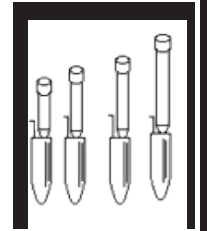


Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

a chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



PO Box 5094
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Vox Humana

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www.dtoskimball.org

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The Official DTOS Newsletter

April/May 2022



During the years that Jelani Eddington has given concerts, he has easily established himself as one of the most prominent and sought-after artists on the concert circuit. Jelani has performed in most of the major concert venues throughout the United States, has toured extensively abroad, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including his selection as the 2001

Theatre Organist Of The Year.

Jelani Eddington was born in Muncie, Indiana and grew up in a very musical family. Between the interests of his mother, a professional music teacher of many years, and those of his grandmother, a well-respected piano instructor, it was no surprise when Jelani demonstrated an inclination toward music at a very early age.

Shortly after beginning piano instruction at the age of four, Jelani began studying classical piano under the direction of his grandmother. At the age of eight, a trip to hear the 4-manual 42-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in the Indianapolis, Indiana restaurant, the Paramount Music Palace, introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ. Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John Ferguson, whose skills as a theatre organ instructor have been highly acclaimed internationally.

At the age of 13, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition, prevailing over competitors ages 13-21 from the United States,

**Dave Peckham
& The Paragon
Ragtime
Orchestra
Live
June 11, 2022 -
7 PM**

England, Australia, and New Zealand. Jelani remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title. Jelani went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in 1996, and later received a Juris Doctor degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, after which time he was admitted to practice law in New York and later in Wisconsin.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, and has toured extensively throughout the world. He has also produced and marketed over 30 theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country.

In 2014, Jelani became the first—and to date only—musician to have a video of his theatre organ performance go “viral.” Within a few short weeks, Jelani’s performance of John William’s Star Wars Symphonic Suite was viewed on YouTube over 1 million times in more than 200 countries around the world. As of 2016, that video has earned more than 2.2 million views worldwide.

What tickets can I use for this concert?

You can use any of the 50th season tickets for concerts by:

- Jelani Eddington/Donnie Rankin
- Simon Gledhill/Richard Hills

If you do not have any of those tickets, you can purchase tickets for \$15.00:

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

Review of Peter Richard Conte Live Concert 3.19.22 by Ron Stonehouse

A little something new and different for this afternoon's concert as Dr. David Ruth and Peter Conte stand together near the Kimball console for introductions and a brief interview. A nice touch and interesting way to begin. I did however miss the theatrics of the organist playing the organ as they rise from the pit. The concert exceeded my expectations. Mr. Conte's command of our mighty Kimball with his amazing style and many beautiful arrangements made his two standing ovations very well deserved!

Mr. Conte begins his maiden voyage at Dickinson with the "HMS Pinafore Overture" by Arthur Sullivan from a comic opera that opened in London in 1878. The Pinafore was a fictional ship however, USS Pinafore SP450 was a repair launch from 1902 until 1920.

Changing his styling, Peter next performed A Gershwin Medley. The first piece was composed in 1924 and has been one of my favorites from way back in the 2nd grade. It was first performed on February 12th which happens to be Abraham Lincoln's birthdate and my mom's and its title "Rhapsody in Blue". This was followed by "I Got Rhythm" from the 1930 movie "Girl Crazy" and then the very beautiful "Someone to Watch Over Me" from the stage musical "Oh, Kay!" in 1926. The lyrics to this one was by Ira Gershwin, assisted by Howard Dietz, for his wife Leonore commemorating their marriage on 9/14/1926. The song was first introduced by English actress Gertrude Lawrence while holding a rag doll. Peter finished the medley with a refrain of "Rhapsody in Blue". (Wonderful, wonderful)

The next piece was an exceptional arrangement by Robert Hebble an American composer, arranger, and organist. The music is "Londonderry Air", the lyrics are "Danny Boy" and added to the music some fifty years later by song writer Frederic Weatherly in 1903. Peter was right in saying that it was a very different arrangement and fit right in with his own styling.

Changing the mood a bit we next hear from Scott Joplin "King of Ragtime Writers" who composed a Ragtime two step, and published in 1901 "The Easy Winners". It is one of four that had been recorded as of 1940 and was one of several that were included in the 1973 movie "The Sting".

"Spring Song Op.62 No.6 in A major" by Felix Mendelssohn and performed nicely by Mr. Conte was published after his death in 1847.

Up next, an improvised medley from "The Wizard of Oz" that included but not limited to "We're Off to See the Wizard", "If I Only Had a Heart", "Over the Rainbow", and "Ding-Dong! The Witch is Dead".

In 1876, Amilcare Ponchielli composed "Dance of the Hours" a short ballet and in the Act 3 finale of the opera "La Gioconda".

"First Arabesque" was composed between 1888 and 1891 by Claude Debussy. A very pretty piece and Peter used a little of the stage piano in this one. The term comes from art where an arabesque is a design of surface decorations based on rhythmic linear patterns of scrolling and interlacing foliage, tendrils or plain lines. In Europe it meant "in the Arabic style" and applied to music, it can indicate meandering themes.

