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Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

a Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



PO Box 5094
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Vox Humana

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The Official DTOS Newsletter

August/September 2021

52nd with a Bang !

Sat. Sept. 18 at 2:30pm

Our first event is an new, revised FREE Open House

There will be three parts to the Open House this year. The **first** will be an Open Console period from 1pm to 2:00pm with 15 minute time slots available. If you want to play the organ, or even just sit at the console, you will need to schedule your time period. We urge you to call for your reservation ASAP. Call Bob Dilworth 302.998.2803.

While anyone is welcome to sit and listen during open console, the second and third parts of the event are aimed for the general public.

The **second** part of the program, starting at 2:15pm, will be a short period of information about the organ and what is making all that music.

The **Third** part will be a very relaxed period of organ music by famed organist **Dick Smith**. You will be able to submit your request for him to play.

During that time, you do not have to sit in a seat but can walk around to listen to the organ from different locations in the auditorium or even stand behind the console to watch Dick create his magic. And if you want, you can wander onto the stage but be warned – the vibrations of the pipes on the balcony make the floor vibrate. More than one person has questioned if we were having an earthquake.

So... This is a time to hear the organ live, meet your friends, and introduce new friends to the organ.

Remember the date and time – Sept. 18, from 2:15pm to 4:00pm. Long live the Kimball ! (And DTOS)



Dick Smith has graced the bench of the Dickinson Kimball in concert more times than any other professional organist. He presents a program of favorites, often causing the audience members to find themselves toe tapping with the music.

He was the first DTOS artist to present a major orchestral transcription – *The Grand Canyon Suite* by Ferde Grofé.

He is also the artist who is known for the DTOS Third Half. After his concerts he returned to the console after the reception and played for as many as 400 who remained, some until he quit around 5am.

That Third Half was always very relaxed with requests for favorite songs from members of the audience. That is what we would like to recreate during this Open House. Not a formal concert, but an afternoon with Dick Smith enjoying the music he is creating.

**There is no charge for this event.
It is free.
No tickets needed.**



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: *(Notice the two afternoon concerts)*

Saturday, Sept. 18 – **Open House with Dick Smith** at 2:15pm

Saturday, October 9 – **Zack Frame**
Concert at 7pm

Saturday, November 20 – **Walt Strony**
Concert at 7pm

Saturday, January 22 – **Dave Wickerham**
Concert at 3pm ←

Saturday, March 19 – **Peter Richard Conte**
Concert at 3pm ←

Saturday, April 30 – **Phil Kelsall**
Concert at 7pm

Saturday, June 11 – **David Peckham with**
Paragon Ragtime Orchestra
Concert at 7pm

We have verbal commitments from all the artists but do not yet have all their signed contracts.

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

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

NO 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.

Individual Concert Tickets

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**

All Tickets will be held at the door on concert day.

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.

A review of the Ken Double / Skip Stine Concert will appear in the next issue of the Vox Humana which should arrive about mid-September.

Ron Stonehouse is our official Concert Reviewer. Many have expressed their pleasure in reading his reviews which are full of information about the music.

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors of DTOS, we are pleased to be officially opening our 52nd Season on September 18th with our Open House and Dick Smith Concert!

We cannot wait to welcome you back to the Dickinson Theatre! But we also want to use this opportunity to introduce the Mighty Kimball to the unknown audiences out there, as an opportunity to learn about this magnificent masterpiece of an instrument, and all of its capabilities and inner-workings. And it's a FREE CONCERT! So please spread the word and bring a friend (or three) to introduce them to DTOS.

We have been working hard to properly plan for the return of our Dickinson audience, with the proper COVID protocols and practices in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience. The theatre is large enough to accommodate safe seating distances for everyone.

Our 52nd season is one filled with some of the best performers in the industry. Many of us were pleasantly surprised with Zach Frame in his debut concert at Dickinson a few years ago –and we pleased to be bring him back for our first regular concert of the season on October 9.

Based on your feedback, we will be offering 2 matinee concerts(January 22 and March 19). We are pleased to welcome to Dickinson for the first time Peter Richard Conte from Philadelphia (March 19). What a great line up we have for you this year!

I look forward to welcoming you back to Dickinson!

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

The DTOS Store will be open for the September Open House

The Music Shop will have a wide range of Concert Memory CDs. Several have not been available before this.

Also available will be the full range of DTOS professionally produced CDs and the DTOS Story booklet.

There may even be a few items of DTOS clothing available.

Pipe Organ Unification by Paul Harris

The theatre pipe organ concept is made possible by a system of stop selection called unification. The idea for unification was conceived by an innovative organ builder named Robert Hope-Jones (1859-1914) considered by many to be the inventor of the theatre organ.

