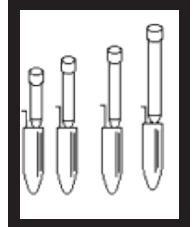


DTOS

Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

A chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



PO Box 5094
Wilmington, DE 19808

Vox Humana

dtos1@verizon.net
www.dtoskimball.org

Volume 53 Number 3

The Official DTOS Newsletter

March 2023



Clark Wilson

A native of Ohio, **Clark Wilson** began his musical training at age nine. While growing up he accompanied numerous stage musicals and was organist at several churches. At this time he was listed in "Who's Who in the Midwest" and "Men of Achievement". He also holds Life Member status in the International Tri-M Music Honor Society and is listed in "Who's Who in Executives and Professionals".

Following several years with the Schantz Organ Company as a reed voicer and tonal finisher, Clark's professional playing career began with his appointment to the featured organist post at Pipe Organ Pizza in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has since been on the playing staffs at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, Indiana, Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois, and is currently associated with Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona, where he is on the organ staff as well as having assisted with the planning and installation of the world's largest Wurlitzer organ.

Clark's recording credits include seven albums. He has given all-transcription recitals for the AGO,

played for the 1990 Organ Historical Society convention, and performed at numerous National and Regional conventions of the ATOS, as well as giving a series of highly lauded workshops for young people's Pipe Organ Encounters.

Considered one of the finest practitioners of the art of silent picture scoring, he has also been a visiting lecturer on Theatre Organ and photoplay accompaniment for the Indiana University organ department. He has now developed curriculum and has been appointed to the organ faculty at the University of Oklahoma's Organ Department, where he teaches applied theatre organ lessons, silent film scoring, and the history of the American theatre organ. He has concertized in the United States, Canada, Australia, and England, and done extensive silent film accompaniment, including at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, the Packard Foundation's Stanford Theatre, UCLA, and the Fox Theatre for the Atlanta premier of the restored "Metropolis".

He plays a silent picture annually on the organ series at LA's Walt Disney Concert Hall, has scored for Kino International for commercial release, and has performed at both the Cinequest and San Francisco Silent Film Festivals, as well as for the Los Angeles Conservancy. Since

Biography continued on page 4

Our 53rd Season

Clark Wilson

- March 18th, 2023 at 3pm

Brett Valliant

- May 6th, 2023 at 7pm

Review of Mark Herman Concert 11.19.22 by Ron Stonehouse

I was introduced to Dickinson on July 12, 2008 the last concert of that season. I was hooked and have been a season ticket holder ever since. The organist just happened to be Mark Herman.

On November 19, 2011, I wrote my first concert review. Mark again! Today's concert is 11 years to the date, we are both here again and what a wonderful concert it turned out to be. His playing has always been exceptional as well as his selections of music performed.



This afternoon is the second of the season to start at 3 PM and Mark opened his performance with a lite and lively version of "Cheek to Cheek" by Irving Berlin in 1934-35 for the movie *Top Hat*. It was first recorded by Fred Astaire with the Leo Reisman Orchestra and sang it to Ginger Rogers as they danced.

The next piece was a request by one of our patrons and Mark said he had never been requested to play it but knocked it out of the ballpark, so to speak. It was a popular barbershop song in 1929 composed by Sammy Fain with lyrics by Irving Kahal and recorded by Gene Austin that same year. The song was "Wedding Bells (Are Breaking Up That Old Gang of Mine)".

Almost as if they were meant to be played together like cause and effect, the next two pieces were "Spread a Little Happiness" / "Smile". The

first was composed in 1929 by Vivian Ellis with lyrics by Clifford Grey for the West End musical *Mr. Cinders*. The music for the second was by Charlie Chaplin for his 1936 movie *Modern Times*. The lyrics were added in 1954 by John Turner and Geoffrey Parsons. The original recording was in 1955 by Nat "King" Cole.

The medley Mark has called "Johnny Mercer Selections" is next. Mercer is an American lyricist, composer, and singer. He is also the co-founder of Capitol records. The following is the order in which they were played and lyrics mostly written by Mercer: A) "Emily", 1946 movie *The Americanization of Emily*, music Johnny Mandel. B) "Something's Gotta Give", 1954 movie *Daddy Long Legs*, words and music first recorded by Sammy Davis, Jr., C) "Charade", 1963 movie *Charade*, Henry Mancini. D) "Hooray for Hollywood", 1937 movie *Hollywood Hotel*, music by Richard Whiting. E) "The Days of Wine and Roses", 1962 movie of the same title, Mancini music. F) "Moon River", 1961 movie *Breakfast at Tiffany's* and Mancini for music.



