



# DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 52, Issue 8

August 2013



DTOS  
Executive Board  
& Directors



## Annual DTOS Picnic

Sunday, August 25, 2013 1:00 p.m. to ???

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- Two Vacant Seats

Once again the members of the Detroit Theater Organ Society have been invited to the home of Glenn Rank and David Voydanoff in Algonac for what has become an annual tradition, "Wurlitzer House III Picnic!"

The picnic starts at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 25. Food will be served starting at 2:30 p.m.

Our hosts will be providing Sloppy Joes and Hot Dogs, as well as lemonade and coffee. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass, as well as their own folding chair (and table if you wish!)

To coordinate the food, it is asked that everyone call Dave or Glenn at 810-794-3410 by August 23. Please be prepared to indicate what food you will be bringing.



# From the President's Desk

Connie Masserant, DTOS President

A great time was had by everyone at the Bar-B-Que / Open Console on Saturday, July 20th at the theater.

Tables were set up in the inner lobby with several fans blowing so the temperature wasn't a distraction.

People enjoyed burgers, dogs, and chicken grilled in the parking lot along with salads and desserts. After dining, we mixed and mingled from table to table, while listening to the sounds of the Wurlitzer.

Members certainly took advantage of the opportunity of the casual atmosphere to catch up socially with friends (and make new friends) while the playing members provided us with almost four hours of non-stop

organ music. We had close to forty in attendance with six organists. While we missed some of our other playing members, the day was quite a success and hope next time it will be an even larger event.

**The Detroit Theatre Organ Society Board of Directors meets on the last Tuesday of each month.**

**All members are invited and encouraged to attend.**

**Information on all events happening at the Senate Theater can be found by going online to [www.dtos.org](http://www.dtos.org).**

# ATOS Grant to Support Wurlitzer Restoration

Fred Bruflodt, DTOS Board of Directors

A \$5,254 grant from the American Theater Organ Society Endowment Fund will support continuing restoration of the DTOS Fisher/Orbits Wurlitzer Organ.

The grant was announced in a July letter from Tim Needler, chairman of the ATOS Endowment Fund.

Needler wrote: "Congratulations! In response to your grant request, \$5,254 for your offset chests repair, trem and reservoir rebuilds has been awarded by the ATOS Endowment Fund Board of Trustees and approved by the ATOS Board of Directors at its recent annual meeting in Atlanta, GA."

The grant requires that an established organ service company be responsible for the work. Scott Smith Pipe Organs of Lansing has been

contracted to perform the work.

Components to be restored:

SOLO CHAMBER

Offset Chests:

- Tuba Mirabilis - CCC 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11 - six notes
- Tuba Mirabilis - CCC# 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 - six notes
- Tuba Mirabilis - CC 13 - 18 - six notes
- Open Diapason - CC 1 - 7 - seven notes
- Small tremulant (Tuba Mirabilis, English Horn wind system)
- Small tremulant (Solo Vox Humana wind system) - additional restoration
- Large tremulant (Open Diapason wind system)

MAIN CHAMBER

- Offset chest - 16' Tuba

Horn (2-6n chests) 1- 14  
~ fourteen notes

LEFT PERCUSSION CHAMBER

- Reservoirs
- All traps and percussions ~ 20" X 30"

The DTOS Board had submitted a grant request in 2012, but Endowment funds were insufficient then. Although DTOS is not affiliated with ATOS, the DTOS Board was encouraged to apply for the grant because of the historic importance of this organ and because it remains in substantially original condition.



Scott Smith Testing restored pneumatics as they are being reinstalled into one of the windchests of the Fisher

# The Restoration Continues

Scott Smith

Concurrent with the cessation of operations at the Senate Theatre in 2009, Scott Smith Pipe Organs and Holden Pipe Organs ceased the re-leathering process that was well underway. Lacking a clear direction at that time, the decision was made that whatever re-leathering remained would continue after the organ was totally disassembled and in storage awaiting a new home. The doors of the theatre were closed to nearly all for almost a year-and-a-half, and during that void, members

of the Organ Committee kept a watchful eye on the organ, being sure that humidifiers were being filled regularly and that there were no building issues that affected the organ negatively.

