

A THEATRE ORGAN GRAB-BAG

**Justin Stahl, theatre organ
Eric Scott Kincaid, tenor**

SATURDAY, JULY 9

GREENWOOD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

www.greenwoodumc.org

Meet the Artists

JUSTIN STAHL is a native of Beech Grove, Indiana. Beginning at age five with the encouragement of his great-grandfather, Justin was mostly self-taught in piano and organ. His passion for music has reached many venues that have included accompanying for several choral departments, directing church music, playing for community theatre, and serving for nearly twenty years in the Indiana Army National Guard's 38th Infantry Division Band.

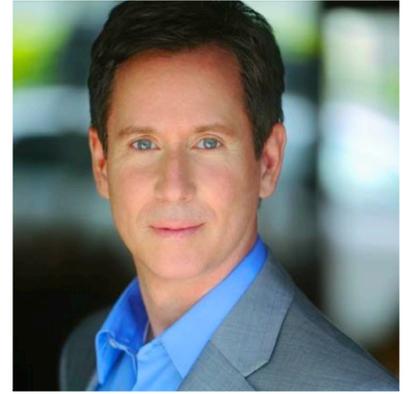
Justin has most recently entertained thousands of patrons of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in ten productions of their annual Yuletide Celebration, playing the 3/24 Wurlitzer installed at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Theatre organ has always been a passion of Justin's and has taken him to performance venues across the United States and Australia.

A graduate of Marian University with a Bachelor's degree in piano performance, Justin presently serves as a choral director for the Brownsburg Community School District near Indianapolis. His approach and philosophy includes the continued promotion of the theatre organ by using a wide base of musical genres.



In typical theatre organist form, there is no formalized program for this evenings performance. Songs will be chosen and introduced at will, by the performers.

ERIC SCOTT KINCAID grew up in the neighborhood behind the Greenwood United Methodist Church, and the second telephone number he memorized after his own home phone was the church's number!



He is also a proud alumni and former drum major for the Greenwood High School Marching Woodman.

Eric Scott trained as a dancer in Chicago both as a scholarship student at the Gus Giordano Dance school, and then with a scholarship awarded at the Lou Conte Studio-home of the Hubbard Street Dance Chicago. He has performed in new dance works created at the historic Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Lee, MA. He was a guest performer and teacher for Rosie O'Donnell's Broadway Kids — a program designed for New York City Public Schools.

At the Lincoln Center in New York, he has taught master classes in acting, singing, and dancing, and performed hundreds of private solo concerts for their Meet the Artist program. He has performed at the United Nations in the premiere of Conscience and Courage a Cantata by Elizabeth Swados and has travelled literally around the world as a featured vocal soloist with the concert venture The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber singing opposite international star Sarah Brightman. On Broadway, he performed the role of Skimbleshanks "the railway cat" in the long running Broadway hit CATS. Also: Aspect of Love (Broadway); Newsies (1st National tour); Doody in Grease (Chicago); Bobby Kennedy in the world premiere of One Shining Moment (Chicago); Alvin in I Love my Wife (Bridgeport, CT); Riff-Raff in The Rocky Horror Show (Actor's Theatre of Louisville); Emcee in Cabaret (W. Virginia Public Theatre); Cole and The World Goes 'Round (Music Theatre of Connecticut); Pirelli in Sweeney Todd (Portland Center Stage). He has appeared as the 'Broadway singing' Paul Shaffer on The Late Show with David Letterman and in comedy features for the Conan O'Brien Show. Eric Scott received his B.A. from Northwestern University.

So what exactly is a theatre organ, anyway?

Originally developed to provide music and sound effects to accompany silent films, theatre organs were born out of necessity. During the first thirty years of the 20th Century, at a time when vaudeville was becoming a thing of the past, local theaters began playing silent films and, with the growing popularity of this new fad, theater owners quickly realized that paying a full orchestra to provide music and sound effects the films, was quite expensive. Transplanted Englishman Robert Hope-Jones had a better idea, and his concept, which he called a “unit orchestra” was developed and promoted, originally by the Rudolph Wurlitzer Company of North Tonawanda, New York to be the closest thing the world had yet seen to a “one man orchestra.” This one-man-band, if you will, a single instrument — capable of producing all the sounds of an orchestra, from clarinets and saxophones, strings and flutes, harps and xylophones, drums and cymbals — was a new feat of engineering and a dazzling sight to behold. The idea quickly caught on, and a new type of instrument, the “theatre organ” was born. Their new instrument was immediately embraced by theatre owners as a much more entertaining, and albeit cheaper way, of entertaining the crowds, and soon hundreds of instruments were being ordered from Wurlitzer. Other organ builders, keen to cash in on this booming demand, soon began copying the important elements of their design in an effort to capitalize on the new-found craze. Builders such as The Bartola Musical Instrument Company, The Page Organ Company, The Marr & Colton Company, and the Robert-Morton Company became prominent theatre organ builders in the United States.

