

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 51, Issue 11

November 2012

HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!

DTOS

Executive Board
& Directors

- **President**
Connie Masserant
cmasserant13@gmail.com
- **Vice President**
Lance Luce
lanceluce@wowway.com
- **Treasurer**
Richard Dengate
rmd1121@comcast.net
- **Corporate Secretary**
Dave Calendine
dave@calendine.net
- Fred Brufloft
fred.audioarts@prodigy.net
- Michael Fisher
fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
- Gil Francis
ggf@juno.com
- Paul Jacyk
paul5jacyk@aol.com
- Dick Leichtamer
tibiaplana434@buckeye-express.com
- George Orbits
gorbits@comcast.net
- Glenn Rank
grank@comcast.net
- Fr. Andrew Rogers
andrewrogers1@sbcglobal.net
- Bob Weil
robertjweil@yahoo.com

Melissa Ambrose-Eidson Returns Sunday, November 18, 2012—3:00 p.m.

The Detroit Theater Organ Society is pleased to welcome back Melissa Ambrose-Eidson to the Wurlitzer at the Senate Theater! Doors to the Senate will open at 2:00 p.m., with the concert starting at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 18, 2012.

Melissa is no stranger to our Wurlitzer, having performed here before. She also recorded a CD on the organ, "It's a Grande Old Flag."

Melissa began organ studies at the young age of thirteen. At age fourteen, she performed her first concert at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. Since then, she has performed on several notable theatre organs such as the Flint Institute of Music, Fox Theatre (Detroit), Redford Theatre (Detroit), Temple Theatre (Saginaw), and many more.

At age fifteen, Melissa won the state of Michigan Yamaha competition and the U.S. Regional Yamaha competition. She received the Royal Oak Musicales Merit Award for outstanding musicianship in the community. In 1995 she competed in the Young Theatre Organist Competition internationally and was runner-up. She competed again in 1996 and won a college

scholarship. Competing again in 1987, she won the Young Theatre Organist competition and was a featured performer at the American Theatre Organ Society's international convention in Los Angeles on the Orpheum Theatre's Wurlitzer organ. She also was featured at the society's regional convention in Denver that same year.

After winning, Melissa went on to perform at other great theatre organs in Toledo, Columbus and Mansfield, Ohio. She also performed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Lockport and North Tonawanda, New York, Toronto, Canada, and Chicago, Illinois.

A graduate of Oakland University, she received her Bachelor of Art in organ performance under the

tutelage of Frederick DeHaven, and continued her education at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, working towards a master's degree in organ under the tutelage of Marilyn Mason.

Melissa has been the Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church of Royal Oak since 1993.

Melissa's love of music also has her teaching music to kindergarten through eighth graders at St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Schools since 1991. She also gives private piano and organ lessons to twenty students weekly.



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Detroit Theater Organ Society

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Connie Masserant, President DTOS

Much has been happening this past month at the theater. We've been busy with rental events, fundraisers, movies, and a concert. More and more people are learning that we are here, and here to stay. I have seen patrons leave with the enjoyment of their experience and with the hopes of returning and bringing someone new to show off our theater.

The Senate is gaining increased exposure on a daily basis from our websites and Facebook pages. Our events are all listed, as well as our concerts. Anyone wishing any information about us can find it all there.

I would also like to take a moment to brag on

two newly formed committees. The first committee we have been patiently waiting for to get started is the first floor bathroom building committee. This group is chaired by George Orbits with fellow members: Andy Coatley, David Masserant, David Voydanoff, and Bob Weil. They have started a discussion and have begun drawing up plans to be executed in the not-too-distant future. They will keep us updated as to their progress.

The second committee I am proud to announce is the Sign and Marquee Restoration Committee. This committee is chaired by Chris Dengate with fellow members Fred Brufloft and David Masser-

ant. Work has already been started by this committee with restoring the lights to our marquee. The board also just approved to have two LED spotlights to shine on our "Senate" vertical sign. This will make our sign visible from dusk until dawn.

Restoration recommendations quotes are in. We expect to return the sign and all of its components to its original state. This will include new wiring, lighting, painting, new neon and much more. All inclusive, the cost figures to be:

\$20,267.00 for the parts and labor from Motor City Sign Company and \$1,750.00 for the electrical to Motor City Electric, bringing the total to

\$22,017.00. While this may seem to be a high goal to achieve, if you break it into smaller bits, it should be very achievable. It would only take 22 members contributing \$1000.00 or only 44 people contributing only \$500.00 and so forth. With our 100 membership, it comes to only \$220.00 each.

