

# DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 52, Issue 11

November 2013

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!

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& Directors

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- Two Vacant Seats

## Clark Wilson at the Wurlitzer

Sunday, November 17, 2013—3:00 p.m.

The Detroit Theater Organ Society is pleased to bring back award-winning organist Clark Wilson to the Senate Theater. This exciting concert will be on Sunday, November 17. Doors to the Senate Theater open at 2:00 p.m., with the concert starting at 3:00 p.m.

A native of Ohio, Clark Wilson began his musical training at age nine. While growing up he accompanied numerous stage musicals and was organist at several churches. At this time he was listed in "Who's Who in the Midwest" and "Men of Achievement". He also holds Life Member status in the International Tri-M Music Honor Society and is listed in "Who's Who in Executives and Professionals".

Following several years with the Schantz Organ Company as a reed voicer and tonal finisher, Clark's professional playing career began with his appointment to the featured organist post at Pipe Organ Pizza in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has since been on the playing staffs at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, Indiana, Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois, and is currently associated with Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona, where he is on the organ

staff as well as having assisted with the planning and installation of the world's largest Wurlitzer organ.

Clark's recording credits include seven albums. He has given all-transcription recitals for the AGO, played for the 1990 Organ Historical Society convention, and performed at numerous National and Regional conventions of the ATOS, as well as giving a series of highly lauded workshops for young people's Pipe Organ Encounters. Considered one of the finest practitioners of the art of silent picture scoring, he has also been a visiting lecturer on Theatre Organ and photoplay accompaniment for the Indiana University organ department, and will be working with the Univer-

sity of Oklahoma in setting up a picture scoring program. He has concertized in the United States, Canada, Australia, and England, and done extensive silent film accompaniment, including at the Chautauqua Institution in New York, the Packard Foundation's Stanford Theatre, UCLA, and the Fox Theatre for the Atlanta premier of the restored "Metropolis". He plays a silent picture annually on the organ series at LA's Walt Disney Concert Hall, has scored for Kino International for commercial release, and has performed at both the Cinequest and San Francisco Silent Film Festivals, as well as for the Los Angeles Conservancy. Since 1992 Clark has served as Resident Organist and organ conservator at the



# C

## Clark Wilson ... continued from front page

famed Ohio Theatre in Columbus, Ohio (for the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts) and was chosen by them to re-premier the renowned Chicago Theatre Organ on a bill that included him accompanying popular singer Michael Feinstein. He also headed the professional crew that began

restoration on the Chicago's landmark Wurlitzer for CA-PA.

Along with a busy concert schedule, Wilson runs his own pipe organ business and is heavily in demand as a tonal consultant and finisher of both theatre and classical pipe organs; he has been given the singular hon-

or of being brought to England multiple times for tonal finishing and consulting. He has received both the Technician of the Year and Organist of the Year awards from the American Theatre Organ Society, the only person to have done so, and his time is now nearly equally divided between concert and

technical work. He has been professionally involved with more than 100 organ installations throughout North America and England and has provided consulting and voicing expertise for several different organ companies.

# F

## rom the President's Desk

Connie Masserant, DTOS President

Due to the change in our by-laws in an attempt to align our fiscal year with our Board election, it has now become time to begin the process of elections for the Board of Directors. As stated in our by-laws, only part of the Board positions come up for election each year. With thirteen positions on the Board, only six will be elected this year, with seven positions following up for next year and so forth.

**November** is the month the nominating committee will be calling people to see if they will take a turn serving on the Board. Once they have a slate of nominees, it will be presented to the Board at the November Board meeting. The requirements are simple: 1.) be a playing member in good standing; 2.) be a playing member for

at least three full consecutive years.

The duties are to attend monthly Board meetings, work actively on a committee or two, attend DTOS concert events, and support additional events as you can. On a side note, with the addition of "Friends of the Senate" volunteer group, this will ease up the amount of time needed from Directors to support the additional events such as movies, concerts, etc.

In **December**, an election committee will collect biographies and send those out along with the ballots for voting in the **January** election.

