

# DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Senate Theater • 6424 Michigan Avenue • Detroit, MI 48210  
Phone (313) 894-0850 • [WWW.DTOS.org](http://WWW.DTOS.org) Volume 59 issue 3, Mar 2020

## What's New?

### Metropolis! March 28<sup>th</sup> at 8pm.

#### Join us on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 8pm for the classic silent "Metropolis" with our own Scott Smith providing accompaniment!

In the future, in the city of Metropolis, wealthy industrialists and business magnates and their top employees reign from high-rise towers, while underground-dwelling workers toil to operate the great machines that power the city. Joh Fredersen is the city's master. His son Freder idles away his time at sports and in a pleasure garden but is interrupted by the arrival of a young woman named Maria, who has brought a group of workers' children to witness the lifestyle of their rich "brothers". Maria and the children are ushered away, but Freder, fascinated, goes to the lower levels to find her. On the machine levels he witnesses the explosion of a huge machine that kills and injures numerous workers. Freder has a hallucination that the machine is Moloch and the workers are being fed to it. When the hallucination ends and he sees the dead workers being carried away on stretchers, he hurries to tell his father about the accident. Fredersen asks his assistant, Josaphat, why he learned of the explosion from his son, and not from him. Grot, foreman of the Heart Machine, brings Fredersen secret maps found on the dead workers. Fredersen again asks Josaphat why he did not learn of the maps from him and fires him. After seeing his father's cold indifference towards the harsh conditions they face, Freder secretly rebels against him by deciding to help the workers. He enlists Josaphat's assistance and returns to the machine halls, where he trades



places with a worker. Fredersen takes the maps to the inventor Rotwang to learn their meaning. Rotwang had been in love with a woman named Hel, who left him to marry Fredersen and later died giving birth to Freder. Rotwang shows Fredersen a robot he has built to "resurrect" Hel. The maps show a network of catacombs beneath Metropolis, and the two men go to investigate. They eavesdrop on a gathering of workers, including Freder. Maria addresses them, prophesying the arrival of a mediator who can bring the working and ruling classes together. Freder believes he could fill the role and declares his love for Maria. Fredersen orders Rotwang to give Maria's likeness to the robot so that it can ruin her reputation



among the workers to prevent any rebellion. Frederesen is unaware that Rotwang plans to use the robot to kill Freder and take over Metropolis.  
Come to the Senate on March 28<sup>th</sup> to see how it ends.



## From the Bench: Random Voices (Scott Smith)

### WNYC Streaming

Where do you find good music from The Great American Songbook on the radio dial? In a random search for something else, I recently discovered the streaming service available from WNYC in New York City. Simply copy or type the following into your browser (or simply Google "WNYC Streaming"):

<https://www.wnyc.org/streams/>

A list of "All Live Streams" comes up, with options that range from NPR news to opera to new music to other options. During the recent holiday season, they offered not only one, but TWO options for holiday music (one classical and one pop)! If you want to hear Sinatra. Clooney, Crosby, Torme or any of the great bands from the Swing Era, click on the "Listen Live" block adjacent to "New Standards" and enjoy.



### Radio Station Organs

A basically unwritten history of radio station pipe organs is covered on this site, replete with audio files that will allow you to hear how organists from that era actually sounded.

<http://www.museumofyesterday.org/museum/radiostations/index.htm>

Other items of interest may be found on the site's home page:

<http://www.museumofyesterday.org>

### Vocal Harmony

Back in the late 1970s, I was turned onto a vocal harmony quartet called "Singers Unlimited." They produced numerous albums during that period, some with instrumental backup and some a capella. The jazz-inspired arrangements differed vastly from traditional barbershop quartets, and its primary arranger was Gene Puerling, who also performed with and arranged for an earlier group, the "Hi-Los." Along comes young YouTube star Danny Fong, resident of Toronto, who has taken on some of Puerling's arrangements, and performs all the parts himself on split screen. Here are two variations on the same arrangement of "My Sugar Is So Refined."

