

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 55, Issue 9

November 2016

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!

DTOS
Executive Board
& Directors

- **President**
Lance Luce
lanceluce@wowway.com
- **Vice President**
Michael Fisher
fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
- **Treasurer**
Dave Calendine
dave@calendine.net
- **Corporate Secretary**
Kevin Werner
kevwern@comcast.net
- Joan Brown
jbeethoven@netzero.com
- TJ Casterson
tcasterson73@gmail.com
- Christopher Dengage
Dengates@att.net
- Gil Francis
ggf@juno.com
- Dick Leichtamer
tibiplena434@buckeye-
express.com
- Lynn Walls
clwalls@gmail.com
- Bob Weil
robertjweil@yahoo.com

Justin Stahl Returns to the Senate

Sunday, November 20, 2016—3:00 p.m.

The Detroit Theater Organ Society is pleased to welcome back Justin Stahl to the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ at the Senate Theater.

Justin Stahl is a native of Beech Grove, Indiana. Beginning at age five with the encouragement of his great-grandfather, Justin was mostly self-taught in piano and organ. His passion for music has reached many venues that have included accompanying for several choral departments, contributing as his church's music director, playing for community theatre, and serving for over fourteen years in the Indiana Army National

Guard's 38th Infantry Division Band.

Justin has entertained thousands of patrons of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in the last five productions of their annual Yuletide Celebration, playing the 3/24 Wurlitzer installed at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Theatre organ has always been a passion of Justin's and has taken him to performance venues across the country. Most recently, Justin was a featured artist at the 59th ATOS Convention held in Indianapolis.

A graduate of Marian University with a Bachelor's degree in piano perfor-

mance, Justin presently serves as director of music at the Horizon Science Academy in Columbus, Ohio where he teaches choir, band, and general music. His approach and philosophy includes the continued promotion of the theatre organ by using a wide base of musical genres. Justin would like thank Central Indiana Chapter for all of their support of the years!

Join us on Sunday, November 20 at 3:00 p.m. for a great afternoon of music at the Senate Theater. Doors to the theatre open at 2:00 p.m.

See you at the Senate!



Any Publicity Is Good Publicity They Say

Lance Luce
President, DTOS

Recently we've gotten some media coverage. There's been a TV interview on WXYZ channel 7, and a column in the Detroit Free Press by Mitch Albom, as well as other mentions on WRCJ courtesy of Dave Wagner and other web sites. It seems bad news sells. A former employer of mine found that out one time when he had a "going out of business" sale, and people came in droves. After that, he held many more similar sales. It seems people like to take advantage of other people's misfortune. However, good news, news that we're doing fine, isn't nearly as interesting. And, the coverage we got, we could have never have afforded to purchase. However, the message was a little confusing, and after being run through the filter of a reporter or journalist, it came out with an emphasis on doom and gloom. Some of it sounded like we might be closing down, and that is not the case. Again, it makes a better "story" if it can be spun to seem like we are in peril. The stories were written and the interview edited, and it sounded pretty bleak. Some of our own members erroneously believed that we

were closing. A few even complained that they were not informed. So how did this happen?

A couple of board meetings ago, it was suggested that the board hold a "special meeting" to discuss our current financial decline, decline in concert attendance, decline in membership, and what the future might hold for our organ if things didn't get better financially. The truth is we do run an annual deficit. However, this is not new information, we've been in this situation for a couple of decades or more. What is new is that some of our supporting members have passed away, and our donations have decreased dramatically. If it were ever to come to the point where we were no longer able to operate (meaning afford to operate) the Society, the by-laws state that we would have a vote of the playing membership, and if a majority agreed, we would liquidate our assets. This would include the sale of the organ and the sale of the theatre, and we would give any remaining assets to a like kind 501(c)3 organization. You can find a copy of the by-laws on our web site, on the

membership page if you'd like to read them.

