



THE HORSESHOE

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(N.Y. CHAPTER ATOS)

*Open Console—Mini-Concert
Middletown Paramount
Theatre
Middletown, NY*

3/12 NYTOS Mighty Wurlitzer

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009

11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

2:00 p.m. mini-concert by Organist

John Baratta

--Plus Refreshments--

Join us at the landmarked Middletown Paramount Theatre for a day of music on our NYTOS 3/12 Mighty Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. Members and guests will have an opportunity to play open console or just listen to and enjoy the music of this outstanding instrument. And, we will also have an opportunity to enjoy a mini-concert played for us by organist John Baratta. Thanks to the extraordinary acoustics of the theatre, our NYTOS Wurlitzer has a sound far grander and mightier than you would expect from its 12 ranks of pipes. With a beautiful French Style console, the Paramount Wurlitzer is both fun and exciting to play and to listen to. Since our last programs at the Paramount in the fall, the crew has completed installing a Wurlitzer harp/marimba and a MIDI piano.

The open console and mini-concert event will begin at 11:00 a.m. and continue through 3:00 p.m., with John Baratta's mini-concert starting around 2:00 p.m. Free refreshments will be available in the lobby throughout the day. There is no charge for admission, and guests are welcome to attend and play. So,

bring along your family and friends, and if you are a teacher with music students, encourage them to attend and play. And, if you play, remember to bring your music. Hope to see you at the Paramount. Directions are enclosed.

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AUDIENCES ENJOY CHAMINADE PROGRAMS

Those who braved the threat of a blizzard on Sunday March 1 and came to Chaminade High School were rewarded with an extraordinary performance by organist Bernie Anderson, Jr. who demonstrated his exceptional talent accompanying the 1925 silent classic *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* on the school's 3/15 Mighty Austin-Morton theatre organ. Bernie's excellent musical score, his incredible precision in timing the music to the action of the film, and his choice of voices and registrations on the organ brought the inspiring, action packed movie to life on the screen. The 2½ hour classic seemed to fly by as the audience became fully engaged in the film, showing their appreciation at the end with enthusiastic and sustained applause. The show, which was co-sponsored by NYTOS and our friends from the Nassau AGO Chapter, was well attended in spite of the threat of a heavy snow storm, which no doubt did keep many people from attending. Fortunately, the storm arrived later than predicted, giving those who attended time to make it home before the snow began to fly.

Three weeks later on March 22 we presented popular and talented young concert artist, Mark Herman, in concert at the Chaminade organ. Mark's popularity on the concert scene was evidenced by the number of ATOS members in the audience who came to Mineola from out of the area including several from out of state, and Mark's wonderful performance on both the organ and piano was certainly evidence of his exceptional talent. Highlights of Mark's excellent and enjoyable concert

included selections by Noel Coward, and a medley of favorites by Jule Styne including *Some People*, *Saturday Night is the Loneliest Night of the Week*, and *Everything's Coming Up Roses*, among other selections from his latest CD, "A Kid In the Candy Store." Mark was joined by talented young vocalist Anthony Snitker, a student majoring in musical theatre at Columbia College in Chicago, for several songs including among others, a delightful but little known tune, *Rhode Island Is Famous for You*. Both young performers were indeed a class act. Mark closed the program with the finger challenging piece, Rollercoaster, popularized by George Wright. Judging from the enthusiastic applause and the brisk sale of Mark's CD's, it was clear that the audience enjoyed the concert. Since Mark had won the ATOS Young Organists competition in 2004, it was very fitting for NYTOS Chairman John Valentino to introduce to the audience two of our own talented young NYTOS members, Dan Minervini and Andrew Van Varick, who NYTOS will be sponsoring with scholarships to attend the ATOS Summer Camp for young organ students in Phoenix this July. Many thanks to Brother Bob Lahey and crew, Bob Atkins, Dan Minervini and Alan Lush, for preparing the organ for these programs, and to the Chaminade administration for hosting our two March events. And, thanks also to John Valentino, Allan France, Bob Atkins and Tom Stehle for their production support.

