

BLACKWOOD NOTES

In 1999, the Blackwood Theater Organ Society -- now Blackwood Arts -- was recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and all contributions to it are tax deductible, as allowed by law. Blackwood Arts has annual concerts for Make-A-Wish to benefit children in areas north of Allegheny County, and a funded program that awards scholarships to high school seniors continuing their education towards a career in instrumental music education and performance. It is a volunteer organization, with no paid staff.

HELLO . . . It's been too long, and WE MISS YOU! For two years, COVID-19 has forced us to cancel or restrict our concerts. We miss sitting with you and listening to GIANT talent performing in our small setting then mingling with us as friends. We miss the cookies and lemon bars and special treats you so lovingly bake for our refreshments. We miss the camaraderie that we share at a dinner-concert before parting for a long, cold winter – because we are friends, kindred spirits—a closeness that is experienced by the uniqueness of Blackwood. Blooming meadows, spraying ponds, woodlands and walkways, along with smiles and open arms, will always be waiting for you.

A TREMENDOUS SEASON HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 2022. EXPECT AN EARLY SELL OUT!

The reviews of this year's concerts will contain many superlatives. We are introducing new performers—Jason Kush and the SRU jazz combo band, Clark Wilson, and Brett Valliant --and are bringing back an old favorite— **Dave Wickerham**.



Take the “A” Train to Blackwood

Come jazz up your June with our spectacular Jazz concert, an eight-piece jazz combo from Slippery Rock University, scheduled for Sunday, June 5 at 2:00 pm!

In typical Blackwood generosity and greatness, this outdoor concert will benefit scholarships for

SRU's jazz students and other upcoming projects, such as a tour in Europe in the Summer of 2023 (cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic). SRU Jazz director Dr. Jason Kush will wow us all with his participation in this group; the program features the music of Duke Ellington and Pittsburgh native Billy Strayhorn. Twice so far this year Kush has played multiple saxophone solos with two concerts with the Pittsburgh Symphony, and he frequently has prominent gigs in the Pittsburgh jazz scene. In addition to joining the PSO for a European tour, he has also played with the Woody Herman Orchestra and the New World Symphony (including a European tour), among many other honors. His dedication to furthering the careers of young musicians is tireless.

Tickets are \$30, but any donations above ticket prices will be matched (up to \$2000) by a generous anonymous donor. Because the concert will be held outside, near the gazebo, we have no limit on crowd size, so bring as many of your friends as possible to this great event, as we hope for a huge success to boost the performances of all these young musicians.

Dave Wickerham Returns for Make-A-Wish

One of Blackwood's favorite organists will return again to Blackwood and dazzle you with his gorgeous arrangements of those memorable songs of the past 50 years. Dave Wickerham first performed at Blackwood in 2007. Jason and Haley Wiles



were so impressed by his talent, they asked him to be the organist at their wedding at Blackwood in 2008... and he has returned almost every year since then. This year Dave was chosen by the American Theater Organ Society to be one of the featured organists at its national convention in San Diego. He will be performing at the Balboa Theater on Wednesday July 6 and fly to Pittsburgh to delight our audience for our 32nd annual fund raiser for **Make-A-Wish on Sunday July 10 for 2 sessions at 2:00 and 4:30 pm**. Dave's concerts are always entertaining. Be prepared to hear the best of Broadway, Ragtime, Disco, Marches, or Latin American music along with medleys of your favorite hymns. His concerts are not set in stone. He has been known to change his repertoire just by hearing a few notes on a patron's cell phone.

Make-A-Wish concerts fill up quickly. You don't want to miss this opportunity to hear one of the finest theater organists in the world. All contributions are received by representatives of Make-A-Wish the day of the concert.

Silents, please . . .

Presenting Our 2022 Series of the Finest Silent Films at Blackwood

We are fortunate indeed to have with us once again accompanist-extraordinaire Clark Wilson. His setting for our first series feature "Sunrise" was praised by all, and we look forward to hearing his scores for both "The Thief of Bagdad" and "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari."



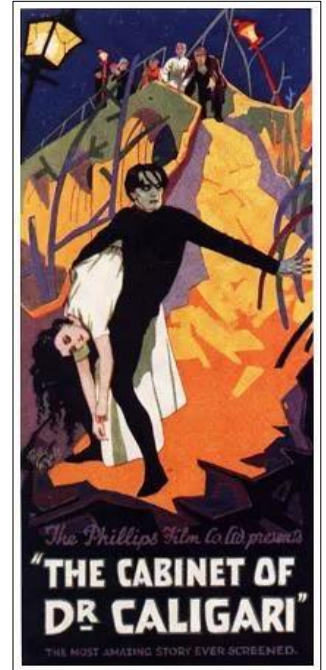
On Sunday September 18, Clark will accompany one of the great films of the silent era, "The Thief of Bagdad" starring Douglas Fairbanks.