Taking us into intermission was "Radetzky March Op.228" by Johann Strauss Sr. and first performed August 31st, 1848 in Vienna.

The second half began with "Military Polonaise Op.40 No.1 in A major" by Frederic Chopin in 1838. He was born Mar.1,1810 and died 1849. We share the same birthdate, not the year of course.

Probably best known for the theme music for the television program "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" is our next selection "Funeral March of a Marionette" by Charles Gounod. Composed for the piano in 1872 and orchestra in 1879.



Video Concert Streaming

Now that our live concerts have resumed, the streaming of our concerts will be delayed.

Check our website for their release:
www.dtoskimball.org

Peter Conte Review (continued)

“Liebesfreud (Love’s Joy)” composed by Fritz Kreisler and published in 1905 consists of 3 pieces, “Love’s Joy”, “Love’s Sorrow”, and “Lovely Rosemary”. He was one of the greatest violinists of the 20th century and known for his sweet tone and expressive phrasing.

Next is Peter’s improvised medley from “Fiddler on the Roof”. Some of the tunes and not limited to were “Matchmaker, Matchmaker”, “If I Were a Rich Man”, and “Sunrise, Sunset”.

An English theatre organist composed the next piece and that was “Penguins’ Playtime”, by Nigel Ogden known for presenting and performing on the BBC Radio 2 program “The Organist Entertains” from 1980 to 2018.

Another medley is next and called “Improvised Medley of Classic Disney Tunes”. Again not inclusive but some of the tunes were “Chim Chim Cheree”, “When You Wish Upon a Star”, “A Spoonful of Sugar” and “Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah”.

Then there was “Humoresque in B-flat Op 101, No 7” by Antonin Dvorak in 1894 and lives up to its title “a typically whimsical or fanciful musical composition”. Then with a short pause Peter went on to play “Gabriel’s Oboe” that was composed by Ennio Morricone for the main theme for the 1986 film “The Mission”.

As the last piece of the afternoon or early evening gave us a great rendition of “Suite from Carmen” by Georges Bizet and was first performed by Opera-Comique in Paris in 1875.

The Encore was another Scott Joplin rag, “Maple Leaf Rag”, and is one of the most famous of all ragtime pieces. It is one of his early works and the biggest hit in his lifetime and became the model for ragtime compositions by subsequent composers.

Thanks for a great afternoon of music and for inclusive playlist. They mean a lot to me!



Bill Church 1943-2022

WILLIAM D. CHURCH of Greenville, Delaware, passed away peacefully in his sleep at home on Thursday, March 31, 2022.



He was preceded in death by his partner

and husband of 41 years, Samuel Ray Brown.

He is survived by his husband of 5 years, John Alan Washburn.

A graduate of Stuart High School, Stuart, Virginia, and North Carolina State University, Bill received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Textile Technology. He serviced the textile computer-driven mills in Virginia as an electrical engineer, and later obtained his electrical contractor’s license.

During his years at North Carolina State University, Bill became infatuated by the sights and sounds of the pipe organ, and it became a lifelong passion. He built and installed pipe organs in many of his residences, including his most recent home.

Bill retired in 1995 and pursued his near life-long fascination with music and pipe organs. In Delaware he aligned himself with the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society, serving on our board and assisting the work crew.

In recent years, his focus was on Archmere Academy located in Claymont, Delaware. Along with providing financial and volunteer support in rebuilding the Patio organ, he founded the Archmere Academy Organ Society.

Bill will be remembered as a kind and selfless man. Husband, mentor, and above all, a loving friend to us all—we pause and remember him with immense sadness and immeasurable gratitude.



With gratitude, the family requests that in lieu of flowers, please consider a memorial gift to Archmere Academy Organ Society, which Bill founded.

President's Message

Spring has arrived! And with the arrival of Spring at Dickinson comes the anticipation of the next concert season! We're not ready to release the season yet, but I did have some news to share with you as it relates to our 53rd (2022-2023) concert season.

First, thanks to so many of you who took the time to offer your feedback on our matinee concert times. Many of you liked the 3 PM start time. Many of you prefer the 7 PM start time. Based on the number of responses received, MOST of you liked keeping the 7 PM start times, but using the 3 PM matinee times for the colder months.

The Board of Directors has decided that for our 53rd (2022-2023) concert season, we will be offering an Open House in September, a possible holiday concert in December, and 4 regular concerts. Due to the amount of work and staff that it takes to host the concerts, we realized that 6 concerts in a year was too much for us. So for next year, we are going to try offering 4 concerts (1 each in October, November, March, and May). The concerts in October and May will begin at 7 PM; the concerts in November and March will begin at 3 PM. The actual dates and the artists have yet to be finalized and we will communicate that to you once all of the details have been worked out.