The "special meeting" stirred up some emotions from board members that are passionate about keeping the DTOS going for years to come. In the meeting it was agreed that we should press on, and change our business model somewhat and seek some other ways to generate income from the theatre, like rentals for events other than organ concerts. Fundraising and other "help" in this area is also being investigated since none of the board members are grant writers or fund raisers. We have started having rentals at the theatre, and there are a few scheduled between now and the end of the year. We have a fund raising program planned as well as a GoFundMe page to accept donations. Just prior to the special meeting a board member made some phone calls and got the attention of the news media which resulted in the coverage on TV and elsewhere. This turned out to be terrific for the attendance at our October 16th concert. We haven't seen that big of a crowd, since, well, the "closing" concert of the Senate back in 2009 when

we though we might be moving to a new location. Again, back then as it was this past concert, people came out like crazy when they thought it might be the last concert ever at the Senate.

I would like to thank all of the people that have made donations, lately and in the past. We can't thank you all by name, but all donations are appreciated. So, going forward, we are going to need all the help we can get. More people at the concerts would be a great place to start, so spread the word! Donations are certainly appreciated, large and small. Did you know, that if you are over 70 years old, you can make a donation directly from your tax deferred retirement account to a 501(c)3 (like us) and not pay tax on it! (up to \$100,000 annually) Just thought you might like to know. Check with your tax advisor for full details of this law. We hope to see you at the November and December concerts, as well as our "Fund Raiser" event in December. Check the web site for details. We'd like to keep the Fisher Wurlitzer playing for a long time to come!

Happy
Thanksgiving



Hallmark Display Improvements

Dave Calendine
DTOS Board of Directors

Thanks to the generosity of Joan Brown, there has been a Hallmark display set up in the lobby on a table on the opposite wall from the record counter for several months now. Each concert has also had a large Hallmark gift basket that is donated by Joan so that it can be raffled off. With the success of the table, and the extra donations that it has brought in for the society, Joan has decided to upgrade her display and bring in a full rack to display all of the items that are available. All items

are on a donation basis, which means you donate to the society what you feel the item is worth. Many patrons have donated well above and beyond what the item is worth, knowing that the proceeds directly benefit our society.

Next time you are at the theater, be sure to check out the new display, purchase some items, and be sure to thank Joan for her dedication to the Senate Theater and the Detroit Theater Organ Society!



Emergency Preparedness at the Senate

Christopher Dengate
DTOS Board of Directors

Some members of your Board of Directors got together recently to prepare themselves for an emergency at the Senate.

While we had already prepared the building for a Cardiac emergency at the Senate many years ago with the addition of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator), the members in attendance got up to date with the new guidelines from the American Heart Association for performing CPR, handling a choking emergency and the recognition of a stroke. They also re-familiarized themselves with the operation of the AED at the Senate as well as the protocol set in place if the cabinet is opened and the Alarm Company is notified.

Rest assured your board is now certified and ready to spring into action should it become necessary.



Rockin' the Holidays at the Senate Theater

Joan Brown
DTOS Board of Directors

What is that you say? What are you talking about? Don't we always have a holiday concert at the Senate? Yes! Yes we do—but that's not what this is.

This is bigger. Way bigger, and we need you to be a part of it or, at the very least, support it.

When the decision was made to fight and save both the Wurlitzer and the theater we knew the first thing we needed was money. Lots of money. To get money you have to get people's attention. That was done through the wonderful story done by Channel 7 on October 5th and the excellent column written by Detroiters Mitch Albom in Sunday, October 9th Free Press. So we have the attention of a lot of people and many have donated to our GoFundMe

page. But, what I really want is to get them down to this theater and see what we have to offer, to not be a secret anymore.

When the cameraman from Channel 7 walked in our front doors his first words were, "Wow, I expected it to be trashed in here." He received many pleasant surprises and a wonderful interview followed with the reporter making me promise to update the station. I will be sending out a press release of the event ten to fourteen days prior.

So, circle the date of Saturday, December 17th on your calendar. Mark it in red and tell all your family and friends to do the same because we are going to blow the roof off this theater (literally speaking of course, we don't need a new roof)

with three hours of live holiday (and other) music on stage starting at 7:00 p.m. I call it a 'Fun'draiser to save the theater and organ and I hope to see people singing and dancing in the aisles.

