

# The Windline

April 2026



*Susquehanna Valley Theatre  
Organ Society*

[www.svtos.org](http://www.svtos.org)

## DECLAN POOLE SHOWCASE AND ELECTION OF SVTOS OFFICERS

**MONDAY, APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>, 7:00 PM  
CAPITOL THEATRE, YORK, PA**

**DECLAN POOLE** was born in 1999 in the North of England and began learning to play the piano at the age of eight. He then developed an interest in theatre organ during a visit to the Tower Ballroom - Blackpool, when he was around 13 years old. Declan's visit to Blackpool led to him moving his attention away from the piano as he began to study theatre organ, using an electronic organ at home and the Wurlitzer at the Royalty Cinema, Bowness-on-Windermere as his practice instruments.

In 2015, he won the ATOS U.K. Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition which took place at the Musical Museum, Kew Bridge, London.

Since then, Declan has played at many of the UK's major theatre organ venues, including Troxy - London; Assembly Hall - Worthing; Pavilion - Bournemouth; and the Tower Ballroom - Blackpool, where his theatre organ experience first began. To date, he has played over 60 of the UK's theatre organ installations. Declan has also played several theatre organs in the USA and was the winner of the 2025 ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Declan is also the current holder of the Cinema Organ Society's Ian Sutherland award, which is presented periodically to young organists who demonstrate outstanding talent and potential.

Declan's interest in the theatre pipe organ is not just restricted to playing; he has been involved in the restoration and reinstallation of several instruments.



Spring has sprung, hope everyone has had a wonderful Easter weekend. Ed and I returned from Florida three weeks ago. I've completed the taxes and have been working on finalizing the Pocket Schedule for the 2026 ATOS Convention in Rochester, NY (just a three-and-a-half-hour drive north). The program and schedule handout (which will be available as a PDF download as well) is now taking some of my time. Stay tuned to the June SVTOS *Windline*, where I will have a number of items related to the big event.

A big thanks to Barry Howard for his continued scheduling of pre-movie players as well as the March Members' Showcase. Barry, Larry Fenner, and I have been looking at how to handle an election for SVTOS officers. With a meeting at OPUS 501 in May, our normal election meeting, we have decided to schedule our elections for the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Appell Center's Capitol Theatre.

(Note: a follow-up reminder to this issue of *The Windline* will be sent prior to our next meeting, but we wanted to alert every one of the elections and the next few months SVTOS event dates.)

SVTOS Bylaws define three elected officers (for two-year terms) and a Windline Editor. For the recent past years Barry Howard has been either President or Vice President, Roy Wainwright as Treasurer and Larry Fenner as Windline Editor. I have previously indicated that after serving for four years, I do not wish to run again. **With our May and June meetings being held away from our normal Monday evenings at the Capitol Theatre, we will have the next election of officers immediately prior to the beginning of our April 27<sup>th</sup> program at the Capitol Theatre.**

Barry, Larry and I have been discussing how to manage the monthly programming, since the President has been the person to arrange meetings. We have discussed the possibility that a Program Committee could perform the task. The Committee would include the Officers and other interested members to each coordinate one or more monthly meetings. (Since we have a limit on funds, the number of guest artists must be planned along with other types of presentations. **Please e-mail me, [rgneidich@aol.com](mailto:rgneidich@aol.com), if you are interested in serving as an officer or one of the Program Committee members.**

The program for our April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting will be organist Declan Poole. Declan is the last winner of the 2025 ATOS Young Organist Competition, and he will make an appearance at the 2026 ATOS Convention. He will also be performing for RTOS two weeks after our meeting, as well as at the Convention. Declan's Bio can be found on Page 1 in this issue of *The Windline*.

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## RICHARD'S RADAR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

**Richard's Radar**

For May, our program will be at OPUS 501 in Lebanon, PA, with organist Dan Minervini. For June, we will be visiting the Capitol Theatre in Chambersburg to hear the 4/19 Moller theatre organ. SVTOS member Andrew Moore has restored the original Devtronix digital relay. We will listen to some very old recordings he has restored and a couple of live invited cameo performances. We will learn about the instrument's origins, the installation of upgrades to the organ's blower, and other efforts.

