

# DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

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June 2013



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## Mark Herman at the Wurlitzer

Sunday, June 23, 2013 3:00 p.m.

Our final concert before the summer break brings back Mark Herman to the Senate Theater.

Mark Herman was born in August of 1987 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He has been studying the piano since he was seven years old and began classical organ lessons at the age of twelve. His first introduction to the theatre organ was when he was in fourth grade and was at the Embassy Theatre in downtown Fort Wayne. This was made possible by the late Robert Goldstine and the local American Guild of Organists chapter's "Room on the Organ Bench" program. In

2001, he began theatre organ studies with John Ferguson of Indianapolis, who is recognized worldwide for his skills as a teacher.

In the summer of 2003, Mark was given the opportunity to play a cameo performance at the American Theatre Organ Society's (ATOS) annual convention in Oakland, California. The following year, he won the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition in Milwaukee at the Riverside Theatre. That enabled him to perform a critically acclaimed concert for the ATOS 50th Anniversary Convention in Pasadena, which took place the follow-

ing July. During the summer of 2006, he toured for six weeks in Australia and New Zealand, setting records in CD sales at many of the venues in which he appeared. In 2009, he returned for a second 7-week tour of those countries. Over the past few years, he has played dozens of solo concerts in theatres and venues from coast to coast. He is a graduate of The Theatre School, DePaul University in Chicago where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts with a focus in Theatre Management. In addition to playing the organ, Mark has also been known to perform on the piano, as well as introduce several original composi-



# Mark Herman (continued from front page)

tions. Mark is a proud endorser of Hammond Organs and Leslie Speakers for Hammond Suzuki USA. Mark currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana where he is a website designer and digital marketing specialist. He is affiliated with the Allen Organ Company as a tonal consultant and voicing specialist available through li-

censed Allen Dealers.

He was named the American Theatre Organist of the Year for 2012 and is the youngest person ever to receive the prestigious honor.

He feels special gratitude towards his parents, Ron and Andrea, as well as all of his family and friends who have supported him

from the beginning.

Make sure to join us at the Senate Theater for this month's concert. As always, the doors to the theater will open at 2:00 p.m. and the concert will start at 3:00 p.m. Free parking is available in the parking lot on the side of the theater. Both the parking lot entrance and the entrance at the front of the

theater will be open to enter the building.

If you are a member of the Detroit Theater Organ Society, you can bring up to three people with you to enjoy the concert. For those that are not a member, tickets are available at the door for the price of \$15.00.

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](http://www.dtos.org).**

## From the President's Desk

Connie Masserant, DTOS President

Your hearts have been so generous in supporting the requests that have been made the past several months with all of the renovation needs – such as the lighting, the stage, the electrical and more.

All of this is to make our place more nice for our members when you come to organ concerts and to hopefully entice rentals as well as movie goers.

I would like to speak to our financials briefly with regards to how our dues are being distributed.

Right now we have about 108 in our membership. About half of our members are Associate and half are Playing members. If you take an average of \$140

for membership and multiply that by 108 members, our generated income is approximately \$15,120. Of course this does not include any donations which do come in at the time of renewal tagged on to the dues' check.

Our concert budget for this year is \$14,000 which includes not only artist's fees but also travel and accommodations for many of them. On top of that, we have operating expenses of nearly \$2,000 per month which comes to \$24,000 per year. These operating expenses include gas, electric, garbage, water, phone, etc. – the bare essentials. This does not include any needed repairs like the boiler, brick

work, roof repairs etc.

Having said that, our minimal budget for the year with operations and concerts is \$38,000 and dues collected are \$15,120.

PLEASE, have no fear! We are NOT in danger of closing our doors in the near future, and we do not intend to cut back the number of concerts. However, you may have noticed a \$3 increase in non-member tickets. Fortunately, with other donations, we have been able to save up a nest egg to keep us in operation for several years, but with the numbers being as they are, you can see that we are operating in the red each year. In the earlier days with 300 plus members, money was still tight but I

believe we were able to operate in the black.

With all that said, I believe you can better understand why it is so important for us now, as we move into the future, to bring in additional income. Thus, the reason for showing movies and renting out our facilities.

Your Board is committed to ensuring a bright future. Plans are moving ahead for a new first floor restroom, and an improved auditorium. And with the support we have seen and the dedication of this Board, it will happen.

Thank You once again for all of your support.

Connie Masserant

## Charles “Chuck” Heffer

Glenn Rank, DTOS Treasurer

It is with sadness that we report that former DTOS member Charles Heffer passed away on Sunday May 26, 2013 in Traverse City Michigan after a short illness. Many will remember that Chuck and his late wife Betty wrote and published our monthly Club newsletter for many years. Prior to their moving to the Traverse City they resided in

Eastpointe Michigan, where they had a 3 manual 6 rank Robert Morton installed in their home. Funeral arrangements were private.

