

November 2010

# The Windline

## Susquehanna Valley Chapter - ATOS

[web site: www.svtos.org](http://www.svtos.org)

A 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the preservation and presentation of Theatre Organs. Proudly supporting the Mighty Wurlitzer Pipe Organ at the Capitol Theatre in York, PA

November 8, 2010 7:00 PM

Capitol Theatre, York



The SVTOS November meeting will feature a movie about the Wurlitzer Factory, a rare black and white silent film documentary from the early 1920's showing the Rudolph Wurlitzer Manufacturing Company in Tonawanda, New York. This silent film is appropriately accompanied by a Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ, and both the organist and organ have local connections (you'll have to come to the meeting to hear more about that). The movie highlights activities both inside and outside the factory, and shows the manufacture and delivery of what was then the "world's largest orchestral organ," the 4 manual, 32 rank organ originally installed in the Granada Theatre in San Francisco in 1921.

### ***But Wait! There's More!!***

This Spectacular Presentation will be a Double Feature at no extra cost to you!!!

The tour of the Wurlitzer Factory will be followed by "The Movie Palaces," a documentary about movie theatres that was produced by The Smithsonian Institution in 1986. This movie is hosted by Gene Kelly and features a lengthy interview with the late, great theatre organist Gaylord Carter, who talks about his experiences accompanying silent movies and who can once again be heard "perfuming the air with music." This film shows the beginnings of movie theatres in America, and you will see the beautiful interiors of many movie palaces, including the New York Roxy, the Atlanta Fox, and the Ohio Theatre in Columbus. Both films last a mere 53 minutes, so there will be plenty of time for Open Console after the show.

We'll supply the movies -- you bring the popcorn! See you there!

**From A Dusty Corner  
A Busy Fall Schedule**

Fall is a busy time for most folks—football games, raking leaves and great organ music!! Check out the list here in the *Windline* or on our web site, SVTOS.org, where Roy has posted lots of area events. Thanks Roy.

SVTOS has been busy too. Glenn Hough played for the movies on Sunday, October 3rd. Thanks, Glenn, and everyone who plays for the movies. It's really important that we show off the instrument and support the theatre whenever we can.

We had a wonderful showcase meeting on October 4. Thanks to Larry Fenner and Barry Howard for making contact with John Lauter and for hosting the meeting. If you haven't heard, John was drafted to play for a few minutes during the York Revolution Victory Celebration that got moved into the theatre at the last minute. It was a hoot! Larry and Barry will be presenting a video tour of the Wurlitzer factory at our November 8th meeting and there should be time for open console too. Be sure to attend!

Thanks, also, to Gary Coller and Don Schoeps for doing a program on the Allen digital at Masonic Village. I understand both the residents and the artists had a great time. And be sure to mark your calendar for our Masonic Village Christmas Show. If you would like to play, please call Sam Groh, 717-534-2479.



You should have received a letter from Herb Inge, our Membership Chair, reminding you that dues are now due. Thanks Herb. If you haven't sent in your dues, please do so today. Don't miss out on all the fun at SVTOS. Oh, and remember that if you are an ATOS member, you can take a \$10 discount off a full \$40 membership.

Yes, it's a busy time, but come on out and enjoy the fellowship and great theatre pipe organ music at SVTOS.

-Dusty

**Capitol Movie Season**

Movie plans this year are for first Friday weekend of each month. Showings 7:30 PM Friday and Saturday, and 3:00 PM Sunday. Film introductions and ORGAN on Sundays only

November 7	Get Low	<b>Bob Pierce</b>
December 5	Santa Claus	<b>Larry Fenner</b>
December 19	Holiday Inn	<b>Don Schoeps</b>

**Organists Wanted!—Sign-Up Sheets**

Sam Groh will have 2 sign-up sheets at the next meeting: One for the December Christmas concert, and one for next years concert series (beginning the 2nd Wed in Feb) at Masonic Village.

**All Day Open Console Monday November 22**

**New Signup Contact:**

Contact Don Schoeps to "book" a time slot. Emmitte, Herb, and of course Don, have already signed up and the rest of the day will fill quickly. Don especially needs someone to help him lift the heavy floor panels early in the day, and someone to help do the same in the evening. Call now. [dschoeps@aol.com](mailto:dschoeps@aol.com) or 717-254-6097.