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2008 NYTOS FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Beginning Balance 1/1/08

Checking Account	\$ 6,984.83
Savings Account	<u>40,760.65</u>
Total Cash Assets (1/1/08)	\$47,745.48

2008 Revenues

NYTOS Dues	\$ 4,380.00
Concerts/Events	2,440.00
Donations (General)	1,815.00
*Project donations	8,441.00
Interest	100.00
Miscellaneous Income	<u>116.54</u>
Total 2008 Revenues	\$17,292.54

2008 Expenses

Donations	\$ 150.00
Website	527.30
Postage	1,282.86
Printing	509.81
Office Supplies	367.58
Insurance	3,243.00
*Project expenses	11,860.19
Concert/Event Expenses	2,968.84
Miscellaneous Expenses	<u>408.17</u>
Total 2008 Expenses	\$21,317.75

Net Income (loss) for 2008

(\$ 4,025.21)

Closing Balance 12/31/08

Checking Account	\$ 3,720.27
3 Year CD Account	<u>40,000.00</u>
Total Cash Assets (12/31/08)	\$43,720.27

*Project donations are applied to account balances specific to each NYTOS project (Bardavon, Lafayette, Middletown Paramount, LIU, Gus Pratt/Hyde Park, Hempstead House, Pasquaye, Allen Touring Organ, and Education Programs). These funds, used only for the restoration and maintenance of these instruments/projects and the Education Program, are carried from year to year as account balances in total cash assets. *Brother Robert Lahey, NYTOS Treasurer*

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NYTOS BOARD MEETING

The NYTOS Board of Directors met on Feb. 28 at the Paramount Center For the Arts (Peekskill Paramount Theatre) in Peekskill, NY. Paramount director, Jon Yanofsky, met with the board and discussed the theatre's interest in having a theatre organ installed back into the theatre. The Peekskill theatre is a virtual twin of the Middletown Paramount, both opening in June 1930 with matching Wurlitzer 3/11 Balaban 1A organs. Board members had a chance to check out the chambers, blower room area and discuss financial and work space issues. Among other business, the board voted to fund scholarships for two of our young organ students, Dan Minervini from Massapequa, and Andrew Van Varick from Newton, NJ to attend the ATOS Summer Camp program in Phoenix this July. Board member Jesse Kohl has set up a NYTOS page on Facebook. Project and program planning were also discussed. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25 in Boonton, NJ.

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OTHER NEWS & UP-COMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 3:00 p.m. DAVE WICKERHAM with Pianist Dick Kroekel concert *Red, White and Blue Ragtime Review*. TRENTON WAR MEMORIAL, Patriots Theatre, Trenton, NJ. 4/16 Mignificent Moller Theatre Organ. \$15 adults; \$13 seniors and children—tickets at box office or through www.tickets.com 1-800-955-5566. GSTOS.

SAT. APRIL 18, 2:30 p.m. BRETT VALIANT. Thomaston Opera House, Thomaston, CT. 3/15 Marr & Colton Theatre pipe organ. www.cvtos.org; 860-283-6250. CVTOS.

BARDAVON— Juan Cardona, Jr. will be at the NYTOS 2/10 Mighty Wurlitzer at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24, to play the house in and out for the theatre's next and final classic film of

the season, *Cool Hand Luke* (movie time—7:30 p.m.).

Also, at the Bardavon-- June 6 at 2:00 & 6:30 p.m. JOHN BARATTA will be at our Mighty Wurlitzer to play for *Masquerade Ball* presented by the New York Academy of Ballet. John will not only play the house in and out and during intermission, but will also accompany dancers performing with music from *Phantom of the Opera* and with several other ballet performances during the show. Dancer Jennifer Hart of the NYC Ballet will also be featured. Tickets are \$15; \$12 for seniors. Bardavon box office: 845-473-2072; Ticketmaster 800-745-3000.

LAFAYETTE THEATRE— Enjoy the NYTOS Mighty Wurlitzer played before the first run feature films on Friday and Saturday evenings with organist Jeff Barker at the console. We are planning to schedule an open console session at the Lafayette in May—date to be announced.

As some members are aware, as of mid-February, Nelson Page is no longer affiliated with the Lafayette. Rumors have been flying that we will be removing the organ from the theatre and that the theatre is closing. *Not So!* The theatre continues to be operated as it has been for the past several years by Boston Concessions, a Cambridge, MA based operator of food concessions and movie theatres. Jim Vanderveer continues to serve as the house manager; and Bob Miloche continues on as our organ crew chief as well as an employee of Boston Concessions. Nelson terminated his portion of his agreement with Boston Concessions for the Lafayette and the 10 screen theatre in Jersey City that he had been affiliated with. Nelson continues to operate the Cedar Lane Cinemas in Teaneck, NJ, where he is currently presenting the “Big Screen Classics” film series on Wed. evenings at 8:00 p.m., and the Newton Theatre in Newton, NJ, where John Baratta plays the house in on weekends. Nelson will also be working with Maria Bruni, the director of the Middletown Paramount, to set up a classic film series at the Paramount this summer and fall.