Thankfully, operations began again in May, 2011 and here we are, two years hence back in full operation. That having been said, the organ's aging leather has received only temporary patching during that time while funding was being secured to continue the re-leathering process.

It is our pleasure to inform you that funding has been secured from two sources to continue! DTOS board member Paul Jacyk has donated a substantial amount toward organ restoration in recent months, and more recently, a grant has been awarded to DTOS from the American Theatre Organ Society. This is specifically for the restoration of several bass offset chests, regulators and tremolos.

Work is expected to begin immediately and will likely be completed by year's

end. While this does not complete the re-leathering, it puts us a long way toward a completely restored instrument. Many thanks to Paul, ATOS and continued support from members and other donors alike!

(Hint! Hint! The end of the tax and calendar year is approaching, and your tax-deductible donation can be earmarked specifically for restoration of the organ, where you can see, hear and play the direct results of your generosity!)

## Kroger Community Rewards for DTOS

Paul Jacyk, DTOS Board of Directors



DTOS is now enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Kroger will donate a small amount of money to DTOS on a quarterly basis based on the percentage of your spending as it relates to the total spending of all participating Kroger Community Rewards organizations. There is at no cost to you. It is tied into your Kroger shopping card. Questions, contact Paul Jacyk 419-726-5378

DTOS NPO number is 91825. You need this number to register.

**TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM:**

- Simply encourage your members to register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)

- Be sure to have your Kroger Plus card handy and register your card with your organization after you sign up.
- If a member does not yet have a Kroger Plus card, please let them know that they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.
- Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email

address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions

- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter NPO number or name of organization, select organization from list and click on con-

firm.

- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after your member(s) register their card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 877-576-7587 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- Members must swipe their registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to their registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.

# M

## usic Preservation Project

In November of last year, your Board of Directors created a new Policy that created the position of Music Archivist and appointed Christopher Dengate to the position.

Over the last several years, concerns regarding our music library containing virtually every concert recorded on our Wurlitzer have been expressed at board meetings with many thoughts on how to store our heritage of music. The library contains over 680 recordings dating back to our first DTOS concert by John Muri in October of 1961.

Currently, the library is stored on three devices with the oldest being on ten inch reel to reel tape. Most of this format of storage has not been backed up to a newer form of storage. Along with being very bulky to store, due to age, the tapes have become fragile. The original machine used

to record these concerts is still in the hands of the Society but is also showing its age with very few technicians that know how to repair it.

Another format of storage currently in place at DTOS is DAT. A much smaller and easier format to store, the blank DAT tapes are becoming harder to find according to DTOS audio engineer Fred Brufloft. The DAT format was put into place in the early 1990's and we have roughly thirty years of music on this format as well.

The last format currently in place is CDR or compact disc. This format is also very easy to store and another advantage to this type of storage is the ease in making "high speed" copies of concerts while the other two need to be copied in "real time". Some progress has been made in transferring the DAT recordings onto CDR as well as reel to reel recordings onto CDR but

more needs to be done.

The newest form of storage being introduced in 2013 is onto an SD card. Very similar to ones used in your digital camera at home, it enables DTOS to record and store an entire year of concerts on a single card. This type of format will be replacing the older DAT recordings and the organization will continue to utilize the CDR format.

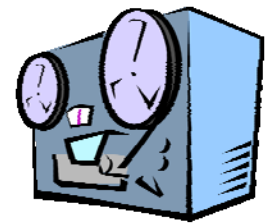
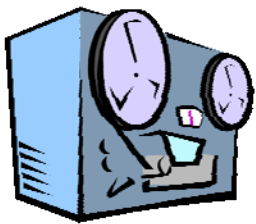
Everyone has heard of the old saying of not putting all your eggs in one basket. Well, DTOS will no longer be keeping just one copy of our library at the Senate. During the upgrading of the storage formats, a new external hard drive will be put into place to store all of our concerts which will not be kept at the Senate but at another location.

