

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Senate Theater • 6424 Michigan Avenue • Detroit, MI 48210
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What's New?

We are still tentatively planning on beginning our concert season on May 17. As we get closer you can go to DTOS.ORG for updates or feel free to contact one of your board members.

Lance Luce is an internationally acclaimed theatre organist. He has played hundreds of concerts all over the United States, Canada, England and Australia. In 2014 he was awarded Organist of the year by the American Theatre Organ Society. Most recently he became the head organist for the Detroit Red Wings at the new Little Caesar's Arena in Detroit. He has played concerts for numerous chapters of the American Theatre Organ Society and other affiliated theatre organ groups and clubs. He has played for National and regional conventions of the ATOS in the United States and TOSA in Australia. At age 18, Lance won first place honors in the Yamaha National Electone organ competition in California. The next year he was appointed the Head Staff Organist at Radio City Music Hall in New York, on the largest Wurlitzer ever built. Lance has made many recordings, including being part of the famous "Theatre Organ Greats - A Salute to Radio City Music Hall". Lance was the house organist at several family style restaurants, two of them in Michigan. While at the Organ Grinder in Toronto, Ontario, he played for well over a million patrons in 8 years. Lance has been a church organ consultant in Michigan since 1991. He is currently the church organ consultant for Allen organs for Evola Music. He is also on the Allen Artist roster. Lance has designed and installed over 350 organs in churches, homes and institutions. His background includes pipe organ maintenance, as well as electronic organ design, installation, voicing, pipe interfacing and MIDI implementation. Lance is currently on the staff at the Fox Theatre and Redford Theatre in Detroit, and the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. He has been a church organist for 43 years and is currently at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills



A message from the President.

Hope this finds everyone well during this unprecedented time in history. Please stay safe and well. Stay home if you can. As of the writing of this, the “stay home” order is set to expire April 30th, so we may be able to have our May 17th, 2020 concert. But, no one knows for sure at this point. We had our March board meeting on Zoom and 11 people participated. We are planning on doing the same for the April 28th board meeting.

The boilers are finished and are working great and should last us a very long time. They have been getting flushed on a weekly basis which is essential for their efficiency as well as life expectancy. The marquee structure and two large electronic displays have been mounted to the front of the theater, and the displays are on and running! The sign company can program them from their office in Clinton Township. Right now we have them scrolling through 5 different short animations. They currently cycle through www.dtos.org, the time of day, the date, an American flag waving and message that reads “Stay Home, Stay Safe, Save Lives”. The sign is two-sided, same message on each side. It is very visible from a couple of blocks away. Once it’s finished, we will have software installed on a laptop so we can change the displays from just about anywhere.

There is some work left to be done, and right now the sign people have stopped working on our sign. The only signs they’re allowed to work on right now are essential businesses like hospitals, etc. The “roof” over the sign was put in place just before the work stopped, but the drain has not been hooked up yet. There will be 4 blue neon stars on each end, far left and far right. Those have not been put up yet. The underside of the sign will be a triangle shaped metal covering with 134 clear LED’s bulbs. That is not in place yet, and the center of the sign will have red and white LED’s that will “chase” and those aren’t finished yet. Also, they have to fabricate some trim on each side of the building to make it look nicer and give them something to trim the underside to. Those two side pieces were not in the original price, so we need to raise an additional \$10,000 to cover those. Thank you for all the donations to date, we couldn’t be doing this without your generosity.

Even now the sign is a shining indicator that “we’re open”! When it’s all finished it’s going to be even more eye catching!! Great things are ahead, our future is brighter than ever!!

Senate Theater marquee lights up Michigan Avenue once again!