Please reach into your pockets and give what you can to the "SIGN" fund. You can send it to DTOS at 6424 Michigan Avenue, Detroit, MI 48210.

On a closing note, I would like to wish all of you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

"See You At The Senate"

Marquee To Get New Look On Life

Chris Dengate

As the organization continues to make great strides in booking other events at the Senate, a new committee has been formed to explore the condition of the theaters marquee and billboard on Michigan Avenue.

While there are several goals of the committee, the first was to examine the structure of the sign and to insure that it was safe. A local company was used to examine the structure and they have reported that it is secure to the building with only surface rust on the main steel structure.

Now that we know that the marquee is safe, the next goal of the committee is to

get bids from at least two companies to refurbish the look and electronics of the sign. It is the goal of our organization to bring the marquee back to its original look with the original neon lighting. The board of directors plan on applying for grants to cover the approximate \$30,000.00 cost.

Some immediate changes that the committee has done to enhance the look of the Senate on Michigan Avenue was to replace all of the light bulbs that are located behind the billboard. This small but significant change really enhanced its look and helps to promote the events that we are hosting at the Sen-

ate to improve attendance. Thanks to committee members Dave Masserant, Chris Dengate and Fred Brufloft for their efforts in getting it done. Included in the marquee project is the replacement of the letter boards. Our current ones have been repaired several times and have discolored over the years which prohibits some of the back lighting from coming through.

At the October Board of Directors meeting, the board also approved funding for the purchase of two LED flood lamps that will be mounted on the roof to light the vertical Senate

marquee on non-event nights to cut down on the expected costs of running the lighting that is on the sign itself once the work that was previously mentioned is done. That lighting will be manually turned on during the times that we have events happening at our facility.

Other goals of the committee is the examine the condition of a small roof that protrudes over the sidewalk on Michigan Avenue, which has been completed. Simply put, it is in poor condition and the committee is in the process of getting bids for its replacement. Stay tuned for further updates from the committee in future publications of the Newsletter.

First Floor Restrooms Coming Soon

George Orbits, DTOS Board of Directors

The first meeting of the new restroom committee was held this past Tuesday at the Senate Theater. The committee members include Andrew Coatley, David Masserant, David Voydanoff, Robert Weil and chairman George Orbits. DTOS President Connie Masserant also attended.

The new restrooms are proposed to be construct-

ed next to the theater on the rear of the property that fronts on Michigan Avenue. The new building size will be based, in part, on the number and type of fixtures required along with an attached storage arrangement for tables and chairs. Andrew will contact the city to determine the code requirements for our theater, including handicapped capa-

bility. The current restrooms on the second floor will be retained to augment the new facility.

Once the requirements are determined, the building size, style and location of facilities may be designed. Based on convenience, theater configuration and attendance considerations, entrance to the restrooms is judged to be desir-

able from the center lobby across from the concession area. Construction of this facility is being considered for the rear of the property to leave the front of the property, abutting Michigan Avenue, for future use.

A second meeting is contemplated for November 27th. Fund raising for this project is also to be on the agenda.

Membership Committee Update

Lance Luce, DTOS Board of Directors

Membership renewals have been sent out for 2013, you should have received yours in the mail. We have an exciting lineup of concerts for you for next year thanks to our program committee, and we look forward to see-

ing all of you at the Senate. You may have noticed that once again, dues have not increased and you can still bring 3 guests at no additional charge. That makes us one of the best bargains in theater organ entertain-

ment anywhere. Please send back your membership renewal form in its entirety. If for some reason you didn't receive your renewal notice, let us know that, and we'll send you another one. Membership cards for 2013

will be mailed out after the first of the year. Thanks in advance for your continued support of the Detroit Theater Organ Society and our wonderful Wurlitzer at the Senate Theater.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

November 16 & 17—8pm, 18—2pm—Since You Went Away

November 30 & December 1—A Christmas Story

December 8—8pm—Lance Luce Christmas Concert

December 14 & 15—White Christmas

December 16—3pm—American Liberty Singers "A 'New' Old-Fashioned Christmas

January 4 & 5—Strangers on a Train

January 18 & 19—Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

January 26—3pm—Popovich Comedy Pet Theater

February 8 & 9—Pillow Talk

All of these great films are shown Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. as well as Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted)

Organ overtures start thirty minutes prior to each show time.

Sit back and enjoy the movies under the Redford's star-lit sky!

