

The Windline



December 2023



*Susquehanna Valley Theatre
Organ Society*



www.svtos.org



A HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

WITH

NATHAN & CLAIRE AVAKIAN

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT 3:00 PM
CAPITOL THEATRE, YORK, PA**

Nathan Avakian is a songwriter, film composer, and organist based in New York City. Known for his unique blending of virtual instrument technology with organ music, Nathan's live performances satisfy varying musical tastes and pay tribute to the historical legacy of the organ.

Nathan's fascination with the pipe organ began at age four with a visit to the Portland Organ Grinder, a restaurant featuring live pop music played on a massive theatre organ with all of its mechanics exposed. At age eleven he began nine years of private organ studies with Donna Parker, and he was frequently coached by Jonas Nordwall.

Since winning the American Theatre Organ Society Young Organist Competition in 2009, Nathan has provided pipe organ entertainment across the United States and internationally including performances in Australia and New Zealand (2011 and 2017), Canada (2015), and Thailand (2018).

(Continued on Page 3)



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.





**Richard's
Radar**

This past week has been a bit busy, with setup and hosting of Ian Fraser, followed by a visit with Michael Carter, the editor of the Cinema Organ Society's newsletter. This week is heavy decorating and shopping in preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday, followed shortly after with the Chapter's holiday event on Sunday afternoon, December 3, 2023.

It's always a challenge to deal with the many activities and events associated with the annual holiday season. I have been trying to find ways to expose the Capitol Theatre followers to the theatre organ as other than just a prelude or film accompaniment instrument. This year in early spring, I met with Todd Fogdall the Appell Center's President/CEO and discussed having the Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society collaborate with them on a music program for the holiday season in the fall. After some discussions we chose a Sunday afternoon as a time when many of the Chapter's members could attend while at the same time provide a time when community members and their families might attend. It was agreed that SVTOS would underwrite the event with any returns above the Capitol's expense being shared.

Wanting the program focused on familiar holiday music, we selected Nathan Avakian and his sister Claire to provide the entertainment. The details for the event are elsewhere in *The Windline*. Let your friends know of the event by sending them this URL to the Appell Center event page: <https://appellcenter.org/show/a-holiday-celebration-with-nathan-claire-avakian/>.



NOTE THAT PAID SVTOS MEMBERS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO ORDER THEIR FREE TICKETS TO THE EVENT IN THE EMAIL THAT DELIVERED THIS NEWSLETTER.



Also note that the Windline Editor, Larry Fenner, has included the dates when Chapter member Don Kinnier will be making his annual holiday appearances at Longwood Gardens.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving week and we hope to see everyone at our "holiday celebration" at the Capitol Theatre on December 3rd.



Richard Neidich, President



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
Bill Autry, Gary Coller, Don Kinnier, Ken Kline, Terry Nace, Don Schoeps, and Judy Townsend





(Continued from Page 1)

He has released several albums featuring theatre and classical pipe organs as well as virtual orchestrations. From 2011-2013 Nathan served as the Youth Representative on the American Theatre Organ Society Board of Directors managing programs that recognize and support the work of young organ students. As resident organist and composer for the International Youth Silent Film Festival, Nathan creates music that inspires young filmmakers around the world as they reinvent the art of silent film. He helped pioneer the festival's expansion which includes 11 regionals across the US, Australia, New Zealand, Hungary, Montenegro, and the United Arab Emirates.



Nathan scores historic silent films for Thanouser Company Film Preservation as well as contemporary films by various filmmakers. His music has recently been featured in web series including Makers Who Inspire (Henry Thong) and The Creative Quarantine Sessions (Alex Whittenberg). He has a growing collection of piano and organ compositions to his credit including "At The Square," commissioned to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Jersey Journal publication in 2017.

In 2020 Nathan and his sister Claire started a songwriting business called Passing Notes, writing and producing personalized songs for customers and their loved ones.

Nathan also works as a freelance theatrical lighting designer. In 2014 he received a B.F.A. degree in lighting design from Purchase College, State University of New York. For more information about Nathan's music, visit www.avakianmusic.com.