Pictured on the right is Chuck Heffer with his wife, Betty.



## Projector Fund Update

Connie Masserant, DTOS President

I am very pleased to update everyone as to the status of our fund raising for a much-needed new projector. As of May 12 we had just a little over \$600 dollars. Thanks to several member donations of \$150, \$250, \$300, \$20, \$40 and more, as well as other donations and 50/50 kick-backs, we are now up to \$2002. I would like to thank everyone who

has given, no matter what the amount. Every dollar is important. Our screen is due to arrive by the end of June. That is a pretty tight schedule to raise what is needed, but I hope we can get closer to our amount so it won't be long before we are able to show movies that will fill the whole screen.

On a similar note, I had mentioned that we would

need between \$500-\$1000 to get the screen off of the truck and on to the stage, depending on the equipment needed. I am pleased to say that we received a generous donation check of \$500 for the project.

The Board and I feel overwhelmed with gratitude by the generosity of so many. We could not continue to go forward without all of your

continued support. As we have stated before, we hope to bring in much needed revenue with the showing of movies as only one avenue to help solidify our future and for future generations.

Please accept our most heart felt Thank You to all of you who have given.

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

The Redford Theatre will be closed in June for a restoration project, reopening July 12.

July 12 & 13 – Walt Disney's "Mary Poppins"  
 July 26 & 27 – Alfred Hitchcock's "Notorious"  
 August 9 & 10 – The Long, Long Trailer  
 August 23 & 24 – Jaws

All of these great films are shown Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m.  
 as well as Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted)

Organ overtures start thirty minutes prior to each show time.  
 Sit back and enjoy the movies under the Redford's star-lit sky!

Visit the Redford Theatre on the web at [www.redfordtheatre.com](http://www.redfordtheatre.com)

# Renovation Update

Preparations for the new screen installation are progressing along. Workers have been busy in the theater this past week. Scaffolding was loaned and installed free of charge to the club, allowing the workers to begin placing some of the needed cables in the upper attic area. Once the cables were in place, work began behind the proscenium arch.



George Stamplis and Dave Masserant placing the scaffolding in position while Michael Fisher guides them around the speaker. Once in place, cables are fed from the attic through the ceiling which will support the 30' pole which will hold the screen.



Connie Masserant, DTOS President



Connie Masserant climbing to the top to sew a scaffold-torn proscenium curtain.

The last step before the screen arrives is to put the two winches in place that will lift it up. That job should be done before you even receive this Newsletter.

Taking advantage of the scaffold, Fred Bruflo and Dave Masserant changed out a bad horn on the speaker system. Thanks to all of the workers for a great job well done!



# Redford Theatre Summer Renovations

Dave Calendine, DTOS Board of Directors

Our friends at the Motor City Theatre Organ Society have closed the Redford Theatre so a major renovation project can be done.

The balcony has been stripped of all seats so that the floor could be redone. Also, the upper part of the balcony will receive new seats to match the previously renovated seats in the rest of the theatre.

The concession stand has been temporarily removed so that it could be remodeled and pop lines run to a new location. This made it necessary for them to tear up the floor and install new conduits from a storage room. During this, they also had to run new electrical lines to the main office and the men's restroom.

All of the carpet throughout the theatre has been removed. The floor will be fixed where necessary, and new carpet and tile will be installed throughout the entire complex.

New fire escapes from the balcony have been installed, replacing the ones that were showing their age.

All of this work is scheduled to be completed before

they open in July for "Mary Poppins." The summer schedule of the Redford is on a previous page.

Be sure to visit the Redford after they open to see the marvelous job the Motor City Theatre Organ Society is doing to keep their prized theatre going strong!



The inner lobby, showing the concession stand torn apart and the carpet removed.



The upper balcony with all seats removed and the floor refinished.



The main floor is all covered to minimize the clean-up effort when the restoration is finished.



The outer lobby is being used as a temporary storage room while waiting for the restoration to progress.

FRIDAY • JUNE 14TH

IN THE DETROIT MASONIC TEMPLE SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

DOORS AT 7PM

THE COMPLETE

# METROPOLIS

**TICKETS \$20**

TICKETS CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE  
MASONIC TEMPLE BOX OFFICE

TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE  
ONLINE AT [TICKETMASTER.COM](http://TICKETMASTER.COM)  
AND AT ALL  
TICKETMASTER OUTLETS.