LIU UPDATE: There is little new to report. As reported in the last “Horseshoe”, a portion of the solo chamber ceiling fell down in January, sending chunks of plaster and dust all over the solo chamber (top right) of the 4/26 Wurlitzer. Since then organ curator Warren Laliberte has been working to carefully clean up the chamber, and has sent reports and recommendations to University officials. To date, he is not aware of any decision on their part regarding repair of the damage, other than that they are reviewing the finances involved. The ceiling had been re-plastered at a cost of \$30,000 in 2005 as part of major restoration work on the organ following a roof drain leak in 2003. Warren has shoveled and vacuumed up most of the plaster, and plans to turn the organ on in the very near future to check it out and track down plaster that may have fallen into the pipes. A few diapason pipes were damaged by the falling plaster, but Warren reports that except

for the plaster dust, the organ seems to be otherwise unaffected. We will keep you posted.

SUNDAY, APRIL 19—2:00 p.m. RALPH RINGSTAD, JR. concert on the Hammond X-66 electronic organ. Rahway Senior Citizens Center, Rahway, NJ. 973-256-5480.

SAT, APRIL 18 & SUNDAY APRIL 19—2:30 p.m. PHIL KELSEL (Blackpool organist from England) concert. Shanklin Music Hall, 4/34 Wurlitzer, Groton, MA. EMCATOS. www.emcatos.com.

SAT. APRIL 25—7:00 p.m. RON RHODE; Dickinson High School, Wilmington, DE. 3/66 Kimball. DTOS. www.dtoskimball.org; 302-995-5630. \$12.00.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: Frank Nedelka, Garden City, NY.

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.

(Editor’s note: Thank-you to Allan France for providing review notes for Mark Herman’s concert at Chaminade. Your editor missed the concert, being homeward bound on that day from Istanbul following a tour of Turkey, a country filled with fascinating history and archeological sites—but, alas, no theatre organs, and very few pipe organs of any kind. I suspect that Constantine would be disappointed, but as the song goes, “That’s nobody’s business but the Turks.”)

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DIRECTIONS TO THE MIDDLETOWN PARAMOUNT THEATRE—17 SOUTH ST. MIDDLETOWN, NY (845) 346-4195:

FROM POINTS SOUTH: Take the New York State Thruway (I-87) north to Exit 16 (Harriman). The exit ramp becomes Route 17. Continue west on Route 17 for about 12 miles to Exit 123 (Routes 6 & 17M) at Goshen. Follow 17M for about 7 miles (past shopping centers and fast food restaurants) to Fulton St. (8 traffic lights after crossing over I-84). Turn left on to Fulton St. (at Southwinds Retirement Home and the Rite Aid Drug store), and go 2 short blocks to South St. Turn right on to South St. The Paramount Theatre is one block up the hill on the left. There is convenient free parking next to and across from the theatre.

FROM POINTS EAST: From Connecticut, Northern Westchester, Dutchess, Putnam Counties and points east, take I-84 West to Exit 3 at Middletown. Follow 17-M (Dolson Ave.) through 8 traffic lights to Fulton St., (at the Southwinds Retirement Home and Rite Aid Drug Store). Turn left on to Fulton St., and go 2 short blocks to South St. Turn Right on to South St. The Paramount Theatre is one block up the hill on the left.

FROM POINTS WEST: From western Orange County, Pennsylvania and other points west, take I-84 East to Exit 3 at Middletown, and proceed as in "From Points East" above.

FROM POINTS NORTH: From Kingston, Albany and other areas to the north, take the New York State Thruway (I-87) south to Exit 17 at Newburgh. After the toll, follow signs for I-84 West. Take I-84 West to Exit 3 at Middletown, and proceed as in "From Points East" above.

SHORTLINE BUS: Bus service is provided by Shortline/Coach USA from and to Port Authority Bus Terminal in Mid-town Manhattan. The Paramount Theatre is about a 3 block walk from the bus station in Middletown.

**New York Theatre Organ Society
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