

# 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 2024. EXPECT AN EARLY SELL OUT!

### The Hills are alive . . .

If you were humming the rest of that tune ... 'with the sound of music', you will be in for an extraordinary treat



**Richard Hills**

this fall. On **Sunday October 27 Richard Hills** will be returning to Blackwood to perform for our annual dinner concert. Because of Covid and scheduling issues we have eagerly awaited five years for him to return.

Richard is equally at ease performing at classical recitals as well as theater organ concerts—having appeared at the

Royal Albert Hall in London, UK, and at all of the major theater organ installations around the world. Richard will definitely make the hills come alive with his artistic arrangements of your favorite tunes.

The afternoon will begin at 2:00 with a catered buffet dinner followed by the concert. You don't want to miss this rare opportunity! Seating is limited to only 48.



**Dave Wickerham**

### Dave Wickerham returns this fall . . .

On Sunday September 15 Dave Wickerham, an organist who has performed annually at Blackwood since 2007, will return to an eagerly awaiting group of followers. Dave continues to dazzle his audience with his skill at playing music of all genres – classic, rock, jazz, ragtime, religious, favorites from the 50s, 60s, and later. Be prepared to hear his amazing arrangements of lush ballads, toe tapping rhythms of Scott Joplin, the grand finales to his hymn medleys...and more!

This is the perfect concert to bring a friend who has never attended a theater organ concert before. They will thank you for providing them with a delightful afternoon of entertainment, refreshments, and meeting new friends.

Sign up early before it's sold out.

### Brett Miller Creates a First for Make-A-Wish Benefit Concert

**FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 34 YEARS...**Blackwood Arts will proudly present one of its scholarship recipients as a featured artist for our annual fund raiser for Make-A-Wish on **Sunday July 14**. In 2020, **Brett Miller** was awarded one of our scholarships and chose to attend the acclaimed Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.



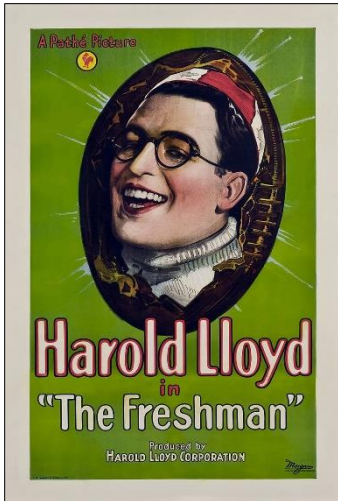
**Brett Miller**

As one of the youngest in a rare art form, Brett is an active organist, conductor, and arranger specializing in the art of silent film accompaniment. As a finalist in the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Organist Competition, Brett has continued his academic involvement and advocacy for the education and preservation of silent films through performance "live to picture." In the Spring of 2021, he was appointed Music Director of the Empire Film and Media Ensemble, a nonprofit based in Rochester, NY, that advocates for the education, performance, and production of film music. He was recently appointed Artistic Director of the organization.

Seating is very limited, there is only one performance. Sign up early for this exciting performance!

## Silents, please . . .

**The Freshman/1925/76 minutes**



On Sunday September 29 our featured silent film will be 'The Freshman' starring Harold Lloyd and Jobyna Ralston. The Freshman is a comedy about a young college freshman (Lloyd) trying to become popular by joining the school's football team and to impress his new romantic friend Peggy (Jobyna). One of the film's title cards describes Peggy as "the kind of girl your mother must have been."

The Freshman remains one of Lloyd's most hilarious and successful films. In 1990 it was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being 'culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant.'

We are pleased to have Clark Wilson return to Blackwood to accompany this film.



**The Freshman (1925) starring Harold Lloyd and Jobyna Ralston**

## **"Standards, Swing & Other Things" - THE BLACKWOOD JAZZ COLLECTIVE featuring Jason Kush & Jay Stollman - August 18<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm. This may be outdoors depending on the weather!!**

Selections from the Great American Songbook honoring America's most iconic composers such as Duke Ellington, George & Ira Gershwin, Cole Porter, Harold Arlen, Johnny Mercer, Dorothy Fields, Hoagy Carmichael, Fats Waller, Irving Berlin, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, Oscar Hammerstein, and more...

**JASON KUSH** - Dr. Jason Kush is an acclaimed saxophonist, educator, and scholar who has performed throughout the U.S, Europe, and Central and South America. Kush is a member of the Pittsburgh Jazz Orchestra and has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and the New World Symphony. He has performed with the artists Arturo Sandoval, Andrea Bocelli, and Hugh Jackman, among others. Jason Kush is a Professor of Music at Slippery Rock University and an Artist Lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University.



**Jay Stollman**

**JAY STOLLMAN** - For over 50 years, recording artist, Jay Stollman has thrilled audiences at thousands of theaters, clubs, casinos, festivals and special events. A former member of The Rascals and a current member of José Feliciano's band, Jay has performed with Grammy winners, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees and an array of legendary artists including Elton John, Diana Ross, The Temptations and many more! Jay's music has been featured in major TV and film productions.



