

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

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July 2013


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Two Fun Events for July

B.B.Q. at the Senate and a Visit to the Fox Theatre

There might not be any formal concerts at the Senate Theater this month, but there is plenty of organ music to be enjoyed, with a great side of food and fun!

Our "Mini Wurlitzer Weekend" starts on Saturday, July 20 with a B.B.Q. cookout and open console at the Senate Theater for DTOS members and their guests.



The grill will be fired up and there will be plenty of chicken, burgers, brats and hot dogs, with all of the fixin's to go with them. Potato salad and baked beans will also be provided. All of this is provided for a small donation of only \$3.00 per person. Bring some fruit or a dessert to share with everyone if you would like.

The afternoon kicks off at 2:00 p.m., with food being served at 3:00 p.m. There will be plenty of tables set up inside to enjoy the food.

And what would the afternoon be at the Senate without some organ music? It will be open console time for playing members, so be sure to bring your music to play the Wurlitzer!

We ask that those that

plan on coming RSVP so we can plan accordingly. Let either Glen Rank (810-794-3410) or Connie Masserant (734-652-6004) know if you plan to attend.

Our "Mini Wurlitzer Weekend" concludes Sunday afternoon, July 21 with a trip to the Fox Theatre.

Doors to the Fox Theatre will open at 2:00 p.m. The time will start with a tour of the theatre, with the rest of the time being open-console at the Mighty Wurlitzer. Those that wish to squeeze into the organ console in the lobby may try playing the Moeller organ there as well. After our time at the Fox Theatre, we will go next door to Hockeytown Café where we will have a pizza and pasta buffet in their Celebration Room.

Parking in the Fox Parking Structure will be only \$5.00 per car. The tour of the Fox is free, thanks to DTOS' own Dave

Calendine, who will also be leading the tour of the theatre. The buffet at Hockeytown Café is \$15.00 per person. The buffet will include pizza (cheese and/or pepperoni, and meat lovers), fettuccini Alfredo, salad, and cookies. Pop is also included in the price. Other beverages will be available for purchase from the servers.

For those that wish to play the organ, be sure to bring your music. The music rack will be placed on the console so that you can use your music.

To RSVP for the Fox Theatre, please contact Dave Calendine (810-449-8037).

Please note the Fox event is open to all DTOS and MCTOS members, and is limited to 100 people.



From the President's Desk

Connie Masserant, DTOS President

Summer has finally hit and so has the hot weather. This is the time when things slow down at the theater since we have no air conditioning. However, planning by many of our committees continues. The movie and program committee will be having meetings

planning for the rest of 2013 and for 2014. The restroom committee will be looking for bids from contractors for the upcoming months. So, while there will be little activity at the theater, with the exception of the Bar-B-Que, work and planning will continue to

hum along.

We need more committee involvement. If there is a committee that you would be interested in working on, please let any director know. After all, this is your club and all member support is needed at any capacity.

Our concerts resume in September, along with a special event. (See page six of this Newsletter for the special event)

Have a great summer and stay cool. See you at the Bar-B-Que.

**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
y going online to www.dtos.org.**

Lynn Walls to the Rescue

Connie Masserant, DTOS President

We owe a big THANK YOU do Lynn Walls.

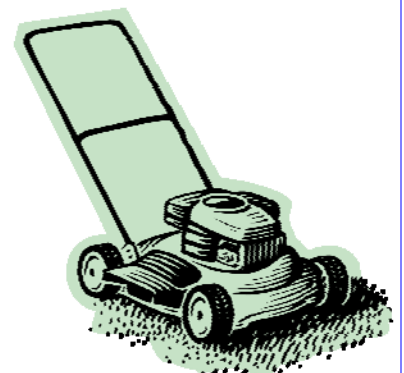
Sometimes we don't realize just how much it takes to keep our place running - inside and out. This month I would like to acknowledge and give a special Thank You to Lynn Walls who has faithfully mowed the lawn for the last two years. It isn't just mowing the lawn. Trash has to be picked up and raked out of the yard before the lawn can even begin to be mowed. The first mowing of the year always is the worse with the extra cleaning needed.

So, Thank You Lynn, for keeping our lawn mowed, among other things that you do for our club.



