

DTOS

Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

PO Box 5094
Wilmington, DE 19808

Vox Humana

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www.dtoskimball.org



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June/July 2021



A former radio and television sportscaster who started taking organ lessons as an 8-year-old in Chicago, **KEN DOUBLE** has enjoyed a second career focused on his love of the music of the theatre pipe organ.

As a sportscaster, Ken broadcast NBA and major college basketball, NHL, IHL and AHL hockey, the worldwide broadcast of the Indy 500, and more.

KEN DOUBLE
Virtual Concert
June 26, 2021
7:00pm

But since retiring in 2008, Ken has performed concerts on the great theatre pipe organs around the world. He also helped establish the Long Center Theatre Organ Society in Lafayette, Indiana; spent ten years as the President of the American Theatre Organ Society; and currently is one of the two organists who perform on Mighty Mo, the iconic 4/42 Möller pipe organ at the Atlanta Fox Theatre.

Ken Double performed his first concert in 1978; has more than 20 recordings to his credit; has toured Australia and New England 8 times; and in June of 2022 will celebrate his 40th anniversary concert at Long Center in Lafayette, IN.

The Ken Double concert is a virtual concert and is available only on YouTube.
JUNE 26 AT 7PM
PLEASE NOTE THE DATE CHANGE

Skip Stine

It's been nearly 15 years since Ken Double and Skip Stine were introduced during a concert at the Capitol Theatre in York, PA. In a conversation about repertoire Ken Double suggested some Harry James tunes. The conductor exclaimed, "I've got a trumpet player who used to play with Harry James!" That, of course was Skip Stine. Since then there have been more than 30 duet concerts with Skip's sweet trumpet backed up by Ken.

Skip's career includes work with Harry James, Sy Zentner, and the great of jazz and swing.

He and his wife, Cathy Chemi, former "girl singer" from the Harry James Orchestra, have been heard in concerts and appearances all across the mid-Atlantic following their tours with James.



Ken Double bio, continued

Ken has been thrilled to not only perform many times on the great Kimball organ for DTOS, but has been privileged to record the instrument twice, including the CD **TRIBUTE**. The disc also features trumpeter Skip Stine, who will again present his great solo stylings in this "streaming" concert from Dickinson High School. Among many credits, Skip toured with the Harry James Orchestra, and brings that distinctive sound to this performance.

Concert and recording artist, administrator, promoter and fundraiser, broadcaster and entertainer, Ken Double has enjoyed, as he says, "getting paid to have fun."



Review of Mark Herman Virtual Concert by Ron Stonehouse

On July 12, 2008, a good friend of mine introduced me to the Dickinson's mighty Kimball. It was the first time Mark Herman performed a concert here and the last of the 2007/2008 season. I was so impressed by both, that I became a season ticket holder ever since.

His encore performance on Nov. 19, 2011 was my first concert reviewing and have enjoyed him here, at several ATOS conventions, a private home and in many virtual performances. All have been top notch! This evening was



his fourth time and although virtual, it was wonderful hearing him again especially with all the various viewing angles.

The concert began with a brief chat between Mark and our president Dr. David Ruth while standing by the already raised Kimball (another interesting beginning for a concert) after which Mark slid onto the bench and into the program of the evening with "music that he loves and an instrument he loves to play".

Up first a lovely and lilting version of **Baby Face** from 1926 with music by Harry Akst and lyrics by Benny Davis. Jan Garber and his orchestra had a number one hit with it and in the same year it was sung by the whispering baritone Jack Smith.

The next piece was from 1929 composed by Sammy Fain, lyrics by Irving Kahal, and sung by Gene Austin. Mark gave us a great version by alternating several times

between classical sounds and a theatre organ sounds. The song title, **Wedding Bells are Breaking Up** (That Old Gang of Mine), is not to be confused with "That Old Gang of Mine" from 1923.

Next is one reason I enjoy doing the research for these concerts. From the musical "The Band Wagon" we get **Dancing in the Dark** by Arthur Schwartz with lyrics by Howard Dietz. I think of Fred Astaire and Cyd Charisse in their lovely routine from the 1953 movie but when looking up the music one discovers it was sung by Bing Crosby in 1931 for the original movie in which Fred dances with Adele. Learn something every day. Mark was able to coax the lush sounds from our Kimball on this one.

Mark beautifully blended the next two pieces in a sweet medley arrangement. The first was **Spread a Little Happiness** by Vivian Ellis and Clifford Grey from the 1929 Westend musical "Mr. Cinders", sung by Jill Kemp. The second was **Smile** with instrumental music by Charlie Chaplin for the 1936 film "Modern Times" which is said to be inspired by Puccini's "Tosca". The lyrics and title were added in 1954 by John Turner and Geoffrey Parsons.

