

# DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

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THANKSGIVING!

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## Maestro Hector Olivera Performs

Sunday, November 18, 2018 3:00pm

Maestro Hector Olivera is a passionate, gifted, and unique musician, whose personal interpretations of both classical and popular music have amazed and delighted audiences around the world.

'The Times Reporter', describes an evening with Hector Olivera as:

"An event, a happening, a joyful celebration of the sheer power and pressure that a true virtuoso like Hector Olivera can unleash in a concert hall."

Born in Buenos Aires, Mr. Olivera's first teacher (who was his father) encouraged him to begin playing the pipe organ when he was three. Two years later, he was appointed organist of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. At age 5, he played for the legendary Eva Perón. At six, he entered the Buenos Aires Conservatory to study harmony, counterpoint and fugue. By age

nine, he had composed a suite for oboe and string orchestra, performed by the Buenos Aires Symphony Orchestra.

At age twelve, Mr. Olivera entered the University of Buenos Aires where he studied with Hector Zeoli and Juan Francisco Giacobbe. By eighteen, he had performed more than three hundred concerts throughout Latin America, appearing frequently on

Argentinean radio and television. During this time, he also served as the senior improvisational accompanist for the Collegium Musicum in Buenos Aires, vastly increasing his prodigious improvisational talent.

In 1965, New York's prestigious Juilliard School of Music offered him a scholarship. He immediately moved to the United States to study with Vernon de Tar and Bronson Reagan. Three years later, Mr.



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## aestro Hector Olivera ... continued from front page

Olivera won the National Improvisation Contest sponsored by the American Guild of Organists, thereby launching his outstanding professional concert career.

In 1988, after years of performing in the United States, Maestro Olivera was invited to play once again in Argentina. Upon arriving, he was welcomed as a national hero with 'Standing Room Only' concerts attended by celebrities and heads of state, as well as being featured on national radio and television shows.

Throughout his concert career, Mr. Olivera has performed in prestigious venues including the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Carnegie Hall in New York, Royal Albert Hall in London, Spivey Hall in Atlanta, Constitution Hall in Washington D.C., the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, Myerson Concert Hall in Dallas, Verizon Hall in Philadelphia, Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, Sydney Town Hall, Melbourne Town Hall and Brisbane City Hall in Australia.

Additional to his solo concerts, Mr. Olivera has performed as guest soloist with orchestras worldwide, including the Pittsburgh Symphony, the Fort Wayne Symphony, the Dover-New Philadelphia Orchestra, the Dallas Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the Amsterdam Baroque Ensemble, the Minnesota Orchestra and the Pasadena Symphony. Composer Robert Vandall

described Mr. Olivera's performance with the Tuscarawa Philharmonic as "an opportunity to hear and see greatness."

His collaboration with the Pasadena Symphony produced a 'Limited Edition Gold CD' featuring Mr. Olivera in the Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3.

In 1992, Mr. Olivera was guest artist at the American Guild of Organists' convention at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta performing the world premiere of a commissioned work written by William Albright. Later, from this same stage, Olivera performed on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion," and according to Keillor, he "literally stopped the show!"

In 1996, in celebration of the Olympic games, Mr. Olivera was given the honor to perform a solo concert at Spivey Hall, Atlanta for which he received multiple standing ovations. The 'Atlanta Journal Constitution' wrote: "Olivera swept the audience with absolute Olympic virtuosity, and that still doesn't say it.... Hector Olivera is in a class by himself"

In 2000, Mr. Olivera performed a solo memorial concert in New York City's 'St. Paul the Apostle' as a tribute to his hero, the legendary organist Virgil Fox. He played a subsequent Virgil Fox Memorial Concert at Grace Cathedral, San Francisco in 2004.

In 2002, Mr. Olivera was invited again to perform for the American Guild of

Organists' National Convention, where his transcription of Stravinsky's 'Firebird Suite' spontaneously brought the large audience of peers to their feet. Again, in 2004, his appearance before the Guild's National Convention in Los Angeles was considered an historic triumph by 2,200 cheering organists, who gave him four standing ovations in 45 minutes.

By popular demand, Hector Olivera performed regularly at the celebrated Newport Classical Music Festival. The 'Providence Journal' acclaimed: "Organist Hector Olivera brought the Newport Music Festival to a spectacular close"

By invitation, Mr. Olivera performed a solo concert that was attended by an audience of 5000 at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on August 12, 2007.

