

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 52, Issue 5

May 2013



DTOS
Executive Board
& Directors

- **President**
Connie Masserant
cmasserant13@gmail.com
- **Vice President**
Lance Luce
lanceluce@wowway.com
- **Treasurer**
Glenn Rank
grank@comcast.net
- **Corporate Secretary & Assistant Treasurer**
Dave Calendine
dave@calendine.net
- Fred Bruflodt
fred.audioarts@prodigy.net
- Michael Fisher
fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
- Gil Francis
ggf@juno.com
- Paul Jacyk
paul5jacyk@aol.com
- Dick Leichtamer
tibiaplena434@buckeye-express.com
- George Orbits
gco25700@gmail.com
- Bob Weil
robertjweil@yahoo.com
- Two Vacant Seats

Martin Ellis in Concert

Sunday, May 12, 2013 3:00 p.m.

The Detroit Theater Organ Society is pleased to present for the first time at the Senate Theater Martin Ellis of Indianapolis.

Martin Ellis is a concert artist that bridges the boundaries between traditional classical and theatre organ. Equally proficient in both playing styles Mr. Ellis performs on organs of distinction in the United States and abroad, offering a contemporary perspective to music enthusiasts of all genres.

In his home town of Indianapolis, Indiana, Martin has appeared with the

Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and was the featured organist to play the premier concert of Saint Saens' "Organ" Symphony No. 3 on the newly installed pipe organ in ISO's Hilbert Circle Theatre. Since that time, he has been a featured performer in the Indianapolis Symphony's renowned "Yuletide Celebration" in 2009, and continues to perform on numerous classical and pops concerts featuring organ and symphony fostering new and innovative ideas in the use of organ with orchestra. This past Christmas, Martin was the featured

organist with the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra in Jacksonville, Florida, on their famous Holiday Pops Series. Mr. Ellis has been a featured artist at conventions of The American Guild of Organists, The Organ Historical Society, and The American Theatre Organ Society.

In addition to concert activities, Mr. Ellis serves as Organist and Associate Director of Music for North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis where he presides over the church's three pipe organs, including the 4-manual, 76-rank Kimball / Reynolds organ in the sanctuary. Addi-



Martin Ellis at the Senate ... (continued from front page)

tionally, he is one of the house organists for the well-known Sanfilippo Estate of Barrington, Illinois which houses the world's largest 5-manual, 80 rank theatre organ as well as the world's largest automatic musical instrument collection. For

well over a decade now Martin has worked as an arranger and at the keyboard with the renowned Indianapolis Children's Choir.

Martin records and performs as a member of "Trio Con Brio." Along with artists Donna Parker and Jonas

Nordwall, the "Trio" gained its fame by adapting classical, orchestral, and popular music for performance with three organs simultaneously. Along with an active recording schedule, "Trio" performs on many of the country's high-profile organ

installations.

We are sure that you will enjoy the artistry of Martin Ellis at the Senate Theater's Mighty Wurlitzer. The doors will open at 2:00 p.m. with the concert starting at 3:00 p.m.

See you at the Senate!

**The Detroit Theatre Organ Society Board of Directors
meets on the last Tuesday of each month.**

All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

**Information on all events happening at the Senate Theater can be
found by going online to www.dtos.org.**

Renovation Report

Connie Masserant
President, DTOS Board of Directors

We have received more news regarding our new (and large—40'x20') movie screen.

The company making our new screen has informed us that the date for shipping the screen from France has been moved back to June 21st. After it arrives in the states, it should take roughly thirty days to arrive by truck. We have been so anxious for its arrival, but it seems we are all going to have to wait a little while longer.