The following selections were a tribute in memory of Vera Lynn who recently passed at the age of 103; Mark calls it Vera Lynn Medley. The order played is (A) **Be Like a Kettle and Sing** (Tommie Connor, Walter Ridley, and Desmond O'Connor) from 1943 film "We'll Meet Again", recorded a year before by Mantovani and his orchestra. (B) **White Cliffs of Dover** (Walter Kent, lyrics by Nat Burton) written in 1941 and recorded in 1942 by Glen Miller. (C) **There'll Always Be an England** written in 1939 (Ross Parker and Hughie Charles) it was also recorded by Frank Sinatra and Nat King Cole. (D) **A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square** 1939 (Manning Sherwin lyrics Eric Maschwitz music) (E) **We'll Meet Again** (same info as C above) and became Vera's signature song. I really enjoyed Mark's arrangement on the last one.

When asked by Dr. Ruth, "What is your favorite piece?", Mark said that he had many but he really likes **The Boy Next Door** from the 1944 musical "Meet Me in St. Louis" and performed there by Judy Garland. Written by Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane. One gorgeous arrangement by the way.

continued on page 3

Mark Herman Review, continued

Taking us into a short intermission was **Goody Goody** a great toe tapping end to the first half. Composed in 1936 by Matty Malneck with lyrics by Johnny Mercer. It was recorded by Benny Goodman, Freddy Martin, Bob Crosby and a few more. I rather liked Frankie Lymon and the Teenagers version in 1957. Found out that there were no Teenagers, Frankie did it all himself.

Would like to thank Mark here for sending me a complete playlist for the concert to aid in my review before the show was aired. He did a great job of telling us what he was playing during the concert too!

The second half began differently from most concerts with another different view of the console. The piece was composed in 1936 by Walter Donaldson, a prolific popular song writer whocomposed many hit songs in the 1910s through the 1940s, writing over 600 songs in all. Although **You** was a love song, Mark gave it an up tempo.

Mark gave **Memories of You** a nice Jazz treatment. Composed in 1930 by Eubie Blake and in lyrics by Andy Razaf. It was a hit for many including Benny Goodman.

DTOS 52nd SEASON

This has been a most difficult time for the DTOS family. We have tried to fill our hunger for theatre pipe organ music with virtual concerts, but nothing is like a live concert. We hope that the Ken Double/Skip Stine concert June 26 will be the last virtual-only concert. Starting in September 2021, we will resume live programs at the Dickinson Theatre.

Our schedule, as of now, includes 6 concerts and a revised Open House. The dates for the 52nd Season are:

Saturday, Sept. 18 – Open House at 2:30pm
 Saturday, October 9 – Concert at 7pm
 Saturday, November 20 – Concert at 7pm
 Saturday, January 22 – **Concert at 3pm**
 Saturday, March 19 – Concert at 7pm
 Saturday, April 30 – Concert at 7pm
 Saturday, June 11 – Concert at 7pm

We have verbal commitments from all the artists but do not yet have all their signed contracts. We will announce the names of the artists in the next issue of the Vox Humana which should be ready late in August.

Eubie was an American pianist, composer of ragtime music popular and vaudeville tunes and scores for musical theatre.

Next up, a Disney Medley with tunes from “Pinocchio” (P) in 1940 and “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” (SW) in 1937. In both movies the music was by Leigh Harline and Paul Smith. The lyrics for both was by Frank Churchill and Edward H. Plumb. The order performed are as follows: (some did double duty) **Give a Little Whistle** (P), **Someday My Prince Will Come** (SW), **Whistle While You Work** (SW), and **When You Wish Upon a Star** (P).

Hoagy Carmichael composed **One Morning in May** in 1933 the lyrics by Mitchell Parish. Mark began this one as a ballad and transitioned to jazz.

Jerome Kern Selections came next. He composed over 700 pieces and is one of Mark’s top four composers. Mark selected five for this medley which were: (A) **A Fine Romance** written for the 1936 movie “Swing Time” and introduced by Fred Astaire. (B) **Pick Yourself Up** again for “Swing Time”. (C) **Can I Forget You** from 1937 movie “High, Wide, and Handsome”. (D) **Bojangles of Harlem** also from “Swing Time”. (E) **All the Things You Are** from the 1939 movie “Very Warm for May”. I caught a little of “The Way You Look Tonight” as a couple of bridges in this one – a nice touch. Also noted another view of the performer and console from high up and to the right side. I really like these virtuals and their different angles.

