

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 2025. EXPECT AN EARLY SELL OUT!

Walt Strony Returns for Fundraising Dinner

With great pleasure, we welcome Walt Strony to play for our Annual Dinner Concert on **Sunday, October 19**.



Walt Strony

Walt is a long-time friend of Blackwood. In 1991, shortly after completion of the Music Room, he was the second guest artist to play the Blackwood theater pipe organ. Since then, he has played for us on multiple occasions and has assisted us with tonal finishing of the pipe organ. Walt is

equally at ease performing theater organ concerts, as well as classical recitals. His skills have taken him around the world. In 2000, Walt and Dave Wickerham shared duties as house organists at Roxy's Pipe Organ Pizzeria at the Fiesta Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada. Walt currently resides in Grass Valley, California, and is the Organist for Peace Lutheran Church.

Make your reservations now! The afternoon will begin at 2:00 with a catered buffet dinner, immediately followed by the concert. You won't want to miss this opportunity! Seating is limited to only 48 persons.

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

Dave Wickerham will return to Blackwood on **Sunday, September 7**. He is a



Dave Wickerham

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. 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.

Chamber Music at its Finest . . . On Sunday June 22 Blackwood Arts is pleased to present the BETA Quartet,

an award-winning ensemble which will be using extended techniques that will push the boundaries of flute playing. Members of the quartet include Tatiana Cassetta, Meg Brennan, Eftihia Arkoudis, and Cassandra Eisenreich. The group will present three commissioned works by composer and flutist Erin Spencer, award winning composer Caroline Davis, and 2024 Global Genius Grand Prize-Winning composer and flutist José Valentino. This new venture in music for flute performance will be a treat for everyone.



Silents, please . . .

The Black Pirate/1926/94 minutes

The silent film selected for this year is 'The Black Pirate' starring the dashing, gallant DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS and featuring Clark Wilson as the organist. It will be shown at 2:00 on Sunday October 5.



An unqualified masterpiece of the silent film era, The Black Pirate is now restored to its original Technicolor splendor. Like a Robert Louis Stevenson adventure come to life, the film ripples with customary intrigue and a rapid succession of brilliantly inventive stunts that never fail to astound. Douglas Fairbanks, a skilled athlete who insisted on performing all of his own stunts, needs no introduction. His great charm and energy made him one of the most popular stars of his day. He and his wife Mary Pickford were called the 'King and Queen of Movieland.'



Put on Your Dancing Shoes!! Cause we're bringing back Adam Swanson.

On Sunday, September 21 Adam Swanson, the four-time winner of the World Championship Old-Time Piano Playing Contest, will return to liven the music room with his toe-tapping, high energy ragtime music.

In 2011, at nineteen years of age Adam made his New York debut where he performed with legendary vocalist Michael Feinstein at Carnegie Music Hall. When he was twenty-one, he performed a solo concert at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage in Washington D.C. You may also remember seeing him in the 2019 film 'The Entertainers' where he was referred to as 'the prodigy.' With all of Adam's talent, you don't want to miss this concert as it's bound to be a sell-out.



Donnie Rankin to Perform for MAW Fundraising Concert



Donnie Rankin first took an interest in the theatre organ at the age of three when he heard the sounds of the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Civic Theatre in Akron, Ohio. In 2000, Donnie acquired an instrument and began taking formal lessons. Classical piano training followed in 2005, and his budding talent quickly blossomed into first rate musicianship. Donnie began studying with noted organist Jelani Eddington in September 2007. Since that time, Donnie has performed for theatre organ audiences around the world. He was the winner of the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition in 2007. He serves as organist for both the Akron Civic Theatre and Cleveland's Playhouse Square. Please join us on Sunday, July 13 for an afternoon of delightful music provided by the very talented Donnie Rankin. Proceeds will benefit Make-A-Wish.

2025 Scholarship Winners

Scholarships this year total **\$29,500**. Scholarship awardees are (in alphabetical order):

Greta Coleman (viola) - Mt Lebanon HS

Wesley Duncan (trumpet) – Mt Lebanon HS

Hudson Hackley (oboe) - Mt Lebanon HS

Jayce Nadzam (trumpet) - South Side HS, Hookstown, PA

Dominic Routh (marimba) - Mt Lebanon HS

Mallory Skvor (flute) - Keystone HS , Lagrange, OH

Over the past **25** years, a total of **\$437,000** has been awarded to **128** high school seniors eager to pursue a music career in either performance or education.

2025 CALENDAR

June 22 – 2:00 pm

BETA Quartet

July 13 – 2:00 pm

Make-A-Wish Concert

Donnie Rankin

September 7 – 2:00 pm

Organ Concert

Dave Wickerham

September 21 – 2:00 pm

Ragtime Piano Concert

Adam Swanson Pianist

October 5 – 2:00 pm

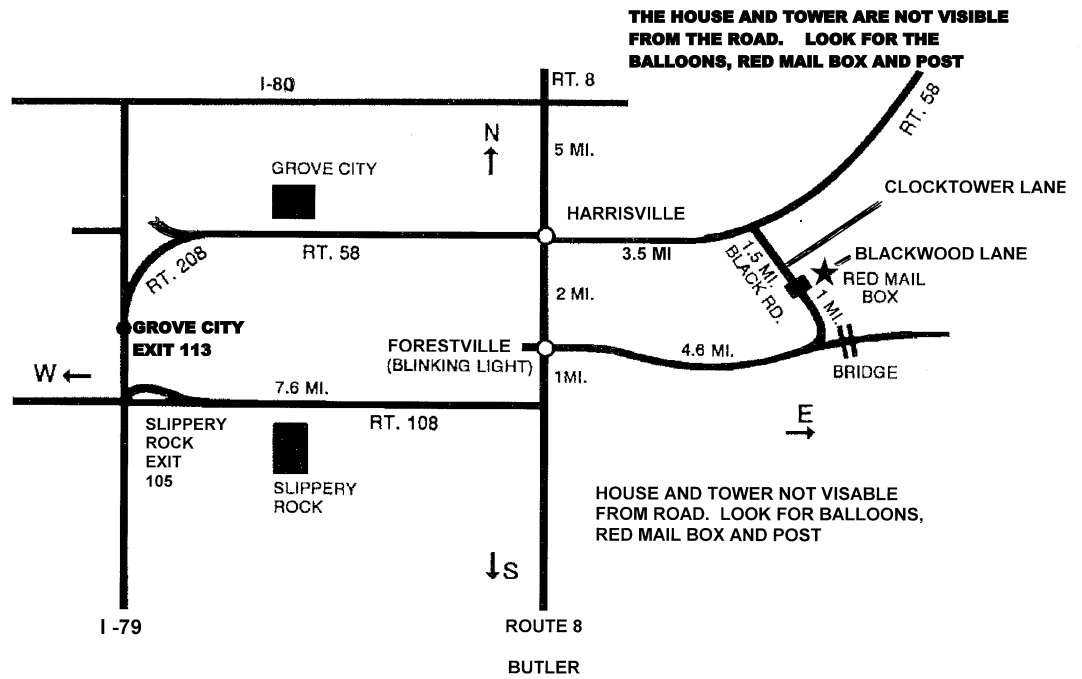
Silent Film

The Black Pirate –
with Douglas Fairbanks
Clark Wilson, Organist

October 19 – 2:00 pm

Fund Raising Dinner Concert

Walt Strony, Organist



**BLACKWOOD – 118 Blackwood Lane, Harrisville, PA 16038
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