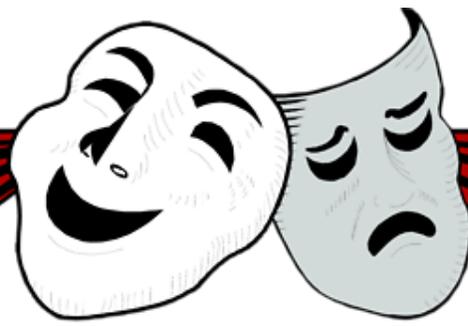
After 4 years and 8 months our marquee once again tells all who travel Michigan avenue that we are in fact open for business. It's been a long time coming since that 4th of July weekend that the City of Detroit told us that the letter board had to come down. It's also been a lot of blood sweat and tears from numerous dedicated people that have made this day possible. There have been many, many hours of fundraising, grant writing, special events and just plain hard work all dedicated to the marquee. At times we thought that we might not make it and as soon as we started feeling that way, along came another grant or large donation that kept our hopes alive. Well, it's finally happened thanks to all of you and the support of non-members, patrons and tenants alike. Having a brand-new marquee, telling all of the great events is like waking a sleeping giant. Well, the giant is awake now and there's no stopping us now. Come on down and enjoy the ride with us. As soon as it is allowed of course. 😊



It's been a Long road.

July 4th weekend of 2014 in Indianapolis. That's where I was along with fellow board members President Lance Luce, Richard Liechtamer, Fred Bruflot, and Paul Jacyk when Vice president Michael Fisher called. President Luce and I had just stepped out of the Allen room when he told us that the city had just closed us down until the marquee letter board was removed and the blade portion reinforced. Well, we didn't know what to think. That was the beginning of having to replace the marquee and as soon as we returned from the ATOS convention, we needed to get busy with it. First there were quotes that needed to be obtained for the removal of the letter board. Once those were obtained, we needed to pick a company and that company then needed to apply for the proper permits. Before that however there needed to be engineering work done to determine what was there now, what the support of the blade was going to consist of and finally what a new marquee would need as far as steel supporting. The first part took a better part of six months and finally the letter board came down and the support beams went up to secure the blade. A new piece of I beam was then installed to hold the blade in place so the temporary supports could come down. Now we could finally concentrate on a new letter board. What would it look like, design, how far could it or should it stick out over the sidewalk? It was a long process making all these decisions with the help of marquee experts and contractors. Jump ahead to 2018 to the great fundraiser for the marquee project as it got underway. Over the course of that fundraiser we were able to raise over \$60,000.00 in donations and grant money. At that point it was either learn to swim or get out of the lake. So, we decided it was time to learn to swim, we simply didn't have any choice. The decision to replace the marquee wasn't really a decision. The city insisted that the eye sore that once held the letter board be replaced with something pleasing. Whatever was chosen to put in place of the letterboard was going to cost money. A lot of money. The city had been after us for the better part of 4 years to repair the front. The contract was signed, the first payment made, then the second and here we are with one more payment to go once all the final touches are complete.





Back Stage Happenings

During these troubling times your Board of Directors are doing things to try and save money. Many of our lights have been changed over to LED. The new boilers are much more efficient, and we now have the capability to adjust the temperature remotely. Also, the dumpster pick up has been suspended until further notice which is a savings of \$137.00 a month. To all our members, guests, patrons and volunteers we are on the home stretch of fighting and ultimately beating this horrible hidden enemy. It goes without saying that as we are unable to generate any income, perhaps, once again, consider a generous donation to help carry us through. On behalf of the Board of Direction, the entire membership and volunteers, thank you for your continued support and please say safe and healthy.

30 days to slow the spread! This too shall pass. 😊

See you at the Senate.



Coming in 2020

May 17	3pm.	Lance Luce in Concert	\$15.00
Nov reschedule	3pm.	Mark Herman in Concert (date tbd)	\$15.00

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
Michael Fisher - Vice President / Co-Treasurer fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
Kevin Werner - Secretary / Co-Treasurer kevwer@comcast.net
Lynn Walls – Director clwalls@gmail.com
Paul Ovares – Director paul.ovares.dc@gmail.com
Stephen Warner – Director sjwarner@umich.edu
T.J. Casterson – Director tcasterson73@gmail.com
Zach Wojtan- Director zwojtan@yahoo.com
Roger Fisher- Director 61keys88@gmail.com

Kevin Werner. Temporary editor.

