



# *Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society*

## **About SVTOS...**

The Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society (SVTOS) is a local chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society which is dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the theatre pipe organ and its music. You do not need to be an organist or organ builder to become a member of SVTOS. The only requirement is that you enjoy listening to theatre organ music and enjoy being around other people who feel the same way. SVTOS was established in 1993 by a group of area pipe organ enthusiasts to preserve and present theatre organ music. Our home base is the Capitol Theatre in York, PA which is part of the Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center (SCPAC) at 50 North George Street, York, PA 17401. The organ installed in the Capitol Theatre is a three-manual, 20-rank Wurlitzer pipe organ. Our primary mission is the support, preservation, and presentation of the Capitol Wurlitzer to our members and the general public. Along with our regularly scheduled monthly chapter meetings, we have open consoles, public concerts, and educational and social events. We also play the organ prior to most First Friday movies, Saturday evening movies, and Sunday Matinees held at the Capitol Theatre (see the [Cap Film website](#) for the current schedule). We provide organists for the local Masonic Village Health Care Center and perform a Christmas program for their residents every year. And we also give our members a chance to hear and play other organs installed in homes and theatres in the area.

## **About the Capitol Organ...**

The organ installed at the Capitol theatre started out as a 2-manual, 4-rank instrument installed in a funeral home. In 1968 the organ was sold to one of our members and additional ranks, percussions, and a toy counter were added and installed in his home. In 1972 another one of our members purchased the organ and merged it with his Wurlitzer organ from a theatre in New Jersey. The organ grew to 17 ranks and in 1986 the owner of the organ agreed to lease the instrument to SCPAC for 20 years. The organ was used by SCPAC for silent films, shows, and concerts. In late 2001 the Capitol Theatre underwent some extensive renovations and the entire organ was removed and moved to the R. J. Brunner Organ Company in Silver Spring, Lancaster County, PA, for a complete restoration. Because of the extensive renovations of both the theatre and the organ, the owner of the organ agreed to donate the organ to the theatre. A new 3-manual Wurlitzer style console was built and two additional ranks of strings and an Orchestral Oboe were added to the organ. The “new” organ consists of 20 ranks of pipes and was reinstalled in the theatre over the winter of 2004-2005.

**SVTOS Officers:**

President – Richard Neidich - 202-302-6320

Vice President – Barry Howard - 717-274-2254

Secretary/Treasurer/Webmaster - Roy Wainwright -717-619-7243

SVTOS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the theatre organ.

**For more information about SVTOS please visit our website at [www.svtos.org](http://www.svtos.org).**

**Membership Info...**

Our monthly newsletter, “The Windline,” keeps members informed of all chapter activities, both locally and around the area along, with news and articles of interest to organ enthusiasts. Membership is open to anyone interested in the organ. New members are always welcome. There are two categories of membership and both include everyone in your household.

Regular .....\$40.00 per year

ATOS .....\$30.00 per year (members who are also members of ATOS)

To join SVTOS, simply provide the information below and send it along with your check made payable to SVTOS to:

Roy Wainwright – Treasurer  
341 Crystal Creek Crossing  
Abbottstown, PA 17301

For further information about membership contact Herb Inge, Membership Chairman, at 410-692-6722 or email him at [Membership@svtos.org](mailto:Membership@svtos.org).

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**SVTOS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Play Organ: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

ATOS Member: Yes \_\_\_ No: \_\_\_