



THE HORSESHOE

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(N.Y. CHAPTER ATOS)

1925 SILENT CLASSIC
"BEN-HUR: A Tale of the Christ"

Accompanied by
BERNIE ANDERSON, JR.

At the
3/15 MIGHTY AUSTIN-MORTON
Theatre Pipe Organ

CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL
Mineola, NY

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2009
3:00 p.m.

NYTOS and the Nassau County Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will be joining forces on March 1 to present organist Bernie Anderson, Jr. accompanying one of the all time classic greats of the silent screen, *BEN-HUR* at the Chaminade Mighty Austin-Morton (with a few ranks of Wurlitzer and Barton thrown in for good measure—and a magnificent mighty theatre organ sound).

Released by MGM in 1925, *BEN-HUR: A Tale of the Christ* features several of the most popular film stars of the day including Ramon Navarro and Francis X. Bushman. More than 200,000 feet of film, eventually edited to 750 feet, was used to shoot its famous chariot race scene, a scene that was re-created virtually shot for shot in the 1959 remake of the movie which starred Charlton Heston. It was the most expensive silent film ever made, and in spite of its tremendous popularity, MGM still lost money on it. The film was selected for preservation in 1997 by the

MARK HERMAN

In Concert

at

CHAMINADE HIGH SCHOOL

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2009
3:00 p.m.

Plan to return to Chaminade on Sunday, March 22, to enjoy an afternoon of great theatre organ pops as NYTOS presents one of today's most popular and talented young theatre organists, Mark Herman, in concert at the Chaminade 3/15 Mighty Austin-Morton. Mark will be joined by vocalist Anthony Snitker for a selection of Broadway favorites.

A native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Mark began studying piano at age seven and began classical organ lessons when he was twelve. He was introduced to the theatre organ in the 4th grade through a program sponsored by the Fort Wayne Chapter of AGO, and he developed an immediate interest in the instrument, getting an opportunity to play the 4-manual Page theatre organ in Fort Wayne's beautiful Embassy Theatre. In 2001 Mark began studying theatre organ with John Ferguson, one of the top teachers of theatre organ styling. In 2004 at age 16 Mark entered and won the ATOS Young Organist Competition, and since that time he has been in high demand on the theatre organ concert circuit, touring throughout this country and abroad, and performing at many major theatre organ venues. Mark is currently a student at DePaul University in Chicago. In July 2008 Mark returned to the stage of the Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne where he played an outstanding concert for the

(Mark Herman, continued)

ATOS annual convention. Joining Mark at that performance was his friend, Anthony Snitker, a talented young singer who is majoring in musical theatre at Columbia College in Chicago, and who will also perform for us at Chaminade.

The admission donation for the concert is: Adults \$12.00; NYTOS members and seniors \$9.00; Students \$5.00; Chaminade students no charge. See the enclosed flier for directions and additional information.

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(Bernie Anderson/Ben-Hur, continued)

Library of Congress National Film Registry for its cultural, historical and aesthetic significance.

Admission donation for the program is: Adults \$10.00; NYTOS, Nassau AGO members and seniors \$7.00; students \$5.00; Chaminade students no charge. See the enclosed flier for directions and additional information.

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MEMBERS ENJOY HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

December proved to be a busy and entertaining month for NYTOS members with three very varied and excellent holiday season programs presented around our region. On December 6 John Vanderlee produced a unique and most enjoyable "Christmas Cabaret" at the Masonic Temple Theatre in Poughkeepsie that featured organist John Baratta and our traveling Allen Digital Theatre Organ. Some 150 guests attended the program in which John Baratta demonstrated his musical talent and versatility accompanying singers, instrumentalists, ballet dancers, a Christmas sing-along and a Laurel and Hardy silent comedy. Guests also enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner including many tasty desserts, all provided free of charge. This event was NYTOS's way of saying thank-you to our friends at the Masonic Temple for supporting the performing arts, and for providing NYTOS with free storage and shop space in their Poughkeepsie lodge. Many thanks to John Vanderlee, John Baratta, Barb Parnes, Bill Hayter, the Masons and everyone else who participated in making this program such a great success.