Some other changes to note – we will no longer be offering advanced tickets by mail or phone. Tickets may be purchased in advance online through our website or at the door on the day / night of the concert. During our concerts, we will be selling tickets for the additional concerts in the season, but we will not be offering “season tickets” as a packet. The Board unanimously voted NOT to raise our ticket prices, so our ticket prices will remain the same -- \$15.

We do plan to resume the DTOS tradition of our post-concert receptions. As you may know, our receptions were held on the stage following the concert, featuring some snacks, homemade baked goods, coffee, and refreshments. It was also a time to meet the featured artist as well as have conversations with one another and members of the DTOS team. May of our attendees, however, have been unable to attend the receptions on the stage, due to accessibility issues. So, starting next season, we have decided to move our receptions to the lobby following the concert so that everyone in attendance has the opportunity to participate.

As a final note, please tentatively mark your calendars for Saturday, July 16 at 4 PM. A memorial service and celebration of life is being planned for our founder and emeritus president, Bob Dilworth. More details to come, but we wanted to be sure that you save the date. The special event will feature a memorial service and performances from several of our favorite artists as we celebrate the life and achievements of Bob.

Please continue to be safe and stay well.

Remembering Bob Dilworth

A Musical Gift

A theater in Philadelphia
Had an organ that they'd give away
Just come on in and remove it
And there's no need to pay.

Bob, was a Delaware teacher
Who loved organ music a lot
“Let's go up to Philly and get it
And show that old school what we've got”

They started to put it together
And soon it began to play
It soon got a great reputation
One of the best they did say

And Bob through the years looked after
This musical wonder so fine.
He gave a whole lifetime to caring
For this organ, one of a kind.

Now others will keep up his good work
We think of this man we all loved
Now he can smile down as he listens
To music from organs above.

Janet M. Norcross - Haddonfield, NJ

DTOS and ATOS member. Organist, pianist, Staff Organist at Broadway Theater, Pitman, NJ. Pianist and Arranger for Singing Angels. Now residing in Charleston, SC.

PLEASE NOTE

If you no longer wish to receive your copy of the Vox Humana, please contact us at dtos1@verizon.net or call 302.998.2803.

If you would prefer your copy sent via e-mail, please contact us at dtos1@verizon.net

A few of our friends

Grand Theater, East Greenville, PA
www.thegrandtheater.org 3/14 Marr
& Colton played before many shows.

Organ Piper Pizza, Greenfield, WI
Zach Frame plays regularly.

Organ Stop Pizza, Mesa, AZ
Daily 3pm to 9pm featuring
Brett Valliant or Glenn Tallar

Wanamaker Organ, Macy's Phila. PA
www.wanamakerorgan.com Current
daily concert times on website Peter
Richard Conte & others

Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA

See tosdv.org for current schedule

Broadway Theater, Pitman, NJ 3/8
Kimball played at all stage shows and
special events

Susquehanna Valley TO Society

www.svtos.org

Capital Theater, York, PA **Allen**

Organ Co, Macungie, PA

www.allenorgans.com **Garden State**

TO Society

www.gstos.org

Boardwalk Hall - Atlantic City

boardwalkorgans.org

Receptions Still Canceled

For one more concert, DTOS will
temporarily discontinue the after-concert
on-stage receptions.

DTOS was the first to sponsor this
type of social addition to a Theatre Organ
Concert but in the interests of safety for
our patrons, we must stop them for now.

We have asked our artists to greet the
audience after the performance in the
lobby as you exit.

Margaret and Christie Earl express their
thanks and appreciation for your support
for their efforts over the past few years.

The first DTOS on-stage after-concert
reception was on November 10, 1973,
after the first Rosa Rio Concert. It was
been part of each concert since that time
until COVID.

Receptions will resume in the next
concert season in the lobby, allowing
easier access for everyone.

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

All professional CDs are \$20
postpaid, recorded on the Dickinson
Kimball, available only in the US.

An Affair To Remember - Tony Fenelon.

Tribute - Ken Double (organ) and Skip
Stine (trumpet).

Graduation - Richard Hills.

dave @ dickinson - Dave Wickerham.

Discovering The Unit Orchestra - Jelani
Eddington.

Kavalkade - Simon Gledhill.

Double Touch - Ken Double.

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

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

Concert Stereo CDs

Following is a listing of CDs readily
available. A longer list will be available
soon covering previous concerts.

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

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 Tedde Gibson **303 Nathan Avakian**

304 Mark Herman **305 Ken Double**

w/ Skip Stine

2021/22

306 Zach Frame

To Order By Mail

Concert Memory CDs are \$14.00 by mail postpaid. Send check and order to:

DTOS Music Shop
PO Box 5094

Wilmington, DE 19808

(Make check payable to Dickinson Theater Organ Society)

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Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

a chapter of the
American Theatre Organ Society
presents

Jelani Eddington

Live Concert
Saturday, April 30th, 2022
at 7:00pm



The Dickinson Theatre

1801 Milltown Road

Wilmington, DE 19808-4011