

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

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DTOS
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& Directors

- **President**
Lance Luce
lanceluce@wowway.com
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fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
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dave@calendine.net
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jbeethoven@netzero.com
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tibiaplana434@buckeye-express.com
- Lynn Walls
clwalls@gmail.com
- Bob Weil
robertjweil@yahoo.com

Dennis James at the Wurlitzer

Sunday, April 23, 2017

Doors 2:00 p.m. Concert 3:00 p.m.

The Detroit Theater Organ Society welcomes back Dennis James to the Mighty Wurlitzer theater organ at the Senate Theater on Sunday, April 23, 2017.

Dennis James has dedicated his professional career to the continuation of the theatrical traditions of organ performance and furthering public interest in the theatre pipe organ. He has played virtually everywhere pipe organs are to be found, from the preserved movie palaces throughout the United States and Canada to concert halls and theaters in Europe, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand.

Born in Philadelphia in 1950, Dennis James began formal organ training at the age of twelve. He attended Indiana University's School of Music as a student of concert and church organ performance, receiving his Bachelor's and Master's degrees under the tutelage of Dr. Oswald Ragatz. Highlights of James'



professional organ career include his New York City recital debut at St. Patrick's Cathedral and appointment as staff organist at the largest pipe organ in the world—the Wanamaker Grand Court Organ in Philadelphia. His annual overseas concert tours have included several return engagements at Vienna's famed Konzert Haus to perform both concerts and silent film accompaniment at the historic 5-manual Rieger concert pipe organ, sold-out multiple performances at the 5-manual concert pipe organ in Australia's Sydney Opera House and a now seven year series at the Mozarteum's Grosser Salle in Salzburg, Aus-

tria. His most recent and upcoming international recital and ensemble appearances list includes London, England; Paris, Versailles, Nantes, Niort, Nancy, Annecy, Lunneville, and Sarrebourg, France; Munich, Ingolstadt, Stade, Hannover, Cologne, Duisberg, Wurzburg, Schloss Elmau, Berleburg, Freudenstadt, Rothenfelde, Limburg, and Frauenau, Germany; Florence, Rome, Verona, Naples, and Venice, Italy; Salzburg, Kammer and Vienna, Austria; Brussels, Kortrijk, Wemmel, Mecheln and Gent, Belgium; Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Den Bosch, Den Haag, Utrecht, Leeuwarden, Monte, Enschede, The Netherlands; Vancouver, Montreal, Calgary, Fort McLeod

Dennis James (continued from page 1)

and Quebec City, Canada. James also continues to appear before United States audiences from New York City to Los Angeles and the major cities b e t w e e n .

Dennis James has held many professional positions during his career, beginning as intermission organist Lansdowne and Brookline Theaters in Pennsylvania during the 1960's. Appointments followed at the Paramount and

Rivoli Theaters in Indiana, Ohio Theatre in Columbus, El Capitan Theatre in Hollywood, Paramount Theatre in Seattle, Everett Theatre in Everett, Washington; Coleman Theatre (Miami, OK), Washington Center (Olympia, WA), I.U. Cinema (Bloomington, IN); and Packard Campus Theatre (Culpeper, VA).

Dennis James has appeared and/or recorded with such

film and music celebrities as Bob Hope, Vincent Price, Ray Bolger, Red Skelton, Olivia DeHavilland, David Niven, Joseph Cotten, E. G. Marshall, Loretta Young, Ginger Rogers, Carmen Cavallaro, Ethel Smith, Jimmy Durante, Michael Feinstein, Linda Ronstadt, Branford Marsalis, Dolly Parton, and Emmylou Harris. He toured nationwide with silent film stars Lillian Gish, Myrna Loy, Fay Wray

and Charles 'Buddy' Rogers late in their careers providing musical accompaniment to revivals of their silent motion pictures.

Doors open at 2:00 p.m., with the concert starting at 3:00 p.m. Bring your family and friends to the Senate to enjoy an afternoon of music with Dennis James!

Much Activity Happening at the Senate

Dave Calendine

Many things are going on in the background with the Detroit Theater Organ Society and the Senate Theater. Those that are doing a lot of the work just haven't taken the time to write a lot about it, as we usually move right on to another project. I would like to take a quick break to let you know just some of the things that are going on.

