

Tibia Tidbits

February 2011
Volume 36 No. 1

The Newsletter of the North Texas Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

THREE World Class Organists Appearing at North Texas Chapter Events . . .

The Sounds of Music will fill the air during February as the MPAC Mighty Wurlitzer will be showcased by no fewer than THREE world class musicians. Each will present a totally different type of program, yet each program will be representative of the various uses of the Mighty Wurlitzer back in its “heyday.” We’ll certainly have an opportunity to experience the true versatility of the theatre organ when it is in capable hands of great musicians.

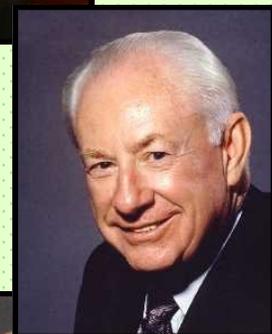
Our first musical offering will be under the capable hands of **Brett Valliant** on **February 12** as he brings to life the silent movie *Student Prince in Old Heidelberg*, a 1927 Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer silent film based on a novel by Wilhelm Meyer-Förster. Ernst Lubitsch directed the picture which will be the second “Silents on the Square” offering for the year. See page 4 for more information about both Brett Valliant and the film.

Then on **February 20th**, famed Radio City Music Hall Organist **Robert MacDonald** will grace the console for the February NTC Chapter Meeting. Bob will present a “mini-concert” immediately following our annual Chapter Officer’s election and business meeting. Bob’s fascinating bio can be seen on page 5!

And last, but certainly not least, noted international concert artist **Jelani Eddington** will present a master class *“The Art of Theatre Organ Arranging”* on February 27th at 2:00 PM. The master class is based around Jelani’s new books of the same name and is designed to provide the fundamentals for making a complete theatre organ arrangement. Interest in the class has been good and tickets are available through MPAC.



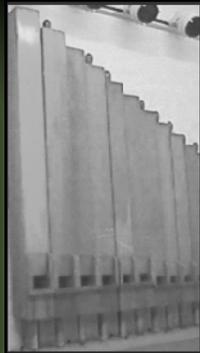
Brett Valliant



Bob MacDonald



Jelani Eddington



Officers

Don Peterson
President
972-422-7757

Mike Tarzis
1st. Vice President
903-868-1245

Ian Clark
2nd. Vice President
972-964-9912

Al Cavitt
Secretary
972-296-7138

Barbara Brown
Treasurer
972-442-6932

Contacts

Don Peterson
Newsletter
972-422-7757

Ken Brown
Venue Relations
972-442-6932

Ian Clark
Webmaster
972-964-9912

The NTC-ATOS is a Non-Profit 501(c)(3) Corporation, EID # 23-7307920, Texas Charter Number 38063001

Organized for the purpose of preserving the Theatre Organ to perpetuate the understanding and enjoyment of the instrument and its music

The February chapter meeting is our annual meeting. We also elect the officers to serve the chapter for 2011. In order to vote, your annual chapter dues must be paid up before the election.

Since my last report, several things of interest have occurred. The traveling organ has been placed on wheels to facilitate movement when it is in a facility where it will be moved around. This will occur during February when the organ will be at Lord of Life Lutheran Church. There are at least five theatre organ performances scheduled to be presented by the church. The actual schedule is published elsewhere in this issue. Also, some interest has been expressed in the use of the traveling organ in the Houston area as they currently do not have a theatre organ available to them.

Our Wurlitzer at MPAC now has the 16' octave of the Tibia playing. What a difference this makes to the bass on the organ. You will hear it at the chapter meeting as well as at the Silents on the Square presentation of "The Student Prince in old Heidelberg" on February 12th. I am sure that Jelani will make good use of it during his Master Class "The Art of Theatre Organ Arranging" on February 27th.

Our first planning meeting with the Director from the McKinney Repertory Theater group, Alden Bowers, for our May 6th presentation of

"Peter and the Wolf", was held on January 23rd. She is very excited about this program. This will be a MAJOR presentation for both the McKinney Repertory Theater group and the North Texas Chapter. John Ledwon, staff organist at the El Capitan theater in Los Angeles, is booked to play the music that is essential to this work.