From the editor:

As a side note, we are in great need of a lawnmower for the Senate Theater. Do you know of one that could be donated to the theater so that we could keep the lawn cared for throughout the summer? If so, please contact Connie Masserant. Her contact information is on the front page of this Newsletter.



Redford Restoration Continues

Dave Calendine, DTOS Board of Directors

Our friends at the Motor City Theatre Organ Society are finishing up their restoration project of the Redford Theatre. Here are

photos taken on Saturday, June 29 showing how much of the project is now complete.

The seats in the balcony

have all been replaced and look great. The new carpeting is done and looks stunning. They are now working hard to finish the project in

time for the July 12 grand re-opening.



Left: Concession stand area nearing completion. Right: Outer lobby still has lots to do to finish up!



Left: The new seats in the balcony. Right: The men taking a lunch break. From left to right: Allen Fitzgerald, Steve Overstreet, Dick Smith, Sam Laswell, Liam Neary

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

- 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

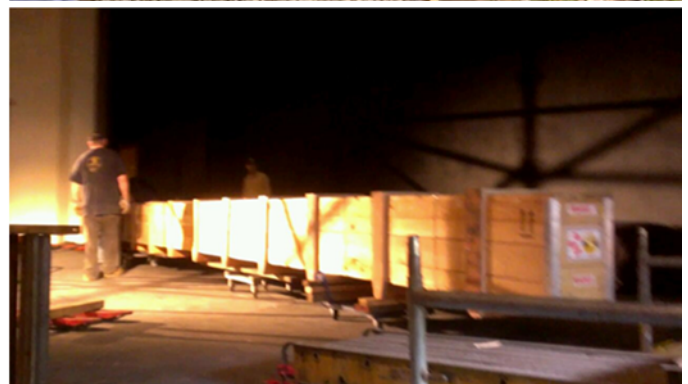
New Movie Screen Arrives!

Connie Masserant, DTOS President

IT'S HERE!!!

The screen has finally arrived. With much excitement, it was unloaded off of the flatbed truck and onto the stage. With much pre-planning, then additional planning and strategizing upon its arrival, it was a very interesting, fun, and hard-working day. A large boom truck was brought in to unload the screen, which was then raised up and over the fence.

The boom truck was also used to assist in getting the screen through the doorway and into the theater. The most difficult part was placing the screen on the conveyor and moving it into the building, but with all of the male expertise and the help of a pallet jack, it finally made its way to the stage.



George Stamplis and Dave Masserant fasten the many cables to the screen in preparation for raising. When ready, this will take two

Movie Screen ... continued from previous page

more men, with two working in the attic, and two working on the stage.

