



Detroit Theater Organ Society

March 2012 Newsletter

Volume 51, Issue 3

KEN DOUBLE & FRIENDS AT THE SENATE

Sunday, April 15, 2012
3:00 P.M.

It is not often that one gets paid to have fun for a living. It is even more rare still when having fun and getting paid for it professionally happens twice in life. Such has been the good professional fortune of Ken Double, the President and CEO of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Until recently, music was always the "second career," almost an afterthought due to his 32 years in broadcasting. The Chicago-native grew up with five brothers in a sports loving family, but Ken was more enamored of the play-by-play announcers than he was the athletes, and as early as age six, was mouthing the words sitting in front of the television, "practice" broadcasting the games he watched.

He parlayed that interest into a Degree in Radio-TV from Butler University in Indianapolis, and began his broadcast career that included NBA and Big Ten basketball, NHL, IHL and AHL hockey, including the Atlanta Knights from 1992-94, the worldwide radio broadcast of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race, and hundreds of other events. The award-winning broadcaster finished his career with 17 sea-

sons of hockey play-by-play, including a brief stint with his beloved hometown team, the Chicago Blackhawks.

Ken's parents made sure all six of the boys were introduced to some kind of music, and for Ken, it was organ lessons starting at age eight. About the time he was getting bored with that, and a high school radio station was providing broadcast opportunities, a school field trip took him to the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge,



KEN DOUBLE ... (continued from front page)

IL and a chance to play the Wurlitzer theatre organ, and it was for him as it is for so many, that "WOW!" moment.

Several weeks later, the same teacher who guided students on the field trip took a group to hear Gaylord Carter at Chicago's famed Oriental Theatre and Ken was truly hooked. He steered lessons in the theatre organ direction, including one year of studies with legendary organist Al Melgard, where Ken took his lessons on Wednesday afternoons at the Melgard studio, and then met his teacher later that night for the Blackhawks hockey game at the old Chicago Stadium. Talk about careers coming full circle.

While Ken pursued his broadcast career, he continued playing the organ. As a college senior, he provided music for sporting events at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis; worked summers as the organist at the famed Tommy Bartlett Water Show in Wisconsin Dells; later, had a stint subbing at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis; and while working his very first TV job in Lafayette, IN, helped install the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Long Center, raising money, doing publicity, performing concerts and booking and promoting other shows at the former vaudeville house. He premiered that organ in 1982 and has been playing annual concerts there ever since.

Ken Double has been the Master of Ceremonies for no fewer than 18 ATOS annual and regional conventions. He has performed concerts at 11 annual and regional convention events. He has toured Australia and New Zealand five times. And in addition to his hundreds of concerts since his debut in Ft. Wayne, IN in 1978, he has 17 recordings to his credit, including - TRIBUTE, which features Ken at the 3/66 Dickinson Kimball with trumpet soloist Skip Stine - a much-heralded, widely acclaimed recording; and his latest, TEACH ME TONIGHT, recorded on the EMCATOS Babson College four-manual Wurlitzer.

He accepted the top post at ATOS in the summer of 2007, and a year later, the Board of Directors asked Ken to accept the newly created position of President and CEO. He has been working diligently to raise funds, raise awareness, create new and exciting pro-

grams, and help steer the 56-year-old organization in a new direction to ensure its growth and existence for another 50 years and more.

He is thrilled to be making his fourth appearance at the famous Detroit Fisher Theatre console now at the Senate Theatre, and he hopes despite the April 15th concert date, it won't be "too taxing" an event for the audience.

Broadcaster, musician, entertainer, MC, administrator, PR man, and even "crooner" occasionally, Ken Double has enjoyed "having fun and getting paid for it, not once, but twice!" As the song says, "Nice work if you can get it."

Ken will be joined on stage during the concert with guest artist, Skip Stine.

In an era when the young trumpet players are wont to blow your head off, it's wonderfully refreshing to hear the distinctive style of Skip Stine.