In December Ken Brown our Venue Search Chairman, was admitted to the hospital where he successfully underwent a quintuple heart by-pass surgery. At this writing, he has been released from the hospital and is at home recuperating. Ken is also the husband of Barbara Brown, our chapter Treasurer.

I am looking forward to an exciting year for the chapter for both the Wurlitzer at MPAC and the Traveling Organ. Come be a part of all the chapter meetings and events. Bring friends! We always welcome new members.

Don

Have you renewed your membership ?

Our NTC Membership year expires each year on December 31 and it is time for all of us to renew our memberships. YOUR dues help cover the expenses for organ maintenance, our newsletter and other Chapter expenses. Your membership must be paid in full by February 20 in order to vote for our officers and on other Chapter business.

And while you're renewing . . . if you are a "friend" of the Chapter, please consider upgrading your membership by joining the American Theatre Organ Society. Membership in the national supports many worthy programs and projects, the annual ATOS convention, and Theatre Organ - the periodical totally devoted to the American theatre organ!

A Note from the Secretary's Desk . . .

Al Cavitt— Secretary

I trust all had a grand time at the Christmas Party. The music provided by those who played the Wurlitzer, and the duets with the piano, was really great! Many thanks to the Chapter members who assisted with the musical presentation.

Well, the really hard winter weather has missed us, so far. Still have a few months to go. I hope the weather doesn't cause anyone to miss our Annual Meeting and the election of officers. Remember, Your Vote Counts! I have not been contacted by any member wishing to run for any Chapter offices. There is still time for anyone to do so, as well as having nominations from the floor. Remember that you must be a member in good standing to vote at the February meeting.

Don't forget *The Student Prince in Old Heidelberg* will be shown at 7:30PM on the 12th of Febru-

ary with Brett Valliant at the console. Jelani Edgington will be instructing a Master Class in arranging, creating registrations, phrasing and modulation on the 27th of February. I hope you can attend these events as you won't be disappointed.



Stay well, keep warm and enjoy the music. *Peter and The Wolf* is just around the corner!

See you at the console
A

Maintenance Update . . .

Our Chapter Maintenance Committee has been quite busy of late continuing to make improvements to our Mighty Wurlitzer. Due to space limitations, electronic extensions have been added to extend the Tibia Clausa rank down to 16' and the effect is quite impressive in the room. The organ has BASS now! And other extensions of the Salicional and Trumpet are quite effective as well. We appreciate the efforts of member Greg Reynolds who fabricated a great subwoofer used for these ranks.

The maintenance crew also continues to work on enhancing the organ's computer system to enhance both speed and reliability. A second chamber computer has been added to the Opus Two control system in the Solo Chamber (audience right) which will split the processing load and allow the traps and tuned percussions to work more effectively. Ian Clark has been the leader of the computer software projects and we appreciate his efforts!

A Note From the Editor . . .

Bob Acker

In October our President, Don Peterson asked me to help out with the newsletter temporarily as he understandably was very busy helping with his wife's illness and treatment. While its been a while since I did newsletter work, I've enjoyed hearing from many of you, catching up on Chapter happenings and getting reacquainted with many of you. Although I'll now be turning the newsletter over to others, I wish the Chapter much success and hope that from time to time our paths will cross at concerts and events.

Please continue to keep Ken Brown, husband of Treasurer Barbara Brown, and Annette Peterson, wife of President Don Peterson in your thoughts and prayers as they continue to recover from their illnesses.

Bob

The Student Prince of Old Heidelberg

featuring

Brett Valliant at the Mighty Wurlitzer

Saturday, February 12 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets available through MPAC ticket office!



The Movie: *Young Prince Karl Heinrich has spent his entire life behind the palace gates protected from the world. He has been raised in a melancholy atmosphere of strict discipline and duty, yet he often looks out at the frolics of youths and maidens who live beyond the walls. When he passes his exams, Karl is sent to Heidelberg to complete his studies. It is a heady new world of brew, song, and comradeship. Karl falls in love with Kathi, a pretty barmaid,*

and she reciprocates. But can the love survive their disparate backgrounds? Will Karl ever find happiness or will duty deny it to him? We'll find out on February 12th at the McKinney Performing Arts Center!

