

Calendar of Coming Events

American Theatre Organ Society

Information Line: 303-466-3330

The following events are RMCATOS monthly socials at the:
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2000 W. 92nd Avenue, Federal Heights
The Holiday Hills Ballroom is home to a 4-manual/33-rank digital Wurlitzer

More information and map at: www.RMCATOS.org

November 12th – (Sun) – **“Got Gospel?” 2 pm**

Bev Bucci & Ed Wagner: Theatre Organ , Grand Piano & ?

An enjoyable afternoon with wonderfully talented musicians playing solos and duets of hymn tunes and other religious songs on the theatre organ, grand piano and an additional surprise or two.

Bev is a well known area organist and pianist and Ed is a former teacher from Lincoln, Nebraska that has toured Russia several times with Paul Mickelson who was organist for the Billy Graham Crusades.

Everyone welcome. No charge.

December 3rd - (Sun) – **“Christmas Potluck” 2 pm**

Members only.

At the Lakewood Cultural Center

Feb 11th – (Sun) – **“Two musicians: Marvelous Mixtures” 2 pm**

Jim Calm and Kevin Utter: Theatre Organ, Piano, Theremin

A Fun afternoon for all ages of a wide variety of music performed on theatre organ, grand piano, wind instruments and the Theremin (worlds' first electronic instrument). After the performance there will be a Theremin petting zoo for those who are interested in getting to better know the instrument.

Also included will be a short comedy silent film accompanied by a sightless theatre organist.

Reserved seats: Adults \$15 ... Students 21 and under \$5
Tickets available NOW at the box office, by phone or on line.

Would you like to become a RMCATOS member?

Annual dues, January to December, are \$15 per household.

Take advantage of the Fall Special: \$15 for 2017 & 2018

All members love music: 95% of them are NOT organists!

Membership details are on the website: www.RMCATOS.org

*The Rocky Mountain Chapter American Theatre Organ Society
and the Lakewood Cultural Center*

Present

Phantom of the Opera

A 1925 Silent Film starring

Lon Chaney

With

Theatre Organ Accompaniment

by

Randy Morris

At the console of the

Allen Walt Strony Signature

STR-4 theatre & classical digital organ

Lakewood Cultural Center

470 South Allison Parkway

Lakewood, Colorado

Saturday, October 28, 2017, 2 pm

www.RMCATOS.org

www.Lakewood.org/CulturalCenter

About the Artist

Randy Morris is one of the Denver area's premier classical and theatre organists. A native of Tipton, Indiana, Randy became interested in the organ at age 4. He began formal organ lessons at age 9, the same year he began playing organ at his home church. During his school years he continued playing at church, along with playing at local fairs and festivals.

Randy continued organ studies at The Ohio State University, and upon graduation continued Master's studies at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. While studying classical organ, Randy played theatre organ at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus, and many other locations around the Midwest, including the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, Indiana. Following Capital University, Randy worked for Yamaha International as a concert artist.

Following Yamaha, Randy has served as organist/choirmaster at churches in Indiana and Ohio. In 2010, Randy moved to Brighton, Colorado and currently serves as Organist, Director of Music for Zion Lutheran Church.

About the Film "The Phantom of the Opera"

The Phantom of the Opera starring Lon Chaney is based on the novel by Gaston Leroux and was first released in 1925 as a silent film. It was released again in 1929 with cuts and a few additions.

This afternoon you will be viewing the original 1929 version. The music being played has been selected by Randy Morris and is similar to 1929 theatre organ accompaniment. Therefore you will NOT be hearing any Andrew Lloyd Webber songs since they did not exist when the original film was released.

The film is in black and white, however when it was produced it was common to tint the screen to indicate night, sun light, fire or mystery. Technicolor was new and expensive, so just one scene, the masked ball scene, was filmed in color. Another technique, hand coloring, was used for Eric's red cloak in the scene on the roof of the opera house.

Lon Chaney was born in Colorado Springs to parents who were both deaf. He soon learned to communicate with his hands and face. As a teenager he got involved with vaudeville as a graceful dancer and comic actor.

Mr. Chaney is known for his unbelievable make-up skills. When *Phantom* was originally shown, many theatres advertised that trained nurses were on hand in the theatre to assist those patrons who could not handle the horror of the film.

About Theatre & Classical Organs

Theatre pipe organs (such as Wurlitzer) and **classical** pipe organs (such as church organs) each may have multiple manuals (keyboards), pedals for playing with feet, pipe chambers with shutters that open and close to control pipe volume, stop tabs or drawknobs to select which pipes should be played, and some number of pipe ranks ... a rank is a set of 61 to 105 pipes ... one pipe for each note and all make the same type of sound such as trumpet, diapason, flute, clarinet, tibia, tuba, etc.

The theatre organ was designed to accompany silent films and replace the orchestras that originally provided that music. To meet the financial needs of theater owners, theatre organs share ranks between manuals, have pipes that are more orchestral in sound, and include many percussions (snare drum, bass drum, glockenspiel, marimba, tambourine, castanets, etc.) and sound effects (horns, whistles, bells, etc.) all needed for movie accompaniment. Theatre organs have their stop tabs, that control which ranks are playing, in a horseshoe design making the tabs easier for the organist to access and quickly change their status.

Theatre organs usually have 4 to 36 ranks plus a "toy counter" of percussions; classical organs generally have from 20 to several hundred ranks and no toy counters.

Theatre organ pipes are traditionally housed in two pipe chambers: one on either side of the theatre's stage or movie screen. Classical pipe organs may have more than two pipe chambers scattered around the church or performance hall.

The Strony Digital Theatre & Classical Organ

Instead of pipes, the digital Strony Signature organ uses ranks of pipe samples which are digital recordings of actual pipe sounds. Digital volume controls are used instead of chamber shutters. The Strony instrument has 32 theatre ranks and 49 classical ranks. A switch determines if the colored stop tabs on the console control the theatre or classical ranks.

There is an additional "black box", in a drawer on the console, which contains 256 pipe and other sounds that may be selected by the organist. The organ's resulting pipe and other sounds play through 20 speaker cabinets distributed among three chambers housing a total of 36 speakers and 8 passive radiators. The digital organ console is identical to a pipe organ console. The Lakewood Cultural Center instrument is one of only six Strony STR-4 organs in the world.