

# 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.

## A TREMENDOUS SEASON HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 2023. EXPECT AN EARLY SELL OUT!

The reviews of this year's concerts will contain many superlatives. We are showcasing Blackwood favorites—Jelani Eddington, Ron Rhode, Chris Elliott, Clark Wilson, and Adam Swanson.

### Jelani Eddington Performs for Scholarship Dinner Patrons



**JELANI EDDINGTON**, one of the world's greatest theatre organists, will perform for the Scholarship Dinner on **October 8th**. The program will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m. and end with a catered dinner.

At the age of 12, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's

ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition for ages 13 – 21 from the United States, England, Australia, and New Zealand, and he remains the youngest ever to win that title. In 2001, ATOS named him Theatre Organist of the Year.

Blackwood was first introduced to this genius in 2005. Since then, he has returned many times, sometimes even to perform Grieg's Piano Concerto in A minor and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No.2 on the piano.

In 2014, Jelani became the first, and only, musician to have a video of his theatre organ performance go viral. Within a few weeks, Jelani's performance of John William's "Star Wars Symphonic Suite" was viewed on YouTube over a million times in more than 200 countries around the world, and within two years that number had more than doubled.

### Ron Rhode Returns for Make-A-Wish Benefit Concert

One of the most popular theatre organists, **RON RHODE** will be returning to Blackwood on **July 16th** for a single performance to benefit the children of the Make-A-Wish in our area. This concert will begin at 2:00 p.m., with refreshments to follow. Ron first came to Blackwood in 1995, also for Make-A-Wish, and he has been back many times.



Ron began his career playing in roller rinks but quickly became associated with the Organ Stop Pizza restaurants in Phoenix and Mesa, Arizona, and with the Orpheum Theatre Sunday silent movie series. His traditional style and warm personality have enabled him to have repeat tours in Canada, England, Australia, and throughout the United States, where he is a favorite at the American Theatre Organ Society conventions. In 1989, ATOS awarded him Theatre Organist of the Year.

He has at least 20 recordings. all of which have been top rated by CD Review Magazine. Ron considers "VINTAGE" -- a recording that was lost and only recently found—to be his BEST. And that is what we will be getting on **July 16th** --- VINTAGE RON RHODE. Make your reservation today.

## Silents, please . . .

**Show People / M-G-M / 1928 / 82 Minutes**

We open our 2023 film season on **August 6<sup>th</sup>** at Blackwood with a memorable M-G-M comedy, as Marion Davies and William Haines star in "Show People", a sly send-up of Hollywood in the 1920's. We follow the career of Peggy Pepper (Davies) from her early days as comic foil in two-reel comedies to her rapid ascent to 'Queen of the Lot' status as Patricia Peppoire at 'High Art Pictures', all under the guiding hand of established comedian Billy Boone (Haines). Hilarity ensues. Cameos of famous M-G-M stars abound, with lots of in-jokes in this fast-paced comedy with Davies at her comedic best and Haines providing solid support.



As "Variety" noted at the time.... "As an entertainment "Show People" is a good number. It has laughs, studio atmosphere galore, intimate glimpses of famous stars, considerable Hollywood geography, and just enough sense and plausibility to hold it together."

We are very pleased to have Blackwood favorite **CHRIS ELLIOTT** with us once again providing his expert accompaniment for "Show People."



**Wings / Paramount / 1927 / 144 Minutes**

B & W with original color tints restored

On May 16, 1929, the first Academy Awards were presented to a small gathering at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in Hollywood. Two pictures were honored within the category we would now call 'Best Picture': F. W. Murnau's "Sunrise" (shown previously at Blackwood) received the 'Unique and Artistic Picture' Award, and the nod for 'Best Production' went to William A. Wellman's World War I epic "Wings."



Charles 'Buddy' Rogers and Richard Arlen portray two carefree young men pursuing the same girl (1920's 'It' Girl Clara Bow). When America enters the War, they both eagerly join up and train as fighter pilots. They are dispatched to Europe, and all too soon face the grim realities of war. First rate acting and the

spectacular early 'dogfight' sequences make this one of the premier films portraying the "War to end all wars."

As part of Paramount Pictures' 100th Anniversary Celebration in 2012, **CLARK WILSON** was chosen to accompany a special showing of "Wings" at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. We are fortunate, indeed, to have Clark reprising that role for our showing here at Blackwood on **September 3<sup>rd</sup>**.



## 2023 Scholarship Winners

Scholarships this year total **\$19,000**. Scholarship awardees are (in alphabetical order):

**Leif DeForce-Peterson** (violin) Deer Lakes HS

**Anna Prezioso** (bassoon) Canon McMillan HS

**Alexander Leyton Stern** (viola) Moon Area HS

Over the past **23** years, a total of **\$389,500** has been awarded to **114** high school seniors eager to pursue a music career in either performance or education.



