

The Windline

July 2023



*Susquehanna Valley Theatre
Organ Society*

www.svtos.org

SVTOS SUMMER PICNIC

**SATURDAY, JULY 29TH @ 1:00 PM UNTIL ??
NEIDICH-HORVATH RESIDENCE, LEWISBERRY, PA
PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 22ND**

Its SVTOS Picnic time again, without a requirement to socially distance. However, anyone is welcome to wear a mask or take other health protection. The picnic will be on Saturday, July 29, 2023. You are welcome to arrive any time after 1 PM and stay with us through the evening.

For the afternoon, we have invited [Brett Miller](#) (see page 3) to provide organ melodies. For those on a tight schedule, 2 to 4 PM is the designated period for Brett to entertain us.

Ed Horvath and I have a wonderful home in upper York County, on the Yellow Breeches River. We have installed a custom 3/51 Walker Digital Theater Organ in our music room/studio. The instrument was regulated and balanced to the room acoustics by Bob Walker, founder of Walker Technical Services, and Dan Umholtz over the past two years. We're very proud to be able to share the sounds of this very special instrument in a magnificent room with SVTOS members and guests. (Continued on Page 2)



Music Room with 3/51 Walker

SVTOS is a 501(c)(3) corporation dedicated to the preservation and presentation of Theatre Pipe Organs. Proudly supporting the Mighty WurliTzer Theatre Pipe Organ in the Capitol Theatre in York, PA.

SVTOS SUMMER PICNIC (Continued from Page 1)

The music room opens to a 3,000 sq. ft. deck and outdoor kitchen that can accommodate those to gather and listen through the home's French doors. The organ's 16 audio channels and 2 banks of speakers present great fidelity and spatial acoustics to enhance the first-hand audience experience in the performance space. Also, there are outdoor speakers to hear music room activity while outside on the deck.

For those who attend we will be presenting a traditional shared dish picnic food service. We will provide the basics including hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwurst with other traditional picnic foods like coleslaw. If you wish to bring any food to share, side dishes, treats, snacks or other beverages will be welcome. **If you can, please let us know what you would like to bring to help us plan and coordinate food and beverages for our guests. Please let us know if you make a last-minute change in plans, either way.**



Outdoor Deck and Kitchen

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So that we have sufficient seating and to allow for beverage planning, please RSVP by email (rgneidich@aol.com) or by phone (202-302-6320) by July 22nd with names of those planning on attending. An acknowledgement message with map and location will be provided by e-mail on July 27th.

While we are hoping the weather cooperates, this will be a rain-or-shine event. If we are unable to picnic outside, we have an indoor space that can be used for dining. There is one step at the front entrance and 3 steps or use of a ramp from the main level to the deck. There is plenty of parking available on our street and our driveway areas. Our waterfront on the Yellow Breeches is at the far end of our property, 700 feet behind our house. Access to the river is via a paved path and mowed walking trails, walking shoes are recommended if you plan to explore.

Richard Neidich and Edward Horvath

110 Wheatland Road

Lewisberry PA 17339 (Our home is actually in Fairview Township, York County)

(202) 302-6320 for voice mail or text, e-mail at rgneidich@aol.com



BRETT MILLER

[Brett Miller](#) is an organist, pianist, orchestrator and conductor specializing in silent film accompaniment. His most recent appointment is as music director of the Empire Film and Media Ensemble, a nonprofit based in Rochester, NY that advocates for the education, performance, and production of film music. As a performer, Brett has been a featured soloist for the New Jersey Capital Philharmonic, the author George R. R. Martin, as well as being featured on PBS “State of the Arts” and the Philadelphia Inquirer “We the People.” Brett has received numerous accolades, including an



honorable mention at the White House Student Film Festival and as a finalist in the American Theatre Organ Society’s Young Organist Competition. Brett is currently a student at the Eastman School of Music, continuing his academic involvement and advocacy for the education and preservation of silent films through performance live to picture. Brett is an active member of the Garden State, Rochester and American Theatre Organ Societies and the Historic Pipe Organs and Boardwalk Hall.

Brett studied Theatre Organ with Jelani Eddington and Piano with Beth Crompton. He studied film accompaniment with Ben Model and Bernie Anderson. He is currently an Undergraduate at the Eastman School of Music pursuing a Bachelors in Music Education and studying Piano with Dr. Joseph Racker.

Ed Horvath and I have just completed two weeks of visiting with some of our Cinema Organ Society (COS) friends from the UK, first at the 2023 ATOS Convention in Chicago and then in our area. We finished the visit by hosting COS Journal Editor Michael Carter and organists/technicians Kevin Grunill and Declan Poole for a chance to play the Walker 3/51, visit OPUS 501, and a day trip to Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall. Organ Curator Nathan Bryson provided them with a tour of the organs and a brief chance to play a tune.

