

The Windline

June 2024



*Susquehanna Valley Theatre
Organ Society*

www.svtos.org

DAVID PECKHAM

ACCOMPANIES SILENT COMEDY
"PENROD AND SAM"

**MONDAY, JUNE 17TH AT 7:00 PM
CAPITOL THEATRE, YORK, PA**



DAVID PECKHAM has been performing as a theatre and concert organist for more than 40 years. One of his first performances was on the RTOS Mighty Wurlitzer in 1974 when he played for its 10th Anniversary Gala at age 13.

Raised in a musical family in Breesport, NY (near Elmira), he credits his parents with giving him a musical background and says: "I was going to concerts, apparently, before I was born". David began studying piano at age 8 then classical organ as a high school student with Albert Zabel in Elmira, NY. He went on to graduate from the University of Rochester where he studied liberal arts and organ with David Craighead at the Eastman School of Music. Upon graduation, he returned home to join his family's pipe organ service business and currently cares for over 50 instruments across New York State and northern PA including the RTOS-Grierson 4/23 Wurlitzer.

David has performed on nearly every major theatre organ in the USA as well as tours of Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. He has played for several conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and was honored to be named "Organist of the Year" at the 2016 ATOS convention held in Cleveland, Ohio. Then, in 2019, David received the ATOS "Award of Technical Excellence". He has also created scores for several silent films, a process utterly dependent upon fluid improvisation and that marvelous nexus of an audience reacting to a film. These skills will be front and center as he accompanies today's silent film, *Penrod and Sam*.

He has been organist and choir director at the First United Methodist Church in Horseheads, NY, since 1985. He has also been organ curator and resident organist at the Clemens Performing Arts Center in Elmira, NY, for many years. Dave is the father of three grown children. He and wife Cathy reside in Horseheads, in a renovated farm house to which they recently added a large addition to house their collection of musical instruments along with his long-planned home theatre pipe organ.

He has recorded four CDs. The most recent, *No Remaining Seats* was performed on the RTOS-Grierson organ.

The Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society's (SVTOS) May members' program was a wonderful visit to OPUS 501. Prior to the formal program, SVTOS accepted a bequest from our former member, the late Rob Vastine (see Page 5 for more information). A big thank you to Ben Forsthoffer for his great program and to his mother Donna (for escorting Ben). Ben provided a great presentation of the organ's resources. Barry Howard and Larry Fenner hosted this wonderful visit. Everyone is looking forward to Ben's next visit to SVTOS.

For our June 17th (**the third Monday of the month**) program, SVTOS will host David Peckham at the Appell Center's Capitol Theatre. Full details of the David's silent film presentation of *Penrod and Sam* can be seen on Page 4 of this edition of the SVTOS *Windline*. His program was presented earlier this year for the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter ATOS.

The SVTOS Picnic is on July 13th when Donnie Rankin will provide an afternoon program of old favorites and some jazzy tunes on the Walker 3/51 theatre organ at the home of Richard Neidich and Edward Horvath. The next *Windline* will provide picnic and concert details as well as how to indicate your plan to attend.

Since there is no national ATOS Convention for 2024, everyone should checkout the *Windline's* "Coming Attractions" list of other programs and activities during the next few months.

Richard Neidich

President, SVTOS

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 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 Coller, Don Kinnier, Ken Kline, Terry Nace, Don Schoeps, and Judy Townsend

SVTOS 2023-2024 SEASON

Monday June 17*
7:00 PM
(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

*David Peckham accompanies the Silent Comedy *Penrod and Sam*, Capitol Theatre, York, PA

Saturday, July 13*
(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

* Annual SVTOS Picnic, Neidich-Horvath Residence, Lewisberry, PA (Details later)

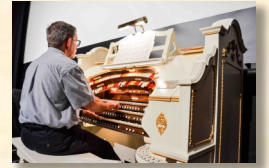
* Indicates meetings NOT held on the usual second Monday of the month and/or at a different time or location

“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.

