



Detroit Theater Organ Society

February 2012 Newsletter

Volume 51, Issue 2

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS TAKING SHAPE

Connie Masserant
DTOS Board of Directors

May 20th begins our two month celebration of our Society's 50th Anniversary, opening with a concert given by Ron Rhode.

Saturday June 9th will be an afternoon of activities and presentations given by our own artists, John Lauter, Lance Luce, and Tony O'Brien. Hors d'oeuvres and dinner will be followed by a concert with Lance Luce. The concert will be the standard price for those who don't have membership. The dinner cost is yet to be determined, but be sure to make your reservations to save your space at the table. Several members have already signed up at the last concert. There will again be a sign up sheet at the next three concerts so you may reserve a space for the dinner. You may also con-

tact any one of the committee members to request your reservations.

Glenn Rank, Chairman 941-613-1055

Michael Fisher 313-378-1275

Connie Masserant 734-652-6004

Friday evening, June 8th, other activities are being considered by the committee. Please stay tuned for further information.

Lastly, anyone who has photos, newspaper clippings or any other memorabilia that you would like to share for the event, please contact any of the above people on the committee. These items will be returned to you.



ELECTIONS UPCOMING

Dave Calendine
DTOS Board of Directors

It will soon be time to elect members of our organization to be on the Board of Directors. There are seven positions up for election on the Board for this upcoming election.

The current board members whose term is up for re-election are Fred Brufodt, Gil Francis, Thomas Iwankovitsch, Lance Luce, and Bob Weil. There is also one vacancy that will be included on the ballot as well.

There will also be an election for Organ Trus-

tee. The current organ trustee, Dave Voydanoff, is also running for re-election.

If you would like to "throw your name in the hat" for the upcoming election, please note the following rules from our by-laws:

- Must be a playing member in good standing for three years
- The term is for two years
- Should be an active member of the organization

ELECTIONS (continued from page 1)

If you fit those rules, please contact the election committee members:

Carl Keiler—248-557-8164 or 313-283-0225

Glenn Rank—grank@comcast.net

Dave Voydanoff—voyd@comcast.net

To help the membership get to know you better, please submit a bio about yourself using the following questions:

- Introduce yourself
- Tell where you grew up
- Where you went to school
- Life's Profession(s)
- Outside interests (hobbies)
- DTOS activities you have been involved in
- Talents and abilities you can offer the club

- Any goals for DTOS in the next year (or more)
These questions will better help our membership know you more and vote accordingly. You will also notice that these questions are being asked of the Board members up for re-election. Two of them will be featured later in this newsletter, with more to come next month.

The elections will occur in April before our Annual Meeting of the Membership on April 24, 2012. Ballots will be mailed out before the Annual meeting with plenty of time to either mail the ballot in, or bring it to the meeting itself.

We need active members of our organization to be on our Board of Directors. Won't you please consider being a member of the Board of Directors?

Stagecrafters Presents John Lauter

Friday, February 17 & Sunday, February 19
Baldwin Theatre, Royal Oak MI

Stagecrafters & The Motor City Theatre Organ Society invite you to get out of the February chilly weather and inside for some warm ballads and whimsical fun at the Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak.

The theme of the concert is love - love that is sweet, and love that has gone sour. The selection of songs will be both sentimental, a bit on the sassy side and a few to sing along with.

The show will highlight the talents of John Lauter at the restored Wurlitzer organ along with the Stagecrafters singers.

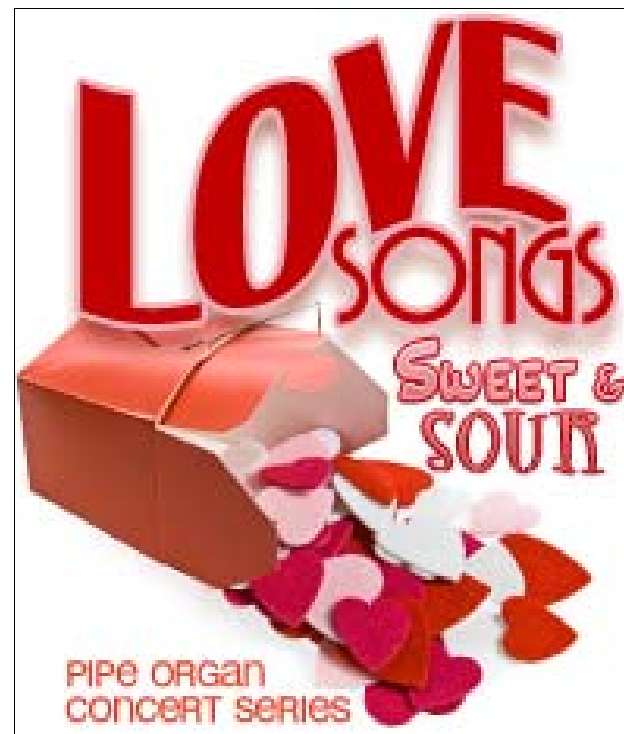
Make plans now to attend this entertaining post-Valentine's salute that is sure to have your toes tapping and hearts relating.

