

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

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lanceluce@wowway.com
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rolandefleur@gmail.com

Walt Strony Returns to Detroit

Sunday, April 19, 2015
3:00 p.m.

The Detroit Theater Organ Society is pleased to bring back popular organist Walter Strony for an afternoon of great music on our Mighty Wurlitzer. 2015 marks the fortieth year of performing concerts by Walt, and we couldn't be more pleased that he returns to the console at the Senate Theater.

Walter Strony is one of America's premier concert organists. He made his public debut in 1974 at the age of 18 and has since established himself as one of few organists equally at home playing both theatre and classical organ.

Mr. Strony has performed hundreds of concerts from coast to coast in the United States as well as in Japan, Australia, England, and Canada. In addition, he has performed at many conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists.

In July 2007 he performed the first solo organ recital to be presented in many years at New York's Radio City Music Hall for the American Theatre Organ Society's 2007 Convention.

He is the only living organist to have been twice voted "Organist of the Year" by the American Theatre Organ Society - in 1991 and 1993. In 2011, he was inducted into the ATOS "Hall of Fame" -

the youngest person currently in it. He has performed with the Calgary Symphony; Allentown Symphony; El Paso Symphony; and Symphony Silicon Valley.

In addition to his fine reputation as a concert organist, Mr. Strony is well known for his many recordings. His first CD "Phoenix" was rated 10/10 by CD Review - the highest rating given by this prestigious publication. He has recorded over 31 albums with his most recent CD (2013) being recorded on the Aveni Wurlitzer in Gates Mills, OH - an instrument that he designed.

As an author, he is well known for his book "The Secrets Of Theatre Organ Registration", which has become the standard reference book on this subject.

In addition to

being one of America's most sought after concert organists, he is well known for his work as a pipe and digital organ consultant-tonal finisher. His work in this area has taken him to both theatre and classical instruments across the country and around the world. In 2008, the Allen Organ Company commissioned him to design a new four-manual instrument - the Walt Strony Signature Series Organ.

Walter Strony was born in Chicago in 1955, and began music lessons at the age of seven. His theatre organ teacher was the famous Chicago organist Al Melgard, who for many



Walt Strony ... continued from front page

years was the Staff Organist at the Chicago Stadium. His classical studies were with Herbert L. White and Karel Paukert.

He lives in California's Gold Rush Country, which is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling, fine dining, and collecting contemporary

art and Art Deco items.

This well-rounded musician brings a wealth of experience to any organ console. This experience has brought him the reputation of being one of America's most original and interesting sounding concert organists. As one reviewer noted - "Strony has become one of the rare breed of today's

younger theatre organists to have developed a style uniquely his own. While looking backwards, respectfully to the masters of the theatre organ tradition, he manages to look forward with a refreshing approach in all his musical arrangements. It is a style that is inventive, harmonically interesting, and above all, right

for today."

Join us as we celebrate Walt's forty years of performing around the world with a great concert at the Senate Theater. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. and the concert starts at 3:00 p.m. See you at the Senate!

Kroger Community Rewards

Dave Calendine
DTOS Board of Directors

The Detroit Theater Organ Society can benefit from your grocery shopping, and it costs nothing more from you but a few seconds of your time.

If you shop at Kroger and have a Kroger Plus Shopper's Card, a percentage of your grocery shopping can be turned into money for our organization. Kroger sends out "Community Rewards" checks each quarter. For over a year now, we have benefited

from this program.

Enrollment needs to be done each year. If you have enrolled before, you will need to do it again. If you would like to enroll for the first time, the directions are simple.

Visit www.kroger.com and click on the "community" button on the top of the web page. Sign in with your information (if you haven't before, you will be prompted to create an online account). Once in

your account page, scroll down to the section for enrolling into an organization. In the search box, simple enter "Detroit Theater" and our organization will pop up. Select us to link your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card and you are done.

Kroger Community Rewards are paid out to our organization automatically at the end of each quarter. The more members that are enrolled, the

more donations we will receive. Please take the time and link us with your card.

For those that shop on Amazon.com, you can also find a similar program with their Amazon Smile program. Just look for the Detroit Theater Organ Society in their list of organizations.

Thanks to Paul Jacyk for enrolling our organization in these programs!

Visit our friends at the Redford Theatre for their classic film series.

April 17, 18 & 19—Gone with the Wind

May 1 & 2—Harold and Maude

May 29 & 30—Titanic

June 7—SILENT MOVIE! "Wings" accompanied live by Stephen Warner

June 12 & 13—Dial M for Murder" in 3D

June 26 & 27—The Goonies

July 10 & 11—Jurassic Park

Full schedule of events, including times and prices, can be found on the web site

WWW.REDFORDTHEATRE.COM

Springs Is Here ... Umm ... Sort of...

