

The Windline

July 2024



*Susquehanna Valley Theatre
Organ Society*

www.svtos.org

SVTOS SUMMER PICNIC

**SATURDAY, JULY 13TH @ 1:00 PM UNTIL ??
NEIDICH-HORVATH RESIDENCE, LEWISBERRY, PA
PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 10TH**

Its SVTOS Picnic time again! The picnic will be on Saturday, July 13, 2024, you are welcome to arrive any time after 1 PM and stay with us through the evening.

For the afternoon, we have invited **DONNIE RANKIN** to provide organ melodies. For those on a tight schedule, 2 to 4 PM is the designated period for Donnie to entertain us. There will be an intermission with refreshments and full picnic meal after the program.

Ed Horvath and I have a wonderful home in upper York County, on the Yellow Breeches River. We have installed a custom 3/51 Walker Digital Theater Organ in our music room/studio. The instrument was regulated and balanced to the room acoustics by Bob Walker, founder of Walker Technical Services, and Dan Umholtz over the past two years. We're very proud to be able to share the sounds of this very special instrument in a magnificent room with SVTOS members and guests.

The music room opens to a 3,000 sq. ft. deck and outdoor kitchen that 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 audience experience in the performance space. Also, there are outdoor speakers to hear music room activity while outside on the deck.

For those who attend we will be presenting a traditional shared dish picnic food service. We will provide the basics including hot dogs, hamburgers, bratwurst with other traditional picnic foods like coleslaw. **If you wish to bring any food to share, side dishes, treats, snacks or other beverages will be welcome. If you can, please let us know what you would like to bring to help us plan and coordinate food and beverages for our guests.**
Please let us know if you make a last-minute change in plans, either way. (Continued on Page 2)



Music Room with 3/51 Walker

The Susquehanna Valley Theatre Organ Society's (SVTOS) June members' program was the Harold Lloyd classic silent film, "Safety Last" accompanied by **DAVID PECKHAM**. David opened the program with a few organ tunes and after Ed Horvath's lobby refreshments, David utilized a cue sheet distributed with the film, augmenting it with some his own melodies to present the film.

Again, this July SVTOS will be visiting the residence of Richard Neidich and Edward Horvath to hear a program on their Walker 3/51 theatre organ. This year **DONNIE RANKIN** will provide the formal part of the afternoon program. Donnie's talent includes classic theatre organ arrangements as well as more contemporary tune stylings. Full details can be found on Page 1 and are continued below, which include making **attendance reservations by July 10th.**

Richard Neidich
President, SVTOS

SVTOS SUMMER PICNIC CONTINUED

(Continued from Page 1)

So that we have sufficient seating and to allow for beverage planning, please provide an e-mail RSVP by July 10th with names of those planning on attending to rgneidich@aol.com. An acknowledgement message with map and location will be provided by e-mail on July 11th.

While we are hoping the weather cooperates, this will be a rain-or-shine event. If we are unable to picnic outside, we have an indoor space that can be used for dining. There is one step at the front entrance and 3 steps or use of a ramp from the main level to the deck. There is plenty of parking available on our street and our driveway areas. Our waterfront on the Yellow Breeches is at the far end of our property, 700 feet behind our house. Access to the river is via a paved path and mowed walking trails, walking shoes are recommended.



Outdoor Deck and Kitchen

Richard Neidich and Edward Horvath, 110 Wheatland Road, Lewisberry PA 17339
(Our home is actually in Fairview Township, York County)
202.302.6320 for voice mail or text, e-mail at rgneidich@aol.com

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

DONNIE RANKIN

Donnie Rankin was born in Ravenna Ohio and was immediately immersed in music. After hearing his great-grandfather Don Sr. play the electronic organ at home, Donnie first took an interest in the theatre organ at the age of three when he heard the sounds of the Wurlitzer at the Civic Theatre in Akron, Ohio.

After building a musical foundation in the school band, at age 12 Donnie's family acquired their own organ and he began taking formal lessons. Classical piano training followed at age 16, and his budding talent quickly blossomed into first rate musicianship.

Since then, Donnie has won several competitions and awards, including being named the Overall Winner of the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition when he was 18. After his win in 2007, Donnie began a 5 year journey studying with noted organist Jelani Eddington.

In the course of his career, Donnie has performed for several ATOS annual conventions, and has played for theatre organ audiences around the world, including appearances in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. In addition to performances, Donnie has presented playing clinics as part of the ATOS Summer Youth Adventure and at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. His work as an organist and percussionist have been broadcast on countless stations including NPR, and BBC 2. In 2023 Donnie was named the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year.

Donnie resides in Ravenna, Ohio where he runs a piano studio outside of his normal working hours. He remains on call as an organist at Cleveland's Playhouse Square, and the Akron Civic Theatre.



SVTOS 2023-2024 SEASON

Saturday, July 13*
(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

* Annual SVTOS Picnic, Neidich-Horvath Residence, Lewisberry, PA

* 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.

- Sunday, June 30th @ 1:00 PM, *Glory* (Part of RiverFest) – Bill Autry
- Friday, July 5th @ 6:30 PM, *The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie* (First Friday FREE Film) - Roy Wainwright
- Friday, August 2nd @ 6:30 PM, *Sleeping Beauty* (First Friday FREE Film) - Gary Collier

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Saturday, September 14
Noon until 3:00 PM

[Dickinson Theatre Organ Society Open House](#). Get up close with The Mighty Kimball, you can play, see the pipes, Q&A time, mini-concert at 2 PM with a special guest artist. A free event!

Sunday, October 27
2:00 PM

Glenn Hough accompanies silent film “Nosferatu”, [Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley](#), Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA

Sunday, December 8
2:00 PM

Candi Carley-Roth and the Valley Forge Chorus (chapter of “The Sweet Adelines”), TOSDV Holiday Concert, [Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley](#), Colonial Theatre, Phoenixville, PA

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

FREE LPs, CDs, and DVDs

We received a large donation of both theatre and classical organ LPs, CDs, and DVDs from Delores Morch. Her husband Harold (Hal) passed away recently and they were former members of SVTOS. There are too many (close to 300) to bring to just one meeting, but there will be a large selection available at the picnic in the back hatch of the **RED** Tesla, which hopefully will be parked in the parking lot at the front door of the Neidich/Horvath estate. FREE to our members and attendees.

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.