



**Western Reserve  
Theatre Organ Society  
Presents**

**The Internationally  
Acclaimed Artist from  
the U.K.**

**SIMON**

**GLEDHILL**

**Cleveland Grays  
Armory Museum**

**1234 Bolivar Road  
Cleveland, Ohio 44115**

**Saturday**

**May 11, 2024**

**7:30 PM**

**LIGHTED PARKING ON WEST SIDE OF THE ARMORY AT PREVAILING RATES**

**\* \* Handicap access on southwest side of the Armory \* \***

**For advance sale group rates or further information, call 440-292-7347**

**SEE INSIDE FOR TICKET ORDER FORM**

**Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society, Inc.**  
**PO Box 770166**  
**Cleveland OH 44107**  
**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Permit No. 1523



### *The Theatre Organ — An Endangered Art Form?*

What draws you to the theatre organ? Is it the unique sound of the instrument? The sentimental reminiscence of music from another era? Or perhaps it's the power and artistry of one person commanding the orchestra-in-one.

Unfortunately, the pages of time are turning on the art of the theatre organ. It is quickly becoming an obsolete art form, a cultural "remember when?" lost in the nostalgia of the 1920's when thousands of theatre organs around the country were a major source of entertainment. Although the music of the theatre organ has stood the test of time, the numbers of theatre organs around the country are dwindling quickly and we need your help to stop the extinction of our treasured and endangered instruments.

We encourage you to support WRTOS and the art of the theatre organ by doing any or all of the following:

- Attending concerts – complete the ticket order form inside
- Becoming a member of WRTOS – visit our website [www.wrtos.org](http://www.wrtos.org) for a membership application
- Making a donation to WRTOS, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization – use the donation line on the ticket order form or log on to our Web site at [www.wrtos.org](http://www.wrtos.org)

### *About WRTOS*

The Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society (WRTOS), founded in 1962, is a chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society ([www.atos.org](http://www.atos.org)). Our main purpose is to further the use and understanding of the theatre pipe organ and its music. To achieve this, we restore and maintain theatre pipe organs in public venues and host seminars and concerts for the education and enjoyment of the general public.

The theatre pipe organ is a true American Art Form and is distinctly different than church organs and symphonic organs. They were originally installed in movie theatres to duplicate all the sounds of an orchestra, but required only one musician. We currently care for several theatre pipe organs in the northeast Ohio area. Our work is done on a volunteer basis and the technical aspects of restoration, tuning, and maintenance are taught to members as the opportunities arise.

WRTOS has periodic meetings at area venues that house a theatre organ and at a few of our members' homes. Featured artists often perform for our enjoyment, followed by open console for others to try their hand at the theatre pipe organ. Experienced organists are on hand to offer coaching on technique and stop registration.

For further information on WRTOS including upcoming events and to obtain membership information, please see our website at [www.wrtos.org](http://www.wrtos.org).

# The Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society Notes

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## About the Artist



Simon was born in Halifax, UK and showed a keen interest in music from an early age. He started learning to play the piano accordion at age six and continued with that instrument for 11 years, winning several competitions along the way. When he was 10 years old, his parents purchased a small electronic organ. After initially teaching himself to play it, he began formal studies in organ and piano with Michael Woodhead.

Simon's first 'live' experience of the theatre pipe organ was seeing and hearing Ernest Broadbent play Britain's most famous Mighty Wurlitzer at the Tower Ballroom in Blackpool. A short time afterwards he discovered a privately-owned instrument close to his home, and was soon making weekly practice visits.

In 1981, he entered and won the UK's Northern Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition. Nigel Ogden, presenter of the long-running BBC national radio program *The Organist Entertains*, was in the audience and invited him to record for the program on the BBC Theatre Organ.

The resulting broadcasts generated a flurry of concert offers and he has since given concerts at all the major UK theatre organ venues, as well as touring in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the USA and Canada. He has performed many times for the American Theatre Organ Society and was named ATOS Organist of the year in 1997 and inducted into the Society's Hall of Fame in 2015.

Simon's music has won high praise from his peers. Lyn Larsen described him as: 'That rare combination of flawless technique, impeccable phrasing and an unerring sense of musical good taste', while Nigel Ogden said: 'Here is someone who was born to be a theatre organist. His ability has rightfully earned him the genuine admiration of both audiences and colleagues alike.'

Simon combines his concert and recording activities with work for the Cinema Organ Society and a full-time career in finance based in London.

## Parking and Handicap Access

Parking for the Cleveland Grays Armory Museum is located on the west side of the building at posted rates. Other parking lots in the Theatre District are available nearby at prevailing rates.

A ramp on the southwest side of the Armory Museum from the parking lot noted above will enable handicap patrons easy access to the main floor of the Armory Museum.

## **Celebrating our 52nd Year of Theatre Organ**

*This event is made possible, in part, by the generous donations of several members of the Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society*

# The Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society Notes (cont.)

## Cleveland Grays Armory Museum Tours

You are invited to take a complimentary tour of the museum by members of the Cleveland Grays before the concert to view not only the museum displays but also the architectural details of the Armory built in 1893. Please note that the tour is conducted on multiple levels of the building accessible by stairs or by elevator. No reservations are necessary-just show up at 6:30 PM in the lobby of the Armory. The tour begins at 6:45 PM.

## Ordering Tickets by mail

Tickets may be ordered by completing the order form below and mailing with a check payable to WRTOS, Inc. along with a self-addressed stamped return envelope to the PO Box listed below.

Call 440-292-7347 for group rates or further information.

## Ordering Tickets by PayPal

Tickets can also be ordered using PayPal on our website at [www.wrtos.org/Events](http://www.wrtos.org/Events). Click on the Simon Gledhill Event page for ticket information.

**Doors open for seating at 6:45 PM**

Send this form with self-addressed stamped return envelope to:  
WRTOS TICKETS, P.O. Box 770166, Cleveland, OH 44107  
→OR Purchase Tickets Online at [www.wrtos.org/Events](http://www.wrtos.org/Events) ←

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$15.00 ea. - General Seating (\$18 at the door) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Tickets @ \$10.00 ea. - Students/Children under 13 (\$12 at the door) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check a box:

Check Enclosed payable to WRTOS, Inc.

Please keep my tickets at the box office

I cannot make this event, but enclosed is a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_