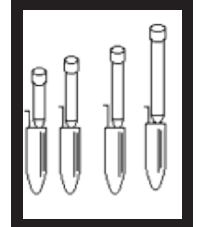




Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

A chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



PO Box 5094
Wilmington, DE 19808

Vox Humana

www.dtoskimball.org

Volume 54 Number 1

The Official DTOS Newsletter

September 2023

2023-2024 Open House September 16th, 2023, 1pm - 4pm

To start off the 54th season of the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society, we will be hosting our annual Open House. All who would love to know more about our “Mighty Kimball” and get the chance to see it up close are welcome! Festivities will begin with a mini concert and silent film played by Ian Fraser.

Ian Fraser’s fascination with organs started at the age of 2 when he heard a band organ on a local carousel in his hometown of Staten Island, NY. His interests soon expanded into the world of mechanical music with player pianos, orchestrations, etc. When he was 16, after seeing a silent film at Chaminade High School in Mineola, NY in 2017, he got the chance to sit at the console and play the theatre organ for the first time. From there, he has followed his passion to become a theatre organist. Leveraging his ability to play by ear, Ian has taught himself in just a few short years to play the theatre organ. This has been influenced by studying his favorite genres and organists.

Now residing in Plainfield, NJ, Ian is the house organist at the St. George Theatre in Staten Island playing pre-shows for their Classic Movie Series. He has also performed at Chaminade High School, the Bardavon Opera House, and the Loew’s Jersey Theatre.

Ian is a board member of NYTOS (New York Theatre Organ Society). He is also a member of AMICA International & AMICA’s Lady Liberty Chapter (Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors Association), COAA (Carousel Organ Association of America), NCA (National Carousel Association), GSTOS (Garden State Theatre Organ Society), and ATOS (American Theatre Organ Society).

Following the mini concert and silent film, there will be an open console for anyone wanting to try their hand on the “Mighty Kimball”.

Discounted Season Tickets are back...

Skip the line, Save time, Buy by phone or online...

Buy the entire season at a discounted price of \$90 (\$10 discount)

Review of Brett Valliant Concert 6.10.23 by Ron Stonehouse

This evening's concert was the last of the 2022/2023 season. I found it to be one of the best I've heard as to Mr. Valliant's arrangements, his choices in coaxing some delightful organ registrations on our mighty Kimball and not to mention I was familiar with nearly all his selections. He also happened to be the first organist I ever heard at my first ATOS convention in 2011 in Providence, R.I. After the concert, Brett said he would send me a complete play list including all the tunes in the medleys, he did, and it was on my computer when I got home. Thanks again!

After a brief introduction by our president Dr. David Ruth, the show began with one of my favorites, "Vanessa", composed in 1952 by Bernie Wayne who wrote over 1000 songs and music for commercial jingles. The first recording was by Hugo Winterhalter and his orchestra.

Up next was "Maple Leaf Rag" composed by Scott Joplin in 1899 and became the model for ragtime compositions and one of the most famous of all ragtime pieces. It also brought him a steady income for life.

Slowing things down a little was a very beautiful arrangement of "Bali Hai" from Richard Rogers and Oscar Hammerstein II's *South Pacific*. Alfred Newman and the orchestra performed the overture. The play opened on Broadway in 1949 and the movie in 1958.

John Williams composed the score for the 1982 movie *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial* and Brett selected "Over the Moon" and "Flying Theme" as his next two pieces.

After a short pause, Brett went straight into a Beatles Medley all of which were composed by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. The order of the medley with the year each was first recorded are as follows: "Yesterday" 1965, "With a Little Help from My Friends" 1967, "The Long and Winding Road" 1970, "Hey Jude" 1968, and "All You Need is Love" 1967. Very nice selections and arrangements.

For a mood changer, Brett next performed "Battle Hymn of the Republic" composed by William Steffe with lyrics by Julia Ward Howe in 1862, just a little before the Beatles time. Outside of the United States it is also known as "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory" or "Glory, Glory Hallelujah".

Next up "Little White Lies", composed in 1930 by Walter Donaldson, an American prolific song writer, and first recorded by Irving Kaufman. Many others followed including Jesse Crawford.

Following up was a medley of 50's/60's songs starting with "I Only Want to Be with You" composed by British musicians Ivor Raymonde and Mike Hawker and first recorded in 1964 by Dusty Springfield. This was followed by "This Magic Moment" composed by

Doc Pomus and Mort Shuman and first recorded by Ben E. King and the Drifters in 1960. Lastly, “Mr. Sandman”, composed by Pat Ballard in 1954 and first recorded by Vaughn Monroe and his orchestra. The Chordettes version was a little later and probably the most memorable, at least for me. They recorded it with the Archie Bleyer Orchestra and as a side note, Archie was the male voice replying “Yes” towards the end of the tune.

