

SVTOS

The Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society (SVTOS) is a local chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, a national organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the theatre pipe organ. You need not be an organist or organ builder to be a member of SVTOS. The only requirement is that you enjoy listening to theatre organs and being around people who feel the same way!

Our primary activity is support and presentation of the newly restored 3/20 Wurlitzer installed in the Capitol Theatre in York, Pennsylvania. Along with regular programs featuring the instrument, we host meetings, open console, chamber tours and educational events at the theatre. We also sponsor trips and social gatherings each year which give members a chance to see, hear and/or play organs installed in homes and theatres in the area.

A regular newsletter keeps members informed of chapter activities both locally and around the area along with news and notes of interest to organ enthusiasts.

For further information, contact:
Herb Inge, Membership Chair,
410-692-6722, or e-mail him at
Walter.Inge@va.gov.

Membership

There are two categories of membership:

Regular \$40.00 per year
ATOS \$30.00 per year*

* Membership for those who are also ATOS national members is only \$30 per year.

To join SVTOS, simply complete the application to the right, tear it off, and send it, along with your check, to:

Roy Wainwright,
Secretary-Treasurer, SVTOS
2897 Olde Field Drive
York, PA 17408-4256

Please make checks payable to SVTOS. The membership year runs from September through August. Your membership includes everyone in your household.

SVTOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Play the organ? Yes _____ No _____

Dues enclosed: \$40.00 Regular Member _____ \$30.00 ATOS _____

Make checks payable to SVTOS

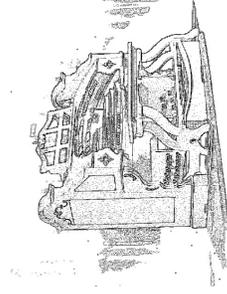
Signed _____



Support theatre
organs and
theatre organ
music.

Become a
member of
SVTOS.

A membership
application is
enclosed.



The Organ

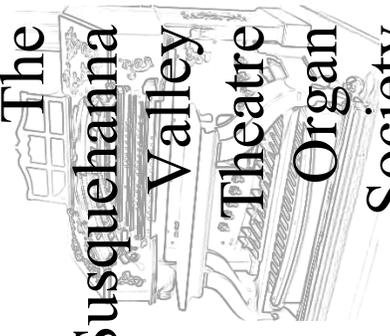
The instrument now installed in the Capitol Theatre began as a 2 manual 4 rank (2/4) Moller installed in a funeral home. An organist in New Jersey added 2 ranks of pipes, percussions and a toy counter. In 1968, SVTOS member Bob Lilarose bought it and moved it to Reading, PA.

Around 1972, Bob sold it to Mike Clemens of Lancaster, PA. Mike merged it with a Wurlitzer organ from a theater in NJ. Over the years it grew in his attic to 17 ranks. In 1986, Mike agreed to lease the instrument to the SCPAC for 20 years. The first concert was in 1991.

About this time, a group of area pipe organ enthusiasts formed the Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society to preserve and present the instrument. For some 10 years, the SVTOS, in cooperation with the SCPAC, offered silent films, shows and concerts featuring the organ and performed routine maintenance and upgrades.

In late December of 2001, the entire instrument was removed and put in storage. Some two years later, it was moved to the R. J. Brunner Organ Company in Silver Spring, Lancaster County, for restoration. Because of the extensive renovations of both the theatre and the organ, Mr. Clemens agreed to donate the organ to the theatre.

During restoration the instrument grew from 3/17 to 3/20 including the addition of several ranks of strings and an Orchestral Oboe. The "new" organ was reinstalled in the theatre over the winter of 2004-05.



The
Susquehanna
Valley
Theatre
Organ
Society