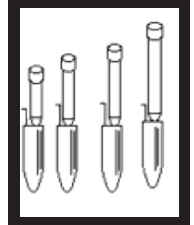


Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

A chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



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Wilmington, DE 19808

Vox Humana

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www.dtoskimball.org

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The Official DTOS Newsletter

April 2023



Brett Valliant is an organist enjoying opportunities to play the music he loves on the instrument he loves. Whether at an organ in a concert hall, a majestic church organ, or a mighty Wurlitzer in a theatre, Brett is right at home.

Brett was inspired by the organ at church when he was just three years old. At age 4 he began piano instruction with Ruth Cline and soon after was studying organ with Anna Jeter in Wichita, Kansas. By the age of 12, Brett was employed as a church organist having held onto the dream he had at such an early age, and at age 19 performed his first international concert tour. For 21 years, Brett was the organist and music director of First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, where he played a large pipe organ seen and heard by thousands in the midwest on the

the church's television program. Brett is also the Artist-In-Residence for the Wichita Wurlitzer where he often performs on the former New York Paramount Wurlitzer organ now housed in Wichita. Brett studied organ at Wichita State University with Robert Town as well as privately in the US and Australia. Brett's 3 recordings have been featured on National Public Radio's Pipe Dreams as well as the National Bible Broadcasting Network.

Today, Brett is one of two resident organists at the iconic Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona. Organ Stop Pizza houses the world's largest theatre organ and entertains thousands of patrons each year. In addition to his playing at Organ Stop, Brett is known for accompanying and scoring silent films and appears annually at numerous film festivals. In addition to regular appearances at American Theatre Organ Society and American Guild of Organists conventions, Brett has toured extensively as a concert artist throughout the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe.

In his free time, Brett enjoys sailing, skating, cooking, mid-century collection, and playing the piano and accordion.

**Last Concert of the
Season**

Review of Scott Foppiano Concert 3.18.23 by Ron Stonehouse

This afternoon is the last of the 3PM concerts this season. There was a surprise waiting for me when I looked at my program booklet and saw a different face than I was expecting. Sadly, Clark Wilson was unable to appear and was replaced by Scott Foppiano at the last minute, so to speak. In about a week's time he was able to show up and present a marvelous concert. This was his 4th concert at Dickinson. The first two were in November of 2000 and April of 2008, both before I became a member. At the October 2017 concert, Dr. Ruth wrote the review so on this day it will be the 2nd time hearing him here and the 1st time the pleasure of writing his review.

After a brief welcome speech and introduction by our president David Ruth, the music begins as Scott and the Kimball rise from the organ pit. The selection was "It's All Right with Me", composed by Cole Porter for the 1953 musical *Can-Can*. It was also used in the 1998 Broadway musical *High Society*.

The next piece was a jazz standard by Jimmy Van Heusen and lyrics by Sammy Cahn in 1959 for Frank Sinatra as the title track on his album *Come Dance with Me*.

Changing up the styling a bit, Scott performed "Imperial March, Op 32" composed by English composer Sir Edward William Elgar in 1897 to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen



Victoria. It was first performed at Crystal Palace, London.

Mr. Foppiano did an excellent job of telling us a lot of information about what he was going to perform next and an added feature in this concert we are presented on the screen the title of the music and the composer in the upper left side for a couple of seconds.

A favorite of Scott was next. Giacomo Puccini, considered the greatest Italian opera proponent, composed in 1918 "O Mio Babbino Caro (Oh My Dear Father)". This is from his opera *Gianni Schicchi* premiering at the Metropolitan Opera.



"Funeral March of a Marionette" by French composer Charles Gounod and Lyn Murray in 1872, was next. Originally written for solo piano and was orchestrated in 1879. It is best known as the theme for *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.

Another jazz standard followed. In 1941, Hoagland Howard Carmichael (Hoagy) composed "Skylark" for a musical about his deceased friend, Beiderbecke, but the musical was never produced. He gave the music to Johnny Mercer for some lyrics and the first recording was in 1942 by Glen Miller with Ray Eberle on vocal. It was a hit, rising to #7 on the charts. Following in the same year were three more hits. Harry James with Helen Forest #11, Dinah Shore

with Rosario Bourden and his orchestra #5, and Bing Crosby with Scott Trotter and his orchestra #14. Hoagy is best remembered for “Stardust”.

Taking us up to intermission was a wonderful medley by Rodgers and Hammerstein II from the 1959 musical *Sound of Music* and the 1965 film with Julie Andrews. The medley consisted of the following but not conclusive: “Sound of Music”, “My Favorite Things”, “Edelweiss”, “Put on a Happy Face”, and “Climb Every Mountain”.

The second half begins with a toe tapping “Goody Goody” from the pens of Matty Malneck and lyrics by Johnny Mercer in 1936. The first recording was by Ted Wallace and his Swing Kings. The pop version was by Benny Goodman. Frankie Lyman recorded it much later in 1957 with his group “the Teenagers” that turns out to be Frankie singing with himself.