Another well blending of selections by Mark and beautifully arranged.

Up next, another request and this one was "For Jarvis". Composed by Mark and is named after his dog. Lovely tune and have heard it a few times.

From the pens of Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart for Billy Rose's musical *Jumbo* in 1935, the

very beautiful “My Romance” was next. Mark selected a few special stops for this one to show off some of the many beautiful pipes we have on the Kimball.

Next, one I don’t recall ever hearing before, “Ukulele Lady” composed by Richard Whiting and Gus Kahn in 1925. Mark played it in a cutesy manner and I’m sure everyone enjoyed it.

Mark took us into intermission with some “serious” music, a medley he called “Jerome Kern Selections”. The following are as follows: A) “A Fine Romance”, 1936 movie *Swing Time* lyrics by Dorothy Fields. B) “Pick Yourself Up”, also from *Swing Time*. C) “Can I Forget You”, 1937 film *You Can’t Have Everything*, Oscar Hammerstein II lyrics. D) “Bojangles of Harlem” also from *Swing Time*. E) “All the Things You Are”, 1939 musical *Very Warm for May* lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II again. F) “Ol’ Man River” 1927 musical *Show Boat* Oscar and Jerome together again. Some serious arranging by Mr. Herman also!



“From This Moment On” is a Jazz standard by Cole Porter for the 1950 musical *Out of This World* but was dropped from the musical before the premiere and later included in the 1953 film *Kiss Me Kate*.

The next medley Mark named “Vera Lynn Favorites”. Dame Vera Margaret Lynn was an English singer and entertainer very popular during WWII. The following is as performed: A) “Be Like a Kettle

and Sing”, 1942 by Tommie Connor, Walter Ridley, Desmond O’Connor. Vera Lynn recorded it with Mantovani and orchestra and was included in the 1943 movie *We’ll Meet Again*. B) “The White Cliffs of Dover” 1941 by Walter Kent, lyrics by Nat Burton. C) “There’ll Always Be an England”, 1939 Ross Parker and Hughie Charles. D) “A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square”, 1939 by Eric Maschwitz and Manning Sherwin. E) “We’ll Meet Again”, 1939 Parker and Charles again.

The last medley of the day is named “Rogers and Hart Selections”. One note at this time, Mark was helpful in writing this review in that he sent me a complete playlist for this performance and for that I thank you! The medley as played is: A) “You Took Advantage of Me”, 1928 musical *Present Arms*. B) “Manhattan”, 1929 for Garrick Gaieties. C) “The Lady is a Tramp” 1937 *Babes in Arms*. D) “My Funny Valentine”, 1937 *Babes in Arms*. (This song is a jazz standard and appears on over 1300 albums and performed by over 600 artists). E) “Thou Swell”, 1927 *A Connecticut Yankee*. F) “Have You Met Miss Jones?” 1937 *I’d Rather be Right*. G) “Johnny One-Note” 1937 *Babes in Arms*.

Closing the concert was a John Williams piece called “Flying Theme” from *E.T.* in 1982, that would be (The Extra-Terrestrial). It has been described as his most magical works as he depicts the flight for the first time.

Following a standing ovation, Mark gave us his version of “Tiger Rag” as an encore. The original recording was in 1918 by The Original Dixieland Jazz Band. Words were not added until 1931 by Harry Da Costa and was recorded then by the Mills Brothers becoming their #1 hit that year. The original members of that Jazz band, and yes, that’s the way the word started out, were D.J. “Nick” LaRocca, Eddie Edwards, Larry Shields, Henry Ragas, and Tony Sbarbaro.

Thanks Mark for another fine performance and looking forward to seeing everyone next year!

Biography Continued

1992, Clark has served as Resident Organist and organ conservator at the famed Ohio Theatre in Columbus, Ohio (for the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts) and was chosen by them to re-premier the renowned Chicago Theatre Organ on a bill that included him accompanying popular singer Michael Feinstein. He also headed the professional crew that began restoration on the Chicago's landmark Wurlitzer for CAPA.

Along with a busy concert schedule, Wilson runs his own pipe organ business and is heavily in demand as a tonal consultant and finisher of both theatre and classical pipe organs; he has been given the singular honor of being brought to England multiple times for tonal finishing and consulting. He has received both the Technician of the Year and Organist of the Year awards from the American Theatre Organ Society, the only person to have done so, and his time is now nearly equally divided between concert and technical work. He has been professionally involved with more than 100 organ installations throughout North America and England and has provided consulting and voicing expertise for several different organ companies.