The ATOS Convention provided an opportunity to hear and see a new installation of a 4/90 theatre organ at Carma Labs as well as visit with several instruments visited many years ago. Also was a chance to visit with friends not seen for several years, since the 2022 ATOS Convention was poorly attended. As could be anticipated with a gathering of over 300, several have reported being affected by COVID-19. It should be anticipated this will result from future such gatherings. It was announced that the Rochester Theatre Organ Society will be hosting the 2026 ATOS Convention, however, no firm information was provide about the 2024 and 2025 conventions.

For the 2023 ATOS Convention, the ATOS awarded our chapter member **Andrew Moore**, a George Wright Fellowship. Awarded to young people engaged with theatre organ, such as maintenance or promotion or performance, the Fellowship pays for attendance and hotel room to an ATOS Convention. Andrew wrote on Facebook "... I'd like to thank ATOS for awarding me the George Wright Memorial Fellowship this year and making it possible for me to attend. It's been great seeing old friends, making new ones and finally putting faces to names I've known for over a decade! It's been a great week filled with wonderful performances and I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity." Congratulations Andrew!

Information regarding our annual Picnic on Saturday afternoon July 29th can be found on pages 1 and 2 of this *Windline*, again this year at the residence of Ed Horvath and Richard Neidich.

[Brett Miller](#) will be the invited guest to demonstrate the Walker 3/51 theatre organ and his wonderful skill of making the theatre organ earn the "unit orchestra" title.

Plans for our fall season are beginning to be defined. For September we will meet on Monday, September 11th with a program of a business meeting to update the members regarding work being planned for improving the Capitol's organ as well as a review of the 2023 ATOS Convention. We will also have a chance for some membership playing. For October, Don Kinnier will be providing a program including a comedy silent film. Programing for November is not yet finalized. The December program will be on Sunday afternoon, December 3rd. Nathan Avakian and his sister Claire will get us in a holiday spirit with their Holiday Music Special. It will be open to the public with SVTOS members receiving free admission. The spring events will include a May visit to OPUS 501 with Ben Forsthoffer at the console.

As a reminder the Capitol Theatre will be closed most of August for renovations of the entry doors and air conditioning upgrades.

Richard Neidich, President SVTOS

SVTOS 2022-2023 SEASON

Saturday July 29th*
1:00 PM until ???

SVTOS Summer Picnic featuring Donnie Rankin, Neidich-Horvath residence, Lewisberry, PA (See pages 1, 2 and 3 for details)

* Indicates meetings NOT held on the usual second Monday of the month and/or at a different time or location

“SVTOS Plays For The Movies”

Hear these SVTOS members play the WurliTzer 30 minutes before listed times at the Capitol Theatre.

Consult the Capitol Theatre Website ([Click here](#)) for the details and admission prices.

- Sunday, July 16 @ 3:00 PM - *Oklahoma* - Don Schoeps
- Wednesday, July 19 @ 10:00 AM - *Minions, The Rise of Gru* - Roy Wainwright (FREE)
- Wednesday, July 19 @ 7:00 PM - *Oklahoma* - Larry Fenner

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Sunday, August 6th 1:30 PM	The Complete “Metropolis” with organ accompaniment by Brett Miller, Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA
Saturday, September 16th 1:00 PM	Open House featuring mini concert by Ian Fraser and open console, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.
Saturday, September 30th 7:00 pm	“Safety Last” with organ accompaniment by Brett Miller, Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA
Saturday, October 14th 7:00 PM	Dave Wickerham, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.
Saturday, November 23rd 3:00 PM	Justin LaVoie, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.
Saturday, January 27th 3:00 PM	Carol Williams, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.
Saturday, March 16th 3:00 PM	Jerry Nagano, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.
Saturday, May 4th 7:00 PM	Simon Gledhill, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.

Click on the underlined links to find additional information, including location and cost, for these events.

Remembering our friend Sam Groh

Here’s a link to a YouTube video from May 5, 1957, of the TV program “Ted Mack and the Original Amateur Hour” featuring “The Gentlemen of Jazz” from Hershey, PA, that included a very young Sam Groh playing piano, as well as former SVTOS member Lee Moyer on Trumpet, Bob Seltzer on Clarinet, Bill Nixon on Trombone, and Tom Longenecker on Drums.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yzjdMvhf41M>

SVTOS OFFICERS

Richard Neidich - President 202-302-6320
Barry Howard - Vice President 717-274-2254
Roy Wainwright - Secretary, Treasurer, and Webmaster 717-619-7243

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Larry Fenner – “Windline” Editor & Membership
Ed Horvath - Hospitality
Bill Autry, Gary Collier, Don Kinnier, Ken Kline, Terry Nace, Don Schoeps, and Judy Townsend