The last selection is the most recent. The Flying Theme from the 1982 movie “E.T. the Extra Terrestrial” by John Williams and earned a Grammy Award for “Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella”.

A wonderful evening, Mark, hope to see you again, for real the next time. Thanks again.



Please send us your **e-mail** address so that we can communicate with you quickly.

Send your e-mail address to David Ruth. He will be glad to receive it and add it to the database.

DTOSPres@gmail.com

President's Message

We are pleased to say that DTOS is back in action, offering a full season of live concerts for our 52nd (2021-2022) season!! And we can't wait to see all of you – in Dickinson Theatre!

While we are busy putting the finishing touches on the 52nd season and finalizing all of the arrangements, we have shared the dates of the concerts so you can get your calendars marked and get excited for what's to come. We can promise you a concert season with some of the best names in the theatre organ industry! We can also promise you a well-planned and thought out concert experience that will be safe, compliant with all of the relevant CDC and DE Department of Health protocols, and comfortable for all.

Things will be a bit different in the 52nd season. **TICKETS: 1.** We will not be offering season tickets this year. **2.** For this season only the price of individual concert tickets will be \$15. **3.** Buying tickets will be easy. See page 5 for the details.

RECEPTIONS: Our receptions will look very different in order to comply with the current protocols and best practices.

But one thing has NOT changed – the fantastic sounds of the Mighty Kimball. And we can't wait for you to experience the sounds again in person!

We know that making the decision whether or not to get the vaccine is a personal one – and we respect that. We simply ask that you get the latest and most up-to-date information on the vaccines before you decide, so that you are making an informed decision.

We hope that you enjoy our final virtual concert presentation on June 26. And thank you to all who have generously contributed to DTOS to help offset the costs of these free, virtual concert experiences! We appreciate all of you and, again, look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Have a nice summer! Please continue to stay safe and well!

David A. Ruth, Ph.D.

President

Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

DTOSPres@gmail.com

Question Answered by Paul Harris

Following one of the recent virtual concerts, a viewer inquired as to the function of the control buttons in the panel at the side of the key desk. There are two control panels at the key desk - one on the left and one on the right. These panels contain toggle switches that control organ functions for which there is not space available on the horseshoe stop rails, but need to be accessed during a performance and, therefore, are not included in the programmable stop control box. The button lights when the function is active.

The panel on the left controls the following functions:

GENERAL

- Accompaniment Second Touch Pistons Off
- Solo Egyptian Horn 8'
- Orchestral Egyptian Horn 16'
- Orchestral Egyptian Horn 8'

ACCOMPANIMENT TRAPS

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| - Triangle | - MIDI Traps |
| - Snare Drum Roll | - Snare Drum Tap |
| - Sleigh Bells | - Tom Tom |

PEDAL TRAPS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| - Snare Drum Roll | - MIDI Traps |
| - Roll Cymbal | - Choke Cymbal |
| - Tympani | - Triangle |

WIND CHIMES

- | | |
|--------|------|
| - Down | - Up |
|--------|------|

The panel on the right controls the following functions:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| - Display Off | - Console Lights |
|---------------|------------------|

COMBINATION ACTION

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| - Memory Up | - Memory Down |
| - Show Stops | - Crescendo #1 |
| - Crescendo #2 | - Crescendo #3 |

PIANO / REITERATION

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Xylophone Re-it | - Glockenspiel Re-it |
| - Marimba Re-it | - Piano Sustain - Kick Switch |
| - Piano Volume ff | - Piano Volume p |

Thank you for an opportunity to explain one of the unique aspects of the Dickinson Kimball console. And the next question ...?



How Can You Help?

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.

The Dickinson Theatre Organ Society has gained a reputation for excellence over the past half century because of the efforts of our volunteers. With your participation, the music will continue.

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

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.)

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

<dtos1@verizon.net>.

Season Tickets for the 52nd Season ??

Because of the large number of Season Tickets unused in the 50th season but now valid in the 52nd season,, DTOS has decided not to issue Season Tickets for the 52nd season. If we did, mass confusion could result.

However, in lieu of the Season Tickets, we will temporarily reduce the regular ticket price for this season to \$15.00.

Tickets will go on sale September 1. They will be available in 3 ways.

- **order on-line** through Tix as you have done in the past
- **order by mail** from DTOS, Box 5094, Wilmington, DE 19808
- purchase **at the door**

A Note for Season Ticket Holders from the 50th Season

I hope you saved the tickets you could not use because of the pandemic: **Jelani Eddington & Donnie Rankin, Phil Kelsall, Richard Hills & Simon Gledhill, and Peter Richard Conte.** Those tickets will be accepted for any of the concerts in this new season. There is no need to trade them in; just hand them as regular tickets to the ushers when entering the theater.