The present Board, along with the membership, has brought our theater quite a distance in the last couple of years with regards to restoration, updating, and putting us

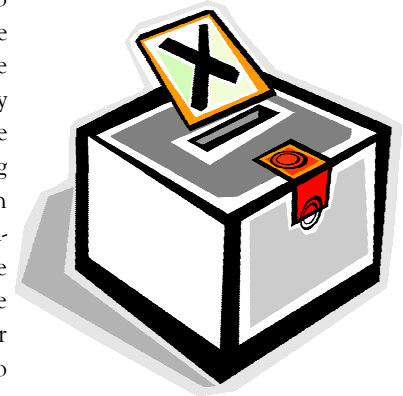
back in the public eye. However, there is still much work to be done to take us where we need to be in order to keep and maintain our home for the Mighty Wurlitzer. I hope you will consider supporting your club by running for a Board position where you can help make a difference.

The two people who will be serving on the nominating committee are Carl Kiehler and Ray Chaplin. They will be reaching out and calling qualified members to run for the Board. If you already know you would like your name to be on the ballot, please call either Carl or send an email to Ray.

Nominating Committee

Carl Kiehler  
(hm phone) 248-557-8164  
(cell) 313-283-0225

Ray Chaplin  
email:  
ray.chaplin@comcast.net



# My Roof's Got A Hole In It and I Might Drown

Lance Luce, DTOS Vice-President

Remember this song by the Serendipity Singers??

*Oh, no, don't let the rain come down*

*Oh, no, don't let the rain come down*

*Oh, no, don't let the rain come down*

*My roofs got a hole in it and I might drown*

*Oh, yes, my roofs got a hole in it and I might drown.*

*There was a crooked man and he had a crooked smile*

*Had a crooked sixpence and he walked a crooked mile*

*Had a crooked cat and he had a crooked mouse*

*They all lived together in a crooked little house.*

We have repaired our roof over our auditorium in recent years, and it seems to be in good shape, for the time being. We are having

some minor repairs done to our gutters and down spouts before winter sets in. We know there has been water leaking into the brick pilasters on the East side of the building because of the gutters, and we may have to have some brick work done in the future because of the leaking gutters.

However, we do have a hole or two in the roof above the marquee. Our marquee is turning out to be one of our major sources of advertising. A lot of people are saying, as they come into our theatre for a show, that they saw it advertised on the marquee.

Our marquee has been outside in the weather 24/7 all year long, for a long time. The neon is gone, and the little white lights no longer function due to the deterioration of the sign. Our first

step of restoration of our classic sign will be to fix the hole in the roofing. When we can stop the deterioration due to the water, then we can think about doing some restoration. We also are talking about lighting the sign better at night, as it does seem to be a beacon to passers by, that we are indeed, open for business.

If you can help us fix our sign, we'd appreciate it.



There is a "donate" button on the DTOS.org home page, and we would greatly appreciate any and all contributions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

**Saturday, November 16—2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**

Classic Animation Festival

**Friday, November 22—8:00 p.m. Saturday, November 23—2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**

It's A Wonderful Life—with Karolyn "Zuzu" Grimes at all showings

**Friday, December 6—8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 7—2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**

Home Alone

**Saturday, December 14—8:00 p.m.**

Christmas at the Redford featuring Dave Calendine at the Barton Organ with special guests The Casali Holiday Dancers

**Friday, December 20—8:00 p.m. Saturday, December 21—2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**

White Christmas

Doors open one hour prior to all event times. Organ overtures start thirty minutes prior to show times, except for concerts. Schedule subject to change. For the most up-to-date schedule information, visit [www.redfordtheatre.com](http://www.redfordtheatre.com).

# M

## ovie Committee Update

Michael J. Fisher, Chairman, Movie, Rental & Events Committee

After one year of showing movies, do we have all the kinks worked out? Well, almost! We are trying to be fast learners. Due to the dedication of the movie committee and all the great volunteers, we are experiencing continued growth and exposure in the area of public awareness for the Senate Theater and the DTOS.