The concert on Friday, February 17, 2012 starts at 8:00 p.m.. Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served at intermission. Admission is \$18.

The concert on Sunday, February 19, 2012 will be held in the afternoon at 2:00 p.m. Admission to the Sunday concert is \$16.

For more information regarding the concert, please visit either www.stagecrafters.org or www.redfordtheatre.com.

If ordering by phone or online, use the code



"REDFORD" to receive \$2.00 off of your ticket!

RENOVATION UPDATE

Connie Masserant
DTOS Board of Directors

The Badge Board is the latest item for renovation. Dick Dengate was kind enough to paint our board that had been used previously to hold our badges between concerts. We will soon be using it again and it will be placed just inside of the parking lot door so that members can grab their badge, put it on, and step into the ticket line. Upon leaving the building, please return your badge to the board so it will be available at the next concert. The new badge is pictured below. Beneath your name will be the status of your membership....playing, associate, or honorary.



New locks have replaced many of the old ones in several of the doors within the auditorium, inner lobby, and upstairs. This will tighten our security as several had not been changed in many years. Any members who may have been previously assigned keys and require keys, please see Connie Masserant, building manager. Keys are assigned to Directors and certain committee members.

Additional repair to the steel frame that supports our new double doors has begun. That work should be completed in the next two weeks.

Plans have been presented to the board to finish the front facing of our newly expanded stage. While the labor will be donated, we will depend on further donations to cover the cost of the crown molding and paint. More information on how you can help will soon be available.

LANSING THEATRE ORGAN CONCERT

Sunday, February 26, 2012—3:00 p.m.
Grand Ledge Opera House

"From London to Broadway," a program featuring husband and wife team of Stephen Warner and Rose Randall Warner, can be heard Sunday, Feb. 26, at 3p.m. at the Grand Ledge Opera House in downtown Grand Ledge, MI. (www.lto-pops.org)

Warner is a DTOS member, staff organist at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor and organist at Jefferson Ave. Presbyterian Church. He also is involved in the maintenance and restoration of pipe organs as an employee of Holden Pipe organs of Ferndale. Warner is also part of the team that spent many hours refurbishing the DTOS 4/34 Wultizer.

Rose Randall Warner, is active in the performing arts both on and offstage. Highlights include touring with a vocal jazz quartet, recording with a classical octet, working as a church musician, performing in summer stock theatre as well as doing commercial jingle work.

Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 in advance. For directions and additional information, visit: www.lto-pops.org. Grand Ledge is about 70 minutes from the metro area. Lansing Theatre Organ installed and expanded the Barton Theatre pipe organ from Lansing's former Michigan Theatre.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

February 17 & 18—The Apartment

March 2 (8pm), 3 (8pm) & 4 (2pm) —Gone With the Wind

March 9 & 10—Three Stooges Festival

March 16 & 17—The Quiet Man

March 30 & 31—Shirley Temple Double Feature

April 21 8pm Only—Mary Pickford Silent Film "Duds" accompanied by Dave Calendine at the Barton Theatre Pipe Organ

April 28 (Saturday only!) - James Cagney Double Feature

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

Please consider helping the society save money each month by electing to receive this Newsletter electronically. The savings on paper, printing, and mailing are quite significant. It is quick and simple to sign up. Just send an e-mail to:

Dave@Calendine.net

and ask for your Newsletter to be sent to you each month in your e-mail.

FROM THE BENCH

Scott Smith
Getting Off the Bench

Any good organist knows that there's a time to get on the bench, and a time to get off the bench. Otherwise, you'll develop a reputation for being a Bench Hog, and no one wants that. I've been on this bench for about a year now, and it's time for me to let someone else sit in.