About Brett Valliant: Brett Valliant is an American organist in demand for his ability to perform many different genres of music on the instrument he loves. Whether at an organ in a concert hall, a majestic church organ on Sunday morning, a mighty Wurlitzer in a theatre, or a Hammond B-3, Brett is right at home.

In the world of silent film, Brett is known for scoring and accompanying many films but is best known for dramatic films such as *King Of Kings*, *Phantom Of The Opera*, *The Ten Commandments*, *Broken Blossoms*, *Wings*, and *The Eagle*. He plays annually for several film festivals including the International Film Festival hosted by the American Film Institute, and has been a featured performer at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists and the American Theatre Organ Society. He has toured extensively as a solo artist, featured soloist with orchestras, and film accompanist abroad and throughout the United States. He resides in Wichita KS with his tiny Chihuahua "Mabel."



This project is funded in part by the City of McKinney through the City of McKinney Arts Commission.

NTC Annual Business Meeting & Mini-Concert

**Featuring the music of
Robert MacDonald**



Sunday, February 20 at 2:30 p.m.

February 20th will be an important day in the life of our Chapter as we have our annual business meeting in which we have Officer's elections and annual reports to the membership on our various chapter activities. Our Officer's keep our Chapter going and if you would like to serve as an officer, contact Mike Tarzis, chairman of the nominating committee as soon as possible.

Following the business meeting, we will enjoy the wonderful music of Bob MacDonald on the Mighty Wurlitzer!

About our artist: A life-long church musician beginning at age ten, **Robert MacDonald** has taught public school music, is a published composer, has directed choral societies, and even entertained in supper clubs. He moved to New York City in 1969 when he was appointed Associate Organist & Choir Director of The Riverside Church in New York City from 1969 to 1977. In 1977 he was appointed Director of Music at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey.

In 1980, **MacDonald** became a staff organist at the famous Radio City Music Hall in New York City where he performed before over a million patrons as an integral part of the annual 10 week Radio City Musical Hall Christmas Spectacular. Robert and his fellow organist George Wesner performed the music at the famous twin consoles which were a full city block apart!

Leaving NYC in 1989 he became Organist - Choir Director at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, Texas, a position he held until his retirement in August of 2006. His retirement has been anything but "retired" and in the last few years Robert has been guest organist at churches throughout the country playing services or recitals almost every Sunday. We look forward to his program for NTC on February 20th!

E-Tidbits

We are trying something new this month — "E-Tidbits" which is the electronic version of our bi-monthly newsletter. Each member family for which we have an email address will also receive a copy of the newsletter via Email! We are hoping that in the near future many of our members will opt for electronic distribution which saves the Chapter production cost of the newsletter and also postage!



Lord of Life Lutheran Church
3601 W. 15th Street
Plano, Texas 75075
972-867-5588
info@lol-plano.org

The Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Plano has invited the members of the North Texas Chapter—ATOS to join them for “Theatre Organ Month” at their church. A series of weekly concerts on the NTC-ATOS “Travel Organ” will be presented culminating in the presentation of *King of Kings* by none other than Jelani Eddington! Schedule events include:

- **Wed, February 2, 1:05 pm:** Organist **Bob Whiteman** returns again this year in a performance of popular music from the 40s through the 70s.
- **Wed, February 9, 1:05 pm:** Organist **Ben Kolodziej** plays music from Broadway and the popular stage.
- **Wed, February 16, 1:05 pm:** Organist **Ben Kolodziej** will play folk music as well as engage in a “sing along” with favorite gospel-style hymns and songs. (Ben will be taking requests!)
- **Wed, February 23, 1:05 pm:** **Robert MacDonald**, former organist at Radio City Music Hall, performs a patriotic concert for Flag Day, including accompanying Laurel and Hardy’s short film *Liberty*, which will be shown on a large screen.
- **Saturday, 26 February, 7:00 pm:** Noted theatre organist **Jelani Eddington** appears at Lord of Life accompanying Cecil B Demille’s *King of Kings*, the 1927 classic film portraying the life of Christ. Please visit the press release for more information: <http://www.lol-plano.org/EddingtonPR.doc>.

