The ATOS Hall of

Fame award is presented annually to persons who have been loyal supporters of the American Theatre Organ Society. Throughout their lifetime, these individuals have shown dedication to the preservation of the theatre organ, and their contributions over the years have enhanced the public interest in the theatre organ.

David Ruth, current DTOS President, nominated Bob for this distinctive honor. "For the past 50 years, Bob has dedicated a major portion of his life to the Theatre Pipe Organ. While much of his work has centered around the Dickinson Kimball, he also served on the Board of TOSDV (pre-1975) and the Board of ATOS. He has submitted several articles to the Theatre Organ Journal regarding concert operations. Bob has been dedicated to the continuance of our beloved instrument – the Theatre Pipe Organ." Included in the nomination was a 2 page list highlighting many of Bob's stellar work achievements, contributions, and accomplishments.

Bob was stunned when he received word from ATOS's Vice Chairman, Tedde Gibson. "It is a great honor to receive this award. Over the last 53 years I have been immersed in the world of the Theatre Pipe Organ. I was blessed with the opportunity to rescue one of these unique instruments and bring it back to life for a successful 50+ year span of public concerts. During that time, I served 50 years as Founder and President of the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society and 6 years as chairman of the ATOS Board of Directors as well as Chairman of two ATOS Conventions and a half year as Vice-Chairman of the ATOS Board of Directors. To say my life has been focused on the Theatre Pipe Organ is an understatement. I accept this ATOS award with a happy, grateful, and humble heart."

On behalf of the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society, we congratulate Bob on this prestigious award!

#### Accomplishments

November 1968 – Bob, as an educator, negotiated the donation of the Boyd Theatre 3/19 Kimball Theatre Pipe organ to John Dickinson High School, Wilmington, DE by RKO- Stanley Warner Co.

December 1968-February 1969 - Bob organized a student crew (JDHSTOS) to make enough repairs to the organ to allow for a Farewell to Philadelphia concert, which was attended by over 450 persons.

February 1969-February 1970 - Bob and the student crew, with the help of a few adultat times, removed the organ from the theatre, made major repairs, replaced all leather parts, and installed it in the auditorium of the John Dickinson High School.

February 1970 - Organized and led the student crew in producing public concerts – the first one for the school's students and the others for the general public.

June 1970 – Larry Ferrari presented the first public concert in a series which now has included over 300 concerts over 50 years. featuring domestic and international artists including such names as George Wright, Virgil Fox, Don Baker, Gaylord Carter, Ashley Miller, Tom Hazleton, Donna Parker, Carlo Curley, Jerry Nagano, Hector Olivera, etc.

July 1970 to present – Bob designs and publishes the newsletter, Vox Humana, and the Playbill.

September 1970 – Bob, together with the school district's Music Lay Advisory Committee formed the Northern Delaware Oratorio Society (NDOS) using the theatre at Dickinson High School accompanied by the Dickinson Kimball. (NDOS is still in existence today).

July 1974 - The student club, JDHSTOS, was re-formed into the, mostly adult, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society (DTOS) as a 501.c.3 non-profit corporation in the State of Delaware.

July 1974 to September 2017 – Bob served as President of DTOS.

July 1976 – DTOS hosted two concerts for the ATOS Annual Convention held in Philadelphia that year with Bob serving as MC.

October 1978 – Bob organized and presented a mini convention, the Golden Jubilee, celebrating the organ's 50th birthday with over 400 people attending the three-day event.

July 1992 – Bob organized, chaired, and presented the Annual ATOS Convention – co-hosted with the Philadelphia chapter of ATOS and DTOS.

November 1978 to September 2003 – Bob was the acting

## Hall of Fame, continued

chief of the organ maintenance crew.

July 2009 – Under Bob's initiative and direction, First State Chapter (DTOS) was admitted to ATOS as a chapter.

July 2010 - Bob was appointed to ATOS Board as Vice-Chairman

July 2011 - July 2015 - Bob was elected Chairman of the Board of ATOS

July 2013 – Bob submitted a request to ATOS for DTOS to host the 2015 ATOS Convention by DTOS

July 2015 - Bob organized and was Chairman of the 2015 ATOS 50th National Convention

July 2017 - Bob retired as DTOS President and was named President Emeritus.