**Web site news:**

Members page: Contact Don Kinnier for lead sheet to Arrangers' Challenge. [NEW! Don's latest upload "How To Play The Cinema Organ" by George Tootell](#) (4 volumes)

**Exciting New Season!**  
**All Events start at 7:00PM at Capitol Theatre, York unless noted**

November 8, 2010	Film Tour of the Wurlitzer Company - (Larry Fenner & Barry Howard) OPEN CONSOLE
November 22, 2010	All Day OPEN CONSOLE (contact <a href="mailto:dschoeps@aol.com">dschoeps@aol.com</a> or 717-254-6097)
December 15, 2010	Christmas Concert - Elizabethtown Masonic Home
January 17, 2011	All Day OPEN CONSOLE
February 21, 2011	All Day OPEN CONSOLE
March 14, 2011	Don Kinnier Silent Movie Showcase ( <i>regular members &amp; students only</i> )
April 11, 2011	Film: "Legendary Theatre Organists" "My Favorite Arrangement" (member participation)
May 9, 2011	Annual Meeting "Arrangers' Challenge" - Piece selected by Don Kinnier Open Console if time permits
June 13, 2011	Juan Cardona, Jr. Showcase ( <i>regular members &amp; students only</i> )
July 11, 2011	All Day OPEN CONSOLE
August ??, 2011	Annual Picnic

**Other Events in the Area**

Sunday, November 7, 3PM Free State Theatre Organ Soc. Rice Auditorium, Baltimore	Frank Vanaman
Sunday, November 7, 3PM Patriots Theater at the War Memorial in Trenton, NJ.	Nathan Avakian Concert, winner of the 2009 ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition. \$15 Adults, \$13 Students, Seniors and Children
Sunday Nov. 14, 2010 2:30 PM Annual silent movie, Penn State Univ. Abington, Pa campus.	Buster Keaton's "Spite Marriage" Rodgers 340 electronic theatre organ. Free admission. Wayne Zimmerman, organist.
Sunday Nov. 14, 2010, 3:00PM Union Lutheran Church 408 West Market St. York, PA	Paul Jacobs in Concert York Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Tickets \$15, contact Roy 792-3408 <a href="mailto:Roy@svtos.org">Roy@svtos.org</a>
Sunday, December 5, 3PM Free State Theatre Organ Society Rice Auditorium, Baltimore	Michael Britt
Sunday Dec. 12, 2010 2 PM, Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA.	An all organ music program, featuring several organists on our 3/24 Wurlitzer presenting music for Winter and the Holidays (Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years), including sing-a-longs. Tickets: \$10.00, \$5.00 for ages 12 and under.

**For Sale**

Early 20th century Knabe grand piano, Recently tuned, Good condition  
 Used by prof. organist for giving piano lessons for many years  
 Solid wood bench included \$2995  
 Located in York near Red Lion  
 Contact Melanie Doss 717-378-0410 or 410-294-2160 (cell) [gmdoss@comcast.net](mailto:gmdoss@comcast.net)



**KEN DOUBLE'S "LIAISON" MESSAGE....OCTOBER 2010**

Greetings all:

For many of you, the monthly or occasional message from an ATOS Board Member acting in their capacity as "liaison" was a glimpse into board activity, a reminder of certain items, or just a chance to interact.

As individual chapter representatives, be it President, Secretary or simply a member of the chapter who has seen this information, you are free to respond to me or any of the board and staff with your comments and suggestions. We are delighted to hear from you and will hope that this particular method of communication is beneficial.

**Convention CD's:** Unfortunately, ATOS encountered numerous problems surrounding the production of the 2009 Cleveland convention two-disc CD collection. Fortunately, that is now behind us. That CD is out, was delivered to those who ordered, and is available on line via the ATOS Marketplace. The most recent 2010 Seattle CD production is on schedule, barring delays and/or surprises, with the completed product hopefully in our hands by the end of this month. Many musically spectacular moments have been captured that will help attendees relive memories, and offer a taste of the musicianship to those not able to attend. And this will hopefully "whet the appetite" to help convince more of you to sign up for the conventions. EMCATOS is planning a marvelous event, with several stellar installations coming up in the summer of 2011 in beautiful New England.

**DVD Lesson Series:** Production is nearing completion on the ATOS DVD teaching series titled John Ferguson and Friends. Produced in partnership with the Allen Organ company, this DVD series features four completed DVD's and one "bonus DVD" still to come.

The four "in-the-can" star Jonas Nordwall, Jelani Eddington, Lyn Larsen and Simon Gledhill. These alone offer more than 4-1/2 hours of brilliant material aimed at making our amateur players better, and teaching them of the secrets of the stoprail.

The fifth DVD will feature Walt Strony, and will be based on questions that our members and players present to Walt, thus focusing on exactly what those people wish to learn. It will ship sometime in the spring.

We firmly believe that your chapter has many players who have never had the benefit of formal teaching from the likes of these five, and are literally begging for this kind of information. Throughout ATOS-land, this could mean hundreds of our members. And if you do not play, this series could certainly make you a better listener!

And thanks to the Allen Organ Company. They offered their full television production suite to ATOS for this project at no cost...a savings of well more than \$50,000 had we gone to a professional production company. In all, there are five DVD's, nearly six hours of material, and all of this is aimed at improving performance skills on the theatre organ.

**The Website:** Tom Blackwell (Puget Sound) and Tyler Morkin (former Youth Rep now board member) and their compatriots are working on the finishing touches for the new ATOS website. The board will have seen a "sneak peek" before this month has ended and that is exciting in that the new site has all kinds of great new features. There will also be a more user-friendly navigation, more information, and more appeal to those newcomers who might stumble upon ATOS and wish to know more.