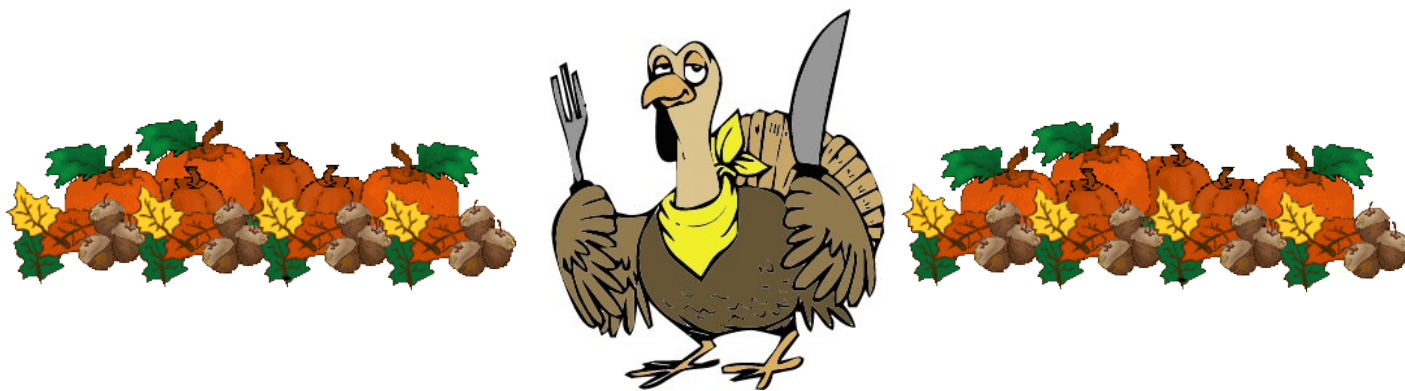
As of this writing I have secured a rock band, a jazz quintet, a barbershop quartet, an incredible male soloist and, of course, our very own Lance Luce who will open the show and will close it with a Christmas sing-along bringing all the musical acts back on stage.

I am still looking for a local gospel choir and am waiting to hear back from a well-known folk singer. Variety is going to be the theme of the night with something for everyone.

There will be fun raffles and a celebration unlike anything the Senate has seen

in years. A program will be available with ads/sponsorships available for \$100 (full page, which is actually half of an 8 1/2" X 11" sheet) \$50 (half page) and \$25 (quarter page). You can use it for your business, a family member, or a friend. Send out holiday greetings, special tribute or thank you, or birthday wishes to be seen by all who attend.

Tickets will be just \$25 and purchased online or at the theater in advance during the next two concerts. The decision to sell at the door will depend on how well advance tickets sell. Stay tuned to the website for more details but I can guarantee you won't want to miss this!



Intermission Desserts for December Concert

Dave Calendine
DTOS Board of Directors

As is tradition at the Senate Theater for the upcoming Christmas concert next month on December 4, we ask that all members that are attending the concert bring goodies for the party

that is held during intermission. We would like to have cookies, brownies and other fancy baked goods (finger foods only, please!). You are also encouraged to bring foods such as cheese and veggies

for our friends and guests that can't have the sweet items. The coffee, Christmas punch (non-alcoholic) and water are free that day.

The intermission will be

extended so that there will be plenty of time to eat and renew friendships.

We hope to see you there.


 So,
 we all now
 know there will
 be three big events at the
 theater during the month of
 December where we hope to have
 large audiences. Now we need to make
 the theater shine and sparkle and look festive
 for Christmas. We need all hands at the Senate
 for a decorating party Tuesday afternoon, November
 29th at four. Come On And
 join The
 fun, you'll
 be all shopped
 out by then
 anyhow!

Many Volunteers Needed

As you saw in a previous article the Senate is holding a big fundraiser during the holidays (Saturday December 17th) and, as co-coordinator of this event I need bodies! It would be great to see a few 'new' vol-

unteers and this would be a great event to step up. I am in need of ticket taker/sellers, 50/50 raffle, concessions as well as someone to take care of the merchandise and Hallmark basket raffle. Training will be

provided if needed. A few others can assist our guests with questions, finding their way around and keeping the bathrooms maintained and stocked with supplies. If you would like to be part of this

historic and fun event please e-mail me at jbeethoven@netzero.com and I'd be happy to fill you in!

Thank you so much. It is because of your dedication we are keeping D.T.O.S. alive.

Joan Brown
DTOS Board of Directors

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

*Come Be a Part of the Music
Where the Music is a Part of You!*

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.DTOS.ORG

Join us for our
Christmas concert
with Lance Luce
December 4



photo: Lance Luce