



Susquehanna Valley Theatre

Organ Society

www.svtos.org

ANNUAL SVTOS ELECTION AND SVTOS VIRTUAL/IN-PERSON PICNIC SATURDAY, AUGUST 1ST @ 2:00 PM

SVTOS Virtualized Picnic Invitation

After careers in and owning homes in Washington, DC, we made a decision to relocate to the Susquehanna Valley. High on our prioritized criteria for our next residence we agreed there should be an appropriate room for the installation of a planned Walker theatre organ. We wanted sufficient space and facilities to host theater organ presentations and other social gatherings. We also wanted to be near York, the Capitol Theatre, and be engaged in the activities of the SVTOS chapter. After several years of considering various properties we found and purchased a great home in northern York County, Pennsylvania. We were pleased to have acquired a custom 3/51 Walker Digital Theater Organ within weeks of purchasing our home in September 2019. Over the past few months the organ was installed in our music room/studio, regulated, and balanced to the room acoustics by Bob Walker, founder of Walker Technical Services. We're very proud to be able to share the sounds of a very special instrument in a magnificent room with SVTOS members and guests.



Prior to Covid-19 changing so much of how we live and interact with others, we attended an event at the Dickinson Theatre Organ Society this past winter and had a conversation with Seamus Gethicker. We've been impressed by this young man's theater organ presentations and invited him to perform on our Walker 3/51 at the SVTOS picnic. We didn't realize in January how our isolation and self-imposed quarantine would delay our inaugural concert by several months. (continued on page 2)

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.

Seamus has recently confirmed his intent to travel to be with us to prepare and perform for those who feel comfortable attending an SVTOS picnic concert either in person or for members wanting to maintain social distancing and not gather in crowds, we have decided to virtualize this year's event for those not wishing to gather in person.

Seamus Gethicker, of Bath, Maine, began his interest in pipe organs at age 8, when he attended a Christmas concert at Merrill Auditorium in Portland, Maine, and first witnessed the mighty Kotzschmar Organ played by Ray Cornils. He then soon discovered the theatre organ through YouTube and was instantly hooked. He later began studying organ with Ray Cornils for several years. In 2016 Seamus was the winner of the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition in Cleveland, Ohio. Since then, he has had the privilege of performing at a number of venues across the country. Seamus is involved with the Eastern Massachusetts and Pine Tree chapters of ATOS. Outside of music, other interests include classic cars and riding rollercoasters.

The picnic will be on Saturday, August 1, 2020. Seamus will perform a program at 2 PM that afternoon.

For Members Planning To Attend In Person:

Even though the event will take place in York County, which is in the **GREEN** phase of reopening, ALL in-person participants in our private residence will be expected to comply by wearing masks over mouths and nostrils and social distancing precautions while in the house or near other guests who are not members of your family unit to the extent practical with Covid-19 precautions.

For anyone who wants to maintain full social distancing, the large 3,000 sq. ft. outside deck 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 experience in the performance space.

For those who do attend in person, presenting a traditional shared dish picnic food service will not be practical at this time. Instead, if you wish to bring a picnic lunch for yourself you are welcome to do so. We will offer disposable dishes, flatware, cups, and paper products, a few basic prepared food items as well as some factory sealed individual portion packages of snacks and treats. As much as it seems counter to a sharing spirit under these circumstances we request that guests not bring home-made foods and treats for community sharing for this event. Liquid refreshments with and without will be provided.

So that we have sufficient seating and to allow for beverage planning, please provide either an e-mail RSVP to rgneidich@aol.com or call 202-302-6320 by July 29th with names of those planning on participating in person. An acknowledgement message with map and location will be provided by e-mail on July 30th.

For Members Planning to attend "Virtually":

For those who do not wish to physically attend, a Facebook Live event is planned using high-quality video and audio. An internet link to join Seamus's 2:00 pm performance will be emailed within 24 hours prior to the performance to all SVTOS members who have already provided an email address to SVTOS.

Richard Neidich and Edward Horvath

Since we have not been able to meet together in several months due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, all of our schedules have been thrown out the window. It seems that the new reality is virtual reality and live streaming. In addition to the cancellation of three of our Showcases in March, April, and June, we also had to postpone our election of officers previously scheduled in May. Since we do not know when we'll be able to get together again, we have decided to conduct the election by email and/or USPS snail mail if you do not have access to email. Along with this newsletter you will find an election ballot listing the names of the nominees for each office along with instructions for submitting your votes. While there is only one candidate listed for each office because no others expressed interest in the positions, we still need to vote to comply with the SVTOS bylaws. Following the instructions included with your ballot, please vote for or against the nominees by July 20th.

For details about the "SVTOS Virtualized Picnic" scheduled for August 1st, please see Richard Neidich's and Ed Horvath's invitation on Pages 1 and 2 of the *Windline*. Everyone has the option to participate in person or to remain at home and view virtually on Facebook. A Facebook link will be emailed before the picnic to all members who have their email address on file with SVTOS.

During this continuing period of shutdown, some theatre organists are presenting virtual programs on Facebook and YouTube. Mark Herman has been doing weekly programs on most Tuesdays (piano) and Saturdays (organ) at 8:00 pm EDT on his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/markhermanproductions/>. You do not have to be a member of Facebook to watch Mark's programs. Other organists are also presenting similar programs and many of them are listed on the ATOS website at <https://www.atos.org/>.

We still do not know exactly when the Appell Center will reopen and when we can get together at the Capitol Theatre again, so until then it seems that virtual programs will be the "new norm." In the meantime please stay safe and stay healthy.



SVTOS 2019-2020 SEASON

**Saturday afternoon
August 1***

SVTOS Picnic at the home of Richard Neidich and Ed Horvath, Lewisberry, PA, featuring Seamus Gethicker at the 3/51 Walker Digital Theatre Organ. Additional details in the "Windline"

** 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"

ALL MOVIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

"SVTOS Plays at Masonic Village," Elizabethtown, PA

Tuesday August 11th @ 7PM - CANCELLED

***Tuesday October 13th @ 7PM - OPEN**

Tuesday December 10 @ 7:00 PM Annual SVTOS Christmas Spectacular—OPEN TO ALL

****Please contact Ken Kline at 717-564-7513 or krkline38@gmail.com to volunteer to play in October***

Hammond organ for sale for \$50.00. Available for pickup in Manchester, PA

Contact Michael McAdams mmcadams@arglobal.com for details



SVTOS OFFICERS

Barry Howard - President 717-274-2254

Ken Kline – Vice President 717-564-7513

Roy Wainwright – Secretary, Treasurer, and
Webmaster 717-619-7243

LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

Larry Fenner – "Windline" Editor & Membership

Joyce and Sam Groh - Hospitality

Gary Coller, Don Kinnier, Terry Nace, Connor Ream,
Don Schoeps, and Judy Townsend