TO CHARGE TICKETS  
BY PHONE, CALL

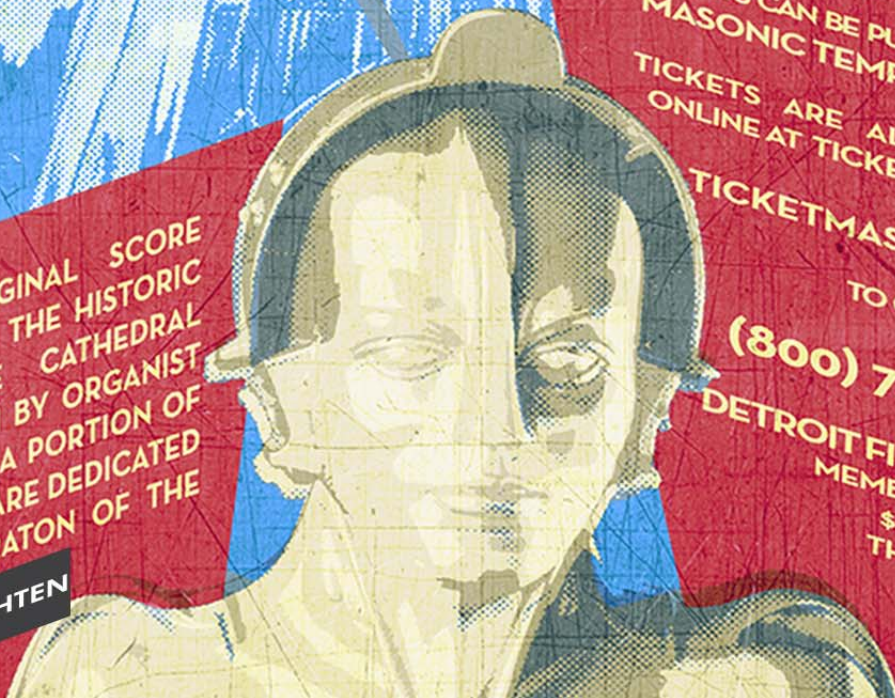
**(800) 745-3000.**

DETROIT FILM THEATER  
MEMBERS RECEIVE A  
\$3 DISCOUNT AT  
THE BOX OFFICE.

**ticketmaster**

WITH AN ORIGINAL SCORE  
PERFORMED ON THE HISTORIC  
SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL  
SKINNER ORGAN BY ORGANIST  
CLARK WILSON. A PORTION OF  
THE PROCEEDS ARE DEDICATED  
TO THE RESTORATION OF THE  
ORGAN.

**ENLIGHTEN**



# Clark Wilson & Metropolis at the Masonic

Friday, June 14 8:00 p.m.

The Masonic Temple is finishing up a restoration of their prized E. M. Skinner organ at the Scottish Rite Cathedral Theatre. To celebrate the restoration, they will be presenting the epic silent film "Metropolis" with live accompaniment on the E. M. Skinner organ by well-known organist, Clark Wilson.

The contract for the E. M. Skinner organ, with four manuals and sixty-four ranks, was signed in March of 1925. The cost of the organ was \$48,750, a tidy sum of money back in 1925. Located in five chambers throughout the theatre, there are 4,376 pipes in the organ. A unique feature of the organ is a two-manual, twenty-one stop lobby organ console, which plays ranks from the Swell and Choir divisions of the main organ

through a separate set of louvers into the Scottish Rite lobby. This lets organists entertain guests waiting to enter the cathedral or other events that are held throughout the lobby parlors.

Clark Wilson is no stranger to the Detroit Theater Organ Society. In fact, he will be performing at the Senate Theater in November this year.

A native of Ohio, Clark began his musical training at the age of nine. Today, Clark is well known in both the theatre and classical organ worlds. He was also a reed voicer and tonal finisher for several years with the Schantz Organ Company. He currently is resident organist at the Ohio Theatre in Columbus, Ohio, per-



forming for their annual summer classic film series on the Mighty Morton Theatre Organ.

Along with his busy concert schedule, Wilson runs his own pipe organ business and is heavily in demand as a tonal consult-

ant and finisher of both theatre and classical pipe organs; he has been given the singular honor of being brought to England multiple times for tonal finishing and consulting. He has received both the Technician of the Year and Organist of the Year awards from the American Theatre Organ Society, the only person to have done so, and his time is now nearly equally divided between concert and technical work. He has been professionally involved with more than 100 organ installations throughout North America and England and has provided consulting and voicing expertise for several different organ companies.

Please show your support for this significant organ restoration and enjoy "Metropolis" at the beautiful Masonic Temple. Tickets, priced at \$20, can be purchased at the door.



  
DETROIT THEATER  
ORGAN SOCIETY

*Over 50 Years of Entertainment!*

## **Detroit Theater Organ Society**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.DTOS.ORG](http://WWW.DTOS.ORG)

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### **2013 Concert Series**

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.

Visit the Detroit Theater Organ  
Society on the web for information  
on other special events happening  
at the Senate Theater! [www.dtos.org](http://www.dtos.org)



photo: Lance Luce