

# DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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

### John Lauter in concert. April 18 at 3pm.

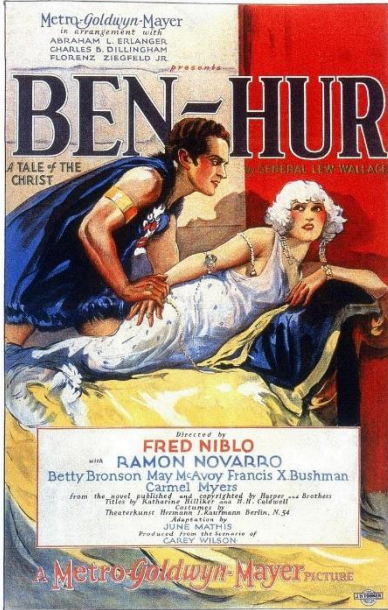
Detroit native John Lauter began his organ/piano/music studies at age 14; he has studied with Marie Connors, Frank Rossi, Betty Mason, Fr. Jim Miller, and Gary Reseigh. He made his public debut playing at the Redford theatre at age 16. Hundreds of movie preludes later John can still be heard there. John has presented concerts in Detroit, Grand Rapids, Boston, San Francisco, Phoenix, Denver, Wichita, Chicago, Cleveland, Atlanta, Lexington KY, Thomaston CT, Rochester and Syracuse NY, Toronto, and Kingston Ont. Lauter was a featured performer at the



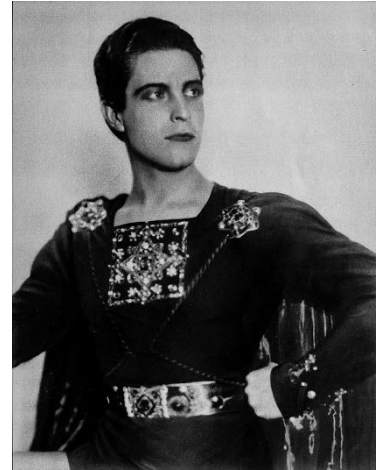
1995 and 2009 and 2016 conventions of the American Theatre organ Society. In July of 2010 John was invited to England to present concerts at Tywyn Wales and at the Saltaire complex in Bradford, that performance being the final concert of the 2010 Cinema Organ Society's convention. Lauter was the sole American presented. John has been on the staff of the Fox theatre since the 1988 reopening and was staff organist of the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor for 17 years. In February of 2010 Lauter was heard playing the Fox theatre's massive Wurlitzer organ on NPR's "Prairie Home Companion" Host Garrison Keillor said of Lauter "the man has unerring taste" As a silent film score composer/performer Lauter has scored over 35 feature films. John has accompanied films at The Redford theatre-Detroit, Baldwin theatre -Royal Oak, Palace theatre -Marion Ohio, Ritz Theatre-Tiffin Ohio, The Public Museum Grand Rapids, The Toledo Art Museum Peristyle, and Casa Loma-Toronto. The Henry Ford museum IMAX theatre contracted John to compose/perform/record a short silent film accompaniment that is part of an IMAX short subject film that was shown before every presentation at that institution for

many years. Lauter was the organist/accompanist for the Unity church of Lake Orion from its inception in 1997 until 2013 and has provided many area churches with musical services over a 30+ year period. John is currently the pianist with the 18-piece Swing City Big Band. John lives in Farmington Hills Michigan with his wife Amy and children Benjamin and Maryanna.

### **Ben Hur (1925) with Andrew Rogers. Apr 10 at 8pm.**



After months of silence, we are bringing back the silent in a big way with one of the most influential and exciting examples of epic filmmaking. The chariot race alone is worth the price of admission, but do not sleep on your chance to behold this classic the way it was meant to be seen, with live organ accompaniment featuring the talented Andrew Rogers.



(Ramon Novarro)

8:00 PM – 11:00 PM \$12.00

*Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* is a 1925 American silent epic adventure-drama film directed by Fred Niblo and written by June Mathis based on the 1880 novel *Ben-Hur: A Tale of the Christ* by General Lew Wallace. Starring Ramon Novarro as the title character, the film is the first feature-length adaptation of the novel and second overall, following the 1907 short. In 1997, *Ben-Hur* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

**Remember, members get in at no charge for the movies too! 😊**

### **Brother can you spare a dime?**

The plea from the great depression, when the cost of a loaf of bread or any item you could not grow in your windowsill or in the backyard garden meant a grim night of hunger, but in the movie house, for a nickel, a dime or a little more maybe, the sound of an orchestra, a chandelier in the lobby, the greyness of the day and darkness of the night did not exist. The flutes and violins, the deep base of the diaphone, the blue color of the diapason, and the bright zip of the brass created the grandest alternative symphonic orchestra. The great escape. The thunder, the train, the choir of angels, all expressed in the dark by a mighty Wurlitzer, Robert Morton, Barton, or Kimball just to name a few by a single man or woman hidden in the orchestra pit where a full orchestra



could not be afforded. One had found the musician as well as the conductor. Entire ranks of pipes were invented to replicate the experience of such sounds. How much did it cost? What about the skill set? How many people can still understand its creation? Such a sound. How fortunate we are to be able to hear it live today. With your continued generosity and continued support it will continue for generations to come.