- Friday, June 7th @ 6:30 PM, *Toy Story 2* (First Friday **FREE** Film) – Gary Coller
- Sunday, June 9th @ 3:00 PM, *Bicycle Thieves* – Roy Wainwright
- Sunday, June 16th @ 3:00 PM, *Do the Right Thing* (35th Anniversary screening) – Glenn Hough
- Sunday, June 23rd @ 3:00 PM, *The Passion of Joan of Arc* – Larry Fenner
- Sunday, June 30th @ 1:00 PM, *Glory* (Part of RiverFest) – Bill Autry
- Friday, July 5th @ 6:30 PM, *The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie* (First Friday **FREE** Film) - Roy Wainwright
- Friday, August 2nd @ 6:30 PM, *Sleeping Beauty* (First Friday **FREE** Film) - Gary Coller



In Memoriam: Robert “Bob” Matterness (1936-2024)



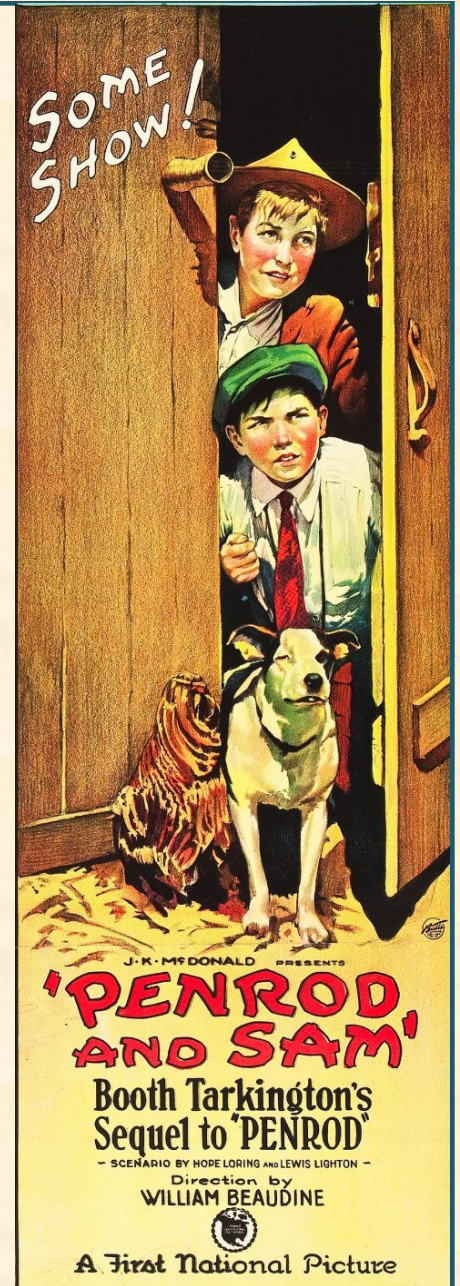
It is with deep sadness that we report the passing of our dear friend and SVTOS member Robert “Bob” Matterness. Bob was an avid fan of theatre organ music for many decades and joined SVTOS along with long-time friends Barry Howard and Larry Fenner in 2006. Through the years Bob travelled far and wide to countless organ concerts with Larry and Barry. Bob’s interest in organs began with the Lebanon Hammond Organ Club where he got to know Larry in the mid-60’s through another former SVTOS member Greg Stellmach. From there he developed an interest in theatre pipe organs, and after the three of them met Barry in the early 70’s, they formed a partnership called the Lebanon Theatre Organ Associates, and they restored and installed a Page theatre pipe organ which had originally been installed in the Capitol Theatre in Lebanon. They also installed a church pipe organ in Barry’s church in Hershey.

Bob was a kind and generous individual who will be deeply missed and always remembered. Barry and Larry



PENROD AND SAM

Penrod and Sam is a 1923 American silent comedy-drama film directed by [William Beaudine](#) and starring [Ben Alexander](#), Joe Butterworth, and Buddy Messinger. The movie is a series of vignettes about a typical white American boy, his best pal, and the neighborhood kids who join him in playing Army games and exercising their vivid imaginations. There's a mean next-door neighbor with an equally nasty father, a cute girl who lives across the street, and a playful dog. Penrod and his gang don't want to let neighborhood "goodie-goodie" Georgie Bassett into their club, but Penrod's father pressures him to allow the boy in because his parents are wealthy and prominent members of the town. Finally the boys agree to let Georgie join, but first they demand that he undergo an "initiation," and they're determined to make it one that Georgie won't soon forget.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

Sunday, June 23
2:00 PM

Ian Fraser, "The First Fifty Years of Film Music", [Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley](#), Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA

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

SVTOS Welcomes Our Newest Members

Bryan Parnell, Hanover, PA

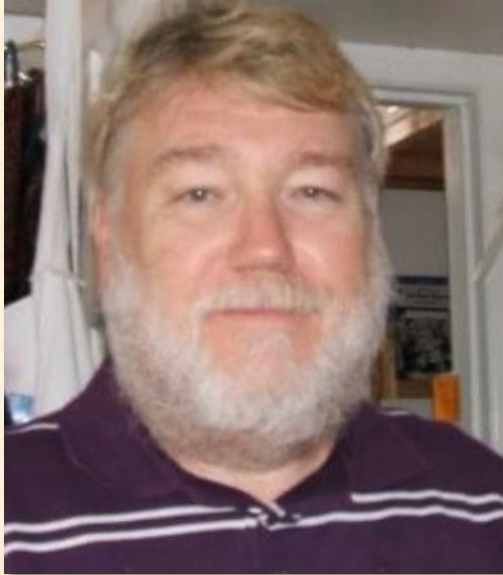
Janet and John-Paul Kirchner, Harrisburg, PA*

Heather and Cody Nelson, Mechanicsburg, PA*

*The family of the late Rob Vastine (see Page 5)

Acknowledging the generosity of our late member, ROB VASTINE

As mentioned in Richard Neidich's column on Page 2, at the May meeting SVTOS received a bequest from the estate of the late Rob Vastine, a member of SVTOS who passed away in 2022. Janet Kirchner, Rob's sister and members of her family, attended the meeting to present SVTOS with the check for \$36,213.33. The following was taken from Rob's obituary that was published by the Matinchek Funeral Home, Middletown, PA.



The end of his world descended upon Rob Spencer Vastine, III, 70, of Middletown, PA on February 15, 2022, after a short illness. He was born August 29, 1951, in Harrisburg, PA to the late Robert Spencer, Jr. and Agnes P. (Doyle) Vastine.

Rob proudly served in the United States Navy as PC2, from 1973 through 1977 onboard the USS Kinkaid, receiving the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal (First Award). He was also stationed in Bermuda for a year, where he ran the post office.

Rob is a 1969 graduate from Middletown Area High School and a 1979 graduate from Penn State University-Harrisburg, receiving a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Accounting. He applied his education by becoming an Accounting Manager or Controller from 1980 through 2000 at various companies including: Americomm Direct Marketing, Inc., Blue Jeans Accounting and Tax Service, Aspen Airways Inc., and Rocky Mountain Airways, Inc., in Denver, CO. During this time he also worked at APEX Health Care Network, LLC., where, along with the owner, opened the first multiple primary health care

office in the Denver area. He was also an Accounting Manager at Stewart Equipment Co., Conshohocken, PA, and a Staff Accountant at Peat Marwick and Co., Harrisburg, PA.

After working a side-job selling Christmas trees in Denver for several seasons he was asked to move to Oregon to manage a newly purchased business. It was a 25 year old store who would only sell to someone who continued their vision, which he did. And then some. Rob spent 15 years until 2015 as General Manager for Sleighbells of Sherwood, a year round Christmas tree farm and two story barn gift shop near Portland, OR.

While in Sherwood, he hosted a minimum of three international exchange students from Asia, for what would have been the equivalent of their Senior year in high school. His young guests considered him a surrogate father, much to his delight.

Rob's passion for classical music from a young age led him to play the piano and organ. He spent his spare time hosting many musical events while at Sleighbells, where he made many friends for life. Rob retired to his hometown in 2016 where he volunteered for the Middletown Public Library and took on the responsibility of accounting activities related to their book sales, in addition to completely reorganizing how the books were presented.

He was an active volunteer in anything related to theater organs. Rob was involved in numerous theater programs including the Susquehanna Valley Theater Organ Society, the National Theater Organ Society, and the Columbia River Theater Organ Society.