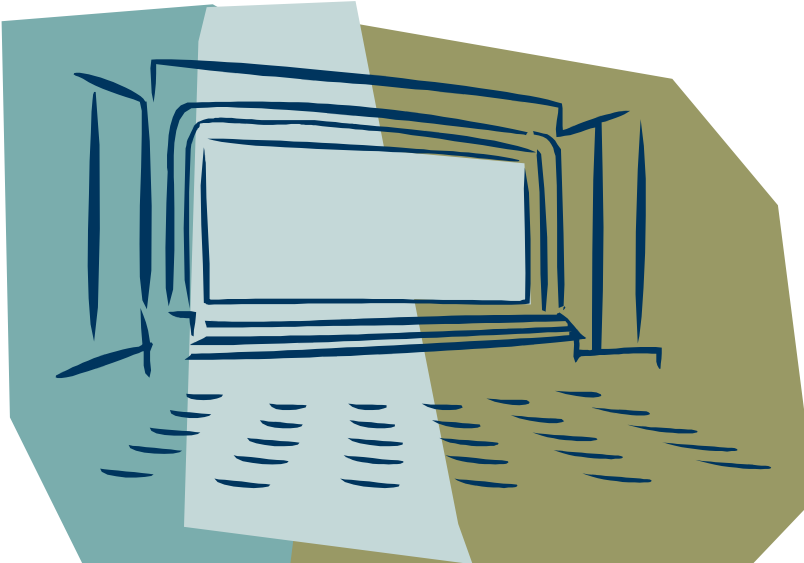
Not all is bad, however. It will give us more time to prepare for its arrival. I have met with two different contractors. It is going to take one contrac-

tor to build a small scaffolding from the door to the stage to bring the one-ton forty-foot screen in. Then, it

will take another contractor to bring in scaffolding so that we can get the winches in place from the rafters in

order to raise the heavy screen. But it's all good, as they say. Everyone is in place standing by for the preparation.

It is going to cost us a minimal of \$500.00, but probably closer to \$1,000.00 for the installation of the movie screen. We certainly would welcome any donations possible to assist with the installation. If you are able to send something ... anything in, please earmark it for the installation so we know where to place the donation. As always, thanks for your support. We can't do it without you!



Buster Keaton's "The General"

Accompanied by Dennis Scott on the Wurlitzer
 Sunday, May 19 3:00 p.m. \$10.00

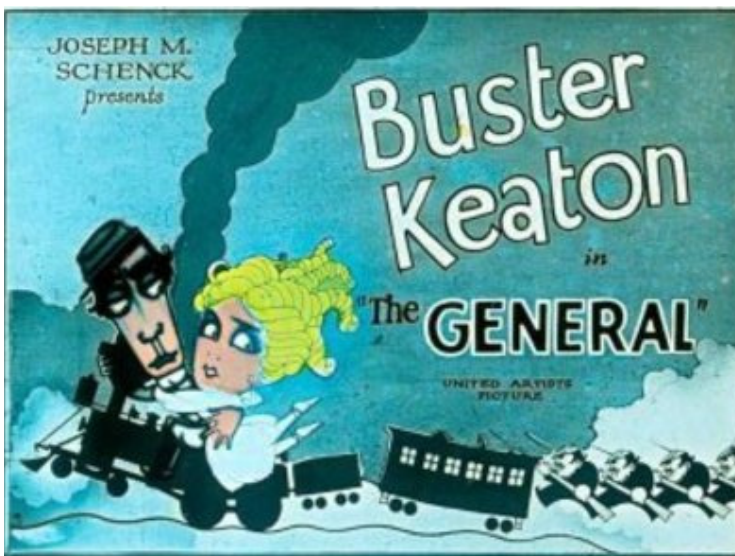
The Month of May brings a special screening of Buster Keaton's "The General," accompanied live on the Wurlitzer Theater Pipe Organ by Dennis Scott.

This epic film, one of Keaton's best, is also one of his most expensive. Almost three-quarters of a million dollars was spent on the making of this movie, which includes the destruction of a steam train!

The film will be accompanied by renowned organist Dennis Scott.

