



The Free State News



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PRESENTING TEDDE GIBSON JANUARY 14, 2018

Mr. Gibson is one of those talented musicians whose multiplicity of musical talents include not only classical and theatre pipe organ, but also jazz and gospel on the Hammond organ and the piano. A native of Tacoma, Washington, Tedde began playing piano at age four. Later as a student at the University of Puget Sound and the University of Washington, he studied the pipe organ, voice, classical piano and classical improvisation under several renowned professors and music teachers. He was also mentored in theatre organ technique by the internationally acclaimed theatre and classical organist Jonas Nordwall of Portland, Oregon, one of the pioneering ATOS theatre organists.

Since moving to the Metropolitan Washington DC area in November 2003, Mr. Gibson has studied the organ with international organist Dr. Mickey Thomas Terry, editor of a 6-plus volume anthology of organ works by African American composers. While in the Seattle/Tacoma area, he played for congregations at several churches and played for five years at the “Pizza and Pipes” in Tacoma, until that restaurant’s untimely demise due to a fire in 1999.

He played numerous concerts and silent films while in that area including Harbor Manor’s 4 manual, 48 rank Wurlitzer in Gig Harbor, the Paramount Theatre in Seattle and in the Mount Baker Theatre in Bellingham. Tedde has recorded and accompanied several gospel and jazz artists including Twinkie Clark, Jennifer Holiday, Edmonia Jarrett, Shawn McLemore, Dorinda Clark-Sheard and Ray Willis. He has also been an



enthusiastic worker in the removal and restoration of theatre pipe organs.

Tedde is currently the organist/musician-in-residence at the First Baptist Church of Highland Park in Landover Maryland and is the organist at Capitol Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church and the Holy Comforter—St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church in Washington DC. Tedde has been featured in programs on our friends Jack and Mildred Hardman’s famed 4 manual, 36 rank Wurlitzer in Great Falls, Virginia and he previously has played outstanding programs for the FSTOS at Rice Auditorium. We welcome him back, after an absence of two years.





THE FREE STATE NEWS is published by the Free State Theatre Organ Society, Inc. for the enjoyment of its members and friends. The society's contact information is:

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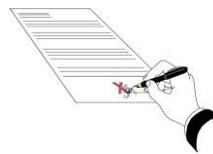
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raise a child.” In the case of FSTOS, it takes teamwork to accomplish the Society’s goals. Over the past year, we have promoted regular theatre organ concerts at Rice Auditorium, continued work at Stone Cottages E on the Wurlitzer pipe organ and, most recently, are in the process of removing Paul and Mary West Ensor’s pipe organ, which will be completed soon. Speaking of concerts, they bring the need for refreshments for which our *ad hoc* committee provides. All of this requires the services of our volunteers.

Thank you again members and volunteers of the Society for the generous support you have given. We look forward to 2018. We can always use more volunteers.

Several pictures of Charlie’s concert follow that were taken by Hillar Ilves. Please enjoy them.



**BERNIE’S
BLOG**
By Bernie Kuder

As mentioned in the last *Free State News* and in the previous article, we are still in the process of removing the Ensor’s combination pipe/digital organ. After the removal of the organ’s electronic portions in the organ chamber, removal of the pipe organ components still continues.

It’s a slow and painstaking process to ensure that the pipe organ components, as well as the Ensor’s house, don’t get damage. However, we are getting there. Transporting these parts on Tuesdays make fair weather mandatory. Sometimes, though, bad weather is a mixed blessing.

Rain was recently forecast for Tuesday, December 5th. Although it delayed completion of the organ removal for one week, the organ crew was able to get some work done on the Wurlitzer pipe organ at Stone Cottage E. You can be assured that the organ crew’s time is never wasted!

Needless to say, Kuder’s kudos go to our devoted organ crew. Hustling pipe organ parts out of an organ chamber, down a stairway, into a transport vehicle and unloaded at Cottage E is not the easiest of projects. We’re getting it done!