Funding for the new equipment has been approved and ordered by the Board of Directors. A budget of \$2,500 has been al-

lowed for the project which not only covers the cost of equipment but includes money for blank SD cards and other supplies.

We want to make it clear that no attempts will be made to enhance or edit any of the recordings that DTOS has in its library. The object is to transfer the library as recorded to an up to date device as well as having another copy of the library at a separate location which will protect us from fire, theft and flooding.

This project will prove to be a very time consuming one because of the need to transfer the music in real time as previously mentioned. We have over 680 concerts in the library with each concert being roughly two hours in length. If you do the math, that's close to 1,400 hours of our heritage and history being preserved.



# Restoration Update

Connie Masserant, DTOS President

It's finally up! Yes, the screen is in place thanks to several hard working members and volunteers.

July 5th marked the day that the last steps in installing the screen occurred. Four men showed up to raise it into position. With two men in the attic and two men on the floor, the winches were attached along with three safety cables, then up she went.

A special thanks to everyone who helped with this feat.

And of course a very special thank you to Marvin Spear who made all of this possible.

Now all we need is a new projector. I am happy to say that the funds have been coming in so that we have begun shopping for one. We are almost at our goal and hope to have a new one before we start up our fall schedule. In order to make that happen, we are still accepting donations to the projector fund. We need only about \$3,000 more to make that happen.

Thank you from the board and myself to all of you who have been so generous and I hope there are still some of you out there who can make this dream come true for all of us. As I have stated in past publications, having the ability to show quality movies will bring in the much needed revenue to help cement our future.



Dave Masserant and George Stampelis on the floor attached the winch cables making sure she was raised and leveled properly while two in the attic worked the winches.



Voila!! We have a screen.

Notice how it fills up the entire stage, with about 1.5 feet on each side for clearance. When not in use, the screen can be rolled up into the box at the top for protection and to let the music out of the chambers.



Ken, Dave, Paul (who also built our stage), George.

# Movie Committee Plans for the Future

Mike Fisher, DTOS Board of Directors  
Chairman. Movie. Events & Rentals Committee

Even though the days have been long, and often hot and sticky, the Movie Committee has continued to meet and plan our movie schedule for the rest of the year. We are already starting to kick ideas around for 2014! We are open to suggestions as to procedure and titles. Please let us know what you would like to see on our big new screen in the future!

We feel that you, our membership, may like to know the general direction of our committee and where we are steering to in the future. As most of you know, this was our first year of existence as a movie house. It hasn't been all "peaches and cream," but we are making headway. Thanks to the hard work of our committee, the Board of Directors and the volunteers at large that have help us begin to grow our "movie business". A lot of what we have tried this year has been for the purposes

of "trial and error" and "learn as we grow" concepts. This means, for example, does our customer like matinees? Friday or Saturday? Do they like silent movies? Silver screen or kid's movies? Mixed or more modern titles? We are always looking for feedback and insight as to the likes and desires of our customers and ways to continue to "draw them in". We have found that a combination of varied advertising sources, word of mouth and our website and Facebook page are helping us to create a "niche" and continues to grow in our infancy stages that we truly are still at today.

Our general direction, at this point, is to show a silent movie once a quarter and a "regular" movie once a month. With this in mind, we look for your insight and suggestions as we move into next year's schedule. There you have it in a nutshell! That is what is going from

your movie committee!

Let us know what you think! Please send some suggestion via email: Fisher.michael65@yahoo.com or call me at 313-378-1275.

Remember we are always looking for volunteers for movie days! We need your help!