Visit the Redford Theatre on the web at www.redfordtheatre.com

Rentals & Events Committee Update

Michael Fisher, DTOS Board of Directors

The month of October ushered in two events for us, aside from our monthly organ pops concert. The Graystone Stompers provided a pleasant evening of entertainment for all in attendance. The music and people provided a great atmosphere and we, on the learning curve, had an evening that went off without a hitch.

Secondly, our own event, the showing of the Rocky Horror Picture Show, the movie as our own first fund raiser, ran fairly smoothly. We had hoped for a bit more on the attendance end of things, but those who came clearly enjoyed themselves. We received lots

of fine comments and compliments not only on theater and the movie, but also the youth from L'Anse Creuse High School who provided the pre-show entertainment. We experienced a few blips but very manageable, and all being said and done we learned all sorts of things and look forward to hosting another fund raiser soon! Thanks to all those who helped.

This month we had on November 3rd and 4th a Hispanic children's show. It proved to be a very interesting event. We are trying to make our "debut" into the local Hispanic community with this event. It is felt this may be a great opportunity

to bring our theater onto the radar in this neighborhood as an active and vital venue.

On November 16th, we have secured our second event with Dragon Films to premiere their newest film, "Act of Vengeance," at 8:00 p.m. with a "red carpet" event with the media at 7:00 p.m. This event promises further exposure with the patrons and followers of these folks and even a few city council members. Personally, I am excited about this rental due to the enthusiasm of this group and their interest in our theater for the future.

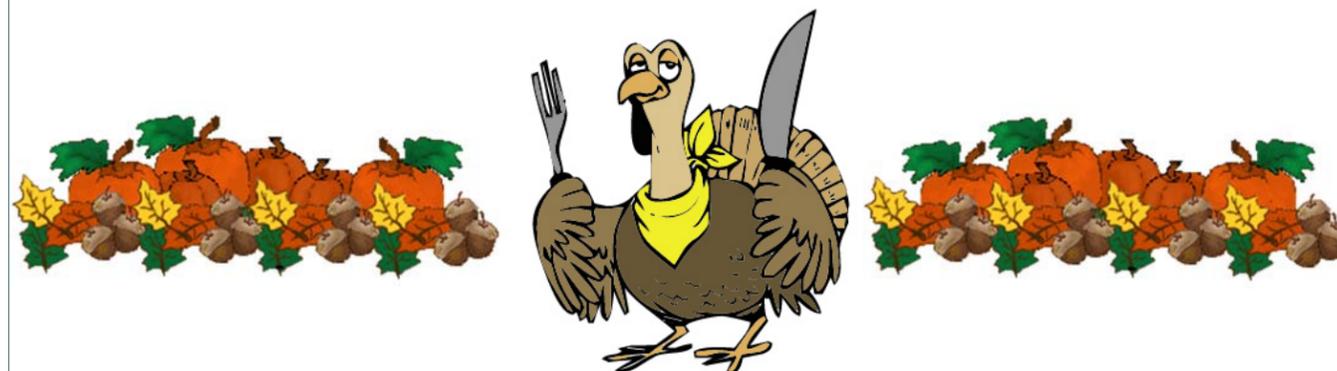
Overall, we are making headway in the public's awareness that we are

alive and well! With each person who walks through our doors we take one step further into the right direction of preservation of our historic organ and it's unique and special home, the wonderful Senate Theater!

Stay tuned and watch us grow!

Michael J. Fisher

Post Note: I am looking for another club member to serve as an active member of this essential committee. Is this you? Contact me directly at fisher.michael65@yahoo.com or (313) 378-1275.



Web Site Report

Lance Luce, DTOS Board of Directors

Lots of people are "checking us out" on the internet these days. Many people read our newsletter on line, find out about upcoming events or read about the history of our one-of-a-kind Wurlitzer.

Did you know you can download a diagram of the stop layout of our organ? Or, if

you're having trouble sleeping, you can brush up on our policies and procedures or by-laws, both equally riveting. Seriously, our web site gets over 1000+ "hits" a month, and last month that number was over 2000!

There are pictures on the site of artists that have

played for us going back to our early days, as well as new pictures of our renovated spaces! There are audio clips from our "By Members Only" CD, and there's even a page where you can buy stuff. We've added a page about renting the theater.

You can print out

membership applications online. So tell your web surfing friends they can get a virtual tour right from their monitors, it's as easy as www.DTOS.org!

Restoration Report

Connie Masserant, DTOS Board of Directors



The Old Door Comes Out

Out with the old and in with the new. That is the case with our East exit door. The door we removed was the original door. While it served us well, it was time for it to go since we could no longer open and close it at will.