Claire Avakian moved to NYC in 2015 to pursue a career in the performing arts. Having grown up dancing and later finding a joy for singing, she decided to pursue musical theatre where she could do both. Since moving to New York, Claire and her brother Nathan not only live together, but have been able to perform with each other around the northeast.

In addition to her skills as a singer, Claire is gathering acting credits as a stage performer and as a dancer.

When they were quarantined together in Queens, they started a small business writing custom songs for people. Claire hopes to continue writing with Nathan as auditions in the city start picking up again. Now let's share some music together and continue looking out for each other!





SVTOS 2023-2024 SEASON

Sunday December 3, 2023 3:00 PM*	"A Holiday Celebration with Nathan and Claire Avakian," Public Concert, Capitol Theatre, York, PA (FREE tickets available to SVTOS Members—see <i>Windline</i> email coversheet for details)
Monday January 15, 2024 9 AM - 5 PM*	Open Console (MLK Day), Capitol Theatre, York, PA
Monday Feb 19, 2024 9 AM - 5 PM*	Open Console (Presidents' Day), Capitol Theatre, York, PA
Monday March 18, 2024 7:00 PM*	Video Presentation: <i>Chasing Beauty, The Phil Maloof Story</i>
Monday April 8, 2024 7:00 PM	Program To Be Determined
May 2024 Date & Time TBD*	Ben Forsthoffer Showcase on Opus 501, Howard-Fenner residence, Lebanon, PA
Monday June 10, 2024 7:00 PM	Program To Be Determined

* 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 the details and admission prices.

- Saturday, December 2 @ 7:00 PM - *Warren Miller's All Time 2023* - Gary Coller
- Friday, December 8 @ 6:00 PM - *White Christmas* (Member Screening) - Larry Fenner
- Saturday, December 9 @ 3:30 and 7:00 PM - *White Christmas* - Don Schoeps
- Sunday, December 10 @ 3:00 PM - *White Christmas* - Roy Wainwright
- Friday, December 15 @ 7:00 PM - *Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas* - Roy Wainwright



Don Kinnier's Longwood Gardens Christmas Schedule 2023-2024

DAY	DATE	PERFORMANCE TIME
Saturday	12/02/2023	5:00 - 8:10 pm
Thursday	12/14/2023	5:00 - 8:10 pm
Tuesday	12/19/2023	5:00 - 8:10 pm
Thursday	12/28/2023	5:00 - 8:10 pm
Thursday	01/04/2024	5:00 - 8:10 pm



COMING ATTRACTIONS

Sunday, December 10th 2:00-4:00 pm	Candi Carley-Roth, nationally-renowned artist, will be playing Holiday music with the joy and energy that makes her unique among musicians. Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley , Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA
Saturday, January 27th 3:00 PM	Carol Williams, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.
Saturday, March 16th 3:00 PM	Jerry Nagano, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.
Saturday, May 4th 7:00 PM	Simon Gledhill, Dickinson Theatre Organ Society , Wilmington, DE.

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

Allen 3-Manual Theatre Organ For Sale

Joyce Groh is taking offers for Sam's 3-manual Allen Renaissance Quantum Theatre Organ model 311 that includes second touch, internal and external audio, custom voicing, an optional Midi Division, extra pistons, toe studs, and an extra tremulant tab for the Tuba. This organ was built in 2006 and is in perfect working and cosmetic condition.

Please contact Joyce at (717) 272-3684.





*The Capitol Theatre and the Susquehanna
Valley Theatre Organ Society*

proudly presents

A Holiday Celebration *starring*

Nathan Avakian

With Vocalist

Claire Avakian

Join us for an afternoon of
traditional Christmas music
performed by Nathan on the
Capitol Theatre Wurlitzer with
vocal stylings by Claire.



Sunday, December 3, 2023

3:00 PM

Capitol Theatre

50 N George Street, York PA

Tickets online at

<https://appellcenter.org/>

