

The Windline

September 2022



*Susquehanna Valley Theatre
Organ Society*

www.svtos.org

DAVID PECKHAM ACCOMPANIES MEL BROOKS' "SILENT MOVIE"

**MONDAY SEPTEMBER 19TH AT 7:00 PM
CAPITOL THEATRE, YORK, PA**

DAVID PECKHAM: Raised in a musical family in Breesport, NY, (near Elmira), David Peckham 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 Pennsylvania.

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. 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 the silent film Mel Brooks' "Silent Movie".

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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.

As summer is ending, Ed and I recently returned from our Cinema Organ Society Convention (COS) trip to the United Kingdom. I won't spend a lot of time describing the trip, but it was a great chance to hear and gain understanding of the Compton organ and the significant differences between the cinema organ and the theatre organ. (I will be preparing a program around the whole 2022 ATOS and COS convention summer for presentation at a future SVTOS meeting).

We are about to begin our fall season of programs: See pages 1, 3, and 4 of this issue of "The Windline" for the details of our September 19th David Peckham presentation of Mel Brooks' "Silent Movie". The 1976 film is a great spoof of the silent movie with a cast of many favorite movie performers.

For the future, Bill Coale will be our guest in either October or November this fall. Our December program is being held open, awaiting feedback regarding a Masonic Home holiday program. I've been able to arrange for Aaron Hawthorne to be our March organist. Aaron was the 2019 ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition winner. We have also rescheduled Donnie Rankin to make an appearance in May of 2023.

I hope everyone has had a great summer and I'm looking forward to our fall season opening program.

Richard Neidich
President, SVTOS



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DAVID PECKHAM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1): David has been organist and choir director at the First United Methodist Church in Horseheads, NY, since 1985. He has also been Resident Organist at the Clemens Performing Arts Center (Elmira, NY) for many years: this restored 1925 movie theatre is a local treasure and is now reverberating to the sounds of its recently renovated and expanded 4-manual, 27-rank Marr & Colton Theatre Pipe Organ. Currently David is restoring a 2/7 Moller in the Capitol Theatre, Rome, NY, and the 4/27 Wurlitzer in Shea's Buffalo Theatre as well as regular work efforts on the 4/23 Wurlitzer for the Rochester Theater Organ Society.

Dave is the father of three grown children. He and wife Cathy reside in Horseheads, NY, in a renovated farm house to which they have added a large addition to house their collection of musical instruments. Once completed, David will begin installing his own long-planned home theatre pipe organ.

MEL BROOKS' "SILENT MOVIE" : This movie is a 1976 American satirical comedy film co-written, directed by and starring Mel Brooks, released by 20th Century Fox in the summer of 1976. The film is produced in the manner of a 20th-century silent film with intertitles instead of spoken dialogue (hence the name). It is an affectionate parody of slapstick comedies, including those of Charlie Chaplin, Mack Sennett, and Buster Keaton. The film satirizes the film industry, presenting the story of a film producer trying to obtain studio support to make a silent film in the then-present 1970s.

PLOT: Mel Funn (Mel Brooks), a once-great Hollywood film director, is now recovering from a drinking problem and down on his luck. He and his sidekicks Dom Bell (Dom DeLuise) and Marty Eggs (Marty Feldman) pitch to Big Pictures Studios' Chief (Sid Caesar) the idea to make the first silent movie in forty years. The Chief rejects the idea at first, but Funn convinces him that if he can get Hollywood's biggest stars to be in the film, it could save the studio from a takeover by New York conglomerate Engulf & Devour (Harold Gould and Ron Carey).

Funn, Bell, and Eggs proceed to recruit various stars for the film. They surprise Burt Reynolds in his shower and then revisit his mansion in disguise. They recruit James Caan filming on location, following slapstick fumbling in an unstable dressing room trailer. They find Liza Minnelli at the studio commissary, where she eagerly agrees to be in the film. They recruit Anne Bancroft by disguising themselves as nightclub Flamenco dancers. While visiting the ailing Chief in the hospital, Funn phones mime artist Marcel Marceau, who responds in French with his only spoken word in the film: a resounding "Non!" They see Paul Newman on the hospital grounds and sign him to the film after a wild electric wheelchair chase.