Scott Smith

*Spring has sprung,
The grass has ris.
I wonder where them flowers is.*

My street-smart Dad, who never used the wrong tense or improper syntax loved to poke fun at people who did. His oft-repeated jokes and humorous poems or sayings are burned deeply into my memory, and this was one of his favorites. It seems appropriate for this time of year, and is a reminder that I want to make mention of how our Mighty Wurlitzer has survived yet another brutal Winter.

Since last Fall, several steps were taken to offset the negative effect of what sometimes seems to be the longest season of the year on our precious, but weather-sensitive pipe organ. In fact, they all are, especially as they get older. I suppose that could be said of all of us, too, but that's a topic for another time.

For several years, there were two whole-house humidifiers in the organ chambers, until one was removed as an experiment to feed the blower about five or so years ago. It's absence proved two things; (1) that a second humidifier was indeed needed in the chambers, and (2) that the humidity provided by two similar humidifiers were inadequate for the job at the blower intake. A tip of the hat to board member Kevin Werner for holding a near-daily vigil of keeping the chamber and relay room humidifiers filled. As a result, not one stopper dropped in any of the pipes tuned in that manner. That means the wood stops were more stable this past Winter than they've been in many, many years.

This is the second Winter that our "passive humidification" of the interior of the organ has been in place. The Organ Committee collaborated on the design and execution of a misting system that feeds the intake of the blower while the organ is turned on. The simple, but effective design utilizes an outdoor misting system that you'd find hanging from a pergola or patio enclosure that provides a tiny bit of cool misting during the hot days of Summer. A open-U-shaped tube was fabricated out of conduit and attached near the blower intake. When the blower is switched on, a lawn sprinkler unit is electrically activated and allows water supplied by a garden hose to feed the misting units. For as leaky as older, high-pressure organs can be, this helps greatly to keep them more stable as the seasonal humidity drops dra-

matically. More effective units utilize a Variable Frequency Drive, dropping the speed of the blower from over 1,000 revolutions per minute down to about 60, and the amount of water vapor accordingly when it is switched off. It is generally accepted that the tremolo units and percussion actions allow the slightly moistened air to bleed off and not build up mold. This type of unit has proven to be particularly effective in larger instruments, such as the Philadelphia Macy's store organ (formerly Wanamaker's), where whole divisions can now be played during the Winter that just outright refused to do so before.

The third part of the stabilization of humidity was the introduction of a new method of entering the organ blower area. At some point during the club's ownership of the building, a wall was constructed, dividing the two halves of the basement. The smaller half contains the boiler, used for heating the building, and the larger half contains the blower and all of the tremolo units. The same fresh air that enters through an old casement window to feed the boiler is the arch-enemy of the air on the blower side, which needs to be relatively constant in tempera-

ture and humidity. The notion of keeping the door shut between the two halves seems simple, except that the notion is only as good as the memory of the last person to exit the basement to do just that. Furthermore, over time, there would be small floods in the basement, and the hollow core wood door would draw in water and let it seep out ever so slowly. Early in the Winter, the door's bottom not only rotted out, but fell off its hinges. True, we could have just replaced it with an identical door, but this time, the Organ Committee thought that something that required no recollection of keeping the door shut was necessary. This time, we acquired and installed the type of vinyl-strip door used in coolers at the local grocery. The effect was dramatic and almost immediate. Not only was the air entering the blower more stable, but the atmosphere surrounding the tremolo units kept them from needing to have screws tightened as frequently just to make them work properly.

Did we win against Old Man Winter? Not exactly, but we sure let him know that we weren't going to take this one lying down.

Upcoming Movies at the Senate Theatre

April 25—Oliver!

May 30—SILENT MOVIE! Buster Keaton's "Three Ages"

accompanied live by John Lauter at the Mighty Wurlitzer theater pipe organ

June 13—Laurel and Hardy Festival—six Laurel and Hardy shorts,
three "talkies" and three "silents"

accompanied live by Lance Luce at the Mighty Wurlitzer theater pipe organ

Visit WWW.DTOS.ORG for our full schedule of events at the Senate Theater.

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

2015 Concert Series

April 19—Walt Strony

May 17—David Rhodes

June 28—Ron Rhode

September 20—Bill Tandy

October 18—Ken Double

November 15—Nathan Avakian

December 6—John Lauter



photo: Lance Luce