**HAVING OURSELVES
A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS**

By Buddy Boyd

Our December program featured Charlie Kokoski. What can be said about Christmas Music? There is not very much new music added each year. Yet Charlie is able to make new and interesting arrangements of the many old standards. He also introduced a few modern arrangements of some of the old standards. To wrap up his program, he produced a 30-minute slide show of seasonal pictures for which he provided an organ accompaniment. It was a great program and we look forward to his next performance.

As the year draws to a close, it’s never a better time to thank you for your support of the Free State Theatre Organ Society. It has been said that “it takes a village to



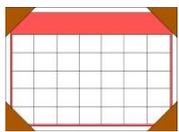
SOME LITTLE-KNOWN FACTS

By Your Editor

A recent surf on the Internet brought some interesting facts about New York City’s fabulous Radio City Music Hall. Here are a few for your consideration:

- * The twin Wurlitzer consoles were originally intended to be placed in their own lifts on either side of the orchestra pit. Showman Samuel “Roxy” Rothafel made a change in the design so that the consoles are now in their familiar alcoves. Early pictures of the Music Hall show the consoles without curtains and the organ platforms protruding slightly past the opening. Curtains were later added but they had to be installed from valances that are mounted on the outside of the niches to allow the curtain to close properly.
- * The grilles in the famous “sunset” ceiling were originally designed without lights behind them. Roxy made yet another change in the design so that the grilles were moved out a few feet in order for changeable colored lighting could be installed. This change was not favorable for the openings to the organ chambers. Moving the grilles out causes some of the organ’s sound to escape upwards.
- * Auditions for the Music Hall’s organist were held while the installation of the Mighty Wurlitzer was being completed. One of the consoles were placed on the great stage for organist auditions. Dick Leibert auditioned last and won by playing a medley of the music performed by some thirteen previous hopefuls.

- * The golden contour curtain on the Great Stage is the largest in the world.
- * The Music Hall recently replaced its LED screen that can be lowered into place on the back wall of the stage. It is the largest indoor LED screen in the world. The new one is rated at 8K resolution, twice the amount of current ultra-high definition screens.
- * The Radio City Music Hall Rockettes were from Saint Louis MO. Founded by Russell Markert as the Missouri Rockets, they caught the eye of impresario Roxy and opened the Roxy Theatre as the Roxyettes. When they moved to the Music Hall, they eventually received their current and famous name.
- * The 1933 New York opening of *King Kong* was simultaneously held at both the Music Hall and the R.K.O. Centre Theatre. Since both theatres were simultaneously running the movie and a stage show (of course with both Wurlitzers being used), approximately 10,000 total patrons could be accommodated at the same time. If there were five shows a day, that meant that at total of about 50,000 people saw the movie and stage show for the day.
- * The first Christmas Spectacular was inaugurated in December 1933. The Parade of the Wooden Soldiers and the Nativity were original acts and are still an integral part of the show. The Rockettes’ wooden soldier costumes were created by a set designer who would eventually leave the Music Hall, move to Hollywood and eventually become famous as a movie director ... Vincente Minnelli.



2017-2018 Season Program Calendar

- ☞ SEPTEMBER 10, 2017: Connor Ream
- ☞ NOVEMBER 5, 2017: Wayne Zimmerman

- ☞ DECEMBER 3, 2017: Charlie Kokoski
- ☞ JANUARY 14, 2018: Tedde Gibson
- ☞ FEBRUARY 11, 2018: Glenn Hough
- ☞ APRIL 8, 2018: Charlie Corson
- ☞ MAY 6, 2018: Don Kinnier
- ☞ JUNE 3, 2018: Mark Hurley

All programs, unless noted, are held at Rice Auditorium, Spring Street and Asylum Avenue of the Spring Grove Hospital Center, Catonsville, Maryland 21228 at 3:00 P.M. As mentioned elsewhere, for driving directions, visit our website at WWW.THEATREORGANS.COM/FREESTATE. If you have a question concerning the Program Calendar, please contact Pete D’Anna, our Program Director. This calendar will be updated as necessary. If the weather looks “iffy,” call our phone at Stone Cottage E at 410-402-7811 to check if we are having the program.