We continue to attract great attention from our marquee, Metro Times ads, Facebook, word of mouth, repeat customers and a myriad of leads. We are growing! Are we 100 percent solvent? No not yet, but given a bit more time, we are bound to have our theater out there for all to come and see and

enjoy not only movies, but also our "Mighty Wurlitzer", our thrust and devotion.

As we begin to enter our second season of movie presentations, we continue to "experiment" a bit with what genres are most appealing to our audiences, when they would like to see movies, and how often. In addition to this, we are also trying to narrow in on our concessions area. Sales of concessions are vital to the success of all theaters and the Senate certainly is no exception to this rule.

We continue to explore not only movie titles, but to try to come up with ideas to pair with movies. As an example, a "theme scheme"

as I like to call it. Say, a costumed affair complimenting the movie or perhaps a visit from a star of the movie to spur interest and appeal of coming to see the movie.

As always, we are looking for fresh ideas and angles to help make this vital operation of our organization profitable and worth all the time and volunteerism it takes to "make it happen" for the Senate and DTOS to thrive and perpetuate our great society into the future.

In conclusion, you can expect to see about ten "sound" movies or "talkies" over the next year spattered with three "silent" titles and perhaps a "special" event thrown in along the way.

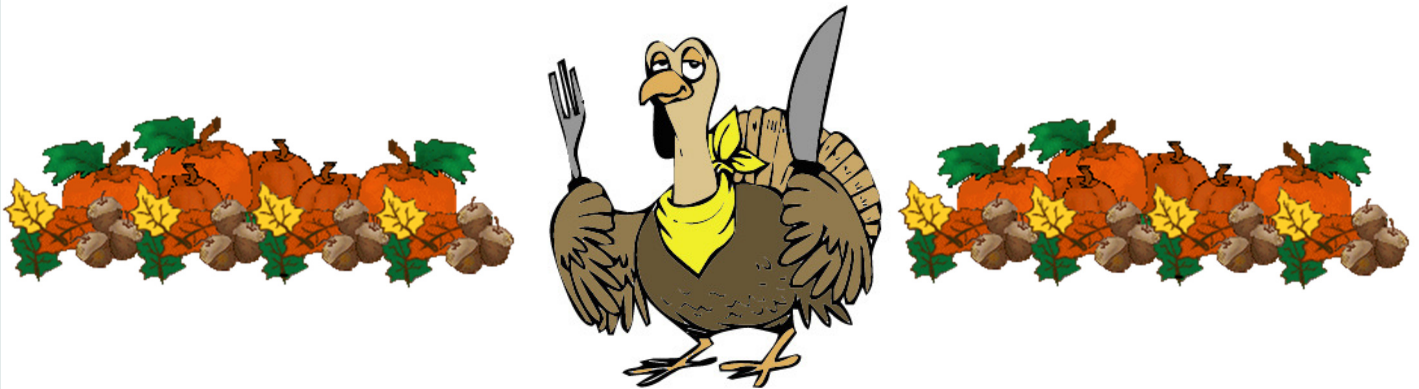
We plan to show most movies on Saturday nights at 8:00 p.m. with organ pre-show music at 7:30 p.m.

We Look forward to seeing each of you at a movie here at the Senate - either as a patron or a volunteer!

Please try to come, bring a friend, and experience a movie on our new great big screen (Thank you Mr. Marvin Spear!) and have fun with old friends and make new ones. It is always a fun time.

Call me at 313-378-1275 and let me know when you can help at the next movie.

Michael J. Fisher



# D

## TOS Goes Corporate

Glenn Rank, DTOS Treasurer

For your convenience Credit Cards can now be used to purchase special event tickets

or make purchases at our gift center. This includes purchases made either online or in per-

son at the Theater. Accepted credit cards are Master Card, Visa, American Ex-

press and Discover.



# Board Meetings Update

Dave Calendine, DTOS Corporate Secretary

In an effort to keep the membership up to date with everything that is happening with the Detroit Theater Organ Society, we would like to provide updates on actions and activities that happen at the monthly Board of Directors meetings whenever there is space available in the Newsletter. There have been two Board meetings since the last update. Due to many members of the Board being unable to attend the regularly-scheduled meeting for August, that meet was cancelled. Here are updates of what has happened at the September and October meetings.