"Mr. Olivera... sublime improvisations indeed," (Olivier Latty, organist Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris

In 2010, Mr. Olivera's magnificent recital at the renowned Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles moved an enthusiastic audience to its feet. The 'Pasadena Star' quoted: "Olivera began winsomely but gradually morphed into a gigantic mass of sound with elements of Messiaen, Vierne and others folded in, including a reprise of the Bach Passacaglia and Fugue from the first half. The audience was on its collective feet at the end, deservedly.... No

encores were played... or needed"

In 2014, Mr. Olivera received an invitation to perform at the grand Hong Kong Cultural Center Concert Hall, and the magnificent Shenzhen Concert Hall in China.

In 2016, Maestro Olivera toured Australia where he brought the house down at the glorious Sydney Town Hall, the resplendent Melbourne Town Hall, and the stunning Brisbane City Hall, receiving multiple standing ovations, and rave reviews.

Mr. Olivera has been invited to perform an unprecedented third recital at the prestigious Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles in 2018.

Mr. Olivera continues to thrill audiences with both solo classical and orchestral compositions, now released on DVD and more than 20 classical, contemporary, and film score CD's.

Most famous for his prodigious technical proficiency and charismatic stage presence, Mr. Olivera's amazing effect on audiences has made many of the most sophisticated and demanding organ aficionados claim that Maestro Hector Olivera is "one of the greatest organists in the world today."

The doors open at 2:00pm. The concert starts at 3:00pm. This is one concert you will not want to miss. Come enjoy the rare treat of seeing and hearing Maestro Hector Olivera at the console of the Senate's Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ!



# From the Bench – No Pressure

Scott Smith

As you pass by the Tuba Mirabilis offset chests on the outer wall of the Solo chamber during the next chamber tour, take note of the one just before you turn to the left to go over the bridge on the way to the exit. Give some thought to what might be happening inside when the organ is playing.

It was 2:00 p.m. sharp on the most recent concert day. T. J. Casterson and I had completed our usual last-minute tuning duties. We purposely wait until the last minute in order to give the "big guns" a final tuning touchup before the event so that they will sound solid and in tune. We generally hold to a 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. "no fly zone" in order to accomplish this. Once completed, there should be a minimum of sound (ideally none at all) coming from the organ until the concert commences at 3:00 p.m. Having wrapped up a few other issues, we proceeded to the last annoying issue on the list. The corner of some leather adhered to a chest pallet in 1928 had worked its way loose, and would neither play properly nor shut off completely.

Fantastic. Just what we (don't) want to deal with at the last minute. Aside from the pressure of time, there's always a chance that we'll disturb some dirt from a hidden corner, and it will find its way into a magnet or a pipe at exactly the worst possible moment. Still, we knew that this chest had undergone restoration of the pneumatics inside just a few

years ago, and it would have been cleaned out at that time.

With only an hour to go, there was no time to waste. The organ was shut down, and all appropriate tools and lights were quickly gathered. Following the removal of 14 large screws (including the one hidden behind a primary box) plus four others for the access plate to the primary box, plus two more to remove it from the inspection panel, we were inside. First, I removed the return spring, and then gently bent back and removed the heavy wire that attaches the big secondary pneumatic (the one with military green rubber cloth in the photo) to the pallet, only to discover that the pallet would not come out for an easy glue-up without total disassembly of the rest of the chest. Well, that wasn't happening, so with some ordinary wax paper used to isolate the top of the pallet leather from the underside of the toeboard, I brushed in some fish glue to both adjoining surfaces and in only a few minutes, it appeared to be taking hold. The beauty of the fish glue is that it's not as fast as the hot hide glue, yet not as slow as the cold hide glue, plus it has great initial tack and dries in about ten or so minutes to the touch.

Convinced that things had a fighting chance of working satisfactorily, we quickly reassembled everything in reverse order, and, holding our collective breath, turned the organ

on. No ciphering, and a couple of quick raps on the appropriate pedal proved that it would play as it should. With all of the tools and lights removed, we checked the clock as nervous feet clattered past us. Fifteen minutes to go. No pressure there...none at all!



# Fundraising Campaign Started

Lindsay Robillard  
Fundraising Committee

Since its inception, the Detroit Theater Organ Society has been committed to preserving and playing our Mighty Wurlitzer. It is our hope that we can continue this mission for many years to come, and pass on our passion for this unique instrument to future generations. Starting in 2011, in an effort to make that vision a reality, we began restructuring our business model to include regular film screenings and soliciting theater

rentals. Unfortunately, the removal of the marquee in 2016 gives the thousands of potential customers driving down Michigan Avenue every day the mistaken impression that the building is no longer in use.

DTOS recently secured a grant for \$30,000 from the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce and the General Motors Foundation to support the installation of a marquee as well as improve the appearance of the neigh-

boring lot on Michigan Ave. However, it will only cover a portion of the costs. Therefore, our organization must mobilize patrons of DTOS organ concerts, movie screenings and the broader community. We need to come together to invest in the future of our organization, our organ and our home, The Senate Theater.