A year ago, I wanted to make a contribution toward the re-opening of the Senate Theatre and resumption of activities there, and so I offered to pick up the pen and write for at least the first year. Our editor, Dave Calendine was most receptive and has been completely supportive ever since. It has allowed me make a solid contribution to the club from my home in Lansing, and has worked well. Having said that, writing this column requires some work every single day, whether it's a word here and there, reworking paragraphs or writing whole sections as I have time. I never dreamed it would take that kind of commitment, but indeed it has. Now the time has come for me to step aside and tend to other matters.

In the twelve issues in which my little essays have appeared, I've learned a lot about both of us, you and me. Of all of them, the one about preservation, entitled, "The Question" surprisingly generated more responses than all of the rest combined. Those responses were, by the way, all positive. Obviously, feelings run deep about keeping the Fisher Wurlitzer just as it is, and as Martha Stewart would say, that's a good thing.

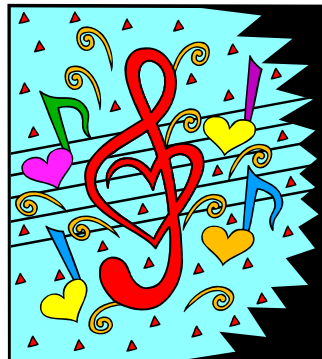
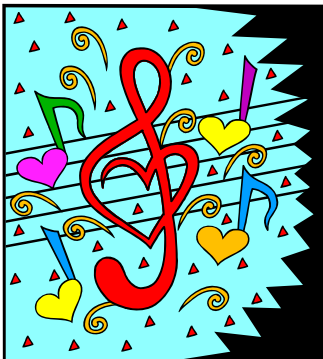
Some of you have written some very kind notes, or spoken to me in person at the club, and to

each and every one of you, I want to offer my sincere thanks. It's a great feeling when people show their appreciation for what you do.

When I began this column, I made a pact with myself to always keep the content within the parameters of something that dealt with the Fisher Wurlitzer, and not to make it a political football. I hope you all agree that I've kept to that promise. No matter how annoyed or upset I may become about whatever goes on in our little society, it is those promises we make to ourselves that are of the highest order, and are far more meaningful than a simple difference of opinion. To those of you thinking about picking up the pen to speak your mind about a subject of your choosing, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to keep your words somehow focused on the Fisher Wurlitzer. It's why we're all here...right?

Not only do I want to engage myself in other pursuits, but I also want to stop while I feel like I'm making a positive contribution where I'm speaking from the heart, and not some other part of the anatomy. My greatest fear is to run out of interesting or meaningful things to say. and I don't think either of us wants that. But, having said that, if I feel like I have something to contribute that you may want to read, you may see it here every once in a while. Who knows?

All right. This is it. I'm getting off the bench now. Please, take your turn while it's still warm and the blower's running, won't you?



GET TO KNOW YOUR DIRECTORS

Thomas Iwankovitsch & Dick Leichtamer
DTOS Board of Directors

Over the next few months, each board member of the Detroit Theater Organ Society will be highlighted in the Newsletter with a series of questions with the hope that you will get to know your elected board members. This month starts off with board member Thomas Iwankovitsch, and board member and President, Dick Leichtamer. Here are their responses to the questions:

1. Introduce yourself

Thomas Iwankovitsch, Member of DTOS since 1975 as associate member then became a playing member about 2008. I have been on the Board since 2008, have been involved with Gil Francis on new location for a new home in the past & was assigned to find a company to do our landscaping which was Weed Eraser. Since being on the board also went to restaurants in Mexican town to leave brochures about our concerts & communicated with John Van Camp, CEO of Southwest Counseling & Housing.

2. Tell where you grew up.

I was born in Highland Park then moved to Detroit in 1947.

3. Where you went to school

Went to Catholic grade school at Our Lady Gate of Heaven & high school at Bendictine, graduated in 1960 then went to OCC, took cooking & Macomb CC took printing & Wayne State Applied Management & Tech Center for general printing, Dale Carnegie Courses, ACT Training Seminars in Michigan for work.

4. Life's profession(s)

Started working in 1960 doing many different jobs – Pre-Fab Storage sheds, Hanging aluminum siding, Clothing stores Hughes & Hatcher's & Suffrin, Making blueprints at Campbell Machines, Mail clerk at R.L Polk, Printing at Valassis & Shelby Litho, Cooking at the Detroit Club & Cobo Hall, Substance Abuse & Counseling at Southwest Counseling & Housing.