Receptions After the Concert

Margaret and Christie Earl, chair and co-chair of the reception committee, are happy to report that receptions following concerts are still continuing! 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!

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 June 2008 *Vox*, an article titled "Construction Finals"

"As of this past week, the sprinkler system has been activated. The system is called a "Pro-Active" system. What that means is that there is no water in the system normally. It takes two events to allow the water to enter the pipes. One is the opening of a sprinkler head either by melting from heat (fire) or breaking (as in an accident). The second is for heat to melt a temperature sensitive wire strung near the sprinkler head. In the event a sprinkler head is broken or opened, the air inside the pipe (normally under pressure) is reduced, causing an alarm to be transmitted to the main control panel. If the opening was caused by an accident, this will allow time for the head to be repaired with no water being sprayed. This is the system used in the organ chambers and backstage. The bad news is that the system over your head is a normal wet charged system. If a sprinkler head is broken, you get wet. Of course, it is difficult to reach those heads from the floor so I don't think there is too much danger of this happening. I don't think you need to bring an umbrella with you to the next concert."

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 avabrooksdtos@gmail.com and we will take your suggestions into consideration as we make our *Vox* even better.

Volunteers Needed!

In our years of presenting concerts, DTOS has built a reputation for excellence. People have come to expect good music, played by talented artists in a professionally delivered and smoothly run concert. But you may not always think about the folks who are “behind the scenes” who make the event possible – people who volunteered their time and skills for the benefit of DTOS and all of the attendees.

When difficulties arose, someone in the “family” would often step up to fill the need – or a volunteer would add the job to his / her workload. The audience wasn’t even aware that there was a problem.

In recent years DTOS has lost many of those volunteers who made the system work. And now, we need more hands to take their places. Without them we simply cannot do it. In the past, we have politely asked for help, but response was poor. Now the situation is serious. DTOS needs more members of the “family” to share the effort of doing what we have done so well in the past – sharing the music and magic of the theatre pipe organ with the rest of the world.

This recent comment by a member of the Dickinson Family gives a possible reason to hope: “I’ve been in this organization a long time, enjoying the music. It’s time I volunteer to give back and to help make the system work.”

How about you? Whether a new member of our family of concert-goers or a long-time DTOS’er, could you match your skills to one of the jobs that DTOS needs to fill?

For more information (and to sign up) contact Christi Earl at c_earl6@msn.com or see any of the DTOS volunteers at the next concert.

President’s Message

Can we safely say that the winter months are behind us? Not yet, so that’s why our next concert, March 18th featuring Clark Wilson, is a “matinee” concert, beginning at 3 PM, and I look forward to seeing you there. Clark was here with us back in April, 2018 and we look forward to what he has in store for us this year.

You’ll see an article in this edition of the Vox that speaks to the need for more volunteers to assist us with our concerts. We need help with coordinating and running the snack bar, assisting with the after-concert receptions, and assisting with tickets sales before the concert, to name a few. We are at the point where if we do not get help, we may have to forego on some of the things that make Dickinson and coming to concerts at Dickinson so special. On behalf of all of us at DTOS, please consider volunteering your time to support this organization. No matter how much or how little, we would be so grateful!

And here’s another request – talk to your friends about Dickinson and what we have to offer – the 4th largest theatre pipe organ in the world, featuring world-renown theatre organ performers. But it is one of those things that you must experience live and in-person to truly appreciate. The ticket prices are incredibly reasonable. You’ve got to see it and hear it to believe it. So tell your friends and bring them with you to one of our shows! They’ll be glad you did!

Stay warm and be well! See you at the concert!

David A. Ruth, Ph.D.
President
Dickinson Theatre Organ Society
DTOSPres@gmail.com

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE

You are invited to send your contribution to:

**DTOS Appeal
PO Box 5094
Wilmington, DE 19808**

Your contributions are tax deductible.
DTOS is a 501(c)3 Corporation in the State of Delaware

Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

wishes to acknowledge, with our thanks, the following contributors to the 2022-2023 Concert Season

Guardians of Our Musical Heritage

(\$1000 and above)

Paul & Joyce Harris
Dr Sandra F Mather
James Simpson

President's Circle

(\$500 to \$999)

Robert Ashworth
Norma & John Clayton
Gary Coller
Anonymous
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Jones
James A. Matz
Stephen Ross

Dr. & Mrs. David A. Ruth
Richard Thatcher
Margaret & Christie Earl - In Memory of Len Earl
Elsie Lund
James Milroy
Paul Vines
Elsie Reynolds

Benefactors

(\$250 to \$499)