Skip Stine calls central PA home; is a graduate of the U.S. Navy School of Music; and in the 1960's, performed with several of the great bands including Sy Zentner, Buddy Morrow, and with Sammy Spear's Orchestra for the Jackie Gleason television show.

While in the Navy and stationed in London, Skip had the opportunity to study with George Swift, lead trumpet for the famous Mantovani Orchestra.

He was writing music and arrangements and living in Las Vegas, and answered the call for an opening in the Harry James Orchestra, thus using his great skills as part of that most singular sound. It was here that he met the girl singer Cathy Chemi, who is still Mrs. Skip Stine.

He maintains a busy teaching and performing schedule in and around Central Pennsylvania. Skip continues to be in demand, and can be heard on recordings backing up the greats like Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Peggy Lee, Rosemary Clooney, Liberace and more.

It was a gig with the Bob Clay Orchestra at the Capitol Theatre in York, PA that provided the opportunity for Ken Double to meet and hear Skip Stine, and the two are performing across the country, introducing a sonic combination that is truly unique today.

ELECTION BIOS

Gil Francis, Richard Dengate & Glenn Rank,

Each of the candidates for the upcoming elections for the Board of Directors were posed the same questions so that you may learn more about them before you vote. This month, there are three more candidates to read about. Gil Francis is running for re-election on the board. Here is what Gil has submitted.

1. Introduce Yourself &
2. Tell Where You Grew Up &
3. Where You Went to School

I am Gil Francis of Livonia, Michigan. I started life in central New York among many relatives long established there. In 1936 after 8 years there we moved to Dearborn Township, now Dearborn Heights, Michigan. I went to Redford High School in Detroit, then the Air Force mostly in South Carolina.

In 1948 Penny and I were married in Detroit. We bought a home in Allen Park and then I attended Wayne University while working part time. I have a BS in Business, and a MEd in Business Education.

4. Life's Profession(s)

I started teaching accounting to adults at the High School of Commerce, then Business subjects at Southwestern High School and Redford High School, retiring in 1983.

5. Outside interests (hobbies)

During all this time we moved to Livonia, our children grew up, married and left home. We traveled to all 50 states, some provinces of Canada, England, Wales and Scotland.

6. DTOS Activities you have been involved with outside of Board meetings &

7. Talents and abilities you can offer to the club

I bought my first organ about 1954 and gradually got caught up in organ activities wherever they happened. A couple pipe organ concerts at the Iris Theater in 1962 really got our attention. We attended the 1967 and 1974 ATOS conventions in Detroit. Penny and I then headed up the convention store in 1982 and 1989, and handled the registration and treasury for the 1995 convention.

By 1980 I was Treasurer of DTOS at the Senate Theater, and have been an officer every year since. I have played in a few member concerts and assist in most club activities. Currently I am Vice President.

8. Name your goals for DTOS in the next year

The future of the Senate Theater and the Detroit Theater Organ Society is a continuing challenge. Once upon a time our dues and volunteer workers paid our way. Now we must find a way to generate funds by marketing our building for other events, whether films, weddings, banquets, concerts, meetings or something we have not thought of yet.

The next two bios are from Richard Dengate and Glenn Rank. These two have "thrown their name into the hat" for their chance to be elected to the Board of Directors. Here is what they had to say, starting with Richard Dengate.

1. Introduce Yourself

I, Richard Dengate, have been a member of DTOS since 1972. I served on the board during the administrations of Casimir Case, Lynn Taylor, and Jim Teevin. During my tenure on the board I functioned as treasurer.

2. Tell Where You Grew Up &
3. Where You Went to School

I grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After high school and military service in the Air Force I attended and graduated from Grand Rapids Junior College, Central Michigan University, and Wayne State University.

4. Life's Profession(s)

This year marks my 47th year in teaching. I am currently Adjunct Lecturer in Economics at Lawrence Technological University. I am a recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship (India) and taught in Japan with the Michigan-Shiga Educator Exchange Program. I have written my professional memoir which is titled: 5,000 Students Later.

(continued ...)