There are more than 50 individual items that need attention, change, creation, and/or substitution. Tom and Tyler will have nearly 70% of the new site up and running this January, with plans to complete the rest by convention time next July.

**Strategic Planning:** The team headed up by Doug Powers (Western Reserve chapter) has met twice in person in the past three months - intense sessions working to fine tune a proposal aimed at securing ATOS' future for many years ahead. The most recent session included advisor John Nelson (from Tennessee); Chairman Mike Hartley; Tim Needler (Central Indiana); Bob Dilworth (DTOS and the First State Chapter); Doug Powers and yours truly. This session covered five days in all and we worked on several important goals and initiatives going forward.

**Membership:** This is becoming more and more the "hot-button-issue" for ATOS as our numbers diminish each year. Right now, the Membership Task Force headed up by John Apple and Tim Needler are working on specific initiatives to bring back those whose memberships have lapsed; crate an incentive for new members to join; and, get aggressive in finding "fertile new territory" for finding those who might be interested in ATOS. More on this soon both via this communication and in the pages of your Journal.

Let us hear from you on topics and questions of interest and/or concern.

Thanks.

Ken Double

ATOS President and CEO

## **IT'S HERE! — OUR OWN SVTOS CD!**



The CD is called "**A Capitol Idea**" and features Ken Double at our mighty Wurlitzer, and the Bob Clay Orchestra.

Originally recorded in Sep of 1996, with substitute recordings from 2009. The band featured Skip Stine on first trumpet doing the Harry James renditions of some of his most famous tunes.

There are twenty tunes with 1/3 being organ, 1/3 being big band, and 1/3 featuring the organ and band combined.

Retail price for the disk is \$20. But **members of SVTOS can buy it for \$15.**

When you get it, crank it up and enjoy!!

### **DID YOU KNOW? Dept.**

**Jeff Weiler (presenter at September's meeting) found the following in the master opus list for York:**

Hippodrome Theatre	2/7 Wurlitzer Style D Special, Op. 871, 1924
Jackson Theatre	2/ Robert-Morton 2/ Moller, Op. 3201, Addition of five ranks to above in 1921
	3/8 Wurlitzer Style 190 Special, Op. 1395, 1926
Strand Theatre	3/11 Wurlitzer Style 235, Op. 1090, 1925

### **Terry Nace did some research on the history of theatre organs in York:**

The Hippodrome was on west Market Street, and was right next to what is currently the Pawn Plus pawn shop. The building still exists (it's an office building of some sort), but the building has been renovated several times. I had heard that there was a drop ceiling installed, but above that, the ceiling of the theatre was still intact. This info was from Lance, the projectionist at the Capitol, and was told to me at least 20 years ago. It's been renovated since then, so I doubt there is anything left of the theatre. I don't know what happened to the Style D that was there. I know that it was a "special" because it had a Kinura added to the regular Style D spec.

The Capitol's Style 190 was the first 190 built by Wurlitzer, and was given the "special" designation because it had 3 manuals. The standard 190 spec was for 2 manuals. I was recently given an original blueprint of the Main Chamber, that was found in a desk drawer of the Gundling Organ Co. of Lancaster PA, when they closed a few years ago. Presumably the Gundling firm took the organ out of the theatre, but there is no info that I have found on what became of it.

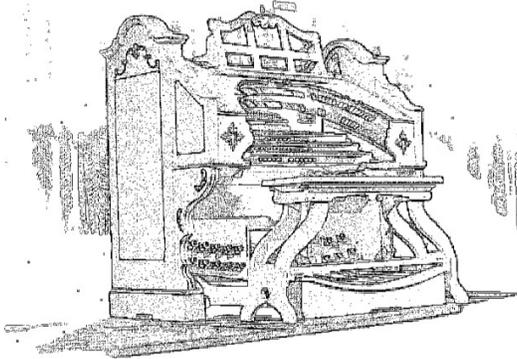
I also have a copy of the lease from Moller of the 4 ranks that were added to the original Robert Morton in the Capitol. Yes, they actually "leased" the additions! These 4 ranks were in a third chamber, and we found the swell shade frame, with the Moller opus number on it, built into the wall when we were installing the organ the first time. I have no info on the Robert Morton instrument.

The Strand's Style 235 was sold to the Reidel residence in Bethlehem, PA in the late 50's. It was parted out, with some of it going to Ed Weimer of Harrisburg. All of Ed's parts were donated to us, and it is possible the Tuba Horn currently in the Solo chamber at the Capitol is from the Strand, although I doubt it. Ed had a collection of parts from all over, and he had another Wurlitzer that was the "nucleus" of his "collection." The Tuba is probably from that organ, but there is no way of knowing for sure. Years ago, I had also heard there was an organ in the York Opera House on Beaver Street, but I have found no information on that.

The man who would have had all this information was Frank Renault, but he died about 10 years ago. O, how I wish I would have set up an interview with him!!

# The Windline

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**November 8, 7:00 PM**  
**Film Tour Wurlitzer Company**  
**Open Console**

**November 22,**  
**ALL DAY Open Console**  
**See page 2 for details**