

THE DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Scott Foppiano to open Concert Season



We welcome Scott F. Foppiano to the Redford Theater on March 21st to open our concert season at 3pm.

Scott is a native of Memphis, TN. During his years at St. Paul the Apostle he began his earliest musical training in the study of piano with Evelyn Maschmeyer and organ with Judy Casey. He went on to play for the weekday student Masses of the Parish

School at the encouragement of Fr. James L. Pugh, who first introduced him to the wonders of the pipe organ and its music. As his musical studies progressed he began playing for week-end Choral Masses and entered Christian Brothers High School, at which point he continued formal study of the organ with John Hooker at Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Memphis. It was also during these years that he discovered his love for the music and sound of the Mighty Wurlitzer organ in Memphis' Orpheum Theatre and immediately began learning the techniques of the theatre pipe organ as

well as classical organ.

He entered the NC School of the Arts as a scholarship student and organ performance major with a double major in voice and his teachers include John Mueller and Margaret, David Lowry, Donna Robertson, William Whitehead and Robert Glasgow. He holds a BM, MMus and the ServPl and CAGO certifications of the American Guild of Organists. In addition to formal study of the organ and improvisation, he studied Gregorian Chant with the Benedictine Monks of Solemnes, France

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COMING TO THE SENATE:

- ◆ **March 30th** Board of Directors Meeting 7pm
- ◆ **April 3rd** Special Membership Meeting at 1pm regarding the sale of the Senate and the associated properties
- ◆ **April 27th** Annual Membership Meeting and Board Meeting 7pm

Membership Meeting Scheduled

With a purchase agreement in place for the sale of the Senate Theater and other properties owned by the Society, it is now time for the membership to gather for an informational meeting and to vote on the approval of the sale agreement.

At the meeting, the members will be able to ask questions regarding the sale and terms of the agreement. All members are invited to attend the meeting however the by-laws only allow the playing membership the abil-

ity to approve or disapprove the sale/agreement. The agreement being presented for approval has gone through many revisions over the last three months when the buyer first made his offer in December of last year. The attorney for the Society has been working very closely with DTOS president Chris Dengate to accommodate the needs of Scott Smith who will be responsible for the care and removal of the Wurlitzer and Wurlitzer grand piano. The details

of the agreement are located on page three of this month's issue of the newsletter.

This is the most important decision the organization has had to make since deciding to move to the Senate Theater in 1963. The board of directors can't emphasize the importance of this meeting enough. We need every playing member to make it a point to attend the meeting and let us hear your comments and answer your questions.

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From The President's Desk

With a purchase agreement in place for the sale of the Senate, this month I would like to take an opportunity to address the playing membership who will ultimately have the right under the by-laws to approve or disapprove it.

The single most important thing to me regarding this matter is getting the membership to the meeting to vote. We must have a majority vote either way to take action. If you are not able to attend the meeting because of transportation, I need to know. It is more important to me that we have 100 percent of the playing mem-

bership in attendance than anything else. If you need a ride, it can be arranged by calling me (248) 399-3044.

The dues that the playing membership pays every year includes a right to voice your opinion and vote. Every member has a right to voice an opinion and I welcome it. It's that playing membership that has that voting right. If you are a playing member, you can expect a telephone call from me soon to make sure that you have transportation and to answer any questions you may have.

That being said, I hope to

see everyone and look forward to discussing the purchase agreement at the special meeting on April 3rd at 1pm. It will be at the Senate Theater and I promise that things will look a little different than they did back in December or January when you were there last.

Sincerely Yours,

Christopher Dengate
President, DTOS

COMING TO THE REDFORD:

- ◆ Mar 21– Organist Scott Foppiano
- ◆ Apr 18– Organist Mark Herman
- ◆ May 16– Organists Ken Double
- ◆ June 13– OPEN CONSOLE

All open console dates are open to DTOS playing members. Hours are 2pm - 5pm.

Admission to all concerts are free to DTOS members and 3 of their guests. Concerts start at 3pm.

Alternative Storage for Opus 1953 examined

While the board of directors would like to eliminate the need to move the instrument into storage, it is still a possibility and earlier this month, they approved funding to move the instrument to the Russell Industrial Center on Clay street in Detroit if needed.

One way to eliminate the need to move the instrument

twice would be to find a new venue to store it at during renovations at the site. The instrument would remain under cover during the process until it was time to reinstall it.

Two members of the board looked at a storage site in Redford as well before making the recommendation of the Detroit site. Concerns of security

eliminated that site and the other site was chosen because of it's concrete construction and numerous loading docks. The other advantage of this site is the ability to hire a fork lift operator on site if needed for the heavier things.

New Venue Search Update

It has always been the desire of the board of directors to find a new home for our wonderful instrument and the President along with George Orbits has taken on the initial task of accomplishing this.

Last month, the two looked at a total of four industrial type venues that looked appealing. While two of them could be checked off their short list of possibility's, they found two others that could work. The first is located in the City of Farmington Hills in the area of

Twelve Mile and Haggerty roads. It has about 1,000 square feet of office space and a little over 7,000 square feet of barrier free warehouse space. Located on Enterprise Court, the biggest hurdle at the site would be parking.

The second possibility is located in the City of Novi off of Meadowbrook Road and north of Ten Mile road. This venue is also located in an industrial area and is a little larger than the previously mentioned site at a little over 8,000 square

feet. The drawback of this site are four columns within the warehouse space that would have to be incorporated in the new design of the space. This venue has a little more parking on site than the other and like the other venue, would require construction of more restrooms to accommodate the patrons on concert days.

Banquet hall type seating is proposed with numerous round tables and chairs around the table for any new venue that we choose.