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

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

May 18 & 19—Grease (Sing-A-Long Version!)

June 1 & 2—It Happened One Night

June 15 & 16—American Graffiti

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

ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING THIS MONTH!

The Annual Meeting of the Detroit Theater

Organ Society is April 24th at 7:00pm.

Election results will be announced.

All members are asked to attend.

Election Bios ... (continued)

5. Outside interests (hobbies)

I enjoy reading (history and biography) and occasionally riding my motorcycle. My wife (Maxine) and I have logged 100,000 miles since 1991 which includes a "ride" to Alaska and back in 1997. I hold a private pilot's license with a glider rating.

6. Talents and abilities you can offer to the club

In addition to serving on the board as treasurer, I have helped paint and/or wallpaper every room in the building (except the artist's lavatory). In 1996, I was presented the DTOS Distinguished Service Award which reads: "In Recognition of Outstanding Commitment, Service and Dedication." If elected I would continue this legacy.

7. Name your goals for DTOS in the next year

The future of any organization depends on the efforts of all its members. Revenue enhancement must be a major priority. Our survival rests in attracting and maintaining members. Crucial also is the development of creative ideas that transcend our traditional concerts to offer a variety of activities which will broaden our programs and attract a diverse audience.

Our final bio is from Glenn Rank. Here is what Glenn submitted.

1. Introduce Yourself

Glenn Rank. I joined DTOS then DTOC in late 1961 or early 1962, just shortly after the organ was installed in the Iris Theater. I have always been a Playing Member.

2. Tell Where You Grew Up &

3. Where You Went to School

I am a native Detroitter attending Detroit Public Schools through the ninth grade, then attended and graduated from Lutheran High School East. I attended Port Huron Junior College for two years, then Walsh College from which I graduated in the late 1960's.

4. Life's Profession(s)

Employment wise, I went to work for The Old Club, which is a private yacht Club on Harsens Island, Michigan in 1960 right out of high school, and retired from there this past December after 52 years of service. However, the Old Club was not my main source of in-

come throughout my working career, as many of these years it was just on a helping out basis. Other employment was Rutten, Welling & Company a public accounting firm, J. L. Hudson Company department stores, and lastly as controller for Vic Wertz Distributing Company a Miller Beer Distributor, owned by former Detroit Tiger Vic Wertz.

5. Outside interests (hobbies)

Hobbies include hand built and wheel built pottery, gardening around my home and most recently in my new greenhouse installed in our yard, working on and maintaining our three manual ten rank Wurlitzer Organ.

6. Talents and abilities you can offer to the club

My involvement at DTOS has been in many areas over the years...served as treasurer for over seven years back in the late 60's early 70's when the club membership was at 450 members with a waiting list to get in. This was almost a full time job, as at that time we were invoicing members on a monthly basis for dues. Most recently I have helped on several occasions with giving the Senate a facelift in areas such as painting etc. I have also made several significant financial contributions towards the re-opening the Senate such as automating the back gate to provide a safe haven for members cars while they are at the club for private practice and work sessions.

7. Name your goals for DTOS in the next year

My goal for the future of the Club....as it has become increasingly obvious that our wonderful Wurlitzer Organ is not enough of a drawing card these days to generate enough revenues in the form of dues and walk in concert attendees, we must endeavor to find other ways to market our facilities to the general public however we can, to offset the operating costs of maintaining our home for the Organ, over and above the Club membership and concert fees. I also strongly feel that we have to be more creative using today's financial services such as Paypal, direct charges etc to make dues paying less burdensome for those that find paying dues on a quarterly basis financially straining, offering a monthly payment plan if desired.

RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Connie Masserant

DTOS Board of Directors

The enclosure has been completed on stage that will secure the console when we have a rental event. We now have several electrical outlets secured and enclosed along the baseboard of the chamber wall on stage. This will allow for usage during events when more electricity is needed to power additional equipment and musical instruments. Painting on the auditorium floor in front of the stage has begun. It is hoped to

work our way towards the back of the auditorium for completion.