July 2017 - Bob still publishes the newsletter and play-bill for each concert.

July 2018 - Bob assumed added role as ticket chairman for DTOS.

## How Can You Help? continued

#### **BETWEEN CONCERTS**

- assist maintaining data base for mailing and e-mail
- distributing the Vox by bulk mail and e-mail
- liaison with publicity group
- financial
- member of the Board (elected position)

BETWEEN CONCERTS AND ON CONCERT NIGHT

- ticket orders and sales
- work on organ crew
- work on technical crew (stage, recording, etc.)

As you find something that interests you, send a note or email to get details. The address is

<dtos1@verizon.net>.

The Dickinson Theatre Organ Society has gained a reputation for excellence over the past half century because of the efforts of our

# Stay safe,

wear your mask, get your vaccine

## Volunteer Organ Crew Heroes by Paul Harris

The organ crew has not met for a work session since March of 2020. Activities have been limited to a few visits to the school to service the chamber control systems that regulate the chamber environmental conditions. As organ crew leader, this hiatus has provided me an opportunity to reflect on past crew activities. With some reservations, I am writing this article from a personal perspective. While relying on my sometimes faulty memory, I would like to write a few lines to recognize some of the contributions of a few organ crew members who gave much of their time, energy and skills to the preservation of the mighty Kimball pipe organ.

I joined the DTOS organ crew in April, 2007 after my retirement from W.L.Gore and Associates. In those few years I have been with the crew, I have had the privilege of working alongside many crew members who possessed extraordinary skills and expertise. I regard it as one of the best learning experiences in my life. Here are a few of the crew members who, over the years, have made significant contributions to the maintenance and infrastructure of the DTOS Kimball:

Procter Grigg was, I think, the crew chief at the time I joined. Procter commanded amazing woodworking and technical skills. Much of the innovative chamber appliances designed to give organ mechanisms for "easy" access to maintenance are of his design and construction. The last major project that he completed for the crew was the design and construction of an offset chest for the Tuba Mirabilis. This little gem of a chest controls the top eight treble pipes of the rank and allows the full eight-foot compass of the pipework to be placed on the main chest. This was a major contribution to the usefulness of the rank. "Proc" attended his last crew work session in July, 2010 and passed away in early 2011. Procter was also a military hero. The WW-II B-24 bomber he was copiloting was shot down over Germany in 1944 and he and three other survivors were POWs in a German prison camp for about one year.

**Bob Nichols** was a most essential member of the crew whose function was to play the organ using as many stops as possible and then report to the rest of the crew any item that needed repair. This job is very important to keep the organ in continued on page 6

## Volunteer Organ Crew Heroes, continued

good repair. If the crew didn't know it was broken, it didn't get fixed. Bob was highly regarded by all crew members since he kept our spirits up with his many stories and jokes. He took much cajoling from crew members because of his multiple use of the same tea bag at break time. Bob's last documented work session was in January, 2010. He passed away shortly thereafter. The play / report function was taken over by Glenn Hough.

**Bill Clark** was officially known as the organ crew "historian". In order to document the body of work completed on the organ, Bill meticulously followed all of the activities of the crew members during a work session, assembled the sometimes confusing details, and issued a comprehensive report at the conclusion of each work session. He was so good at doing this that the completed report was in many of our email in-boxes before we reached home after the session. Bill could always be relied upon to attend every work session to carry out this function. The last work session that Bill attended was in September, 2012. He passed away shortly thereafter.

There are also several of our heroes who are still among us. These crew members are those who have contributed 25 years or more service to the organ crew:

**Greg Stilwell** has given over 40 years for the benefit of DTOS. Greg brings his considerable skill as a licensed electrician to the crew. His electrical expertise has been invaluable over the years for creating most of the electrical infrastructure in the chambers and associated areas. He has designed and installed most of the lighting, control systems, etc. in the chambers and blower areas. His knowledge of organ systems has also been a great asset. He also lifted our spirits on many occasions with his many amusing stories. Greg is semi-retired from the crew, but is still available for consultation. Ask Greg where the circuit breaker is for any circuit connected to the organ, and he knows where it is.

