

NUNDA HISTORICAL SOCIETY Presents Dennis James With - *Gershwin Curiosities: From Ragtime to Hollywood*

The Nunda Historical Society is pleased to welcome back world-renowned musician Dennis James for his 8th performance in Nunda on April 18, 2021. As part of this Gershwin program, James will be playing the Theremin, the first successful electronic music instrument. In 2014, James introduced his Nunda audience to the Theremin and the odd life of its inventor, Soviet spy and electro-physicist Lev Termen (Leon Theremin). The story included Lev's years in the Soviet Gulag and events that led him to invent the first electronic "bugs" secretly placed in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. For well-known popular Gershwin songs, James will play the Theremin, together with Gershwin's own piano accompaniments. This program will be Sunday, April 18, at 2:30 PM at the Trinity Church of Nunda, 25 East Street.



Leon Theremin in his studio

Philadelphia born Dennis James is a musician and historic preservationist who, according to Carl Bennett of SilentEra.com, played "a pivotal role in the international revival of silent films presented with period-authentic live music."



Dennis James at the keyboard of the *Mighty Wurlitzer* at the Coleman Theater

Since 1964, James has been presenting historically informed live accompaniments for silent films, with piano, theatre organ, chamber ensemble and full symphony orchestras, throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and overseas.



Dennis James plays the glass armonica.

James has an impressive collection of Early Music instruments and is a noted multi-instrumentalist, specializing on musical glasses and the glass armonica, prominently performing in New York at the Caramoor Festival and Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival (2011) plus debuting at Tanglewood with the Boston Symphony Orchestra in the summer of 2013. He also presented a glass music program at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in December 2013 and "Glass-ical Musick" at the Smithsonian Institution in Spring 2014.

In July 2013, James presented his first Nunda program, "Glass-ical Musick," to a most enthusiastic audience who found the program both educational and most entertaining.

Other programs that followed are:

✧ 2014 - *Out of the Air* - The Theremin in concert

✧ 2015 - *18th Century Music: The Sounds of Quiet (Sensibilities of Making Music in the Home)*-

Demonstrations included the Italian Ottavino Spinetto, the German Clavichord and the Austrian Orphica,

✧ 2016 - *Joseph Lamb: the "Other" Greatest Classic Ragtime Composer*

✧ 2017- *Ernesto Nazareth: the Pianero of Brazil*

✧ 2018 - *THIS IS RAGTIME: 1919 AT THE MOVIES* featuring Miss Lillian Gish in "TRUE HEART SUSIE."

✧ 2019 - *Charlie Chaplin's Mutual Film Comedies*



Dennis James playing the Theremin

**Have you ever seen a musical instrument played without touching it?
Now is your chance on April 18th !**

The Nunda Historical Society thanks The Trinity Church of Nunda for hosting this program. While the program is FREE and open to the public, donations are gratefully accepted and will be gifted to the Trinity Church of Nunda.

This program is made possible with funds from the Decentralization Program, a re-grant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature and administered by the Genesee Valley Council on the Arts.

Photos related to the April 18, 2021 Gershwin Program

Theremin Photos Supplied by Dennis James



Theremin Concert



Thereminist



Clara Rockmore