Taking us into intermission was “National Emblem March” by composer, cornetist and trombonist Edwin Eugene Bagley, in 1902 and published in 1906 becoming his most famous march and a favorite of John Philip Sousa.

The second half began with “Come Fly With Me” a tune written especially for Frank Sinatra by Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Cahn in 1958 and recorded by Frank with the Billy May orchestra.

A medley from *Showboat* followed with music by Jerome Kern and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II. The very lovely arrangements were A) “Life Upon the Wicked Stage”, B) “Make Believe”, C) “Can’t Help Lovin’ Dat Man”, D) “Hey, Feller!” and E) “Ol’ Man River”. The first performance was in 1927.

An Amazing Grace Medley, consisting of the following were A) “Amazing Grace” by John Newman in 1779, B) “When the Saints Go Marching In”, a traditional black spiritual originating as a Christian hymn, and famously recorded by Louis Armstrong in 1935, C) “The Lord’s Prayer” by Albert Hay Malotte in 1935, and D) “Hallelujah Chorus” in 1741 by George Frideric Handel from Handel’s *Messiah*.

Changing the mood, Brett set the pace with some ragtime music, “Grizzly Bear Rag” by Tin Pan Alley composer George Botsford in 1910. He is probably best known for “Black and White Rag” and this tune which started a craze for animal dances including the Turkey Trot and the Fox Trot.

A medley from *Sound of Music* by Rodgers and Hammerstein in 1959 with Mary Martin as the star was next and the order is A) “The Sound of Music”, B) “Do- Re-Mi”, C) “Edelweiss”, D) “My Favorite Things”, and E) “Climb Ev’ry Mountain”.

Mr. Valliant’s closing selection was “Overture to the Magpie” by Gioachino Rossini in 1817. It is a story about a household maid who nearly goes to the gallows for stealing silver from her employers but turns out to be a magpie had been the thief and was hiding items in the church tower.

After a more than well-deserved standing ovation, Brett’s encore was “Stars and Stripes Forever” by John Philip Sousa in 1896. It has been called his masterpiece and it is by far the most popular march ever written.

Thank you Brett for a very special ending to our season. Looking forward to seeing and listening to you again!

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 54th 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.

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 August 2018 *Vox*, an article titled "Editor's Notes":

"Almost 50 years ago we began mailing a newsletter to the DTOS family. Other theatre organ groups had chosen parts of the organ for their inspiration with names such as 'The Blower' or 'The Tibia' or 'The Post Horn'. DTOS chose *Vox Humana* (which means human voice) which we thought was appropriate.

The set of pipes called the *Vox Humana* has a unique sound like the singing of a distant chorus. Almost every theatre organ has at least one set. The Dickinson Kimball has 5 sets from 4 different builders.

The *Vox* is not a solo voice; it is best used in an ensemble. It evokes the reaction, 'That's a lovely sound, I wonder what it is.'

Over the years the *Vox Humana* newsletter has been our vehicle for announcing concerts and spreading the word of what the various parts of DTOS are doing.

It evens shares thoughts of planning for the future. However, we never put the words '*Vox Humana*' on the masthead."

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

Welcome to our 54th Season!!

We are excited to share our 54th concert series with you, starting with our Open House and mini-concert event on September 16 and 5 concerts throughout the season. Our first full concert on October 14 will feature a DTOS favorite, Dave Wickham. Our 54th season also includes other top names, including Justin Lavoie, Carol Williams, Jerry Nagano, and Simon Gledhill. We are also featuring matinee concerts at our November, January, and March shows.

Our Open House Event will be held on Saturday, September 16 at 1 PM. It’s a FREE EVENT and MINI-CONCERT and will also feature Open Console times. This is a great opportunity to introduce a few of your friends to one of the largest instruments of its kind in the world! So please attend and bring a friend!

We look forward to seeing you!

David A. Ruth, Ph.D.
President

Dickinson Theatre Organ Society
DTOSPres@gmail.com
www.dtoskimball.org

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.
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Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

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

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James Simpson

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(\$500 to \$999)

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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 tosdrv.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

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 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

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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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Dickinson Theatre Organ Society

A chapter of the
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presents

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Featuring Ian Fraser
Saturday, September 16th, 2023
at 1:00pm

The Dickinson Theatre

1801 Milltown Road

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