**Dr. Jason Kush**

## **2024 Scholarship Winners Will Share \$38,000!!**

These exceptional awardees are (in alphabetical order):

**Eleanor Alford (oboe) St Clair HS**

**Cody Conley (violin) Woodland Hills HS**

**Evan Greenberg (French horn) North Allegheny HS**

**Sophia Jho (harp) Shadyside Academy**

**Nathan Choe (cello) PA Leadership Charter School**

**Eleanor Edwards (violin) Quaker Valley HS**

**Haley Hunt (voice) Lincoln Park Performing Arts CS**

**Ryan Lane (alto sax) CAPA**

Over the past **24** years, a total of **\$407,500** has been awarded to **122** high school seniors eager to pursue a music career in either performance or education.

# Tour of Blackwood on Sunday June 23

On Sunday June 23 a guided tour of the Blackwood estate will be presented for those who have never learned about the history of its unique structures and instruments. You will be guided through the transformation of Blackwood from its beginnings in 1970 with the purchase of 16 acres of abandoned farmland through all of the changes made over the last five decades.

After the main house was built in 1976 the following structures were built: The Spring House, which sits above the natural spring water supply for the property and its overflow which is the source for the beautiful pond and fountain; The 70 ft tall Clock Tower, a four-story residence which houses not only a fully restored 1907 Seth Thomas Tower Clock but also the original Schulmerich carillon formerly installed in Old Main at Slippery Rock University; The recreation room which houses a 1906 Wurlitzer Military Band Organ, originally built to draw attention to the carousel in amusement parks; and finally the beautiful music room where the 1200 pipe Mighty Theater Pipe Organ will be demonstrated. This will be a special treat for those who have never been to Blackwood. There you hear a selection of music performed by the finest theater organists on this instrument via our unique midi playback system. This will be a walking tour lasting about two hours so be sure to wear comfortable shoes.



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## BLACKWOOD ARTS 2024 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 2024: All concerts are on a Sunday, begin at 2:00 pm, and include refreshments.**

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- ( ) June 23 – TOUR OF BLACKWOOD ESTATES..... \$10 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) August 18 – JAZZ AND SWING CONCERT –  
Jason Kush and Jay Stollman group.... \$30 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) September 15 ORGAN CONCERT – Dave Wickerham organist.... \$30 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) September 29 SILENT FILM - THE FRESHMAN starring Harold Lloyd  
Clark Wilson organist..... \$30 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) October 27 - ANNUAL FUND RAISING DINNER CONCERT –  
Richard Hills organist..... \$130 PER PERSON \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TAX EXEMPT CONTRIBUTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL PAYABLE TO “BLACKWOOD ARTS” ----- \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

( ) July 14 -M-A-W CONCERT – Brett Miller 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**



## 2024 CALENDAR

June 23 – 2:00 pm

Tour of Blackwood Estates

July 14 – 2:00 pm

Make-A-Wish Concert  
Brett Miller

August 18 – 2:00 pm

Jazz and Swing Concert  
Jason Kush and Jay Stollman group

September 15 – 2:00 pm

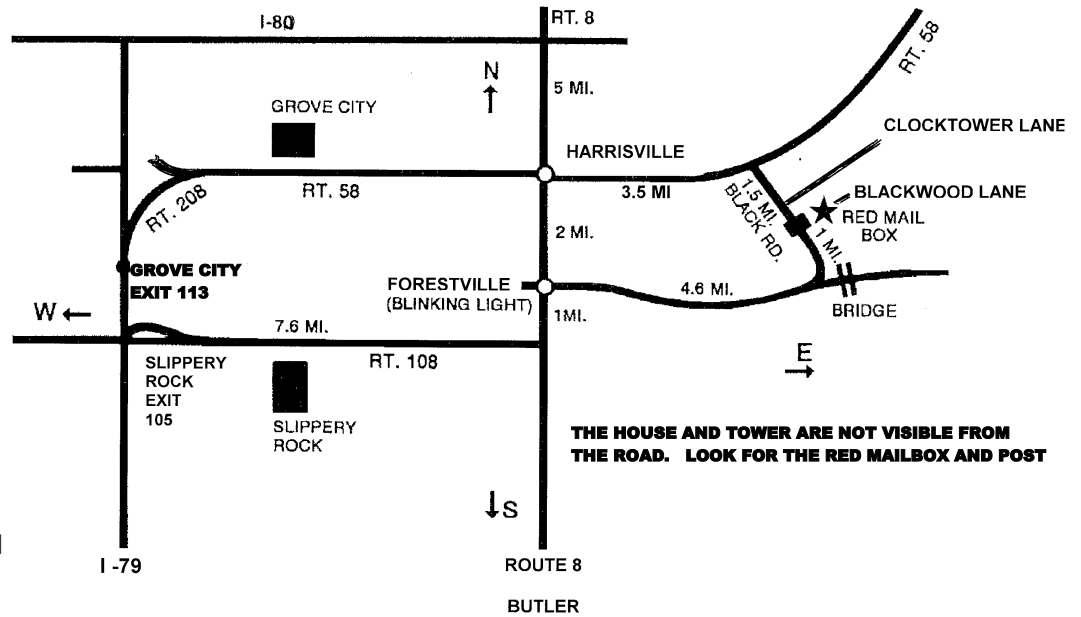
Organ Concert  
Dave Wickerham organist

September 29 – 2:00 pm

Silent Film  
THE FRESHMAN - with Harold Lloyd  
Clark Wilson, Organist

October 27 – 2:00 pm

Fund Raising Dinner Concert  
Richard Hills, Organist



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

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*Blackwood Arts*