

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. It is a volunteer organization, with no paid staff.

A TREMENDOUS SEASON HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 2026. EXPECT AN EARLY SELL OUT!

Jonas Nordwell to Perform for the Make-A-Wish Fundraising Concert

JONAS NORDWALL, one of the most respected organists in the world, will be back for the MAW Fundraising Concert on **July 19**.



Jonas Nordwell

Nordwall is a brilliant organist, skilled in all types of music. He loves the theater pipe organ! It has consumed both his professional and personal life, and his enthusiasm connects with all who are privileged to hear him play.

At 16, Jonas performed before Sweden's King Gustav Adolf. Since then, he has captured audiences in China, Japan, Switzerland, the U.K., New Zealand, and Australia. He had long runs at the lavish Organ Grinder restaurants in Portland and Denver, has solo appearances with Symphony Orchestras in Oregon, Washington, Vancouver, and the Silicon Valley, and is a regular for American Guild of Organist and American Theater Organ Society conventions. Jonas has been the organist at Portland's First United Methodist Church since 1971.

Dave Wickerham to Play for Blackwood Patrons and School Children in September

Dave Wickerham will return to Blackwood on **Sunday, September 13**. He is a house favorite, and those who have experienced his concerts can attest that he is one-of-a-kind! Dave is one of the finest when it comes to improvisation and requests. Whether he is playing ragtime, big band, classical pops or sacred music, you will be totally immersed in his musical performance.



Dave Wickerham

A life-long musician, Dave began playing at age 4. By age 7, he was already receiving private instruction. Music truly is his passion. Incidentally, Dave will be extending his stay to play for two educational field trips the following day. More than 200 fourth graders will likely hear the theater organ for their first time. We thank him for helping us to keep this art form alive!

Make your reservations soon, as this show will sell out quickly. Concert begins at 2:00, followed by refreshments.



2026 Scholarship Winners

Scholarships this year total **\$33,000**. Scholarship awardees are (in alphabetical order):

Caitlan Cross (cello) Home School

Tesslin Fedder (violin) Lincoln Park PACS

Rachel Hoovler (clarinet) Lakeview HS

Karin Hoppo (violin) North Allegheny HS

Violet Kucler (french horn) North Allegheny HS

Ivy Lamitina (guitar) CAPA

Evan Lavallee (trumpet) Canon-McMillan HS

Rhys Vander Kelen (flute) Home School

Over the past **26** years, a total of **\$470,000** has been awarded to **136** high school seniors eager to pursue a music career in either performance, education, or therapy.

Silents, please . . .

The Big Parade/1926/150 minutes

The Big Parade, directed by King Vidor and starring John Gilbert and Renee Adoree, is an award-winning film which depicts the horrors of WWI. It played in theaters across the US to packed houses for over a year, making it one of the highest grossing films of the time. One of America's most revered and talented artists, Andrew Wyeth, watched this film over 180 times during his lifetime. He first saw the film when he was only eight years old when his father, noted artist N.C. Wyeth, took the family to see the film. He was fascinated with the cinematography and images of war and began to draw images of soldiers during wartime. His obsession with the film greatly influenced several of his most famous paintings – including the iconic 'Christina's World', now at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, which brought him world-wide fame.



The Big Parade (1925) starring John Gilbert and Renee Adoree

Arrive early, as Blackwood Arts has been given special permission by the Brandywine Museum of Art to show images of some of the art which was inspired by the film before it is shown. The museum showcases the work of Andrew Wyeth and his family: his father N.C. Wyeth, illustrator of many children's classics, his sister Ann Wyeth McCoy, a composer and painter, and son Jamie Wyeth, a contemporary American realist painter.

John Lauter, the organist who first performed at Blackwood last year, will return this year. He has accompanied the film several times and is eager to please the patrons of Blackwood Arts again this year. You may never have the opportunity to see this film as it was originally shown in theaters.