The next day, December 7, found us at Chaminade High School in Mineola where organist Michael Xavier Lundy performed a wonderful concert that featured a selection of both traditional and popular music of the Christmas season, and included vocal selections performed by two

talented singers, Iris Felice Harris and Melody Gayle. Michael opened the concert appropriately with Jerry Herman's popular *We Need a Little Christmas*, and went on to demonstrate his piano technique with a lovely rendering of Mel Torme's *The Christmas Song*. Michael also showcased his versatility as an organist as well as that of the Chaminade organ as he accompanied Ms. Harris and Ms. Gayle's performances of pieces that included *Jesu Bambino*, *O Holy Night*, and several other traditional selections. In addition to traditional carols on the organ, Michael also included the always popular *Rudolph*, *Frosty*, and *Santa* tunes, as well as an old fashioned holiday sing-along. The closing selection, Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, showed off the might and majesty of Chaminade's Mighty Austin-Morton. Thanks to Brother Bob Lahey and crew including Bob Atkins, Russ Faller, Alan Lush and Dan Minervini for having the organ concert ready, and to the Chaminade High School administration for hosting us.

The following Saturday morning, December 13, we were at the beautiful Lafayette Theatre in Suffern for open console on our 2/11 Ben Hall Memorial Mighty Wurlitzer. As usual, our gracious host Nelson Page treated us to coffee and refreshments in the lobby and to the Big Screen Classics feature film appropriate to the season, *Holiday Inn* starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. Some two dozen members and guests attended, and all who wanted to take a turn at open console had an opportunity to do so. Following open console we enjoyed a delightful mini-concert by staff organist Jeff Barker as he played in the house for the 11:30 movie show. Many thanks to Nelson Page for his warm and generous hospitality, and to crew chief Bob Miloche for keeping our Mighty Wurlitzer in tip top shape.

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BAD NEWS FROM LIU

Early in January during winter break while the University and the gym were quiet, LIU organ curator Warren Laliberte had the buildings and grounds crew bring the console up so that he could make some repairs to it and also check out work that he had been doing over the past several months in the solo chamber. Upon hearing a cipher from the tuba mirabilis in the solo, Warren climbed up to the chamber to check it out and discovered that a relatively small amount of water had leaked into the chamber through the ceiling. Except for one end of the tuba off-set chest, however, it did not seem to have hit any other parts of the organ. Warren immediately

contacted the head of buildings and grounds who sent in a work crew to find and seal a leak in the roof. (As most of you are aware, the organ sustained serious water damage in 2003 from a broken roof drain. At significant cost, the University subsequently contracted to have all the drains replaced, had the chamber re-plastered, and had many of the components of the organ in both the orchestral and the solo chambers professionally restored).

The workmen were quite sure that they had found and repaired the leak in the roof, but since there was to be a heavy rain storm the next day, Warren decided to return to make sure that the roof was not leaking. The good news is that it was not. The bad news is that a large section of the plaster ceiling in the solo chamber, including the metal lath, had fallen down, crashing on top of the huge 16' wood bombarde pipes. The plaster shattered, sending large and small chunks of plaster as well a great deal of dust all through the chamber, on to the chests and into many of the pipes. The most obvious damage to the organ itself seems to have been to several off-set diapason pipes that were struck and seriously dented by large pieces of heavy plaster. University officials immediately examined the damage, and Warren has been working to clean up the plaster, but does not want to turn on the organ blower until as much of the plaster as possible is cleaned out of the chamber and the pipes. He reported that he can look through the ceiling and see the steel beams above the chamber. Warren has submitted written reports and recommendations to the LIU officials regarding re-plastering the chamber, but to date has not received a response as to what they plan to do. Assuming a contractor is hired to make the repairs, the pipes, chests and other parts of the organ in the solo chamber will need to be covered to protect them, and some pipes will need to be removed and stored to allow room for the work to be done.

Prior to this we had been working with the University to schedule an open console in mid March during spring break when the gym is relatively quiet. Unfortunately, the organ cannot be used until repairs are made, and our plans to hold any open console or concert events are on hold until further notice. We'll keep you posted.

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NYTOS BOARD BUSINESS

The following members were elected to serve on the NYTOS Board of Directors for the next two years: Bernie Anderson, Rob Kleinschmidt, Anders Sterner, and John

Vanderlee. The following members have one more year of their two-year term to serve: John Baratta, Allan France, Larry Hazard, Brother Robert Lahey, and John Valentino. At its first meeting of the year held on January 17, the NYTOS board elected the following officers: Chairman, John Valentino; Vice-chairman, Anders Sterner; Secretary, Tom Stehle; Treasurer, Brother Rob Lahey. Since the board normally includes twelve members, it can choose individuals from the chapter membership to fill the board seats of members who were appointed to be officers. The board appointed Lowell Sanders and Jesse Kohl to fill these one-year positions. In addition to the secretary's and treasurer's reports (the financial statement will appear in the next "Horseshoe"), other business included project reports, a report from the education committee on its programs, the up-date of site agreements with the Lafayette and Bardavon theatres, program planning, and new website software (Dreamweaver) which the chapter recently purchased. Bernie Anderson was again appointed to serve as webmaster. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Gus Pratt/Hyde Park High School organ project, the purchase of an Allan Organ for the school auditorium, and the proposed Peekskill Paramount organ project. The board also approved funds to provide a scholarship for a young chapter member to attend the ATOS Summer Youth Camp. Jesse Kohl suggested and agreed to set up a NYTOS page on Facebook. Because of the extensive amount of business, the board agreed to meet more frequently than its usual four meetings per year. The next meeting will be held at the Peekskill Paramount Theatre on February 28.