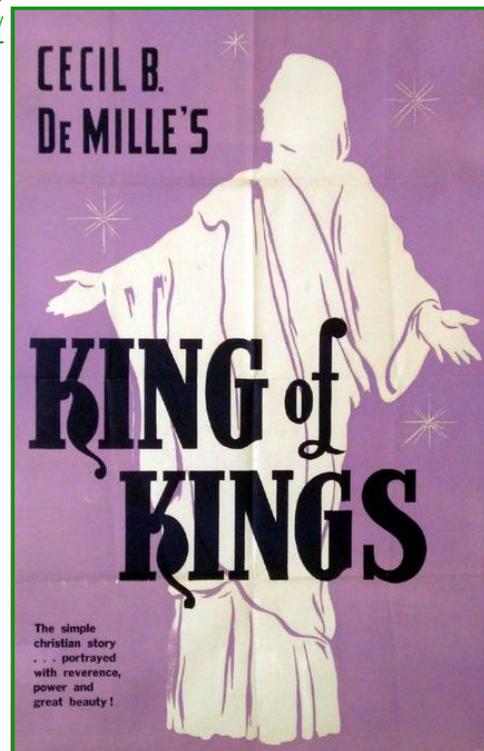
Saturday

**Feb. 26, 2011
at 7:00 pm**

ADMISSION IS \$10.00

General admission tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling or emailing the church office.

Email: office@lol-plano.org



A Master Class *The Art Of Theatre Organ Arranging*

2 - 4 PM February 27, 2011

McKinney Performing Arts Center
McKinney, Texas

Registration fee - \$20.00

For more information visit

www.ntc-atos.org

For Tickets:

www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org



R. Jelani Eddington
Instructor



This project is funded in part by the City of McKinney through the City of McKinney Arts Commission.

This class is presented by the North Texas Chapter - ATOS

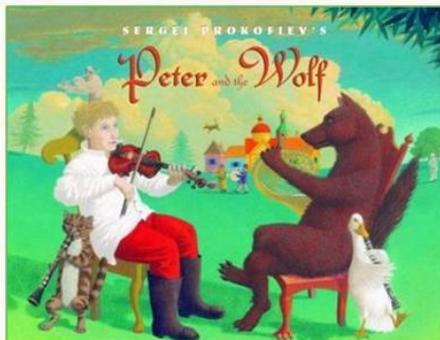
C
O
M
I
N
G

M
A
Y

6

*The North Texas Chapter
and the McKinney Repertory Theatre
present...*

peter and the wolf



This project is funded in part by the City of McKinney through the City of McKinney Arts Commission.



Theatre Organ Coming Events

- February 2 1:05 PM Bob Whiteman: *Music of the 40's—70's* (Lord of Life—Plano)
February 9 1:05 PM Ben Kolodziej: *Music from Broadway & Stage* (Lord of Life—Plano)
February 12 7:30 PM Brett Valliant Silent Movie: *Student Prince in Old Heidelberg* (MPAC)
February 16 1:05 PM Ben Kolodziej: *Folk Music & Sing-a-long* (LOL-Plano)
February 20 2:30 PM Robert MacDonald: *NTC Chapter Concert* (MPAC)
February 23 1:05 PM Robert MacDonald: *Patriotic Concert & "Liberty" Silent Movie* (Lord of Life—Plano)
February 26 7:00 PM R. Jelani Eddington Silent Movie: *King of Kings* (Lord of Life - Plano)
February 27 2:00 PM R. Jelani Eddington: *The Art of Theatre Organ Arranging* (MPAC)
May 6 TBA John Ledwon:& McKinney Young Repertory: *Peter & The Wolf*

First Class Mail

Tibia Tibbits
1627 Amherst Drive
Plano, Texas 75075-7207

