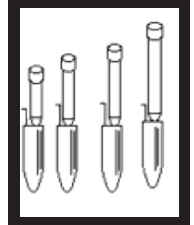


Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

A chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



PO Box 5094
Wilmington, DE 19808

Vox Humana

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www.dtoskimball.org

Volume 53 Number 2

The Official DTOS Newsletter

November 2022



Mark Herman is one of America's busiest theatre organists, performing over 30 concerts and silent film presentations each year across the US and abroad. In 2012, he was named the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive the prestigious honor. Previously, he was overall winner of the Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition in 2004.

Mark has been featured on several episodes of American Public Media's Pipedreams program, and has performed for countless conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, American Guild of Organists, and Organ Historical Society. On the international stage, he has toured in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Additionally, his compositions, arrangements, and performances have been heard both on television and in motion pictures. In 2019, he was honored to be featured alongside the Los Angeles Philharmonic for a rare organ solo cameo.

As a film accompanist and scorer, Mark has developed a reputation for dramatic period-authentic film scores with historically informed presentations that not only resonate with but captivate modern audiences. In 2019, he was commissioned to compose and record two new scores for The Criterion Collection's latest Harold Lloyd Blu-ray release. He studied theatre organ with the late John Ferguson of Indianapolis, who was recognized worldwide for his skills teaching the art of the theatre organ. His classical piano studies were with Christine Freeman of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts/Management from DePaul University in Chicago.

He currently resides in Los Angeles, where he is President of Mark Herman Music LLC, a provider of organ-related services and products. He is in demand as an organ consultant and

project manager, as well as a voicing specialist and tonal consultant for Allen Organs and is proud to be an Allen Artist, showcasing new Allen Organs in the US and beyond.

Our 53rd Season

- **Mark Herman**

- November 19th, 2022 at 3pm

- **Clark Wilson**

- March 18th, 2023 at 3pm

- **Brett Valliant**

- May 6th, 2023 at 7pm

Review of Donnie Rankin Concert 10.8.22 by Ron Stonehouse

This evening's performer is Donnie Rankin and I have enjoyed his concerts many times. The first was at my first ATOS convention in 2011. It's been a privilege to see him and marvel at his improvement every time, and tonight was not an exception!

Donnie opened with the "King Kong March" from the 1933 movie *King Kong*. The music was composed by Vienna-born Max Steiner, a 44 year old RKO music director known more for his music than his name. To name a few, he composed music for *Gone with the Wind*, *Citizen Kane*, *Casablanca*, and *Treasure of the Sierra Madre*. He established the ground rules of writing movie music that are still used today.

Next was a cutesy tune called "One-Zy Two-Zy (I Love You-Zy)" composed by Dave Franklin and Irving Taylor in 1946, according to the sheet music. One of the first recordings of this was by Phil Harris with a 3 year old Alice Faye Harris!

In 1935, Jimmy Mc Hugh and Dorothy Fields composed "I'm in the Mood for Love" and it was introduced in the movie *Every Night at Eight* by Frances Langford becoming her signature song. According to Bob Hope, it was a showstopper when entertaining the troops with him in WWII!

To "add a little humor to the program", Donnie played a Beatles Medley. This consisted of the following but not conclusive: "Strawberry Fields Forever", "Eleanor Rigby", "Yesterday", "Can't Buy Me Love", "Come Together", and "Norwegian Wood". I really enjoyed Donnie's arrangements of "Yesterday" and "Can't Buy Me Love".

Another beautiful arrangement was "Don't Blame Me" by Jimmy McHugh and Dorothy Fields again for the 1932 movie *Clowns in Clover*. Kind of had that Duke Ellington sound.

The next tune *Nanette*, had me getting in touch with Donnie because I couldn't find anything about it. He got right back to me with the following information. Written by Adam Carroll in 1927. He worked on over 500 player piano recordings and rolls. Donnie started the piece with a quiet introduction but soon became a speedy little tune with hands flying all over the console. Very impressive to me! Thanks again for the help.

The next song requires no introduction as it is probably the most popular piece ever written. Don-

nie gave us a very dramatic presentation in the full version of "Over the Rainbow". I never tire of hearing it!

Taking us into intermission was called the greatest and biggest march hit of all time, "The Repasz Band March". Composed in 1929 by Harry J. Lincoln. The Repasz Band is the longest continuously operated American band which has been active since 1831.

The second half begins with a piece composed and recorded by Jesse Crawford in 1929 entitled "I Love to Hear You Singing". It was a lovely lilting tune as played by Mr. Rankin.