Our thanks to the many DTOS fans who have remained loyal during this trying time. DTOS has been here for 50 season (with only a few interruptions) and we hope to be here for many years to come listening to the music of the wonderful Kimball.

Will the Kimball Continue?

All of us are proud of the reputation of the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society – especially the sound of the Dickinson Kimball. Over the years the organ has become known as an instrument where everything works.

This reputation is because of a special group of people whose faithful dedication has kept the organ in top notch condition – the Organ Crew.

Before they joined the crew, many had had no experience with the delicate, complicated mechanism that is a theatre pipe organ. Current members of the crew are willing to teach newcomers the skills needed to maintain the organ, insuring that the organ will continue its top notch condition.

At the present time, the current crew can handle most of the problems, but more people are needed as we open our next season.

The need is urgent. The work is not difficult and does not consume a great deal of time for most repairs. A variety of uncomplicated skills are needed. Now is the time for new crew member to learn the skills needed as we enter the new season.

One of the “perks” of being on the crew is gaining the knowledge of what a theatre pipe organ really is and how it works. Then, as you listen to it you’ll know what is happening in the chambers to make the wonderful sound.

Ask Paul Harris (Crew Chief), or Paul Pringle, what would be involved in being a member of the crew.

The organ crew meet every Wednesday morning from 9am to 1pm.

The bottom line is this. We are desperately looking for volunteers for our organ crew. Without that crew, the future of the Dickinson Kimball is very dim. We could be forced to cancel any future plans for concerts. Members of the Board and others have heard too many details from artists hired for a concert that arrived at the venue and found an organ that was not in fit condition for a concert - dead notes, poor tuning, console in bad shape, etc. This is not the reputation we want for DTOS. **DON'T MAKE IT HAPPEN TO DTOS**

Kimball on YouTube

We hope that you have discovered the YouTube videos of several of our past concerts on our website. There are about eight of our concerts available. Several of those concerts have had up to 18,000 views. The next time you have some time on your hands would be a good time to refresh your memory of those concerts.

Those videos have been the result of a new crew of technicians working for DTOS - the MEDIA crew. They consist of Jonathan Buchanan, Brad Shupionski, and Eric Robbins. (I hope I didn't miss anybody.) They do a good job with some surprises in every event.

Who says theatre pipe organ is old fashion? We're using the latest digital technology to enjoy the music when we can't enjoy it in person.

If you are trying to persuade a friend to come to a concert, one of these videos might convince them that our concerts are more fun than the organ at church.

Help us keep the music playing.

**Stay safe,
Wear your mask,
Get your vaccine**



In Need of Help— Music Shop and More!

For several years, Bill Church and Jon Washburn have donated their time and talent to Dickinson Theatre Organ Society's Music Shop where they sold DTOS music and gear and concert tickets.

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 within the DTOS family.

Bill and Jon are very willing to provide training and guidance to the individual/s who would take over the Music Shop. If volunteers are not secured, DTOS may need to delete some services which made our concerts enjoyable in the past.

If you know of a reliable person with skills we need, please reach out to c_earl6@msn.com or call at 302-388-4789.

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In Need of Help

Additionally, we need volunteers to assist with other core areas which include:

--house/lobby-- set up of information tables in the lobby prior to concerts, careful take-down/storage of materials following the concerts

--ushers/greeters-- greet patrons in the lobby; help patrons to find seats and to hand out programs before events

--organ crew-- repair theatre organ parts and help to maintain the Dickinson console

-- We are more than happy to provide training, if needed, for any volunteering position and to answer any questions that you may have. You can feel free to volunteer as little or as much as you would like.

If you know someone who may be interested in volunteering with DTOS please reach out to c_earl6@msn.com or via phone at 302-388-4789, with their name/s and contact information.

Please leave a clear voicemail including your name and phone number so I can reach out to you. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you in advance for your support,

Christie Earl

DTOS Volunteer Coordinator

*Let your voice be
heard, return the
survey*

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

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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

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 Eddington
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

2020/21

302 Teddie Gibson 303 Nathan Avakian
304 Mark Herman

Order by mail

Concert Memory CDs are \$14.00 by mail postpaid

DTOS Music Shop

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presents

KEN DOUBLE

Virtual Concert

Saturday, June 26, 2021

at 7:00pm



The Dickinson Theatre

1801 Milltown Road

Wilmington, DE 19808-4011