Dumpster day will be coming towards the end of April. We hope to clear out the old and make way for the new in the basement. Much has been collected over the years and it's time for it to go. We need help from anyone who can roll up their sleeves and dig in. Please contact Connie Masserant if you can help.



Mike Fisher is shown here on the ladder changing the marquee of the Senate Theater for Ken Double's concert in April.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Lance Luce

DTOS Board of Directors

Thank you to all of you for renewing your DTOS membership for 2012, and welcome recently to new members Raymond Chaplin of Highland, Melissa Eidson of Madison Heights, Alan Gheesling of Detroit, Nicholas Grunas of Detroit and Dennis Nagy of Allen Park. Our membership continues to maintain around the 100 persons mark with adding new members and, unfortunately, losing some members. Sometimes we don't learn of the passing of a member until renewal time, and this year was no exception. You should have

received your 2012 membership card in the mail, unless you have recently joined or recently sent in your renewal dues. The latest group of membership cards will be sent out soon, if you do not have a card for the April 15th, Ken Double concert, don't worry, there will be a list of members at the front door as well as the side door, and your name will be on that list. Remember, your paid membership entitles you to bring 3 guests, a \$36 value! See you April 15th!

WE HAVE A RENTAL!

Michael Fisher
DTOS Board of Directors

We have secured our first rental event! This is sure to be a great evening for all ages.

The Graystone Stompers, a 1920's style band has secured our theater to host a concert scheduled for Saturday, October 13th., 8:00 p.m.

The five piece band is named in honor of the famous Graystone Ball Room of Detroit's colorful past. Plan on buying a ticket and supporting this event and

subsequently our theater.

We have had several other inquiries, but nothing concrete as of yet.

Please pass the word around. Consider our Senate Theater for your next birthday party, anniversary party or office holiday party!

Call Mike Fisher (313) 378-1275 or email: fisher.michael65@yahoo.com

**DON'T FORGET THE ANNUAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 24TH AT 7:00PM!**

50th ANNIVERSARY INFORMATION

Connie Masserant
DTOS Board of Directors

Plans are beginning to come together for our society's 50th Anniversary celebration.

Friday, June 8, 2012 - 7:00 pm

Silent movies will be shown right here at the Senate accompanied by our own Fr. Andrew Rogers on the Mighty Wurlitzer organ. The charge will be \$8 and opened to the public. We hope to retain titles with such actors as Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin and Laurel and Hardy. Please come help us celebrate and show your support for your theater.

Saturday, June 9, 2012 – Afternoon/Evening

Times to be determined, but the day will be filled with presentations, displays, and a round table with some of the charter and long-time members with stories and more.

Following will be Hors D'oeuvres and Dinner for which you must make reservations. The tickets for the Hors D'oeuvres and Dinner will be \$14.00. Please be sure you make your reservations. Info will be at the bottom of the article.

Closing the day's activities will be a highly anticipated concert given by Lance Luce at 7:00 pm. The concert is open to the public for \$12, but free to DTOS members and their guests.

RESERVATIONS can be made at the April concert or by mail. Payment must be made at the time of reservation or by May 1, 2012. To make reservations by mail, please include:

- Complete name and number in party.
- Mailing address and phone number.
- Check for the total amount. (\$14 per person)

MAIL TO:

Glenn Rank (Chairman)
P.O. Box 285
Algonac, MI 48001

Your tickets will be sent to you by return mail.

Any questions, please contact

Glenn Rank – 810-794-3410
Michael Fisher – 313-378-1275
Connie Masserant – 734-652-6004



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Senate Theater
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Website: www.dtos.org
Look for us on Facebook!

2012 Concert Series

April 15 — Ken Double

May 20 — Ron Rhode

June 8 — 50th Anniversary Celebration

Weekend starts!

June 9 — Lance Luce

September 16 — Pierre Fracalanza

October 21 — Steven Warner

November 18 — Melisa Ambrose-Eidson

December 2 — Fr. Andrew Rogers