Theatre organs are usually identified by the distinctive horseshoe-shaped arrangement of stop tabs (those colorful tongue-shaped switches) above and around the instrument’s keyboards. Given their prominent placement in houses of popular entertainment, theatre organ consoles were typically decorated in gaudy ways, with brightly colored stop tabs, and highly-decorated consoles - often painted in bright gold or bright white with gold accents.

There were over 7,000 instruments produced between 1915 and 1933 before the invention of “talkies” largely ended the demand for these great instruments. Fewer than 40 of these instruments remain in their original venues. Though there are few original instruments in their original homes, hundreds of theatre pipe organs (typically rescued from defunct theaters or venues no longer willing to maintain the instrument) have been restored and re-homed in public venues throughout the world.



The Grande Page Organ at the Paramount Theatre, Anderson, Indiana.

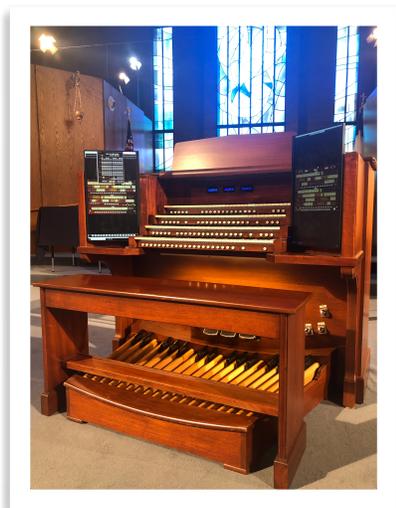
Indiana is fortunate to have a wonderful collection of these amazing instruments, painstakingly restored and cared for by professionals and dedicated volunteers of the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (CICATOS). The hard work and dedication of these wonderful people have ensured that these great instruments are available to everyone to enjoy. The CICATOS is open to anyone to join who shares a love of these great instruments and their music. Concerts, festivals, and events are held year around across the state, and nationwide on these organs. You can find these great instruments at the Lerner

Theater in Elkhart, Warren Performing Arts Center in Warren, The Paramount Theatre in Anderson, The Embassy Theatre in Fort Wayne, and Hilbert Circle Theatre, Manuel High School, & The Hedback Theater, all in Indianapolis. To find upcoming concerts or more information on the CICATOS, their work, and their mission, please visit www.cicatos.org and consider joining or making a donation today.



About the Greenwood UMC organ...

The Hauptwerk “Virtual Pipe Organ” was built entirely by the congregation of Greenwood United Methodist Church, led by Director of Music, Drew A. Worthen, over the span of three years. Completed and installed in the Spring of 2019, the organ has been a remarkable success and has become one of the most well-known and highly-regarded Hauptwerk organs in the world.



This organ has no pipes. Instead, the sounds you are hearing are actually hundreds of thousands of individual audio recordings (i.e. “samples”) taken by recording each and every pipe, one by one, from organs all around the world. This allows you to experience an incredibly realistic digital clone of existing pipe organs from all nationalities, across all time periods. The organ contains virtual copies of some of the world’s great organs, from builders such as Aristide Cavallé-Coll, Gottfried Silberman, Ernest M. Skinner, Edmund Schulze, Henry “Father” Willis, and many more. The sounds you are hearing this evening are those of the *Paramount 341 Composite Theatre Organ* sample set from Paramount Organ Works, which derives its samples from several of the world’s great theatre pipe organs, and combines them into a single cohesive instrument.

In place of pipes, the organ instead has a massive audio system, containing 56 discrete audio channels, reaching a combined total of more than 20,000 watts of amplification power. This audio system, designed from the ground up for the sole purpose of recreating the demanding characteristics of pipe organ acoustics, was no small task. Like the pipe organs it emulates, this Hauptwerk organ can exceed both ends of the audible frequency range - playing from 16Hz to well over 20kHz, with an extreme dynamic range — from almost inaudible to window-rattling.

For more information on the organ, you can visit: www.greenwoodumc.org/music-and-arts

If you’re an organist and would like to take the instrument for a spin, be sure to hang around after the concert.



Greenwood United Methodist Church

Sunday Morning Worship:

10:15am

Online at:

www.greenwoodumc.org/services

The Music Ministry of Greenwood United Methodist Church is funded entirely through your generous support. If you appreciate this concert, and would like to donate, collection baskets are in the lobby. We appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the local arts community and we work hard to make these events free and open to everyone.

To be notified of upcoming events and services, consider joining our mailing list on our website, or like us on Facebook.

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