## SEPTEMBER

- Glenn Rank was thanked for helping Connie Masserant with the set-up of the new gift store in the lobby.
- The publicity team has done a lot of work to get our theater in the public eye again.
- Glenn Rank and Dave Calendine have spent much time in working on the financial books of the organization and in properly identifying our designated (restricted) funds.
- Restroom Building Committee met and are still moving forward with the project. Quotes are being obtained for the project. An architectural engineer is being obtained to put together a full package for us to provide to contractors for a bid. The price of the project could be greatly reduced if the structure is built and we do the interior work ourselves.
- Estimate was received to grade, level and stone the new lot for parking. As it was high, other estimates are being obtained to compare. We will also look into rules and regulations for parking lots for the city of Detroit.
- A design for lighting and marking the edge of the stage is being sought.
- Ceiling in men's restroom is in great need of attention.
- Pilaster on East side of building needs to be repaired (similar to what was done on the West side of the building)
- Marquee needs great attention. Roof work needs done, and electrical work needs done to bring it back to life.
- New proscenium stage lights are installed and working.
- Display cases in outer lobby will be spruced up and used more for shows.
- Three new applications for membership were approved.
- Ragtime Piano event was a huge success.
- Piano vacuum action needs attention.
- Artists for 2014 are still being booked.
- Grant from ATOS was received to work on the organ.
- New membership category "Friends of the Senate" was approved.

## OCTOBER

- Utility costs are running higher for this year. We

are already at the cost for the entire year of 2012, and we still have two cold months to go.

- Connie Masserant reminded everyone to be careful about leaving lights on when leaving the premises.
- George Orbits met with a possible architect regarding the new restroom building.
- All fire extinguishers in the theater have received their annual inspection.
- Our alarm company (AAA Alarm) was purchased by Guardian Alarm, who is now monitoring our theater.
- Area above the men's restroom was inspected by a contractor. The leak that is causing problems is most likely coming from an old exhaust fan that is no longer in use. Other potential areas with leaks were also identified, included plugged up eaves and gutters. The Board approved fixing these leaks as soon as possible. The ceiling in the restroom will need to be fixed after the leaks are taken care of.
- A proposal to fix the pilaster on the East side of the building was reviewed.
- Two new membership applications were received for "Friends of the Senate".
- Movie committee submitted a proposal to have ten regular movies and three silent films with organ accompaniment in 2014. All showings will be Satur-



day evenings. The Board approved the plan and a budget for the movies.

- Additional lighting to brightly light the vertical Senate sign on Michigan Avenue was approved.
- Other aspects of improving the marquee were discussed. According to a survey of those attending the recent movies, the marquee was the primary source of information to the general public and first-time attendees.
- Karl Kiehler will head up the nominating committee for the election for the Board of Directors.

As a reminder, all Board meetings are open to the membership. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, unless notice is given announcing a change.

Interested in helping your organization? We are looking for candidates to run for the Board of Directors. Please see the President's report earlier in this Newsletter for more information.

As always, this is your organization. Please come and be an active part of it!



The Fisher Organ on the Wurlitzer Factory Floor in North Tonawanda, New York

# EVENT SCHEDULE FOR THE SENATE THEATER

**Saturday, November 9—2pm & 8pm**  
Back to the Future

**Sunday, November 17—3pm**  
Clark Wilson Organ Concert

**Friday, November 22 & Saturday, November 23—8pm**  
From Russia with Love

**Sunday, December 8—3pm**  
Joel Gary Organ Concert

**Saturday, December 14—2pm**  
Senate Christmas Extravaganza

Doors open one hour prior to all event times. Schedule subject to change.  
For the most up-to-date schedule information, visit our web site at [www.dtos.org](http://www.dtos.org).



The Fisher organ in its original home at the Fisher Theater



The front of the Senate Theater in a not-so-distant past

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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### **Remaining 2013 Concert Series**

November 17—Clark Wilson

December 8—Joel Gary

All concerts are held at the  
Senate Theater.

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