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PEDALS, PIPES AND PIZZA—A SUCCESS

On January 24, John Baratta joined up with organist Drew Kreismer at St. John's Memorial Episcopal Church in Ramsey, NJ, for a "Pedals, Pipes and Pizza" program co-sponsored by NYTOS and the North Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Many AGO chapters around the country present these programs aimed at young keyboard students as a way of introducing them to and hopefully getting them interested in the organ. This time however, John used our Allen traveling theatre organ to add a theatre organ orientation to the program, somewhat similar to the presentations that he has done in several schools in New York and New Jersey. Our Allen was set up in the sanctuary next to the church's pipe organ console. John explained what a theatre organ is and demonstrated what it does, and Drew did a similar

presentation on the classical organ. The kids were very attentive and engaged, and many took turns trying out one or both instruments. Among the eighty or so people who attended the program, about two dozen were young keyboard students including some of John Baratta's music students. Thanks to John Vanderlee and Barb Parnes for hauling the Allen down from Poughkeepsie and setting it up in the church, and also to Rob Kleinschmidt for helping to dismantle it and move it back into the trailer. By the way, the trailer was purchased last year with a grant from our friends in the Garden State Theatre Organ Society as their way of helping to support the education program. John Baratta will be doing a presentation on the Allen for the Hyde Park School district in March, and along with Carl Hackert and Juan Cardona, Jr., will be playing the house in on our Allen for all the performances of the high school's spring musical.

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OTHER NEWS & UP-COMING EVENTS

BARDAVON—Juan Cardona, Jr. will be at the NYTOS 2/10 Mighty Wurlitzer at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27, to play the house in and out for the theatre's next classic film, *Breakfast At Tiffany's* (movie time—7:30). The final film in this year's series, *Cool Hand Luke*, will be shown on April 24.

MIDDLETOWN PARAMOUNT—Organist Rolf Krohn will be at the NYTOS 3/12 Mighty Wurlitzer to play in the house on Friday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. for the film *In the Heat of the Night* (movie time 7:30). The Academy Award winning film is being presented by the Paramount as part of its Black History Month program. Admission is free.

LAFAYETTE THEATRE—Enjoy the NYTOS Mighty Wurlitzer played by Jeff Barker before the first run feature films on Friday and Saturday evenings

LOEW'S JERSEY—**SUNDAY, MARCH 8—3:00 p.m.** "March Musical Madness!" Organist **TOM HOEHN** in concert at the 4/23 Wonder Morton. This talented artist from Florida will be joined in concert by pianist **AVERY TUNNINGLEY**. Loew's Jersey Theatre, 54 Journal Square, Jersey City, NJ, is located directly across the street from the Journal Square PATH Station—a 10 minute train ride from Manhattan. Parking is available in the lot and garage directly behind the theatre. Adults \$15; Seniors & Children \$13. Presented by GSTOS.

SAT., MARCH 14—7:00 p.m. RON RHODE concert, **Dickinson High School**, Wilmington, DE, 3/66 Kimball. DTOS. www.dtoskimball.org; 302-995-5630; \$12.00.

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 3:00 p.m. DAVE WICKERHAM concert **TRENTON WAR MEMORIAL, Patriot's Theatre**, Trenton, NJ. 4/16 Magnificent Moller Theatre Organ. Adults \$15; Seniors & Children \$13. GSTOS.

All the above venues are handicap accessible.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: George and Denise Andersen, Waldwick, NJ.

CLOSING CHORD—We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Hope Englesen, a long time past member of NYTOS who served for three terms on the NYTOS Board of Directors from 1987 through 1992. Hope was also very active in the Brooklyn AGO. A memorial service will be held on Sat. Feb. 28 at 11:00 a.m. at Redeemer-St. John's Lutheran Church, 939 83rd St. in Brooklyn.

PIPES & PIZZAZZ: Check out John Vanderlee's weekly theatre organ radio show from Vassar College, WVKR 91.3 FM every Monday from 11:00 a.m. to noon, or via www.wvkr.org.

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