"A feat of motion picture art which has never been equaled and one which itself will enthrall persons again and again". Nearly 100 years have passed since that assessment appeared in the New York Times, but you have the rare opportunity to join Douglas Fairbanks aboard his magic carpet as he swashbuckles his way through a gauntlet of death-defying adventures to prove he is worthy of winning the hand of the beautiful princess. Spectacular sets and amazing costumes fill this

Arabian Nights fantasy, showcasing Fairbanks at the peak of his athletic ability, performing stunts that would have done credit to a man half his age. This is surely a film to attract a wide audience . . . make sure to sign up early.

To end our 2022 season of events, on Sunday October 16 we will bring back Clark Wilson to accompany the acclaimed German cult film "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari". Considered by many to be the first true horror film, "The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari" pulls us into a jagged landscape of sharp angles, tilted walls and windows, staircases climbing crazy diagonals, trees with spiky leaves and grass that looks like knives - a place that exists nowhere but in the psyche of a deranged mind. Affected, mechanical and even robotic acting styles meld perfectly with the distorted surroundings. Who is sane and who is not? We are left to draw our own conclusions. Sign up quickly for this film . . . if you dare.

We investigated the possibility of buying a life insurance policy for the benefit of anyone who might suffer from an unfortunate medical occurrence while watching this film. Regrettably, we could not afford the premium.



2022 Scholarship Winners Display Talent at Recital

Mark Sunday, May 22 on your calendar NOW to attend the Recital by this year's Blackwood Arts scholarship winners. **The Recital is FREE**, so come and bring a few friends. The program will include a variety of instruments; the talent of those performing is exceptional! Scholarships this year total \$18,000. Scholarship awardees, performing at the Recital, are (in alphabetical order): Abigail Alexandra (oboe) North Hills High School; Kaitlyn Dotson (flute) Franklin Regional High School; Aaron Fulton (French horn) Canon-McMillan High School; Jackson Hunt (piano) Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School; Rebecca Mack (oboe) Bethel Park High School. Over the past 22 years, a total of \$370,500 has been awarded to 111 high school seniors eager to pursue a music career in either performance or education.



**Abigail
Alexandra**



**Kaitlyn
Dotson**



**Aaron
Fulton**



**Jackson
Hunt**



**Rebecca
Mack**

Introducing Brett Valliant, ATOS Organist of the Year 2021 . . .

On Sunday, October 2nd, Brett will make his debut at Blackwood, as the guest artist for our annual Scholarship Dinner Concert. Whether sitting at an organ in a concert hall, a majestic church organ, or a mighty Wurlitzer in a theatre, he is right at home!

Inspired by organ music when he was just three years old, Brett began studying piano and organ. By the age of 12, he was employed as a church organist, having held onto the dream he had at such an early age. When Brett was 19, he embarked on his first international concert tour! For 21 years, he was the organist and music director of First United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas. Brett is also the Artist-In-Residence for the Wichita Wurlitzer, where he often performs on the former New York Paramount Wurlitzer organ. His recordings have been featured on National Public Radio's "Pipe Dreams" and the National Bible Broadcasting Network.



Today Brett is one of two resident organists at the Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona which houses one of the world's largest theatre organs. In addition to performing at Organ Stop, Brett accompanies and scores silent films, and appears annually at numerous film festivals. He has toured extensively as a concert artist throughout the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe and regularly appears at both theater and classical organ conventions.

Seats for this concert are limited, and will sell quickly, so make your reservations early! It will, no doubt, be a memorable experience!

BLACKWOOD ARTS 2022 PROGRAM AND RESERVATIONS

BLACKWOOD ARTS continues to be an all-volunteer organization. Some contribute much because they know what needs to be done. Willing hands are always welcome to share the journey, for we work as a team . . . as friends.

PROGRAM FOR 2022: All concerts are on a **SUNDAY**, begin at **2:00 pm (unless noted)**, and include refreshments.