In the course of their search for stars, the trio have a number of brief misadventures, including a mix-up between a seeing-eye dog and an untrained look-alike, several (mostly unsuccessful) efforts by Eggs to seduce various women, and a soft-drink dispensing machine that launches cans like grenades.
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MEL BROOKS' "SILENT MOVIE" (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3): Engulf and Devour learn of the project, and try to sabotage it by sending voluptuous nightclub sensation Vilma Kaplan (Bernadette Peters) to seduce Funn. He falls for her, but returns to drinking when he learns she was part of a scheme. He buys a huge bottle of liquor and drinks himself into a stupor, surrounded by fellow "winos". But Kaplan has genuinely fallen for Funn and refused Engulf & Devour's money; she helps Bell and Eggs find him and restore him to sobriety.

The film is completed, but the only copy is stolen by Engulf & Devour just before its theatrical premiere. Kaplan stalls the audience with her nightclub act while Funn, Eggs, and Bell successfully steal the film back. They are cornered by Engulf and Devour's thuggish executives, but use the exploding soft-drink machine they encountered earlier to attack and subdue them. Lacking a separate spool to rewind the film, Eggs winds the film around his own body and upon returning to the theater he has to be rushed to the projection booth to show it.

The film is a huge success with the audience, which erupts with over-the-top applause. The studio is saved, and Funn, Bell, Eggs, Kaplan, and Chief celebrate, as an on-screen caption identifies the film as a "true story".

"SVTOS 2022-2023 Season Membership Renewals Are Due"



If you haven't done so already, its once again time to renew your SVTOS Membership for the 2022-2023 Season that runs from September 2022 through August 2023. If your haven't already paid, you'll find a personalized renewal form on the second page of the email that delivered this "Windline." Please print that form, review the information, make any necessary changes, and mail it along with your check made payable to "SVTOS" to Roy Wainwright at the address at the bottom of the form. You can also bring it to the next

SVTOS meeting that you attend. Thank you for your continuing support!

(Note: If you didn't receive a personalized renewal form, your dues are already paid for next season. Congratulations and Thank You!)



SVTOS 2021-2022 SEASON

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| Monday, Sept 19th* 7:00 PM | David Peckham accompanies Mel Brooks' "Silent Movie," Capitol Theatre, York, PA |
| Monday, October 17th* 7:00 PM | Slide show of this year's organ related travels, including many site visits in the USA and in England, Capitol Theatre, York, PA |
| November | To Be Determined |
| December | Masonic Home Xmas Extravaganza ??? |

** 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 details and admission prices.

- Saturday, Sept 17th @ 3:30 PM – *Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen* – Larry Fenner
- Saturday, Sept 17th @ 7 PM – *Cat Video Festival* – Larry Fenner 
- Sunday, Sept 18th @ 3 PM – *Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen* – Roy Wainwright
- Saturday, Sept 24th @ 3:30 PM – *Manhattan Short Film Festival* – Bill Autry
- Saturday, Sept 24th @ 7 PM – *Manhattan Short Film Festival* – Bill Autry
- Sunday, Sept 25th @ 3 PM – *Manhattan Short Film Festival* – Roy Wainwright
- Wednesday, October 5th @ 7:00 PM – *Billy Joel Live at Yankee Stadium* – Barry Howard
- Friday, October 7th @ 6:30 PM – *Encanto* – Larry Fenner (FREE)
- Sunday, October 9th @ 7:00 PM – *Billy Joel Live at Yankee Stadium* – Barry Howard



"SVTOS Plays at Masonic Village," Elizabethtown, PA

ALL PROGRAMS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

COMING ATTRACTIONS

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| Saturday, September 17th 12:00 PM | Open House featuring Ben Forsthoffer and Juan Cardona, Jr. and open console, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE. |
| Sunday, September 18th 2:00 PM | Wurlitzer 100th Year featuring Mark Herman, Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley , Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA. |
| Saturday, October 8th 7:00 PM | Donnie Rankin, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE. |
| Sunday, October 30th 1:30 PM | Brett Miller accompanies the Silent Film "Nosferatu," Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley , Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA. |
| Saturday, November 19th 3:00 PM | Mark Herman, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE. |
| Saturday, March 18, 2023 3:00 PM | Clark Wilson, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE. |
| Saturday, May 6, 2023 7:00 PM | Brett Valliant, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE. |

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