In removing the door and frame, many bricks had to come out. Fortunately, our contractors are multi-talented and offered to replace the brick work and supply the brick at no extra cost. Brick work will be completed within a week or two.

This door is located on the right side of the auditorium and can be found behind the curtains. It is at the top of a set of stairs.



The New Door Goes In

Concert Artists for 2013 Announced

Paul Jayck, DTOS Board of Directors

We are happy to announce our 2013 Organ Pops Concert Season. We think you will be very happy with the shows. Some returning organists and some new to Senate Theater concerts. Each of the organists has a unique playing style. Now is the time to renew your DTOS membership. That is the easiest way to get tickets for the entire 2013 season!

All concerts are on Sundays at 3:00 p.m.

March 17—Simon Gledhill

April 21—Tony Thomas

May 12—Martin Ellis

June 23—Mark Herman

September 22—Justin Stahl

October 20—Scott Smith

November 17—Clark Wilson

December 8—Joel Gary

Grand Ledge Opera House Organ Concert

Lansing Theatre Organ, Inc. presents Clark Wilson
Sunday, November 18, 3:00p.m.

APPLAUSE, APPLAUSE!

Reviving our Art of the Composer series, Riverside Pops offers tribute to composer Burton Lane, who would have turned 100 years old in 2012. Lane's most popular and successful works include "Finian's Rainbow" (1947) and "On A Clear Day You Can See Forever" (1965). He is also credited with discovering the remarkably talented Judy Garland when she was no more than thirteen years old. His best-known songs include Old Devil Moon, How Are Things In Glocca Morra?, Too Late Now, How About You?, Everything I Have Is Yours, I Hear Music and the title song from "On A Clear Day."

A native of Ohio, Clark Wilson began his musical training at age nine. While growing up, he accompanied numerous stage musicals and was organist at several churches. Following several years with the Schantz Organ Company, Wilson began a professional playing career on the staffs of numerous pipe-organ equipped restaurants. He is associated with Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona, where he is on the organ staff as well as having assisted with the planning and installation of the world's largest Wurlitzer organ. Wilson's recording credits include seven albums. He has concertized and accompanied silent films extensively in the United States, Canada, Australia, and England. Wilson is currently the resident organist and organ conservator at the famed Ohio Theatre in Columbus, Ohio. Along with a



busy concert and silent film accompaniment schedule, Wilson operates his own pipe organ business. He has received both the Technician of the Year and Organist of the Year awards from the American Theatre Organ Society, the only person to have ever done so. Welcome Clark back for his fifth Riverside Pops concert!

This concert is a production of Lansing Theatre Organ, Inc., featuring the Barton Organ. Performance takes place at the Grand Ledge Opera House, 121 S. Bridge St. (M-100) @ River St., Grand Ledge, Michigan. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. and performances begins at 3:00 p.m.

The instrument is a

3/20 Barton-hybrid theatre pipe organ, which began life at the downtown Lansing movie palace known in its later years as the Michigan Theatre. LTO was formed when the closing of the theatre became a reality, commencing a ten-year search for the organ's perfect home.

Tickets are \$12 per seat in advance, and \$15 at the door, day of performance. Advance tickets may be purchased from: Lansing Theatre Organ, Inc., P.O. Box 26154, Lansing, MI 48909. Payment by cash, check or money order. Ticket orders received less than ten days prior to any performance will be held at the Pops Box Office.

Single show tickets may also be purchased in the

office of the Grand Ledge Opera House in the rear of the building between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. weekdays. Telephone (517) 627-1443. Payment by cash, check money order or major credit cards.

Tickets are also available at the Arts Tickets Box Office. Call (517) 372-0945, or purchase tickets online at: www.lansingarts.org

All single show tickets purchased at the Pops Box Office the day of performance will be \$15 each; cash, check, money order or VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover cards.

Board Meeting Summaries

Dave Calendine, DTOS Board of Directors

The following is a summary of actions taken during the Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2012.

- Black receptacle boxes were installed on stage for electricity and microphones.
- Stairwells are ready mudding, sanding and paint.
- New exit doors will be installed later this month.
- Wooden box for the Wurlitzer console working well for events.
- A replacement screen is being looked into.
- Basement needs to be cleaned out after new exit doors are installed.
- Membership renewal forms will be sent out in October.
- A new playing membership for Mary Beattie was received and approved.
- We are still waiting for final clearance from the city on our new property. Once cleared, we will start making it ready for extending our parking lot.
- All but two contracts have been finalized for next year's concert series.
- Due to heat from the radiator in the relay room, a gusset on the regulator there has been damaged. The gusset will be repaired, and a reflector installed to keep damage from happening again.
- Ballots were sent out to members regarding the proposed changes in our By-Laws. The proposed changes were approved by the membership.