Gordon Biscomb
Noel Bryson & Dorothy Phillips
Elizabeth Gemmill
Rick Givens In Memory of Bill Church
Col Michael W. Hartley (Ret)
Craig & Mary Hogstrom
Richard Neidich
Larry & Joanne Owen

Ronald L. Stonehouse
Marvin Stouffer
Gary Tatman
Jan Ridings
Patrick Litle
Sam & Joyce Groh
Paul Settlemeyer

Sponsors

(\$100 to \$249)

Sallie & Jack Akester
Charles Roessler & Andrew Burnett
Mr. & Mrs. R.S. Auchincloss, Jr.
John V. Baratta
David Martin Barnett
Iva Boardman
Robert & Hilda Burtin In Memory of Len Earl
Dr. & Mrs. J. Harlan Buzby
Ray Chorba
Ruth S. Crossan
Fred & Annette Crotchfelt
Charles & Ann Darling
Linda Dion
Larry Fenner
Loretta Frisoli

Marilyn Garthwaite
Kelly Gondek In Memory of Len Earl
Mary L. Gotsch In Memory of Len Earl
Barry Howard
Donald R. Klanga
Charles & Catherine Kokoski
John & Patricia Krick
Charles Leid
Rena & Wayne Mattson
George Metz
Edna B. Norris
David & Beth Player In Memory of Len Earl
In Memory of Rena Mattson
Paul & Aggie Pringle
Jim Reinhart

Charles Reynolds
Sylvia & Earl Seppala
Robert H. & Dorothy W. Spencer
Mary L. Stradley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Taggart
Anonymous
Arlene Volk
Bert Bryant Young
Kathryn Andrews
Scott L. Burkart
Jo Ann Condry
Margaret, Len & Christie Earl
H. Gregory Stilwell
Herbert V. Bendler In Memory of Len Earl

Donors

(\$50 to \$99)

Joyce Bauer
Bruce Bendler In Memory of Len Earl
Brian & Elinor Blackwell
Wayne Bowen
Dave & Jan Burkart
Bob Burton
Julia Coates
Jim Connors
Paul & Barbara Debaylo
Dilworth Family in Memory of Bob Dilworth
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Dresden
Bruce Ersek

Nancy Frampton
Carolyn Gandin
In Memory of Rena Mattson
Sharon Hudson
Michael Kinerk
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Kline
Emil Lavita
Robert & Dolores Maney
John & Karen Manley In Memory of Len Earl
Virginia & Bill Naugle
Adelia Ockerbloom
Barbara & Charles Paschall

Alison Pratt, PhD In Memory of Len Earl
Stephen & Susan Ream
J. Randall Rosensteel
Jack Serdy
Peggy Stewart
Kenneth Stiefel
Steve & Sue Tolbert
Elaine & Paul Trumbull, Jr.
Stephen Geraci In Memory of Dick Smith & Bob Dilworth
Esther M. Johnson

Friends

(\$10 to \$49)

Diane S. Bell
Vernon Huber In Memory of
Eleanor J. Huber
Edward A. Boehling
Beverly Davis
Mildred & Jack Hardman
Daniel Nichols In Memory of Bob
Nichols
Mr. & Mrs. Timothy C. Bliss

Mr. & Mrs. John Bradley In
Memory of Len Earl
Robert Bugel
Don & Jan Drury
Joseph Fusco
Denise I. Griffiths
David & Barbara Irving
Ernest Kepner
Maureen Luszcz

Anthony J. Nastus
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Parkell
Ronald Reinhard
Richard & Andrea Smith In
Memory of Len Earl
Thomas Stehle
Jane Purnell Taylor
Charles & Elizabeth Till
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Goldsmith

Erwin Markisch
Dan Minervini
Nancy & Edwin Petit De Mange
Mr. & Mrs. Kirk Stenz
Jane L. Dilley
Jon Leight
Tim Laushey Orchestra
John Adams
Brenda Powell In Memory of Rena
Mattson

Richard A. Givens In Memory of William D. Church
Mary Ann Dilworth..... Dilworth Family in Memory of Bob Dilworth
Stephen Geraci..... In Memory of Dick Smith & Bob Dilworth

Memorials

Vernon F. Huber..... In Memory of Eleanor J. Huber
Daniel Nichols..... In Memory of Bob Nichols

Dickinson Theatre Organ Society
PO Box 5094
Wilmington, DE 19808

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #1310
Wilmington, DE

Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

A chapter of the
American Theatre Organ Society

presents

Clark Wilson

Live Concert
Saturday, March 18th, 2022
at 3:00pm



The Dickinson Theatre

1801 Milltown Road

Wilmington, DE 19808-4011