Dennis Scott is an internationally known silent film organist. He first began accompanying silent films in the 1970s, when he started playing theatre pipe organs installed in pizza parlors in the Midwest and on the West coast. He would accompany a couple of "two-reel" comedies every evening. His style has been compared to that of his legendary mentor, the late John Muri, who recorded numerous silent film scores for Blackhawk Films. Suzanne Lloyd, granddaughter of the comic genius Harold Lloyd, dubbed Dennis the "Master of Magic Notes,"

He is house organist at Chicago's historic Music Box Theatre, playing weekend intermissions, the annual Sing-Along of Sound of Music, the annual Music Box Christmas Sing-A-Long, several themed film festivals, special events, and the acclaimed Second Saturday Silent Cinema Series, which was named Best New Film Series of 2011 by Chicago



Magazine and Best Matinee Film Series of 2012 by the Chicago Reader.

Currently, Dennis is recording theatre organ scores for a large collection of Mack Sennett films which will be sold as a DVD box set in the near future.

Dennis is the official organist for the International Buster Keaton Society and accompanies silent Keaton films every year for their convention, held in Muskegon, Michigan, where Buster spent much of his childhood. He played for two seasons of monthly silent film presentations at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, and was a regular performer for the Sound of Silents Film Festival in Three Oaks, Michigan.

Dennis is co-founder and former President of the Silent Film Society of Chicago. From 2000 through 2010, he was featured in the SFSC's annual Silent Summer Film Festival. He was a staff organist at the Tivoli

Theatre in Downers Grove, Illinois for nine years, where he became organist and music coordinator for Our Town Productions, an award-winning children's theatre company. He recorded a CD with Chicago's very popular West End Jazz

Band, recreating the brief era of the "marriage" of the theatre organ and the jazz bands of the 1920s and 30s. For a number of years, he played the organ background for the annual live radio broadcast of "It's a Wonderful Life" at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet, Illinois.

Buster Keaton on the screen and Dennis at the organ is a combination that is sure to thrill everyone at the Senate. Tickets for this special presentation are only \$10 each. Please note that this movie presentation is not a normal part of the DTOS concert series and is not included with memberships in DTOS.

Step back in time and come see "The General" at the Senate on May 19th. Hope to see you there!



Restroom Update

Lance Luce
DTOS Board of Directors

Plans are moving ahead for the addition of first floor restrooms.

We have a preliminary drawing, done by Andy Coatley, of a possible layout that would give us much needed restrooms that are handicap accessible without having to climb the stairs. Dave Masserant used surveyors orange spray paint to outline on the ground where the new addition would be after Andy helped measure off the site, and where the addition would adjoin our existing building.

The piece of property that the addition would be built on is the parcel just to the west of the theatre. Years ago it was where the Senate Coney Island used to be located. The Coney Island burned to the ground and the property sat vacant for a long time. We purchased the property some years ago, with the hopes of someday building an additional structure on it, to enhance the use of our theatre.

Thanks to some generous donations, we are moving

ahead with these plans. It will take a lot of cutting of red tape at city hall as well as some more money, but we think it will be well worth the effort and expense. The new addition will give patrons approximately five stalls in the women's bathroom and three stalls and two urinals in the men's bathroom. There would also be some much needed additional storage space. This drawing is not "final" but it certainly is a workable design. There would be an opening cut into the

wall of the "outer lobby" to allow access into the new structure.