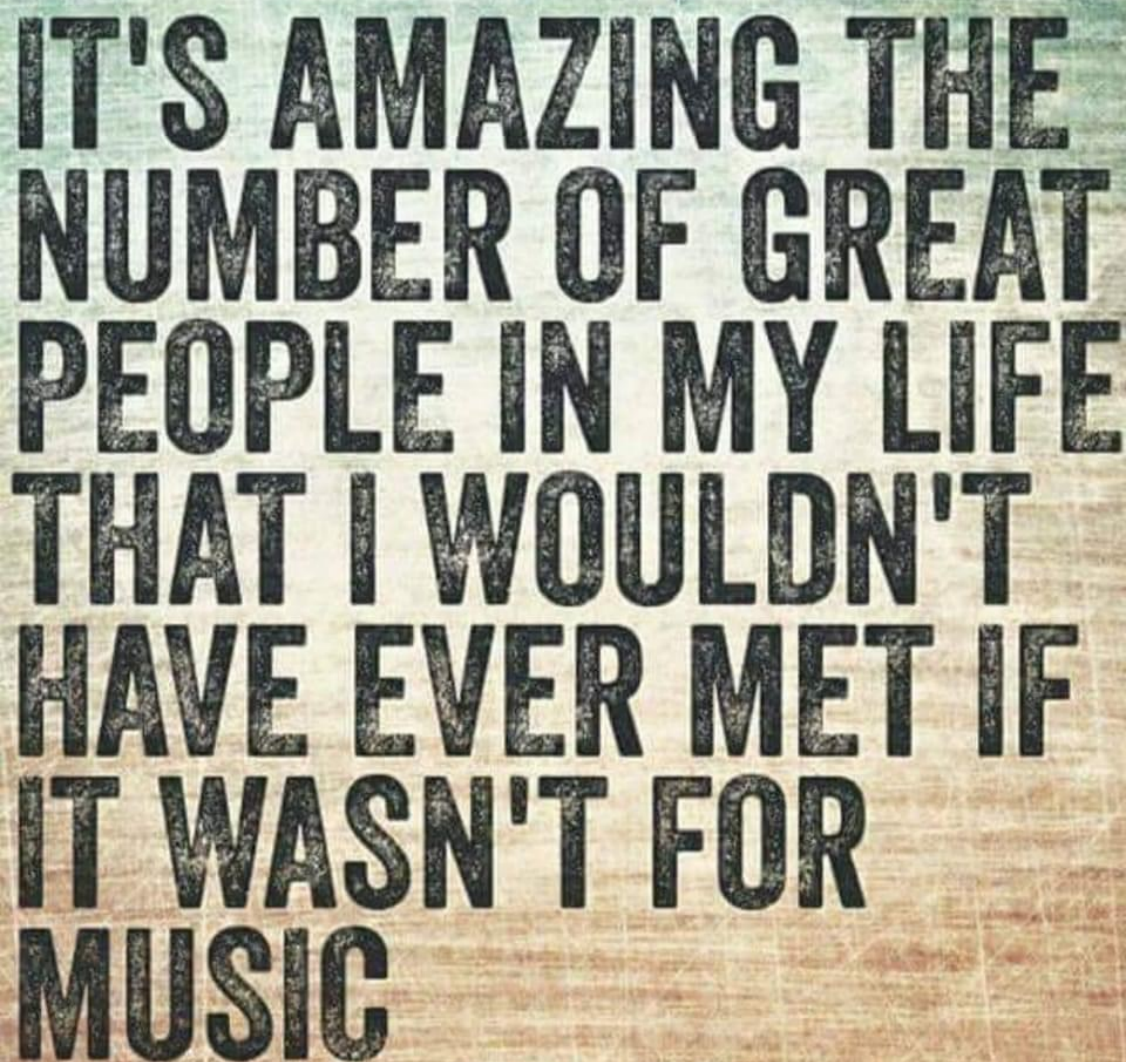
Rob had a wide variety of additional interests including supporting the LGBTQ+ community, traveling, board games, gardening, trivia, crosswords, stamp and post card collecting, and was a purveyor of beautiful items from around the world. One of his favorite places in the world was Lake Powell, UT, where he vacationed repeatedly.

He is survived by a brother Donald M. Vastine and wife Judith; a sister, Janet L. Kirchner and husband John-Paul; 7 nieces and nephews; and 10 great-nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents he is predeceased by siblings, Patricia, Richard, and Timothy Vastine.

Rob was a strong advocate for reducing the carbon footprint and felt when a tree is cut, five should be planted. (In lieu of flowers, SVTOS made a donation to plant a tree in Rob's memory.)

FREE LPs, CDs, and DVDs

We received a large donation of both theatre and classical organ LPs, CDs, and DVDs from Delores Morch. Her husband Harold (Hal) passed away recently and they were former members of SVTOS. There are too many (close to 300) to bring to just one meeting, so they will be available in small batches FREE to our members at our upcoming meetings and at the picnic as well.

A quote is displayed on a rectangular background with a textured, wood-grain-like pattern. The text is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, arranged in ten lines. The quote reads: "IT'S AMAZING THE NUMBER OF GREAT PEOPLE IN MY LIFE THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE EVER MET IF IT WASN'T FOR MUSIC".

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