A Capella:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWJYj-x\\_wx8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWJYj-x_wx8)

With additional vocal and "instrumental" tracks:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iFDbNt6tc5A>

If that isn't too far out for you, try the work of Grammy-winning Jacob Collier, a young Brit who is taking on a wide variety of music, and, like Danny Fong, is a YouTube sensation. Here is his reharmonization of the theme from "The Flintstones," in which he also performs all the parts in.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zua831utwMM>

It doesn't take long to figure out that this all takes a tremendous amount of work to figure out and document the arrangements, lay each track down and mix them into a



video performance. Musicians may enjoy checking out Collier's deconstruction of Stevie Wonder's "Sir Duke," which owes much inspiration from the late, great Duke Ellington.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CZP6nogQYPg>

If you enjoy these, let me urge you to check out additional music videos by both guys, who also collaborate with others all over the world.

### **Let's meet our new Board! (New)**

President-	Lance Luce
Vice President/Treasurer	Michael Fisher
Secretary/Treasurer	Kevin Werner
Director	Paul Ovares
Director	Stephen Warner
Director	T. J. Casterson
Director	Lynn Walls
Director	Roger Fisher
Director	Zach Wojtan

#### **Roger Fisher, new board member**

"I was born and raised in Wyandotte, Michigan, being introduced to the piano at the age of 9 and the organ at 12. I received my Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts from EMU and taught middle school for 30 years. I started playing for church services at the age of 21 and have played them for 51 years. The theater organ was an off and on situation and finally finding a home at the Senate three years ago where I now have a chance to practice on our wonderful Mighty Wurlitzer and have played pre-show for the movies a few times and plan on playing many more. What a great institution for meeting some great and like-minded people and I truly cherish my time learning and doing many things pertaining to the theater. I am very honored to serve on the board of direction at the Senate and plan on doing my best to help preserve and enjoy the wonderful events that are presented for everyone's enjoyment.

(Left- Zach, Right- Roger)

#### **Zach Wojtan, new board member**

Hello Senate Theater members! My name is Zackary and I'm your new board member and I thought you'd like to meet me. You may have seen me at events but may have not met me yet. So, allow me to introduce myself. I've been a member now for over 3 years and the theater organ was my primary interest when I first arrived.

After such time my interest is to restore the theater. I'd like to see the theater looking like opening day one day. My interests are incredibly varied with so many hobbies from the organ which took me as far as Atlantic City to play the Midmer-Losh organ to restoring antique electronics which had me working at a vintage audio shop doing restorations and repairs. I'm looking forward to my next 2 years as your board member and I can't wait to help the theater in a way I wasn't able to before. And of course, if you have any suggestions or ideas please come talk to me! I'd love to hear them.



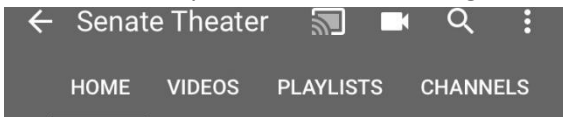
## Showtime at the Senate The Senates new Podcast (Nick Baldwin)

As a member of the movie committee and primary manager of the Senate Theater's social media presence, I was struggling with ways to explain to our audience exactly *why* we're showing specific movies. In a Facebook, Instagram or Twitter post, you can only say so much before the audience has scrolled on to the next one. Of course, as a team, we have many incredible reasons for screening a specific film. Maybe it's a personal connection. Something you grew up watching and wanted to share with everyone else. Maybe it's a highly underrated film. Something you know in your heart of hearts ought to be seen by the masses and the only place

they can see it is on the big screen at the Senate Theater. Maybe it's just a movie you think can be a huge success. Most likely, it's all the above. At least that's the case for us on the movie committee. But, again, here in lies the question. How do I share that meaningful conversation with the audience? Back in November, everyone was talking to me about podcasts. "What podcasts do you listen to?" I was asked. None, really. I had listened to some. I knew the popularity of podcasts but hadn't *really* gotten into them myself. Little did I know, podcasts were taking over.