**Leif  
DeForce-  
Peterson**



**Anna  
Prezioso**



**Alexander  
Leyton  
Stern**

# ADAM SWANSON PRESENTS RAGTIME AND JAZZ

On **September 17<sup>th</sup>** young **ADAM SWANSON** will be presenting his incomparable Ragtime music. Can you imagine the excitement!

When he was only 11 years old, Adam won the Junior Division of the 2003 World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest, becoming its youngest champion ever. He won the Junior Division two more times before winning the Adult World Championship at the age of 16, also the youngest ever. He was the only 4-time winner in the adult champion in the competition's 46-year history.

Adam made his New York debut in Carnegie Hall at the age of 19, where he performed with Michael Feinstein.; and at the age of 21, Adam performed a solo concert at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington, D.C.

He is a superstar, playing not only with his dexterous fingers but also with his forearm or elbow and, sometimes continuing off the piano keys into the air and then slamming down for the Tiger Rag repeats.



## BLACKWOOD ARTS 2023 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 2023: All concerts are on a Sunday, begin at 2:00 pm, and include refreshments.**

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- ( ) August 6 –“SHOW PEOPLE” silent film comedy..... \$30 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ( ) September 3 –“WINGS” silent film/Clara Bow, Buddy Rogers... \$30 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ( ) September 17 RAGTIME PIANO CONCERT - Adam Swanson .... \$30 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ( ) October 8 - SCHOLARSHIP DINNER CONCERT – Eddington .... \$150 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TAX EXEMPT CONTRIBUTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL PAYABLE TO “BLACKWOOD ARTS” ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- ( ) July 16 -M-A-W CONCERT – Rhode 2:00 performance only -limited seating      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 ANN SOUZER  
615 IVAN DRIVE APT 2, GROVE CITY, PA 16127  
724-458-0356**

## 2023 CALENDAR

July 16 – 2:00 pm

Make-A-Wish Concert  
Ron Rhode

August 6 – 2:00 pm

Silent Film "Show People"  
Chris Elliott, Organist

September 3 – 2:00 pm

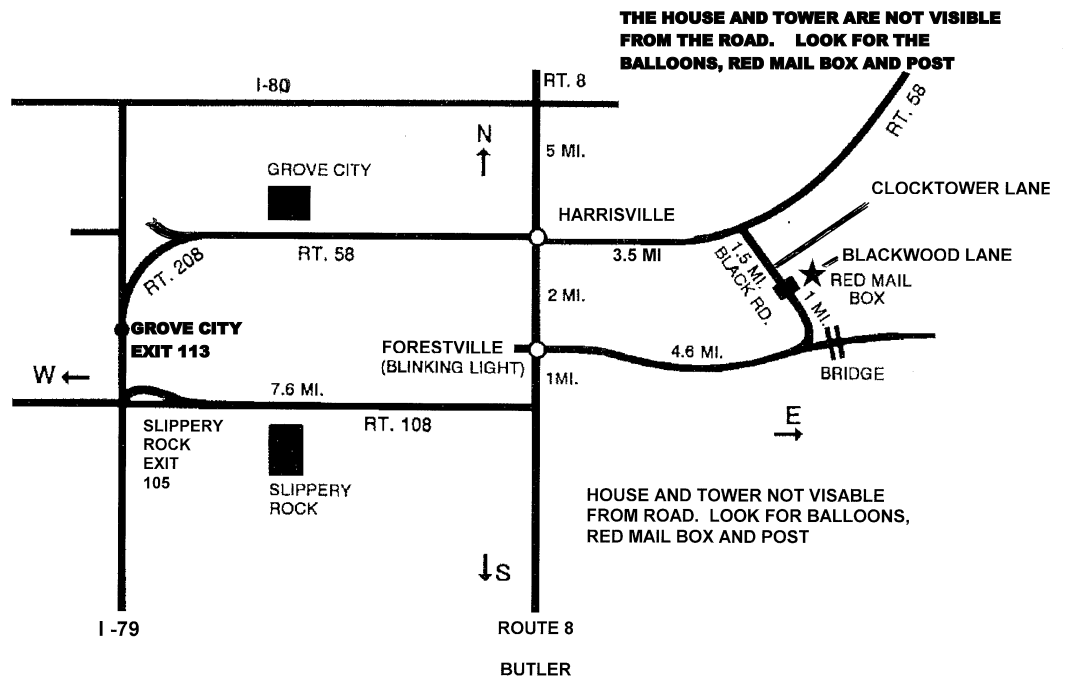
Silent film "Wings"  
Clark Wilson, Organist

September 17 – 2:00 pm

Ragtime Piano Concert  
Adam Swanson, Pianist

October 8 – 2:00 pm

Scholarship Dinner Concert  
Jelani Eddington, Organist



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

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*Blackwood Arts*