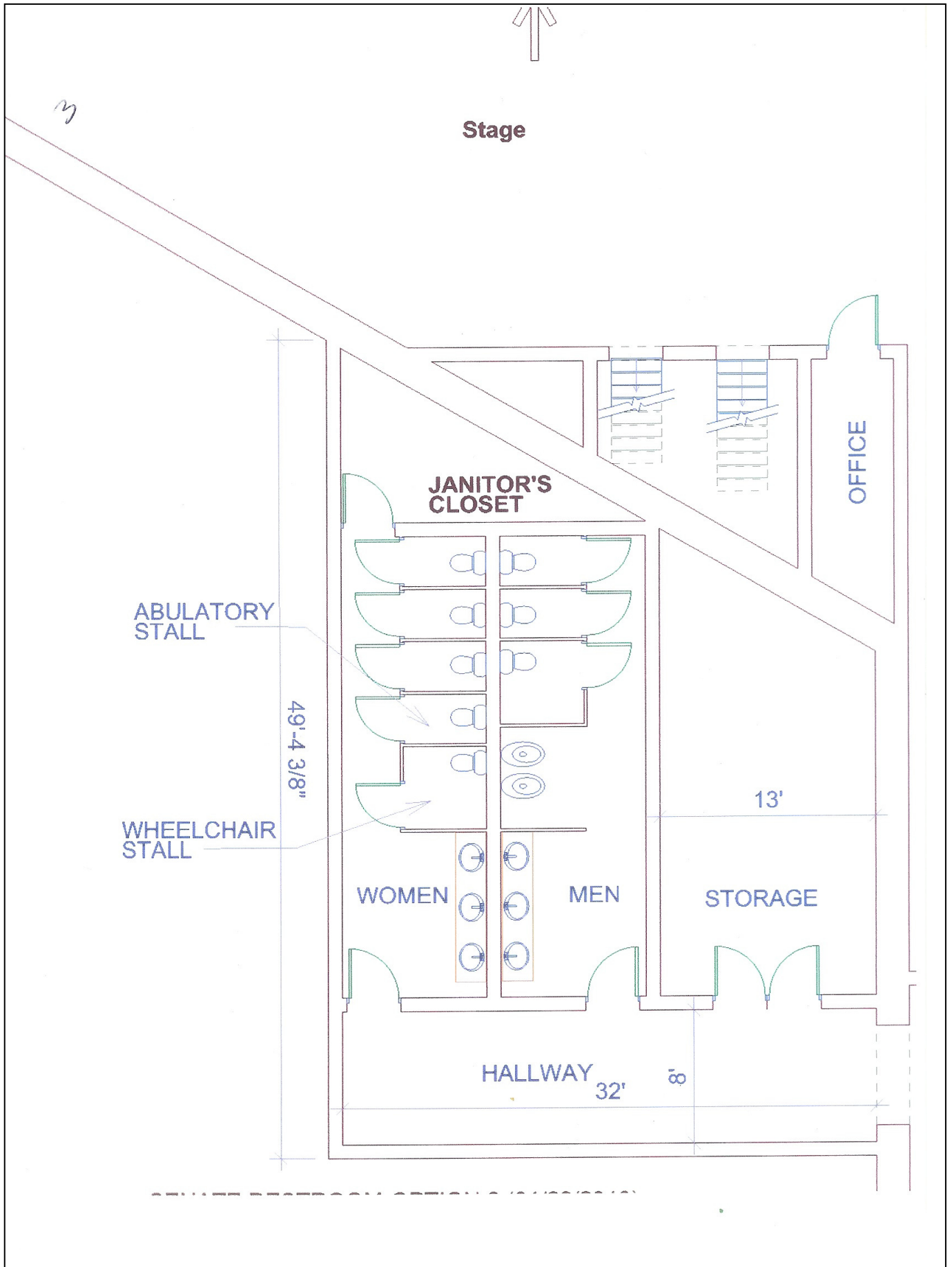
When the Senate Theater was built, handicap accessible restrooms were not the norm, as seen by our current situation. These days' current building codes etc. require them. We are pretty excited to be able to actually think about breaking ground on this much anticipated project.

We could still use your help, if you'd like to donate towards this project!



