



The Reservoir

The Official Publication of The Detroit Theatre Organ Society

The Senate Theatre

www.dtos.org

April, 2008

Michigan at Livernois, Detroit, Michigan

Ballots sent for elections

Ballots for the election of board members for 2008 were mailed to all eligible voting members the first week of April. Those receiving ballots are asked to mark them quickly, place the ballot in the separate envelope, and then return them via U.S. Mail in the self-addressed envelope that was provided.

Although there are several candidates on the ballot for the board vacancies, not enough members were nominated to fill all the positions.

Therefore, this year's ballot has provisions for two write-in candidates. Remember ... vote and return your ballot.

Annual meeting date set

The annual meeting of members will be held Tuesday evening, April 29, 2008, 7:00 PM, at the Senate.

All members – both playing and associate – are welcome to attend, hear president Chis Dengate's report, and review the financial reports for the past year.

"The annual meeting is a chance for members to express their opinions and ask questions of the board," noted president, Chris Dengate. "I encourage any and all DTOS members to attend."

Traffic notes; I-75 et al.

MDOT has closed portions of I-75 for the next two years for major renovations.

This may affect some of our concertgoers who normally use I-75 for access to the Senate.

If you are coming from the south (Monroe, Toledo, or southern metro Detroit suburbs), you can still take I-75 to the Livernois exit. (You cannot re-enter I-75 northbound at Livernois.)

If you live in metro Detroit and use the expressway system to get to the theatre, you are advised to use I-94 to the Livernois exit. You will totally avoid the I-75 construction/closure.

Double your pleasure with Ken Double on April 20

Making a return appearance to Senate on Sunday, April 20, 2008, at 3:00 PM, and a perennial favorite with DTOS audiences, Ken Double promises a varied and unique theatre organ program with something for everyone.

Organist. Broadcaster. Entertainer. For more than 30 years, Ken has been on radio and television as a sportscaster, and since 1978, he has been at the console of some of the great theatre pipe organs, working hard to entertain his audiences.

Born in Chicago, his love of sports was just a normal part of growing up. Ken parlayed that into a degree in Radio-TV from Butler University in Indianapolis and enjoyed a career that has included play-by-play in the NHL, AHL, NBA, major college sports, the Indianapolis 500.

He began organ lessons at age eight. A school field trip during his sophomore year in high school took him to the Pickwick Theatre in the Chicago suburb of Park Ridge, Illinois, and Ken was instantly hooked on the wonderful sounds of the "king of instruments."

Ten years of lessons, three summers playing the organ for the Tommy Bartlett Water Show in Wisconsin Dells, and a

stint as the first organist at the Market Square Arena in Indianapolis helped Ken pay for college. In December of 1978, he played his first public concert, a holiday show on the Page organ at the

Embassy Theatre in Ft. Wayne.

Ken began filling-in at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, all the while appearing nightly on the news to deliver the sports.

During the summer of 2008, he will complete his fourth tour "Down Under" across Australia and New Zealand. This will make it a

very busy summer in 2008, because the tour immediately follows the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) Annual Convention in Indianapolis, at which Ken will hit the trifecta, acting as convention concert artist, Master of Ceremonies, and President of ATOS, a post he has held since August of 2008.

His appearance at the Senate on April 20 will mark his first concert at the Senate in more than ten years. Please bring a friend (or two ... or more), and let's double our attendance.

Enjoy a wonderful afternoon of theatre organ music with Ken Double at the console.



Board approves Hazelton project

The board has approved the funds to proceed with the Tom Hazelton Senate recordings. Volume one should be ready around May 1.

The original plan was to produce a limited edition of 150 copies, but the economies of scale were such that it was just as cost-effective to make 1,000 discs. Hopefully each volume will be a sell-out, providing DTOS with some much needed revenue.

Even though the run has been increased to 1,000, it's strongly suggested that you order your copy today.

Same old story

Our nemesis – the roof. A portion of the roof that was leaking was replaced in March. Consequently, some plaster has been damaged.

Although we are continually plagued with roof problems, there is a separate fund allocated for these repairs. The last section repaired has a 10-year warranty.

If the repairs hold and there are no further leaks in April and May, the board will consider having the ceiling repaired.

“Found Money” -Jenks



Here's a great way to donate to our cause without spending an extra cent.

If you shop at Vg's Markets, your purchases can benefit DTOS. Simply save your sales register receipts, bring them to the Senate (or mail them), and Vg's will reimburse the Senate on a point basis. One point equals \$1 spent in their stores.

Even if you don't shop at the market, perhaps your family members or friends do. All we need is the printed receipts. It doesn't matter *who* does the shopping.

Vg's has locations in Fenton, Brighton, Howell, Davidson, Waterford, Algonac, and many other locations.

“This is basically ‘found money,’” noted Don Jenks, who organized the project. “All we need to do is submit sales slips. It costs us nothing.”

So far, we have earned \$500 from this program. Please ask around and see if your friends or family members shop at Vg's.

80 Years Under the Stars; A Redford Gala

The Motor City Theatre Organ Society is celebrating – with *80 Years Under the Stars*, a reference to the theatre's star-studded ceiling.

Since 1928, the Redford has served metro Detroit as an entertainment center with movies and theatre organ music from the 3/10 Barton.

To celebrate 80 years of operation, a special gala celebration will be held Saturday, April 19, 2008, at 8:00 PM, with an evening that will whisk you back in time to recreate a night at the Redford in 1928.

The evening's entertainment will include the classic Buster Keaton silent film, *The Electric House*, with John Lauter at the console to provide accompaniment. The Hotel Savarine Society Orchestra will play dance band sounds of the Roaring 20s. Following the show, a reception in the lobby open to all members and patrons, will celebrate and pay tribute to “America's Most Unique Suburban Playhouse.”

Tickets are \$25 for reserved seats and \$20 for general admission. Call the Redford today to reserve yours.



Routine blower service takes an unexpected turn

If you're a playing member and had a hankering to play, you will have to wait until *after* the April concert.

As part of the refurbishing project, the organ is out of service from March 17 to April 20 while the blower motor is serviced.

But there's more to the story. The blower – the part that supplies air to the pipes – had some increased vibration.

An inspection determined that one of the internal blades had several broken and/or cracked fins. This was the source of the vibration.

Finding someone to repair the blower parts was no small task. Through days of searches and referrals, Chris Dengate and George Orbits finally found a source in Washington state.

Given the condition of the damaged blade (and the age of the blower and the remaining blades), it was decided to have three new fan blades made for the blower to avoid any problems down the road.

Chris and George spent hours on end measuring – and re-measuring – the parts for that the new blades would be exact replicas of the original Spencer unit.

“We expect the manufacturer to ship the new blades by April 6, and we should have them in ample time to have the organ playing for the Ken Double concert,” Chris explained. “Had we not found a source for the parts, we might have had to cancel the April show.”

Many thanks to Chris and George for their tireless efforts.

The 2008 DTOS Concert Season

Keep this concert schedule handy and share it with your friends.

- April 20 Ken Double
- May 18 Mark Herman
- June 8 Jonas Nordwall
- July Members' Concert
- August DTOS Activity
- September 21 Rich Lewis
- October 19 Trent Simms
- November 16 Paul Roberts
- December 7 Dave Calendine Duo