The second piece in the second half was "Improvisation # 2". Donnie said he hadn't planned it that way. The composer was Django Reinhardt in 1938. He is also a musician playing a violin, a guitar, and a banjo. There is no title except for the above title. It was very interesting to say the least and quite lovely too.

The next piece was composed by singer Vienna Teng in 2013, both music and lyrics, and she sings about surveillance. The song is from the perspective of the software that controls us. Acxiom is a database marketing company that collects, analyzes and sells customer and business information used for targeted advertising campaigns. In my notes, knowing nothing about the piece was I thought it sounded like a hymn and that it was beautiful. The actual title is "Hymn of ACXIOM".

The next selection was a medley called "Bond". The three pieces are "Theme from *Her Majesty's Secret Service*" (1969), "No Body Does It Better" from *The Spy Who Loved Me* (1977), and from *Dr. No* (1962). John Barry Prendergast composed the music for *Dr. No* the first Bond movie and 11 of the films between 1963 and 1987. The 1977 movie was by Marvin Hamlisch and Monty Norman and the song was sung by Carly Simon.

"Take Five" was composed by Paul Desmond in 5/4 time and was Dave Brubeck's saxophonist. The Dave Brubeck Quartet recorded it in 1979 and is their most famous song.

One of Donnie's finest arrangements was next. The main part was "All the Things You Are" in 1939 by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II for

Review Cont. on page 3

Bob's Corner



In honor of our Society's founder, this corner of the Vox will be saved for special articles from previous Voxes that were written by Bob. This edition's special article includes part of the September 2007 Vox, an article titled "Why Do We

Have Some Empty Seats?":

"At each of our concerts there are some empty seats. Even when the reviewer might remark that it was a full house, rarely is that the fact. While there are some seats that are not desirable from a listening standpoint, there are other - very good - seats that are empty - usually between 100 and 150 of them.

We have a good product - great entertainment by professional artists, a good instrument for them to express their artistry, and a good facility.

What we need is a means of getting new people to give us a try. Sometimes asking someone to come to a organ concert is an exercise in futility. That is because they are picturing a dull evening of "deedle-deedle" like the organ they heard in church. They don't know about the excitement and joy of our concerts.

Once new people attend a concert, the chances are excellent they will come back. We need you to get them to make that first step. Share the stories of your concert experience with friends and co-workers. Invite your family and friends to come with you to fill those empty seats."

Missing the Vox?

Tired of waiting for the paper version when it can take weeks to get to you? The best thing you, the reader, can do is sign up for an email version. Remember, the digital version is often received a week before the mailed version and even comes in color, unlike the mailed version you may receive.

On another note, we are always looking for ideas or ways to improve the Vox to appeal to a larger audience so more people can come to enjoy our wonderful Kimball. If you have any suggestions or entries you would like to see in our publication, feel free to send them to avabrooksdotos@gmail.com and we will take your suggestions into consideration as we make our Vox even better.

President's Message

Greetings everyone! I look forward to seeing you at our next concert and hope that you will use this time to invite a friend to see and hear the majesty of the Mighty Kimball! You cannot imagine it until you experience it live and in person.

A very special thank you to all of those who have contributed so generously to our annual fundraising appeal. As you have heard me say time and time again, the revenue from ticket sales alone does not provide the necessary resources to run the organization. Concerts alone cost between \$5,000-8,000 each and then there's the cost of maintaining the magnificent giant. Through your generosity, we have been able to continue the tradition of offering concerts featuring the best artists in the theatre organ business for 53 years! Please know how grateful we are to for your continued support!

And it's not too late — if you would like to make a contribution, you may do so by going to our website (www.dtoskimball.org). You can contribute online, via mail, or in person at any of our concerts.

Thank you for keeping the music playing for 53 years!

David A. Ruth, Ph.D.

President / Chairman

DTOSPres@gmail.com

Review Continued

the musical *Very Warm for May*, Kern's last Broadway musical. The other part was music by Bernard Herrmann from *Vertigo*, the 1958 Alfred Hitchcock movie. Donnie wove the two pieces beautifully together.

Taking us into the last of tonight's program was one of my favorites again. In 1925, a Danish violinist composer Jacob Gade composed "Tango Jalousie". He is remembered today for this single tune. The royalties allowed him to devote himself to composition full time for the rest of his life.

After a standing ovation, Donnie got down to some more finger work with the encore "Dizzy Fingers" by Ziegfried Frenkel in 1927. I think everyone enjoyed this evening, I know I did! Thanks again Donnie, hope to see you again soon.