His thinking was that the pipe organ should be able to imitate the instruments and voices of an orchestra. His concept was made possible by the development of electrical control of the pipe organ mechanism which was the latest technology developed around the turn of the 20th century.

Electrical switching and relays made it possible to connect any set of pipes to any desired organ keyboard and even the pedal at any reasonable pitch. Today, sophisticated electronic logic systems perform the same functions.

Unification gives the theatre organ its unique flexibility, allowing an organ of modest size to sound like a much larger instrument. A skilled theatre organist can indeed create a sound very much reminiscent of a full orchestra. In the early days, the instruments were, in fact, called "unit orchestras".

Covid 19 Information

We are all concerned about the way that Covid-19 has affected our lives for the past year. DTOS also has been concerned – and is still concerned.

DTOS will follow the directives from our government.

- We encourage you to wear masks even if you are fully vaccinated. That is the best way for you to protect yourself.

- The auditorium is quite large and it should be easy to maintain Social Distancing when choosing your seat or wandering around the room.

- DTOS will provide hand sanitiser in the lobby for those who wish it.

- DTOS will have a limited number of free face masks for those who forgot to bring theirs along.

I'm sure that the sound of the great Kimball is calling out to you to once again to experience live theatre organ music where it was intended to be – in an auditorium with live acoustics.



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 reputation 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
- preparing the Vox for 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>.

I Miss Live Concerts, Don't You?

One casualty of COVID has been live concerts on the Kimball. Modern technology can substitute with CD's and YouTube, but it's just not the same as a live concert.

First of all the excitement of a special event outside the home is more fun than hearing background music in the living room. We mark the calendar and look forward eagerly to a live concert.

Live music, especially from a pipe organ, has an effect that speakers cannot imitate. You can feel the music when it's live.

There is a social aspect to gathering with others to share a concert with others – to welcome newcomers and long-time fans to the “Dickinson Family”. The bonds that strengthen DTOS are forged at live concerts.

So, if all goes well, the live concert series on the Dickinson Kimball will begin in October. (Go to the article on page 2) See you at the concert!

Weather cannot stop the mail but a computer can

If you felt your copy of the May/June Vox arrived very late, you are right. Here is the story.

For decades the printed copies of the Vox had smoothly traveled from the printing company to the Dilworth living room (to be counted and processed) and then to the BMEU of the Wilmington Post Office. (to be accepted by their computer and then sent throughout the theatre organ world)

Suddenly our smooth process of user names, passwords, and security questions collapsed. The USPO computer did not recognize our entry!

Thus began our search for the one human in the vast administration of the Post Office who could change the computer's mind and send out the May/June issue of the Vox. The people along the way were friendly and helpful but often as puzzled as I was. But I finally reached her –literally an angel at the Help Desk who could reach into the mess and get back our account. When all the snags were untangled, I was able to create a mailing statement to take with the newsletters to the BMEU at the PO. The Vox was on its way!

The Kimball on YouTube

We hope that you have discovered the You-Tube 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 fashioned? 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.

News from a few of our friends

Colonial Theater, Phoenixville Pa.
Sun. Oct.24 3pm Phantom of the Opera

Capitol Theatre, York, PA
Sun Oct 17 Nathan Avakian

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 1982-2011 concert CDs, see Bob Dilworth or send for list. Concert CDs are \$14.00 pp (USA)

2011/2012

252 Jonas Nordwall 253 Mark Herman
255 Brett Valliant 256 Clark Wilson
257 Nathan Avakian

2012/2013

258 Walt Strony 259 Dave Peckham
260 Donnie Rankin 261 Simon Gledhill
262 Dick Smith 263 Tony Fenelon

2013/2014

264 Dave Wickerham 265JelaniEddington
266 Stephen Ball 267 Donna Parker
268 Jerry Nagano 269 David Gray (\$16)

2014/2015

270 Richard Hills 271 David Gray
272 Ken Double 273 John Schwandt
274 Hector Olivera 275 Justin Lavoie & Dan Minervini

2015/2016

276 Nathan Avakian 277 Jelani Eddington
279 Tedde Gibson & Don 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 Tedde Gibson 303 Nathan Avakian
304 Mark Herman 405 Ken Double

The cost of each Concert Memories CD is \$12.00 at the Music Shop on concert night - plus \$4.00 if by mail.

Order by mail

Concert Memory CDs are \$14.00 by mail postpaid

DTOS Music Shop
PO Box 5094

Wilmington, DE 19808
(Make check payable to DTOS)

Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

PO Box 5094

Wilmington, DE 19808

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a Chapter of the
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presents

Open House with Dick Smith

**Saturday, September 18, 2021
at 2:15pm**



The Dickinson Theatre

1801 Milltown Road

Wilmington, DE 19808-4011