Our fundraising campaign, Welcome to The Senate was launched with the goal of matching the

\$30,000 grant, and continues into January of next year. Donations can be made online at:

[www.patronicity.com/thesenate](http://www.patronicity.com/thesenate), or mailed directly to the theater at 6424 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48210. More than a marquee, your generosity now will secure the future of this one-of-a-kind instrument and make sure that a new generation is able to appreciate the beauty and heritage of theater pipe organs.

# Gilbert Street House Boarded Up

Dave Calendine

Many months ago, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of the last house on the block by our existing parking lot. 4387 Gilbert Avenue became the property of the Detroit Theater Organ Society earlier this summer. The process was longer than we had hoped, but finally was completed. The person selling the house removed many items from the home, which was great, as we didn't intend to

rent it out. We intend to tear it down!

The demolition process is not a quick one, and while we waited for the process to continue, it became apparent that others were using the house and grounds for a dumping place. The city also became aware of this and issued a citation for the mess. A work day was held to clean up the prop-

erty and board up the house. This was accomplished by a small but strong group of five guys. They spend a good part of a Saturday morning cleaning and boarding up the house's doors and windows.

The demolition process

is still ongoing, and we hope to be able to demolish the house and clean up the property so that we can expand our parking lot fence to cover the entire property. This will enable much more secure parking for our members and patrons.





# Work continues to Update Senate Theater

Dave Calendine

While the organ gets much of our focus, there are many items that need attention throughout the Senate Theater. Lately, the concession stand has received some nice upgrades.

Hot water is important for cleaning. The previous system gave us two choices out of the faucet. Cold, and colder. Not very helpful! With the Senate now having more choices for concessions, including hot foods, we needed to change that. A new hot water heater and tank was installed, just large enough to work well for the stand, but not too large to get in the way. This was then piped into a new three-compartment sink, which is necessary to meet the requirements of the city for us to handle cleaning everything that is used to prepare and serve hot

food items.

If you haven't stopped at the concession stand lately, you should stop by and see what all is new there. No longer is our popcorn bought in advance and put in the warmer. We now pop our own popcorn. And if that isn't enough, we now also offer hot dogs and brats, with all of the fixings to go with them.

The new three-compartment sink enables us to properly wash all items used with the preparation and serving of our food.

You will also notice a new table that gives the concession workers more space to work off of.

There is also a new large cooler that lets us keep more

beverages cool, as well as let you see more selections to choose from.

All of these are great additions, and will help greatly.

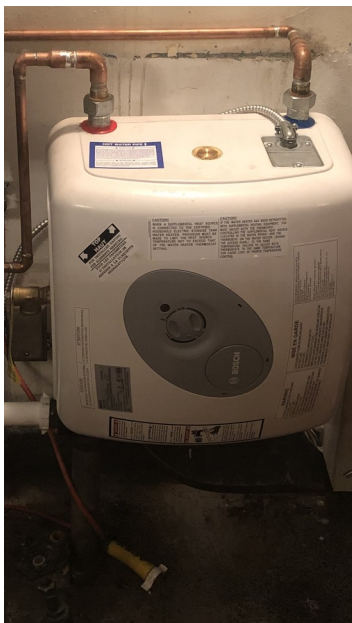
There are other updates that we need to make, yet to do them we need your financial support. The biggest item that needs to be addressed is our lighting. Currently, when someone enters the theater and turns on the lights, a LOT of lights come on. None of those lights are energy-saving lights. We would like to change the whole process. One, we would like to make it so that less lights come on. And of those lights that do come on, none of them are energy-saving lights. We need to change out all of the light bulbs with new LED-equivalent lights. Our electric bill, which is well over a thousand dollars a month, could be less if we switch out all of our lights with LEDs. This one-time expense for new lights can be rather steep. If you would be interested in helping us with changing over to new lights, please contact our President or Vice President and let them know. The cost-savings will be significant over the years for us

once this gets done.

Work on the outside of the building has been done as well. Work on the roof and gutters on the West side of the building has been completed, which we hope will end any water leaking in the building, and stop the wall from crumbling.

There are other projects that need to be done as well. The artist dressing room needs a drastic makeover. It has been a while since it has been redone, and it is past time to do that. The hallway to get down to the basement, which is now often used as a second dressing room, also needs to have major work done on it to provide better accommodations for our rentals.

All of these projects cost money, and we greatly appreciate all that have donated to various projects in the past. If you are able to help with any of the projects, please let us know.



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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## **2018 Movie Series**

November 10—All That Heaven Allows

## **2018 Concert Series**

November 18—Hector Olivera

December 2—Stephen & Rose Warner



photo: Lance Luce