Da Eun Choi and Brett Miller perform for Fundraising Dinner

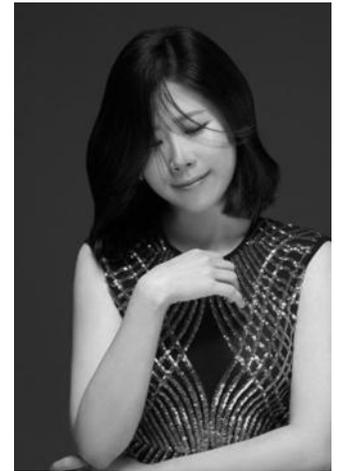
On Sunday October 11 BLACKWOOD ARTS presents . . .Dr. Da Eun Choi and Brett Miller performing the brilliant pianistic



Brett Miller

masterpiece Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No 1 in B flat minor. South Korean pianist Da Eun Choi earned her Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Texas at Austin, where she was awarded the Sidney M. Wright Endowed Presidential Scholarship. She serves as Staff Pianist at Youngstown State University and Principal Pianist of the Lima Symphony Orchestra. Brett Miller, one of Blackwood Arts' music scholarship winner in 2021, received his Bachelor of Arts in 2025 and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Eastman School of Music.

The Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto is one of most famous works of all classical music. Ever since the young American pianist Van Cliburn won the International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow in 1958, this piece has won the hearts of classical music lovers worldwide. When asked for her thoughts on this iconic



Da Eun Choi

piece, Dr. Choi replied: Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 may appear grand and dazzling, yet beneath its brilliance lies profound emotional depth and intimate confession. Beyond its heroic stature, the concerto unfolds as a deeply human narrative in which vulnerability and strength exist in delicate balance. Through its journey between passion and lyricism, I hope to share with you a sincere and heartfelt resonance, fostering a moment of connection through our shared experience of the music.

This is a unique opportunity to hear this *Tour de Force* masterpiece. The concert is a catered event with seating for only 48 patrons. Please register early.

2026 CALENDAR

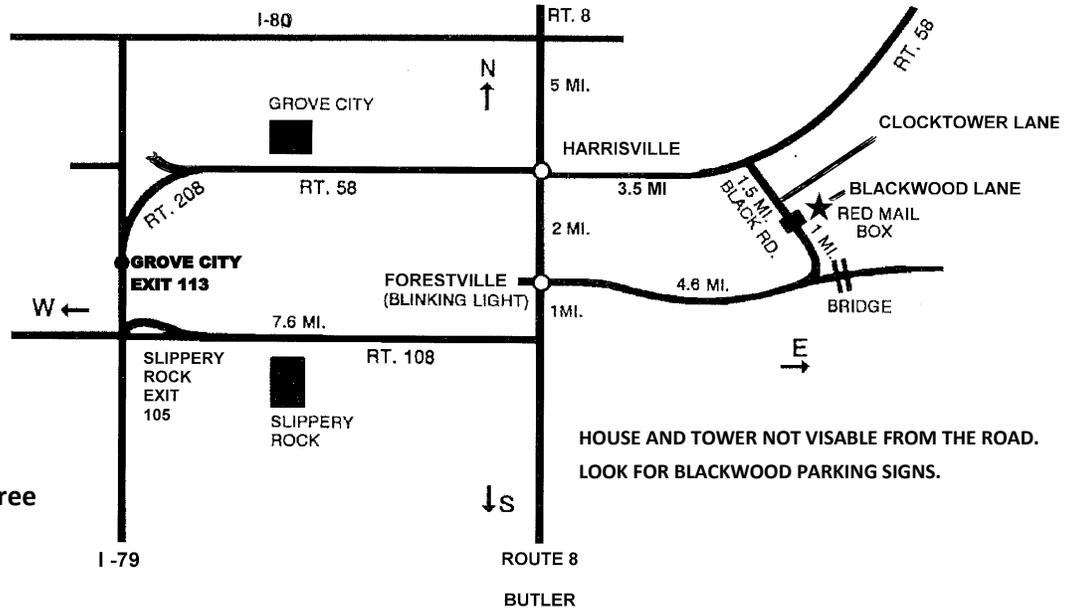
July 19 – 2:00 pm
Make-A-Wish Concert
Jonas Nordwall

August 16 – 2:00 pm
Jazz Concert
Jason Kush

September 13 – 2:00 pm
Organ Concert
Dave Wickerham

September 27 – 2:00 pm
Silent Film
The Big Parade –
with John Gilbert and Renee Adoree
John Lauter, Organist

October 11 – 2:00 pm
Fund Raising Dinner Concert
Da Eun Choi and Brett Miller



BLACKWOOD – 118 Blackwood Lane, Harrisville, PA 16038
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