Above—Board members look at the proposed layout of the restrooms while Connie Masserant describes the plans

Right—preliminary drawings of the proposed new storage area and restrooms



From the President's Desk

Connie Masserant
President, DTOS Board of Directors

I would like to take the opportunity this month to sing the praises of our Board of Directors. We had one of the best board meetings on April 30 that I think I ever attended. I want the Society to know just how much talent and hard-working board members we have that sit in that board room. With so much talent and such a wide range of personalities, we have been able to have our differences

but yet gel together to get much accomplished. From discussing finances, which is a big topic, to also include concert programming, movie programming, rentals, audio visual needs, policies / procedures, construction and so much more, the directors have been able to move forward to continue to make our future look positive.

I won't say there hasn't been a little of screaming,

yelling, disagreeing, and finally laughing. But at the end of the day we all come together with a little give and take and appreciate what we all have with each other in order to get the job done.

Every single director seems to have a different strength that they willingly share with each other and the board, which is why it all works so well. I would like to be able to share some of those

talents with you but we would be here all day. I might just say that I think with what they all have done you can see the fruits of their labor in our programming and our renovations. I would just like to give them a big Thank You for all they have accomplished and say Thank You for allowing me to be their President.

Connie Masserant

Dumpster Party Planned For the Senate

Saturday, June 8th - 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, June 9th—1:00 p.m.

We have begun preparations for our dumpster party this spring. Scott Smith, Jeff Slabaugh and Connie Masserant met last Sunday and proceeded to sort through all the "stuff" in the basement. There is such a variety of "leftovers" and "stuff" that also includes organ parts. To be safe, the "organ guys" were asked to go through everything so we could determine what was good, what we could recycle, and what must go. Thanks, Scott and Jeff!

We found many pieces of old wind lines that were beyond repair, and lots of old wiring pieces. We have a member volunteer, Andy Coatley, who is willing to load this in his truck and see how many dollars it will bring to our club. Thanks, Andy!

As you can see from the pictures following this article and on the next page, we

need help carrying all of this "stuff" up the basement stairs. They are not heavy. There is just a lot of "stuff" to bring, and more than one person can handle. We need volunteers!

Once these are all removed, then we have the rest of the "stuff" to be brought up and out. If we have enough people, the job will be easy. It is our intention to set up a line so that some people are stationed in the basement, for those who can't do the stairs, others who will basically do the stairs, and a third group who will go from the top of the stairs to the outside. As everyone well knows, if we have many people, the job will be simple. We are working our directors to death. It is time for the rest of the membership, who are able, to step up and help. One hour or more of help from several would save a lot from

the rest who are able to put in more hours!

We will start at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 8. Pizza will be provided for lunch. Sunday, June 9, we will start at 1:00 p.m.

Please e-mail any one of the directors (all of the e-mail addresses of Board members are located on front page of each Newslet-

ter), or call Connie Masserant at 734-652-6004 as to when you are able to participate. It's not hard work and it could be turned into a fun social event.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!



Jeff Slabaugh & Scott Smith

Dumpster Party ... continued from previous page



Above—wind lines stuffed into crawl spaces below the theater

Right & Below—wind lines, and more wind lines in every corner of the basement!



Dumpster Party!
Please come and help!
Saturday, June 8th at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday, June 9th at 1:00 p.m.

DETROIT THEATER
ORGAN SOCIETY

Over 50 Years of Entertainment!

Detroit Theater Organ Society

Dave Calendine, Editor
DTOS Newsletter
6424 Michigan Ave.
Detroit, MI 48210-2957

Phone: (313) 894-0850
Concert Hotline: (313) 894-4100

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.DTOS.ORG

Silent Film Feature May 19 at 3:00 p.m.
with Buster Keaton's "The General"
accompanied by Dennis Scott
Details inside!

2013 Concert Series

May 12—Martin Ellis

June 23—Mark Herman

September 22—Justin Stahl

October 20—Scott Smith

November 17—Clark Wilson

December 8—Joel Gary

All concerts are held at the Senate Theatre.

Doors open at 2:00 p.m., concerts start at 3:00 p.m.



photo: Lance Luce