5. Outside interests (hobbies)

Played Baseball, Bowling, Member of Social club as President at St. Suzanne's Church, Plymouth

Road Classic Car Show, Chairman for mental health clubhouse at Gathering Place, Teach Bipolar support groups, Neighborhood Patrols in Detroit – Eliza Howell & Franklin Park, former Member of MEP CB Channel 9 with Traffic Reports, Homeland Security - CERT Program, 3 years. Military in Europe, 2nd. Best Kitchen in Europe, Rank E-5 Sgt.

6. DTOS activities you've been involved in outside of Board meetings.

Attended many functions with other members of DTOS, have invited many people from outside to attend our concerts like my family & friends both from work & Church members.

7. Talents and abilities you can offer to the club

8. Name your goals for DTOS next year

I will continue to help DTOS to grow by doing other communications like flyers to business & other projects like Radio Stations & try working with churches to mention about our concerts, etc.

1. Introduce yourself

My name is Dick Leichtamer. I was born in Toledo, Ohio.

2. Tell where you grew up.

I grew up in Toledo, Ohio.

3. Where you went to school

I attended and graduated from Bowling Green State University with a B.S in Music Ed. and a MA in Radio-TV film-management

4. Life's profession(s)

I taught elementary vocal music and band for 32 ½ years. I was Organist, Choirmaster at St. Andrews church in Toledo for 24 years, I am currently Minister of Music at St. Matthews church for 16 years so far.

5. Outside interests (hobbies)

I enjoy gardening, growing roses, model railroads and theater organs

6. DTOS activities you've been involved in outside of Board meetings.

I have been to several conventions over the

years

7. Talents and abilities you can offer to the club

I have played in several members concerts, I have helped with many work sessions, I have been program chair for several years, handle Artist arrangements and baby sit the theatre for rehearsals, Board secretary one year, vice president, 3 years and presi-

dent off and on 10 years.

8. Name your goals for DTOS next year

Work to fill the theater with people, Have silent movies once in a while to get people in the theater, work on membership numbers, and continue the renovation process.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Dave Calendine

DTOS Board of Directors / Newsletter Editor

In looking back at the last several months, it is somewhat shocking to see the major changes and advances that our organization has gone through. We thought we were leaving the Senate, started looking for a new home, thought we might have found a new home, ultimately decided to stay in our old home, and started giving our old home a major facelift.

And a major facelift it has had—walls redone outside and inside, roof fixed up, leaks stopped, stage expanded, lobby redone, new chandeliers, it just keeps going. And we aren't stopping just yet! Renovation work has started back up after taking a vacation over the holidays. The scraping of walls and the brushing of paint has resumed. Work on our new stage expansion will soon start again to finish the front side of the expansion. Soon you will be able to see the organ and piano on the stage even better as the Board of Directors have approved a new lighting system that will soon be installed, thanks to the hard work of Board member Fred Bruflo.

Think about it. What was once thought to be a dying building has started taking a life of its own again. Why? Because we decided not to give up on it. Your Board of Directors started the CPR to fix the dying building. The members have started donating the blood needed to keep the heart of our organization going. With this new life, there are lots of exciting things on the horizon.

FIFTY YEARS! Who'd have thought that we would reach this milestone? And do we have a celebration ready for you come June! More information on all of the exciting activities will be forthcoming in the coming weeks and months. Make sure you plan now to be a part of the festivities for this special occasion.

Our growth continues with new members joining our organization. I would like to welcome Dennis Nagy as an associate member and Alan Gheesling as a playing member. Please make sure you welcome them when you see them next.

With all of the hard work being done to renovate our theater, we have been getting several inquiries regarding renting our beloved theater for other performances by various organizations. In order to make these events more feasible, you will notice at the next concert that all of our rows are now labeled, and each seat is now assigned a number so that on larger events, we can have reserved seating. Michael Fisher is working hard with the various promoters that are calling about our theater and with the work being done to renovate our theater, we will soon have another avenue to have income come into the organization, keeping our theater active for many years to come.

Please consider helping the organization move forward. Lots of exciting things are happening within our group, and it would be great to have you be a part of it all. Come on out and have some fun at the Senate!



photo: Lance Luce

The Detroit Theater Organ Society

Senate Theater

6424 Michigan Avenue

Detroit, MI 48210-2957

Telephone: (313) 894-0850

Concert Hotline: (313) 894-4100

Website: www.dtos.org

Look for us on Facebook!

2012 Concert Series

March 18—Scott Foppiano

April 15 —Ken Double

May 20—Ron Rhode

June 9—Lance Luce

September 16—Pierre Fracalanza

October 21—Steven Warner

November 18—Melisa Ambrose-Eidson

December 2—Fr. Andrew Rogers