### **Sponsor a Concert.**

Our sponsor a concert program has met with success so far. Special thanks go out to long time member and our Vice President, Michael Fisher for sponsoring our first concert. Thanks, Michael. Word has it that the April concert and December concert also has found (partial) sponsors too. Contact me directly if you would like to consider sponsoring or partially sponsoring a concert. I am at [kevwer@comcst.net](mailto:kevwer@comcst.net). Put "Sponsor" in the tag line.

### **Whose idea was this?**

While the first concerts did not officially appear until the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, similar gatherings had been around throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century at several European universities', such as Oxford and Cambridge. Officially, though, the first public concerts that required an admission were created by the English violinist, John Banister. Over the next few centuries, concerts began to gain larger audiences, and classical symphonies were very popular. Finally, after World War 2, these events changed into the modern concerts that take place today. An example of an early, post-WW2co concert is the Moondog Coronation Ball.



The first known occurrence of concerts where people are charged admission took place at violinist John Banister's home in Whitefriars, London in 1672. 6 years later in 1678, a man by



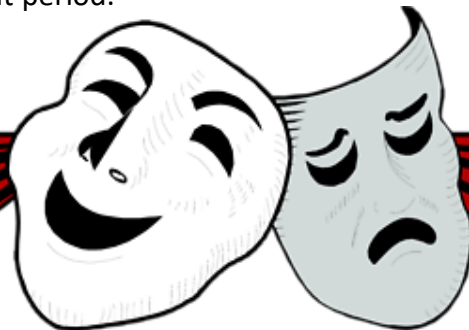
the name of Thomas Britton held weekly concerts in Clerkenwell. However, these concerts were different. Before, you had an admission that you paid upon entering the building where the concert was held but at Britton's concerts, patrons purchased a yearly subscription to come to the concerts. At 10 shillings a year, people could see as many concerts as possible they wanted to. Hmm? Sound familiar? In addition to holding concerts at certain venues, concerts also went to the people. In 17<sup>th</sup> century France, concerts were performed in the homes of the nobility, for only the

nobility. Organized by Anne Danican Philidor, the first public concerts in France, and arguably the world, were the Concerts Spirituels. These Concerts were held on religious holidays when the Opera was closed and served as a model for concert societies all over the world.



## 18 Century

In the late century, music from the likes of Haydn and Mozart was brought and performed in English concerts. One notable work from Haydn performed at these concerts was his set of 12 Symphonies, also referred to as the London Symphonies. Concerts reflecting the elegance of English during the period were held at the gardens of Vauxhall, Ranelagh, and Marylebone. The musical repertoire performed at these events ranged from works composed by young Mozart to songs that were popular in that period.



### Back Stage Happenings.

#### Merchandise.

We have many shirts to choose from, hats, patches, posters, coffee cups and sunglasses all at great prices. Visit the gift store at the Theater or visit [senatetheater.com](http://senatetheater.com) for more details.



#### Website news.

We have had two web sites for some time now, but, as of March 31, 2021 we will only have <http://www.senatetheater.com>. If you go to [dtos.org](http://dtos.org), you will be re-directed to [senatetheater.com](http://senatetheater.com). All of the things we are used to are located here now including the sign in calendar to reserve time on the Wurlitzer. It's under the DTOS tab right next to the photo gallery tab. Check it out.

## A little goes a long way.

Help us restore the historic Senate theater and preserve the Mighty Wurlitzer organ while helping to create community in our Southwest Detroit neighborhood. Volunteer shifts begin 2 hours before a movie start time and end approximately 30 minutes after the movie is finished. Opportunities include greeting and ticket sales, concessions, merchandise sales, sound board, projection, and more. Contact one of your board members or other volunteers for details. We would love to have you.

Lance Luce – President  
Michael Fisher - Vice President / Co-Treasurer  
Kevin Werner - Secretary / Co-Treasurer  
Stephen Warner – Director  
T.J. Casterson – Director  
Roger Fisher- Director  
Zach Wojtan- Director  
Gregory Garber-Director  
John Lauter-Director

We would love to hear from you. Questions, suggestions. . . .  
We even take requests!! Our Board of Directors are here to serve you.



Coming in 2021

April 10	8pm	Silent Movie "Ben Hur" Andrew Rogers organist.	\$12.00
April 18	3pm.	Concert John Lauter	\$17.00
April 24	8pm.	The Roaring Twenties (1939)	\$6.00.
May 8	8pm.	Charade (1963)	\$6.00
May 22	Time TBD	The Hitch Hiker (1953) (Outdoor screening)	
Dec 12	3pm.	Holiday concert Mark Herman/Anthony Snitker (vocalist)	\$17.00

Kevin Werner - Editor.