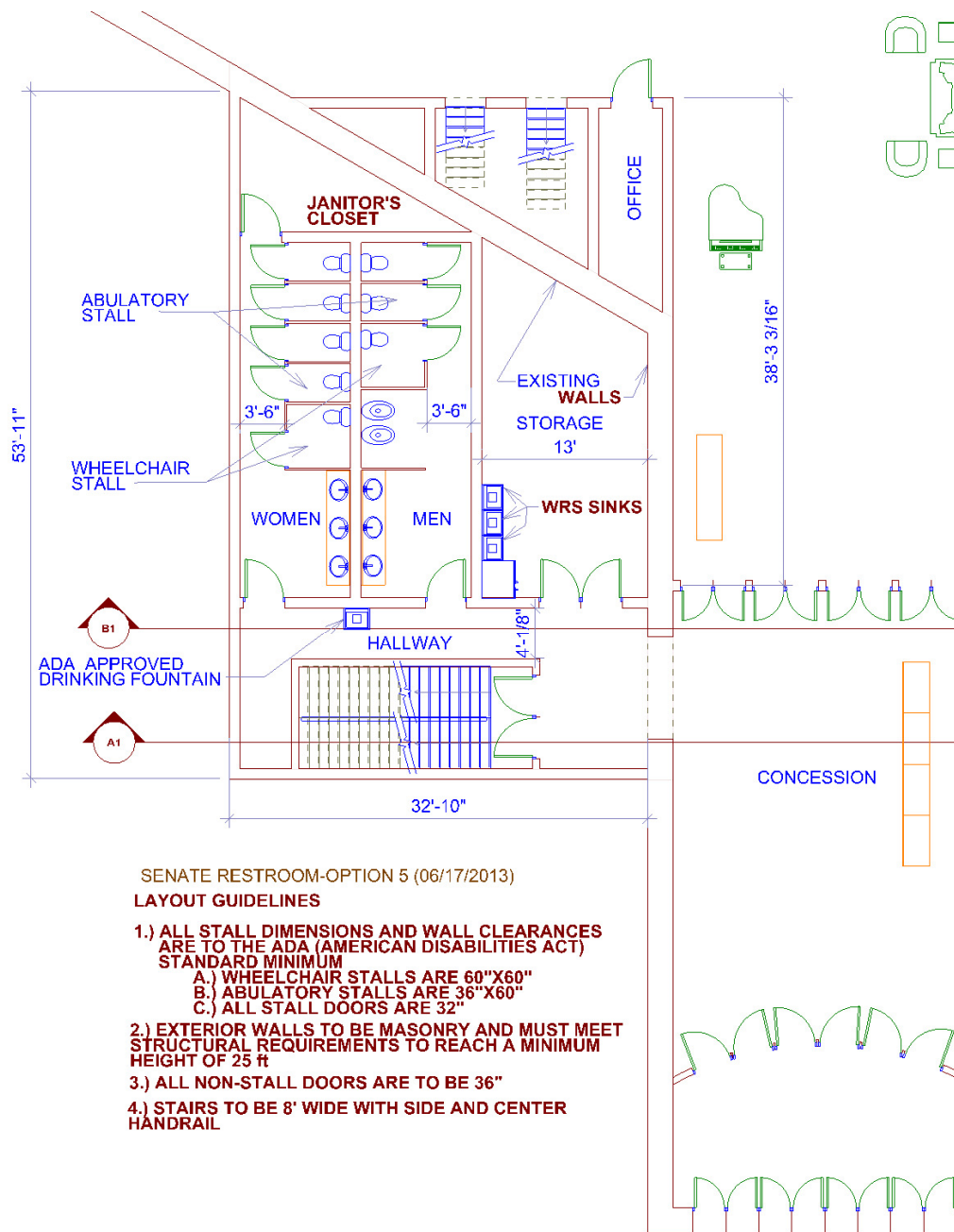
As you can see, there was a large amount of lumbar used to encase the screen for shipping. We are looking for someone to be able to break this up and haul it away. It sure would make great fire-

place wood. Do we have any volunteers?

Now that the screen has been delivered and loaded on the stage, the bill is now due. With the total cost of all the equipment, man power, and the steel pipe that supports the screen, the total amount due came to \$2,460.00. We

received a donation check for \$500.00, which certainly helped put a dent in the bill, but we sure could use a little more help. Anyone with a few extra dollars that they could use to help with the delivery and installation expense? Your help is greatly appreciated!

We are excited to soon be able to use the new large screen and hope that it will increase our audience, which will in turn bring in the much needed revenue. Again, thank you to all of you that have brought us this far!



To the left is the most recent version of the proposed layout of the new lower-level restrooms to be built at the Senate Theater. Several changes were recently made, which include:

- Upper floor added for meeting space
- Double-width stairs
- Slightly-larger footprint
- New dual-level water fountain
- Three-station sink, as needed if we wish to add more items to our concession stand
- A "slop sink" for cleaning and maintenance

Thanks to Andy Coatley for providing the revised layout for inclusion in this Newsletter.

The next step in the restroom process is to solicit bids from architectural firms to move to the next step on making the lower-level restrooms a reality.

Ragtime & Boogie Woogie Concert Coming

Sunday, September 29, 2013 3:00 p.m.

It's a match! Two highly regarded Ragtime and Boogie-Woogie pianists (yes, pianists) are coming to the Senate on Sunday, September 29, at 3:00 p.m.

Bring a friend to this special concert opportunity. Come expecting endless enthusiasm, blazing handwork, as well as some tunes and early blues with rich melodies and chords, all presented in an engaging manner including stories about Ragtime and Boogie Woogie music with a little humor anecdotally incorporated into this historic presentation.

We can all remember when Marvin Hamlisch's ragtime music score for "The Sting" won him an Academy Award for music from this era. Now you can experience it live in the historic and personal Senate Theatre. Refresh your memory of this nearly forgotten music.