Here is the movie schedule for the rest of this year:

Fri., October 11—8:00 p.m.  
"Nosferatu" - silent movie with live organ accompaniment - tickets \$10.00

Fri. & Sat., October 25 & 26 at 8:00 p.m. (both nights)  
"Ghostbusters" - tickets \$5.00

Sat., November 9, 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.  
"Back To The Future" - tickets \$5.00

Fri. & Sat., November 22 & 23 at 8:00 p.m.  
"From Russia With Love" (James Bond) - tickets

\$5.00

Sat., December 14 - Christmas Double Feature Spectacular!

Featuring the beloved children's movies: "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" & the cartoon feature "Frosty The Snowman"

\*\*\* Free admission! \*\*\*

This special event will offer photo opportunities with our very own Santa and a "Christmas Carol Sing-along!"

Stay tuned for further detail! Please know we are going to need many hands to make this a great day of community outreach, helping to create an awareness in the local community as a "great place to visit" and potentially as a hub, as a rental venue and place of family enrichment and entertainment.

I am looking forward to a great rest of the year at the Senate full of organ concerts, events and movies!

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

August 23 & 24—Jaws

September 13 & 14—8pm 15—2pm—The Music Man with guest appearance by Shirley Jones

September 27 & 28—The Graduate

October 4 & 5—Vincent Price Festival, featuring different movies at each showing!

October 11 & 12—Three Stooges Festival

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](http://www.redfordtheatre.com)

# Board Meeting Update

Dave Calendine, DTOS Board of Directors

There have been three Board meetings since the last update in the Newsletter. This update will bring you up to date with some of the tasks that your Board of Directors have done at their monthly meetings. Please note that the Board of Directors meeting is held on the last Tuesday of every month, and all members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

- Plans for new ground-level restrooms have been drafted, and quotes are now being received to move the project forward.
- Basement area cleaned out and over fifty years of debris thrown out.

- New movie screen was ordered, delivered, and installed.
- Lighting truss expansion was purchased and will be installed soon.
- Ticket prices for organ concerts will be increased to \$15.00 for adults.
- Our insurance needs were looked into, and it was determined that we have proper coverage.
- DTOS is now a member of the Kroger Community Rewards program.
- The 2014 concert schedule is being finalized.
- A new membership category is being developed,

called "Friends of the Senate."

- Annual Fox Theatre open house was a success.
- BBQ at the Senate was a success.
- Green "Visitor Cards" will be re-implemented at the doors for organ concerts.
- Received a grant from ATOS for restoration work on the Wurlitzer.
- A free Christmas event is being planned at the Senate Theatre.
- Concerts are being transferred from reel-to-reel tape into a digital format.
- DTOS is now a member of the Southwest Detroit Business Association

(SDBA).

- The long-gone gift shop at the Senate Theatre will be returning soon with new merchandise.

- Looking into purchasing two 35mm film projectors.

These items are just some of the topics that your Board of Directors are working on. For more, please feel free to attend any Board of Directors meeting, held on the last Tuesday of every month in the lobby of the Senate Theater. This is your organization, and we highly encourage you to be an active part of it!

# Ragtime & Boogie Woogie Concert

Sunday, September 29, 2013 3:00 p.m.

Don't forget that we have two world-class pianists performing at the Senate Theatre on September 29. Bob Milne and Bob Seeley will be

performing in their special Ragtime and Boogie Woogie styles.

More information regarding these two musicians can

be found in the July 2013 Newsletter.

Tickets will be on sale at the September organ concert featuring Justin Stahl.

Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this musical treat!



Bob Milne



Bob Seeley

DETROIT THEATER  
ORGAN SOCIETY

*Over 50 Years of Entertainment!*

## **Detroit Theater Organ Society**

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.DTOS.ORG

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### **2013 Concert Series**

September 22—Justin Stahl

October 20—Scott Smith

November 17—Clark Wilson

December 8—Joel Gary

All concerts are held at the  
Senate Theatre.

Doors open at 2:00 p.m.

Concerts start at 3:00 p.m.

Visit the Detroit Theater Organ  
Society on the web for information  
on other special events happening  
at the Senate Theater! [www.dtos.org](http://www.dtos.org)



photo: Lance Luce