This was followed by a very lush and lovely Irish folk tune “Londonderry Air”. In 1913, an English lawyer, Fred Weatherly wrote lyrics to the tune and called it “Danny Boy”. The music originated in county Londonderry and a lady, Jane Ross of Limavady, submitted the tune to George Petrie and was published by the Society for the Preservation and Publication of the Melodies of Ireland in the 1855 book *The Ancient Music of Ireland* as an anonymous air.

In 1934, Irving Berlin composed “Cheek to Cheek”, for the star of his new musical, Fred Astaire with Leo Reisman and his orchestra in the 1935 movie *Top Hat* where Fred sings while dancing with Ginger.

Next up “The Man That Got Away” by Harold Arlen and Ira Gershwin for the 1954 film *A Star is Born* starring Judy Garland and James Mason. She recorded it in 1953. In 2004, her performance of the song was selected by American Film Institute as the eleventh greatest song in American cinema history.

Leroy Bernard Shield was an American film score and radio composer best known for themes and incidental music for the classic Hal

Roach comedy short films in the 30s, *The Little Rascals/ Our Gang* and *Laurel and Hardy*. Scott performed a very beautiful “Beyond the Rainbow”. I was unable to find anything about that tune.

David Gates from the group Bread composed the next piece “If” in 1971 and was on the album *Manna*. This was also another beautiful piece by Mr. Foppiano. As a side note, the tune had the shortest song title to become a hit until 1993 when Prince’s hit reached number 7 with “7” and Britney Spears reached number 1 with “3” in 2009.

John Phillip Sousa, the march king, composed over 130 marches. In 1893 he wrote “Liberty Bell March”. It began as a piece of an opera he was composing but never happened. This is probably one of his best known due to its use as the theme song for the TV show *Monty Python’s Flying Circus*.

After a standing ovation, Scott’s Encore was based on the Westminster Chimes. Not positive, but believe the piece is by Louis Vierne, “Carillon de Westminster Opus 54, No 6”.

What I am positive about, this was an absolutely wonderful concert and do hope to hear him again. Thank you Mr. Scott Foppiano!



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.

An Update on Receptions

Thank you to all who have visited receptions in the lobby following concerts this 53 rd season. We hope these are more easily accessible to all, as compared to previous receptions held on the stage. A special thanks goes out to those who have donated baked goods and/or other treats for the past few concerts.

If you are interested in donating baked goods or have other treats to share, please contact **c_earl6@msn.com** or call at 302-388-4789. We like to know how much to anticipate, about 1 week in advance of each concert.

We need help at intermission (to begin set up) and after the reception. Clean up typically does not take long (less than 30 minutes), especially when others are present to help. Please reach out to Christie Earl at **c_earl6@msn.com** or at 302-388-4789 to obtain more information.

Thanks again 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

January 2008 Vox, an article titled "Cookbook Project":

"The Cookbook committee has placed their first article in this newsletter and I don't want to repeat what they have said, but I do want to emphasize that we really want this project to succeed. In order for that to happen, we need your help in providing us with recipes that can be included. We want this cookbook to be interesting, educational and exciting. It would be great if each recipe had a little paragraph with it that tells why this recipe was sent -- such as

'This recipe was served every year at my parents' wedding anniversary' or

'This recipe was passed down from my great grandmother. We had to translate it from "butter the size of a walnut" to present day measurements'.

We could even include a recipe or so using that type of measurement.

A project like this requires a great number of recipes.

Please don't feel your input is not important. It is. We are going to need several hundred recipes and we want all categories to be included. This is not just a cookie recipe book."

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

Spring has sprung! And we are so excited to welcome the beautiful weather and the beautiful sounds of the majestic Kimball 3/66.

Do you know what 3/66 means? It means 3 manuals or keyboards and 66 ranks of pipes. The large organ at Radio City Music Hall is 4/58, meaning 4 manuals (keyboards) and 58 ranks of pipes. When I was looking up these numbers, I was intrigued to learn that the Wannamaker Organ in Philadelphia is 6/464 and the Midmer-Losh organ in Boardwalk Hall (Atlantic City, NJ) is 7/449. Yet the Midmer-Losh is the largest pipe organ in the world. How can that be if it has fewer ranks than the Wannamaker? It’s because of the number of pipes... The Midmer-Losh (7/449) has 31,114 pipes, while the Wannamaker Organ (6/464) only (!) has 28,750 pipes. Just some fun facts to share with you...

Anyway – we are excited to bring you our final concert in this, our 53rd season – Brett Valliant. As I recall, Brett was last here in 2017 and it was the first concert for me as President of DTOS. We are excited to welcome Brett back to Dickinson and look forward to what he has in store for us!

Soon we will be pleased to announce the concert lineup for our 54th Season (2023-2024). Stay tuned, but you will be pleased with some of the “best of the best” artists in the theatre organ business.

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall as we start the season with our annual Open House. Please have a safe and enjoyable spring and summer!

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

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE

You are invited to send your contribution to:

**DTOS Appeal
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Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

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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

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DTOS Publications

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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
\$20.00 for two-disc selections. The DTOS music store is available before
and during intermission of each concert.

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