BOB MILNE

Bob Milne specializes in this music style that developed in America in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Although Bob Milne comes from a classical background, having excelled as a French horn virtuoso at the Eastman School of Music, he is completely self-taught as a pianist, playing totally by ear. When he took up saloon piano-playing on the side, he

discovered what fun entertaining his listeners could be, and how naturally it came to him. Early on in this new career, Bob became fascinated by the Ragtime music found on nearby player pianos, and how listeners enjoyed it.

Bob Milne's "internship" lasted 25 years, usually playing in the Detroit area at venues such as the Dakota Inn Rathskeller, Woodbridge Tavern, and many more. He has even written a book on these experiences, *The Journeyman Piano Player*.

Bob naturally progressed to the concert stage, acknowledged by many as one of the best pianists of

our time. He is now constantly performing across the country (and sometimes beyond) from concert halls to festivals, and everything in between, and still having fun with his audiences exhibiting ballistic speed as well as subtle harmonies.

Known as a "Ragtimist" (a term he coined), Bob Milne quickly made himself a dedicated student and presenter of this true American musical form, having acquired both a vast repertoire of tunes and extensive knowledge of their origins. In 2004, Bob Milne was designated a National Treasure by the Librarian of Congress, and the concert that he performed there is

now part of the National Record of American Music.

These histories and the stories of the piano players who were playing them are anecdotally incorporated into Bob Milne's presentations. Bob also teaches music history at Florida Atlantic University every winter, and conducts a Music Retreat in Lapeer, MI each September.

It comes as no surprise that the Library of Congress designated Bob Milne a "National Treasure" when they documented his expertise for future generations, and that the U.S. State Department has utilized him as a "Musical Ambassador" in Japan and Switzerland.

A review by John



Bob Milne

Ragtime & Boogie Woogie ... continued

Forssen states: "He has so much music stored in his fingers that he is able to play and talk at the same time, giving little clinics on technique, explaining how ragtime was old on the guitar before it was new on the piano - and how, during a span approaching 100 years, ragtime became the foundation upon which rock 'n roll was established."

"Despite his success, Milne insists that he is still a "saloon piano player," and he credits his early days in those steamy places for teaching him "how to read his audience and move them with [this] richly varied music, tailored [on the spot] to

the mood of the moment." And, he adds with a smile, he and his kind have survived the years because the first rule in those old saloons and barrel bars, where whiskey flowed and violence was routine, was: Don't shoot the piano player."

BOB SEELEY

Detroit Bob Seeley is a major league piano player like Lou Whitaker was a ballplayer. This still-vigorous pianist was a fixture at the piano bar at Charley's Crab in Troy, MI, where he entertained the locals and visiting dignitaries for over 32 years. It isn't just that he's an extraordinary pianist. He's an

outstanding performer who has played Carnegie Hall several times and most of the major venues throughout Europe for several years. He is universally hailed as possibly the greatest proponent of boogie-woogie and stride alive today.

Bob Seeley has seen the three greatest players of the era perform personally - Albert Ammons, Pete Johnson, Meade Lux Lewis, and recreates for us their compositions and style of playing. Bob says he may possibly be the last pianist alive today that meets the above condition. But Seeley has also said that it's the Boogie-Woogie music that keeps

you young. Proof enough!

From Bob Seeley's Biography:

Styles played: Classic Boogie Woogie, Harlem Stride, Ragtime, American Songbook Ballads

Quotes: "Best Boogie Woogie piano player on the Planet" (Dick Hyman, master jazz pianist)

Performances: Carnegie Hall NYC (3 times). Concerts in 12 European countries.

Detroit Boogie-Woogie Festival (3 times). Various USA Music Festivals - dozens of times.

Charley's Crab Restaurant - 32 years! (Closed 2010). Birdland Jazz Club - NYC. Baker's Keyboard Lounge -

Detroit. Ted's Restaurant - Bloomfield Hills. Old Mill - Waterford.

In summary, Bob Milne and Bob Seeley are Detroit colleagues and good friends. In many regards, these are among the last men standing who held first hand friendships with significant American ragtime and boogie-woogie composers and historians.

Put on your toe-tapping shoes, stoke up with some popcorn, and sit down at the Senate Theater for an exhilarating afternoon of original American music.

Tickets, \$15.00 general admission, will be on sale soon.



Bob Seeley

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

2013 Concert Series

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



photo: Lance Luce