✂ ✂✂ ✂✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ **Please clip and return** ✂ ✂✂ ✂✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

<input type="checkbox"/> June 5 -SRU JAZZ COMBO.....	\$30 PER PERSON	\$ _____
	SRU MATCHING CONTRIBUTION	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> September 18 -WILSON/DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS film – “THE THIEF OF BAGDAD”	\$30 PER PERSON	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> October 2 -SCHOLARSHIP DINNER CONCERT.....	\$150 PER PERSON	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> October 16 -WILSON/CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI film	\$30 PER PERSON	\$ _____
1	TAX EXEMPT CONTRIBUTION	\$ _____
TOTAL PAYABLE TO “BLACKWOOD ARTS” -----		\$ _____

May 22 -RECITAL BY SCHOLARS (FREE)Number Attending _____

JULY 10 -MAKE A WISH CONCERT, 2:00 or 4:30 pmTime _____ Number Attending _____

Checks, payable to “Make A Wish” will be received at the concert.

VOLUNTEER: FOOD _____ OTHER/INFORMATION _____

NAME _____ E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

Note: Your cancelled check will confirm your reservations; no tickets will be issued

**MAIL TO: Blackwood Arts C/O BENJAMIN ROBERTSON
118 BLACKWOOD LANE, HARRISVILLE, PA 16038
724-735-2813**

2022 CALENDAR

MAY 22 – 2:00 pm
2022 Student Recital

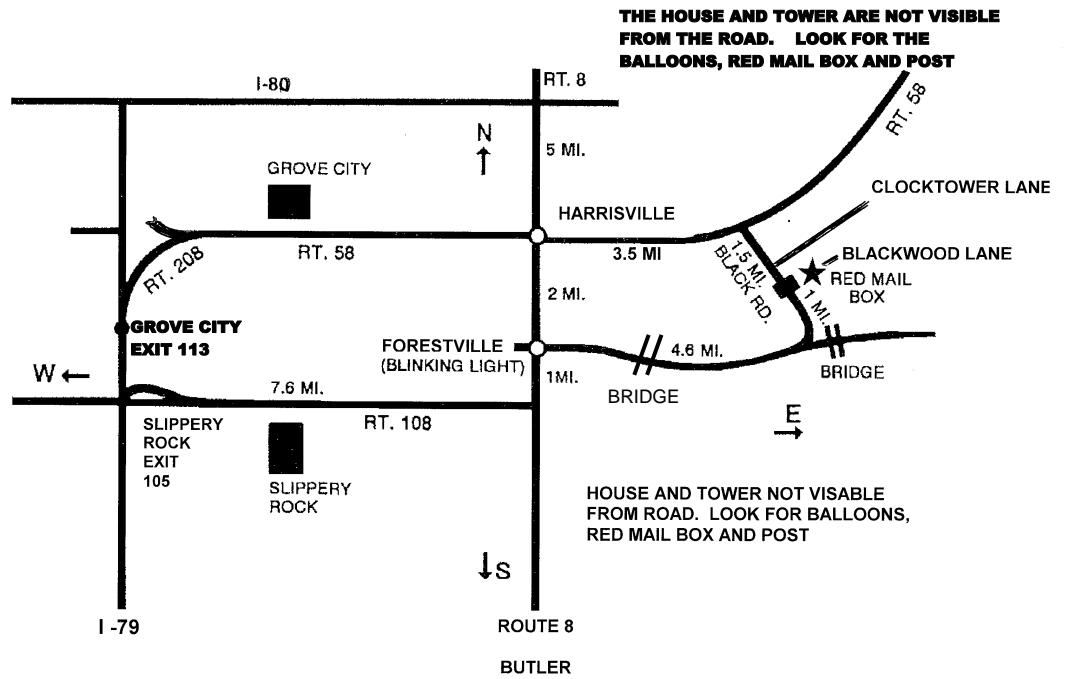
JUNE 5 – 2:00 pm
SRU Jazz Combo

JULY 10 – 2:00 and 4:30 pm
Make-A-Wish Concert
Dave Wickerham

SEPTEMBER 18 – 2:00 pm
Silent Film “Thief of Bagdad”
Clark Wilson, Organist

OCTOBER 2 – 2:00 pm
Scholarship Dinner Concert
Brett Valliant

OCTOBER 16 – 2:00 pm
Silent Film “Cabinet of Dr. Caligari”
Clark Wilson, Organist



BLACKWOOD – 118 Blackwood Lane, Harrisville, PA 16038
724 - 735 2813

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED
TO AN OUTSTANDING RECITAL BY THE
2022 BLACKWOOD ARTS SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS
SUNDAY, MAY 22nd 2:00 PM, at BLACKWOOD**

NEWSLETTER

118 Blackwood Lane ■ Harrisville, PA 16038

Blackwood Arts