Marquee—We started a "GoFundMe" page and have been fairly successful with bringing in much-needed funds to work on the marquee. Funds are still coming in with this, but we still have far to go. The next phase of the project will start as soon as the funds are raised. Rest assured, the funds are earmarked for the marquee and can not be used elsewhere.

Lighting and Sound Booth—You will notice a major change with the back of the center section in the theater. Several

seats were removed and a new level floor area was created to house a lighting and sound booth. An entrance has also been created through the back wall to access this area. With rentals increasing, we found that a larger dedicated area for lights and sound was needed. Thanks to the hard work and leadership of Christopher Dengate and his helpers, this area is progressing nicely and should be done soon.

Movies—The next page shows you our movie schedule through the rest of this year. We hope to see you at one of the upcoming movies. You also will hear a 30-minute overture on the Wurlitzer before each showing!

Speaking of the Wurlitzer, it has been sounding fantastic lately, and that is due to many hours being spent at the theater by Scott Smith and TJ Casterson. Before the last concert, much work was done in the

chambers. This is no easy task, as dropping a bottom board to work in the chest requires removing many screws. Access to the area sometimes means dangling yourself partly upside down over regulators to get to some areas. It can take hours to remove things in order to get to a part that takes only minutes to fix, and then more hours to put things back together again. After everything is working, the organ gets a good tuning. This can take several hours, depending on temperature and humidity changes. Most tunings happen right before each concert so that the organ is in its best shape for each performance.

Concessions—You will notice a new popcorn machine at the concession stand. For the first time in many, many years, we are popping our popcorn fresh for each show. Add real butter to the mix, and you

have a delicious snack to enjoy while enjoying the show. Some shows will also have hot dogs at them. You can thank Kevin Werner for the them, as well as all of the fixings to add.

All of these things, and more, are happening between shows and concerts. There is a small dedicated crew that do most of the work. We are always looking for more people to help out. Many projects await. We don't expect you to do them on your own, but with more people helping out on tasks, the lighter the load is for everyone.

Of course, these projects don't come without a price. Supplies have to be purchased, and electric and water bills need to be paid. With a building our size, this doesn't come cheap. If you are able, any donation to the organization will go towards keeping these projects moving forward.

Senate Theater Classic Films

Doors open one hour prior to movie. Organ overture thirty minutes prior to movie. Visit us on the web at www.dtos.org.



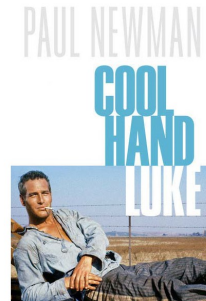
Top Hat
Saturday, April 15
8:00 p.m.



Bonnie & Clyde
Friday, May 12
8:00 p.m.



Diary of a Lost Girl
Saturday, May 27
8:00 p.m.



Cool Hand Luke
Saturday, June 3
8:00 p.m.



The Sting
Saturday, June 24
8:00 p.m.

OUTDOOR MOVIES!

Viva Las Vegas
Saturday, July 1
8:00 p.m.

Beach Blanket Bingo
Saturday, July 15
8:00 p.m.

Bad News Bears
Saturday, July 29
8:00 p.m.

Logan's Run
Saturday, August 12
8:00 p.m.

Planet of the Apes
Saturday, August 26
8:00 p.m.

His Girl Friday
Saturday, September 2
8:00 p.m.

Enter the Dragon
Saturday, September 30
8:00 p.m.

Nosferatu
Saturday, October 21
8:00 p.m.

An American Werewolf in London
Friday, October 27
8:00 p.m.

DOUBLE FEATURE!
Frankenstein & Bride of Frankenstein
Saturday, October 28 8:00 p.m.

STREISAND DOUBLE FEATURE!
What's Up Doc? & The Way We Were
Saturday, November 4 8:00 p.m.

Remember the Night
Saturday, November 18
8:00 p.m.

March of the Soldiers
Saturday, December 9
8:00 p.m.

Scrooge
Saturday, December 23
8:00 p.m.

DETROIT THEATER
ORGAN SOCIETY

Over 50 Years of Entertainment!

Detroit Theater Organ Society

Dave Calendine, Editor & Publisher
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

2017 Concert Series

April 23—Dennis James

May 21—Fr. Andrew Rogers

June 11—Donna Parker

September 9—Clark Wilson

October 15—Justin LaVoie

November 12—Dave Wickerham

December 3—Mark Herman & Anthony Snitker



photo: Lance Luce