Foppiano (from Page 1)

and coached on the organ with Marie-Claire Alain in Paris, Louis Robilliard in Lyon and Gustav Leonhardt in Amsterdam. In addition to his musical training, he holds Liturgical training certification through the Archdiocese of Detroit and Sacred Heart Major Seminary. He continued private study of both classical and theatre organ stylings under the tutelage of his colleague, mentor and best friend the late Thomas Hazleton, formerly Associate to Richard Purvis at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and one of the world's most beloved and prolific concert and re-

cording organists.

Mr. Foppiano has served notable congregations throughout the country in music and liturgical ministry and his programs are known for their exemplary quality. He served as the Diocesan Organist for the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. In addition to his full time ecclesiastical duties, he is in great demand as a classical recitalist, concert theatre organist, silent film accompanist and organ consultant while, at the same time, established himself as a choir trainer of the highest

standards. He has performed all over the world on some of the greatest Cathedral, church and theatre pipe organs. He has toured abroad with his choirs, including a 2001 Italian pilgrimage where they sang for the Solemn Latin Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and during the Papal Audience to His Holiness Pope John Paul II. To date his music has been featured on six solo, digital CD's with future projects pending. He has served on the administrative boards of the AGO, the ATOS and the OHS at both local and national levels. He resides in Kansas City.

Financially Speaking

At the rescheduled board meeting held on March 4, treasurer Bob Weil distributed a profit and loss statement for February with the following information.

Income from membership dues totaled \$750.00.

Administration expenses for the month were \$1,467.87 which includes legal fees total-

ing \$1,200.00 for work done on the purchase agreement. A total of \$469.23 was spent in preparation to move from the Senate. All packing material. Utility expenses for the month were \$2,526.56. A net loss of \$3,845.99 was posted.

A balance sheet was distributed showing a total of \$414,338.56 in the Checking

and savings account. This includes two \$100,000.00 certificate of deposits that we currently have invested.

During the meeting, President Denate announced that a large order of lumber was delivered to the Senate in preparation of building 45 pipe trays to move the instrument.

Details of the Purchase Agreement

While I am sure that members will have a lot of questions regarding the purchase agreement, we would like to cover some of the most important questions that we feel will be asked during the meeting.

The sale price of all of the properties owned by DTOS is \$230,000.00. If approved by the playing membership, we will close on the property in the first two weeks of May.

Once we close on the deal, the remaining funds after attorney fees and real estate fees are

deducted will be deposited in our bank.

DTOS will retain sole occupancy of the properties for the first 30 days after closing. From day 31 to day 90, we will have a joint occupancy with the new owner. During this time, the new owner will not have access to the organ chambers or the relay room to protect the remaining pieces of the instrument not removed during the first 30 days after closing.

If we are unable to get the instrument removed in the first

90 days after closing, we have agreed to pay the new owner \$100 in rent every day starting on day 91 through 120 after closing. On day 121, the new owner will have the right to evict us from the property but this scenario is unlikely since we are well on the way to getting prepared to start on the day after closing.

The instrument remains untouched until we close on the building.

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Executive Board

Chris Dengate, President
Dick Leichtamer, VP
David Calendine, Secretary
Robert Weil, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Steven Ball, Director
Jeff Cushing, Director
Gil Francis, Director
Tom Iwankovitsch, Director
Lance Luce, Director
George Orbits, Director



Time has run out for Practice Time

In preparation for removal of the instrument from the Senate, all key fobs of the playing membership have been deactivated effective March 1st.

To put things in perspective, a large order of lumber including over 65 sheets of plywood have been delivered for construction of 45 pipe trays as well as material for the construction of a 25 foot ramp off the stage and up one of the isles to remove items off stage. A lot of

preparation work has to be done before the actual work can begin with the removal.

In addition, all of the property being retained by DTOS located upstairs is being moved downstairs and into the lobby by hired hands. All of the closets will also be gone through by hired hands and a large dumpster will be located in the parking lot for disposal purposes.

So, for the safety of all of our playing members, it was

best to close the doors to everyone except for those that need access for packing of the instrument, DTOS property and construction of pipe trays. The board wanted to give you as much notice as we could and the only way to do so was to just pick a date and stick with it. All of the work being done today is for a brighter future at a new and improved venue for many years to come. Thanks for your patience.

Membership Information

We are in the “home stretch” of our 2010 membership renewal campaign with nearly 75 percent of our playing and associate member renewing their DTOS memberships for 2010. A big “thank you” to all of you for your continued interest and support. However, time is running out. If you are among the few that have not renewed your membership for this year, unfortunately, the March newsletter will be your last. So, why not do it today?

The board of directors understands the decrease in benefits for both levels of membership and have reduced the dues for both categories. Playing memberships for the year are \$105 and the associated membership is \$85. Like in past years, we also offer a convenient installment plan so you can stretch out your payments into four installments.

Everyone that renewed should have received your membership card in the mail by

now. Playing members also received a card this year as well because the card is your ticket into the Redford Theater for all the concerts this year. Showing your card will ease the process of getting you through the doors in a timely manner. If you have not received your card, please contact our membership chairperson Gary Grzebienik at (248) 435-3266 or by e-mail at garyg@cdnet.net.

We would also like to welcome two new associated memberships from the Lowry Organ group at Evola Music.

**SEE YOU AT THE
REDFORD!**

LAST MONTHS SENATE SCRABBLE SOLVED

Unscramble the artists names below that performed at the Senate Theater in 1971.

- A. Mark Koldys
- B. Lyn Larsen
- C. Carol Jones
- D. Lee Erwin
- E. Harry Bunnell
- F. Gaylord Carter
- G. Jimmie Paulin
- H. Ann Leaf
- I. John Seng