To finish the year's events, we have invited Seamus Gethicker for a return visit to the SVTOS Picnic on the Walker 3/51 instrument. Seamus was our first organist on the Walker 6 years ago. This event will be Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>, the weekend after the 2026 ATOS Convention.

Looking forward to seeing everyone the last Monday of April.

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 2025-2026 SEASON**

<b>Monday, April 27*</b> <b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>Declan Poole Showcase (ATOS 2025 Young Organist Competition Winner from Great Britain), Capitol Theatre, York, PA*</b>
Saturday, May 16* 2:30 PM	Dan Minervini Showcase, Howard-Fenner Residence, Lebanon PA.*
Saturday, June 13* 12:00 PM until 2:00 PM	Visit to see and hear (via live and 20-year-old recordings) the 4/19 Moller Theatre Organ in the Capitol Theatre, Chambersburg, PA. Details to follow*
Saturday July 18 (times to follow)*	Annual SVTOS Picnic featuring Seamus Gethicker at the Neidich-Horvath Residence Walker 3/51 instrument, Lewisberry, PA*

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

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

## Are YOU the next SVTOS President?



If so, the SVTOS Leadership Committee wants to hear from YOU! Unfortunately, Richard Neidich will not be running for another term as SVTOS President. If you would like to run for the next SVTOS President or any other elected office, please contact Richard Neidich at [rgneidich@aol.com](mailto:rgneidich@aol.com). The election for SVTOS Officers will be held during the April 27th meeting! Thank you!

## “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, April 3, 6:30 PM, *Alice in Wonderland* (First Friday Free Family Film Series) – **DON SCHOEPS**
- Friday, April 10, 7:00 PM, *Gimme Shelter* – **GLENN HOUGH**
- Saturday, April 11, 7:00 PM, *Little Shop of Horrors* (40th Anniversary screening) – **BOB CARBAUGH**
- Sunday, April 12, 3:00 PM, *Tokyo Olympiad* (Art House Film Series) – **JERR KEIM**
- Friday, April 17, 7:00 PM, *Labyrinth* (40th Anniversary screening)- **GARY COLLER**
- Saturday, April 18, 7:00 PM, *Sweet Appalachia: the Story of DelFest* – **LARRY FENNER**
- Friday, April 24, 7:00 PM, *You Got Gold: A Celebration of John Prine* – **ROY WAINWRIGHT**
- Sunday, April 26, 3:00 PM, *Daughters of the Dust* (35th Anniversary screening) – **BARRY HOWARD**



## COMING ATTRACTIONS

Saturday, April 12 3:00 PM	Silent Film <i>Chicago</i> accompanied by Tedde Gibson, <a href="#">Weinberg Center for the Arts, Frederick, MD</a>
Sunday, April 26 12:00 PM	Silent Film Double Feature with TWO ORGANISTS, Douglas Fairbanks in 1917 Silent <i>Western Wild and Wooley</i> accompanied by <b>Don Kinnier</b> . Janet Gaynor and Charles Farrell in 1927 Silent Film <i>Seventh Heaven</i> accompanied by <b>Glenn Hough</b> . <a href="#">Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley, Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville, PA</a>
Saturday, May 2 2:00 PM	Nathan Avakian, <a href="#">Dickinson Theatre Organ Society</a> , Wilmington, DE.
Sunday, June 14 2:00 PM	Comedy Shorts Silent Films and Miniconcert by Wayne Zimmerman, <a href="#">Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley, Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville, PA</a>
July 6-10, 2026	<a href="#">ATOS 2026 Annual Convention, Rochester, NY</a>
Sunday, September 27 2:00-4:00 PM	Richie Gregory Theatre Organ Concert, <a href="#">Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley, Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville, PA</a>

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