Right now, there are over 700,000 active podcasts and over 29 million podcast episodes in over 100 different languages available online. I had recorded one back in April of last year. The Spooky Hourz podcast hosted by local artist Jordan Garland. He had planned a film festival and art display at the Senate in May of last year and had me on to his podcast to discuss the theater and my thoughts on films. Why couldn't the Senate Theater have its own? December came around and there was a WDET Storytellers

meetup (we ended up hosting the Storytellers meetup back in January) at MusicTown, a free podcast recording space inside the Hockeytown Cafe on Woodward. I met with fellow aspiring podcasters and was told what the studio had to offer. It was at that moment that Showtime at the Senate was officially born. Such an incredible resource was too good to pass up. Now, prior to each film screening, I sit with a community partner or fellow committee member (hoping some filmmakers in the future) and discuss that week's upcoming Senate Theater screening. So far, we've had such guests as Dan Merritt, co-owner of Green Brain Comics in Dearborn, and Nikki Neuzil, owner of Flamingo Vintage in Southwest Detroit. What I couldn't summarize in a brief Facebook post or with an Instagram image can now be conveyed directly to our audience. An audience that is intelligent and ever growing. The idea behind Showtime at the Senate is to connect with our audience. Have a heart to heart, if you will. I think, if our audience understands our movie schedule is created out of enthusiastic passion, they're more likely to be inspired to come and share the experience with us. Currently, you can check out a video recording of Showtime at the Senate on YouTube and uploaded to Facebook. The audio version of the podcast is now



**Senate Theater**  
16 subscribers



### Uploads



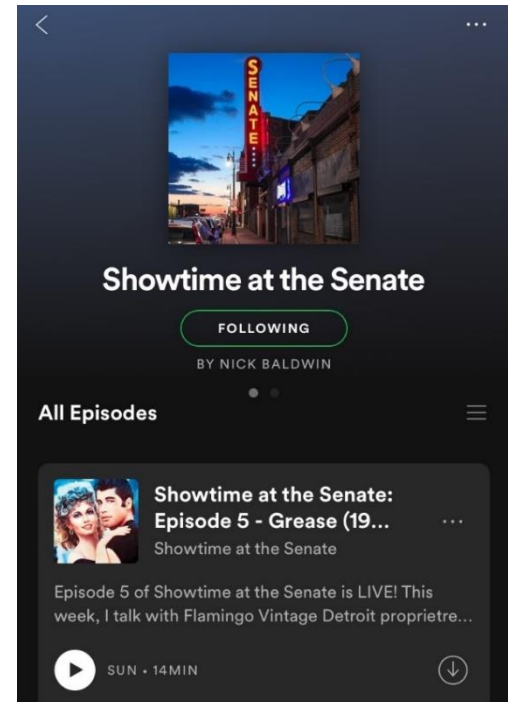
Showtime at the Senate: Episode 5 - Grease (1978)  
7 views · 1 day ago



Showtime at the Senate: Episode 4 - The Man Who Lau...  
35 views · 1 week ago



Detroit Theater Organ Society Documentary - 1964  
26 views · 2 weeks ago



available at [senatetheater.com](http://senatetheater.com), Spotify, Google Podcasts, Radiopublic, Breaker and Pocketcasts. (Apple Podcasts still pending approval)

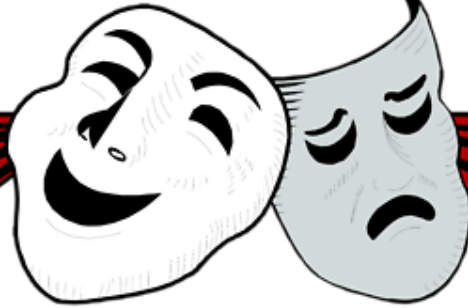
I hope you'll take a moment to check out the Senate Theater's podcast and I hope you enjoy.