**Keith Knox** has contributed his electronics expertise to the organ crew for more than 30 years. He has been responsible for understanding, troubleshooting and documenting the dizzying array of wiring in the organ consoles and chambers. He has designed and built many innovative organ system control circuits that have resulted in enhanced performance of the instrument. Keith's understanding and extensive knowledge of the organ electronics systems is second-to-none. Keith is also semi-retired from the crew, but is available for consultation.

Paul Pringle has been a member of the organ crew for over 25 years. "Pringle" and I have worked side-by-side for many years to solve many vexing problems which are common in the course of maintaining a complex pipe organ. His knowledge of organ mechanisms and support systems is extensive. He is best known for his ability to correct malfunctions in the Tuba Mirabilis rank and is an expert at correcting its dead note problems. Pringle and I have also worked together for many years to bring back to playability the Aeolian/Skinner residence organ at the Raskob Foundation. Our work there has resulted in the organ having been awarded a citation from the Organ Historical Society as a national heritage pipe organ. In addition to his work on the organ crew, Pringle has been DTOS Vice President and chair of the ticket committee in years back. Pringle is currently chairman of the Safety and Security committee. He is also currently still an active member of the organ crew.

Over the course of my tenure with the DTOS organ crew there have been many other contributors to the maintenance work of the Kimball each of whom in diverse ways, made a significant difference in the success and performance of the instrument we all love. Citing each of them and recognizing their contributions is well beyond the scope of this article and would certainly tax the ability of my memory to accurately report their involvement.

But the success of the Dickinson Kimball – now in its 52nd year for DTOS – is a tribute to the efforrts of every worker on the organ crew.

Please provide us wiith your e-mail addresses to us so that we can communicate electronically with you. Send your e-mail address to David Ruth. He will be glad to receive it and add it to the database. DTOSPres@gmail.com

# In Need of Help

For several years, Bill Church and Jon Washburn have donated their time and talent to Dickinson Theatre Organ Society's Music Shop and have collected money at the door for tickets to concerts as well. Unfortunately, they are no longer able to continue with this volunteer position and have asked that new volunteers for the Music Shop be located from the within DTOS family, preferably.

Bill and Jon are very willing to provide training and guidance to the individual/s who would take over the Music Shop (which will be open again when our traditional in-person concert series begins, after COVID-19 precautions are less dire).

Those interested in learning more should reach out to Christie Earl at c\_earl6@msn.com or call at 302-388-4789 (preferably in the late afternoon/early evening).

If volunteers are not secured, DTOS may need to make some structural changes at concerts, for example, deleting the reception following the concerts in order to staff the Music Shop/ticket sales during the events.

If you know of a reliable person with a background that would address our need and who is not currently active with DTOS, please also reach out to c\_earl6@msn.com or call at 302-388-4789.

Thank you in advance for your consideration!

Christie Earl, volunteer coordinator and co-chair of reception committee The Vox Humana is the official Dickinson Theatre Organ Society newsletter and is published six times per year. VOX HUMANA STAFF

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

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## **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

#### **Concert Stereo CDs**

Following is a listing of CDs available. For 1982-2008 concert CDs, see Bob Dilworth or send for list. Concert CDs are \$14.00 pp (USA) **Convention Concerts 2015 CC1 - David Peckham CC2** - Dave Wickerham CC3 - Hector Olivera CC4 - Simon Gledhill/Richard Hills 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 259 Peckham 258 Strony 261 Gledhill 260 Rankin 262 Smith 263 Fenelon 2013.2014 264 Wickerham 265 Eddington 266 Ball 267 Parker 269 Gray(\$16) 268 Nagano 2014/2015 270 Hills 271 Gray 272 Double 273 Schwandt 274 Olivera 275 Lavoie & CC1 Peckham Minervini CC2 Wickerham CC3 Olivera CC4 Gledhill/Hills (duet) 2015/2016 277 Eddington 276 Avakian 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 2019/20 299 Hector Olivera 298 Zach Frame 300 David Grav 301 Jelani Eddington / Donnie Rankin 2020/21 302 Teddie Gibson

#### Order by mail Concert Memory CDs are \$14.00 by mail postpaid

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# Díckínson Theatre Organ Socíety

a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society presents

Nathan Avakian

Virtual Concert Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 7:00pm



The Dickinson Theatre

**1801 Milltown Road** 

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