

## Calendar of Coming Events

### *American Theatre Organ Society*

Information Line: 303-466-3330

**April 29<sup>th</sup>** – (Sat) – **“Doors Open Denver” 10 am to 2 pm**

**April 30<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **“Doors Open Denver” 10 am to 4 pm**

[www.DoorsOpenDenver.com](http://www.DoorsOpenDenver.com) Free, 69 participating sites

**Paramount Theatre, Downtown Denver, Open House**

Non-stop, live, Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ Music

Paramount’s original 1930, twin-console Mighty Wurlitzer

Organists change every 30 minutes

Guided and non-guided theatre tours

“How a pipe organ works” demos in the lobby

Continuous slide show of Paramount facts and history

Denver Paramount Theatre – 1621 Glenarm Place

Come whenever ... Stay as long or short as you wish

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The next two events are RMCATOS monthly socials at the:  
Holiday Hills Ballroom, 2000 W. 92<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.RMCATOS.org)

For the below social events, everyone is welcome. No charge.

**May 21<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **“Highly Ranked Organist” 2 pm**

Dave Weesner plays pop tunes from the 60’s and 70’s

**June 25<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **“Kwinn-tessentially Kwinn” 2 pm**

Bill Kwinn, organist and vocalist.

Guest artists Kathy Kwinn and Kevin Utter.

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**July 16<sup>th</sup>** – (Sun) – **“John Ledwon: Disney Organist”**

*John Ledwon, organist at Disney’s El Capitan Theatre  
located in Hollywood, California.*

John plays music from Broadway and films: Disney & others.  
Also live accompaniment of the 1928 very first Mickey Mouse  
cartoon which was a silent film.

Lakewood Cultural Center – 2 pm – Reserved Seats

Adults \$15 ... Students 21 and under \$5

Tickets available after May 1<sup>st</sup> @ 303-987-7845

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*Would you like to become a RMCATOS member?*

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

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

*Membership details are on the website: [www.RMCATOS.org](http://www.RMCATOS.org)*

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY  
AND THE LAKEWOOD CULTURAL CENTER

**Present**

# The Mark of Zorro

**A 1920 Silent Film starring**

**Douglas Fairbanks**

**With**

**Theatre Organ Accompaniment**

**by**

# Walt Strony

**At the console of the**

**Allen Walt Strony Signature**

**STR-4 theatre & classical digital organ**

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**Lakewood Cultural Center**

470 South Allison Parkway

Lakewood, Colorado

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**Saturday, March 18, 2017, 7:30 pm**

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

[www.Lakewood.org/CulturalCenter](http://www.Lakewood.org/CulturalCenter)

## About the Artist

**Walter Strony** is one of America's premier concert organists. He made his public debut in 1974 at the age of 18 and has since established himself as one of few organists equally at home playing both theatre and classical organ.

Mr. Strony has performed hundreds of concerts from coast to coast in the United States as well as in Japan, Australia, England, and Canada. In addition, he has performed at many conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists.

In June 2016, he was featured for the second time in an evening concert on the famous Wanamaker organ in Philadelphia -- the world's largest fully functioning pipe organ.

As an author, he is well known for his book "The Secrets Of Theatre Organ Registration", which has become the standard reference book on this subject. He is currently working on its expanded 2nd Edition, which will be released soon.

In addition to being one of America's most sought after concert organists, he is well known for his work as a pipe and digital organ consultant-tonal finisher. His work in this area has taken him to both theatre and classical instruments across the country and around the world. In 2008, the Allen Organ Company commissioned him to design a new four-manual instrument - the Walt Strony Signature Series Organ which is the instrument that has recently been installed at the Lakewood Cultural Center.

## About the Film "The Mark of Zorro"

*The Mark of Zorro* is a 1920 silent adventure romance film starring Douglas Fairbanks, Sr; A graduate of Denver East High School! This genre-defining swashbuckler adventure was the first movie version of *The Mark of Zorro*. Based on the 1919 story "*The Curse of Capistrano*" by Johnston McCulley, which introduced the masked hero, Zorro.

The film has been remade twice, once in 1940 (starring Tyrone Power) and again in 1974 (starring Frank Langella). In 2015, the United States Library of Congress selected the film for preservation in the National Film Registry, finding it "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant".

Mr. Strony is playing his own original accompaniment score. The film never had it's own score, thus every accompanist plays their own musical interpretation of the activity on the screen.

## 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, 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 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 resulting pipe and other sounds play through 20 speaker cabinets housing a total of 36 speakers separated among three chambers. 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.