Amended Review from Ron Stonehouse

I wanted to begin with a couple of apologies concerning my last review.

The first goes to our president, Dr. David Ruth, as I had misquoted his after-intermission announcements.

The second to Carl Black from that misquote as to him stepping down. He is not and I am grateful because he has been of great help to me in obtaining the organist's playlist for their performance.

Lastly to Paul Harris as he is the actual person stepping down.

As an additional personal note, the problem is my deteriorating hearing. Although I can still enjoy our great Kimball, the speech quality is to the point of understanding the announcements made by the performers and others. I will do my best to complete this season but am hoping and praying that someone will volunteer to replace me. The burden here is that so many people are having to be replaced.

Thank you! It's been fun and educational.

Receptions Are Back!

Margaret and Christie Earl, chair and co-chair of the reception committee, are happy to report that receptions following concerts are returning with the start of the 53rd season! Receptions will take place in the lobby following the concerts (not on the stage).

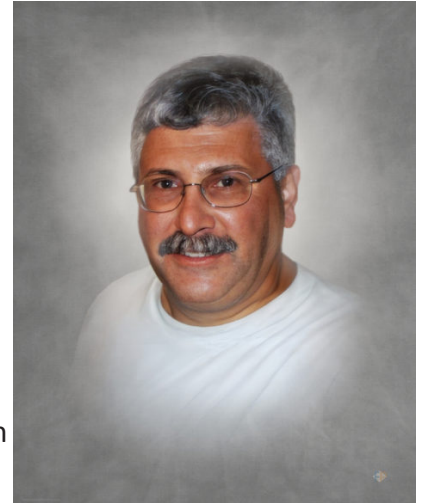
If you are interested in donating baked goods or other treats to share, please contact c_earl6@msn.com or call at 302-388-4789, so that we know how much to anticipate. We do also need help especially prior to concert start time to set up and after the reception to clean up. Clean up typically does not take long (less than 30 mins), especially when others are present to help. Please reach out to Christie Earl at c_earl6@msn.com or at 302-388-4789 for more information.

We look forward to seeing you this fall after our first concert. Thanks in advance for your support!

In Memory of Len Earl: Husband of Margaret and father of Christie Earl

Leonard W. Earl, Jr. (Len) of New Castle, DE, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his loving family, on October 15, 2022.

Len was born in Passaic, NJ to his parents Marie J. (Scucci) Earl and Leonard W. Earl, Sr. on September 10, 1951.



They moved to New Castle, DE when he was 5 years old. He later attended William Penn High School, where he was a member of the band and marching band, playing drums and oboe. Len was a business manager and broadcaster for the college's radio station; he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of Delaware. Additionally, Len played the organ, especially at weddings for his friends.

Len was also a dedicated dad to his only child. They attended school events as a family as well as joined the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society after attending several concerts hosted by the organization. Len previously held a treasurer position for DTOS; he had served as a key member of the Board of Directors for approximately 20 years, until his death.

Len often loved to tinker and was sometimes known as "Mr. Fix It." Even as a young child, he would take items apart and put them back together.

Len is survived by his wife, Margaret, of 41 years, as well as his daughter, Christie. He is preceded in death by his parents, Marie and Len Earl, Sr. He is also survived by his three goddaughters: Leslie Piro-malli, Alexis Woods (Hagerty), and Marissa Rossi, as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Dickinson Theatre Organ Society (PO Box 5094, Wilmington, DE 19808) or to Padua Academy (905 N. Broom St., Wilmington, DE) would be appreciated. The family would also like to express deepest thanks to Encompass Health Rehabilitation and Bayada Hospice.

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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

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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 Memories 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**
& **CC1 Peckham**

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)

2017/2018

286 Scott Foppiano **287 Brett Valliant**
288 Rosemary Bailey **289 Simon Gledhill**
290 Clark Wilson

2018/2019

292 Alex Jones **293 Carol Williams**
294 Nathan Avakian **295 Richard Hills**
296 Phil Kelsall **297 Ken Double**

2019/2020

298 Zach Frame **299 Hector Olivera**
300 David Gray
301 Jelani Eddington / Donnie Rankin

2020/2021

302 Tedde Gibson **303 Nathan Avakian**
304 Mark Herman **305 Ken Double**
w/ Skip Stine

2021/2022

306 Zach Frame

To Purchase Concert Memories CDs

Concert Memory CDs are \$15.00 for single disc selections and
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and during intermission of each concert.

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