- A request to sample our Wurlitzer was denied.
- Concerns about the safety of our marquee were brought up. An inspection of our marquee will be done before the next Board meeting.
- Christ Dengate offered to have a company come in and train us on CPR. This will be set up by the next Board meeting.

The following is a summary of actions taken during the Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday, October 30, 2012. Meeting started at 7:00 p.m.

- CPR training for Board of Directors will be held on November 15th at 6pm.
- Doors have been replaced by the stage. Brick work will be done around door soon.
- New box office carts, with locking drawers, obtained for both entrances.
- Treasurer's report was passed out, discussed, and approved.
- Our boiler went out. Repairs were made to get it back in operation. We have a leak somewhere in the system that will need to be investigated. Proposals are being sought after to look into and repair the leak.
- Bids are being sought after to repair our marquee on Michigan Avenue. An interim fix to light up the marquee

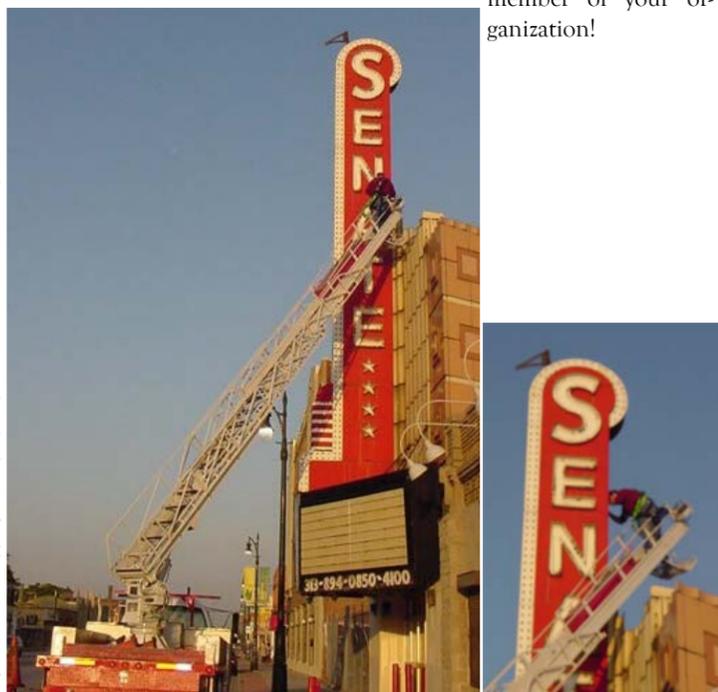
- will be installed shortly.
- A new playing membership for Joseph DelJiudice was received and approved.
- Membership renewal forms have been mailed.
- Concert series for 2013 is now finalized.
- Committee formed to have restrooms built on the main floor.
- Our website and Facebook sites are getting more activity.
- A new category of membership is being looked into with regards to rental volunteer staff.
- Several proposed amendments to our policies and procedures were discussed and approved in order to bring them up to date with our new calendar format of elections.

- We will be looking at a holiday-themed movie for December with pictures with Santa.
- We have an offer to purchase a new movie screen sheet. More details on this will be coming soon.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

PLEASE NOTE!

These points are just a summary of actions taken during the Board of Directors meetings at the Senate Theatre. It is highly encouraged that members attend a Board meeting so that you can see what your elected Board members are doing for you.

The Board of Directors meets on the last Tuesday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. Please come and be an active member of your organization!



Inspection of our marquee to make sure it was structurally sound. Good news is ... it is!

Looking into the marquee of the Senate

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Over 50 Years of Entertainment!

Detroit Theater Organ Society

Dave Calendine, Editor
DTOS Newsletter
6424 Michigan Ave.
Detroit, MI 48210-2957

Phone: (313) 894-0850
Concert Hotline: (313) 894-4100

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.DTOS.ORG

Remaining 2012 Concert Series

November 18—Melissa Ambrose-Eidson
December 2—Fr. Andrew Rogers

2013 Concert Series

March 17—Simon Gledhill
April 21—Tony Thomas
May 12—Martin Ellis
June 23—Mark Herman
September 22—Justin Stahl
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November 17—Clark Wilson
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photo: Lance Luce

All concerts are held at the Senate Theatre,
Doors open at 2:00 p.m., concerts start at 3:00 p.m.