### **DTOS Kroger Community Rewards. It's time to renew!**

Kroger Community Rewards Program Help DTOS & Senate Theater by enrolling in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Kroger will donate money to DTOS on a quarterly basis based on the percentage of your spending as it relates to the total spending of all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations. There is at no cost to you. It is tied into your Kroger shopping card. To use the Kroger Community Rewards program:

- Register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)
  - Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy.
  - If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
  - Click on Sign In/Register
  - If you are a new online customer, click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
  - Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
  - You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
  - Click on "My Account" "Account Settings" and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step
  - Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
  - Update or confirm your information.
  - Enter Non-Profit Organization (NPO) number (91825) or name (Detroit Theater Organ Society), select organization from list and click on confirm
  - To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see "Detroit Theater Organ Society" on the right side of your information page
  - Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
  - For each purchase to count, you must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping. Please note: Current registrations expire 04/30/2020. Kroger Rewards starts again 05/01/2020. You will need to re-register at that time.
- Thanks, on behalf of the Detroit Theater Organ Society and Senate Theater!





## Back Stage Happenings

Especially during these winter months our mighty Wurlitzer benefits by being played. If you need to practice, come down! While you're at it consider playing pre-show before movies to introduce the sound of Theater organ to those who haven't heard it before. I know many of you play piano as well as Theater organ. We also need piano players who can play our lobby piano before the pre-show organ music starts at 7:30. Contact any board member to get details.

### Helping Hands

Volunteers from WJR radio personality Mitch Alboms "Helping Hands" came down and cleaned everything in sight. They painted the stage apron, mopped the floors from Michigan avenue to the stage. Cleaned and sanitized all the restrooms as well as the large soda cooler in the concessions lobby. They also wiped down every seat in the auditorium. This was all done within the span of three hours. Special thanks to those who participated as well as member Joan Brown for arranging this.



### Boiler (s)

The new boilers have been installed and are working great. Many thanks go out to those of you who contributed to the cause. Without your support this could have put us in a real financial bind. We are still taking donations to cover the expense of the boilers and the soon to be installed marquee, so it's not too late.



### New LED Auditorium and Emergency Lights

We are continuing to change over to LED fixtures and bulbs where we can. Thanks to member Dave Hedrick we now have 6 new emergency lights throughout the building. There are 2 in the auditorium, 2 in the inner lobby and 1 in each restroom. These replace the outdated ones with new LED fixtures. Thanks, Dave. Also, all 6 overhead lights in the auditorium have been replaced by LED thanks to member T. J. Casterson. Thanks, T.J.





Feb 28	8pm.	Beat the Devil	\$5.00
Feb 29	8pm.	The Maltese Falcon (1941)	\$5.00
Mar 7	8pm.	King Kong (1933)	\$5.00
Mar 21	8pm.	They Live (1988)	\$5.00
Mar 28	8pm.	Metropolis (Silent) Scott Smith Organist.	\$10.00
April 11	8pm	Coal Miners Daughter (1980)	\$5.00
April 19	3pm.	Mark Herman in concert.	\$15.00
May 2	8pm.	Laurel & Hardy and Friends (Three silent, 3 sounds)	
		Andrew Rogers Organist	\$10.00
May 9	9pm.	Eleven PM (Silent) Scott Smith Organist	\$10.00
May 17	3pm.	Lance Luce in concert	\$15.00
May 30	8pm.	It Should Happen to You	\$5.00

We'd love to hear from you. Questions, Suggestions... We even take requests!!

Our Board of Directors are here to serve you. Email them at:

Lance Luce – President [lanceluce@wowway.com](mailto:lanceluce@wowway.com)

Michael Fisher - Vice President / Co-Treasurer [fisher.michael65@yahoo.com](mailto:fisher.michael65@yahoo.com)

Kevin Werner - Secretary / Co-Treasurer [kevwer@comcast.net](mailto:kevwer@comcast.net)

Lynn Walls – Director [clwalls@gmail.com](mailto:clwalls@gmail.com)

Paul Ovaes – Director [paul.ovares.dc@gmail.com](mailto:paul.ovares.dc@gmail.com)

Stephen Warner – Director [sjwarner@umich.edu](mailto:sjwarner@umich.edu)

T.J. Casterson – Director [tcasterson73@gmail.com](mailto:tcasterson73@gmail.com)

Zach Wojtan- Director [zwojtan@yahoo.com](mailto:zwojtan@yahoo.com)

Roger Fisher- Director [61keys88@gmail.com](mailto:61keys88@gmail.com)

Kevin Werner. Temporary editor.





