



DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 53, Issue 10

November 2014



DTOS
Executive Board
& Directors

- **President**
Lance Luce
lanceluce@wowway.com
- **Vice President**
Michael Fisher
fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
- **Treasurer**
Dave Calendine
dave@calendine.net
- **Corporate Secretary**
Fred Bruflodt
fred.audioarts@prodigy.net
- Gil Francis
ggf@juno.com
- Paul Jacyk
paul5jacyk@aol.com
- Dick Leichtamer
tibiaplana434@buckeye-express.com
- George Orbits
orbitsgc@gmail.com
- Bob Weil
robertjweil@yahoo.com
- Chris Werner
rolandefleur@gmail.com
- Kevin Werner
kekwere@comcast.net

W e're Back in Business!

Kevin Werner
DTOS Board of Directors

After a long summer, we are finally ready for our reopening. Your board and many hard working and dedicated members have put in many, many hours of hard work at their new summer home on Michigan Avenue. A new alarm system has been installed, and the boiler will keep things nice and toasty now that it has had major work completed. Carpets have been professionally cleaned and look great. The east side masonry work has been complete and that is now in great shape, Marquee work is well under way. The new restroom project has been narrowed down to a final plan and bid documents are being prepared. We also have a beautiful baby grand piano in the inner lobby which was made available through generous donations from a few of our members and Evola Music. Many other things too numerous to mention have been done as well.

Our concert series will commence on November 16th featuring Mellissa Ambrose-Eidson followed by Donnie Rankin on December 7th for our Christmas concert. Both will prove to be a great events Please plan on attending. Please tell your friends and relatives. Our movie series will resume as well with "A Christmas Carol" on November 29 and "The Polar Express" on December 20. Bring your friends and enjoy an inexpensive and fun time.

With all this being said, the repairs and work items I have just outlined were unavoidable and cost money. Please consider donations to our club. Large or small. It all adds up and we need all the financial help we can get. Replacement of the marquee will cost money. We are in a unique position in that we have the second largest completely all original Wurlitzer Theater pipe organ second only to the Detroit Fox. Even the St

Louis Fox had several ranks removed. Even though they were replaced, they are not the original ranks. All the organs and organ groups in the whole world can't claim that. We are a special and very lucky group and have a true gem.

This brings us to the organ condition. It is approaching 100 years old and given that fact, it needs constant maintenance. It still plays nicely and will still knock your socks off. The organ crew continues to do their thing to keep it up to par. Please consider donations for that as well.

With your help I believe that we are very close to turning the corner and we once again can attain the glory of the past where we were number one in the country when it came to Theater Organ venues. When an organist was asked to play at the DTOS (DTOS) they knew that they had arrived as a Theater Organist. People like Lyn Larsen made several recordings at the Senate. That's saying something. The neighborhood is improving greatly. I have seen police presence like I haven't seen in years and its working. I have made a point to go out and meet several of the neighbors and they are excited as well and are very nice people indeed. Thank You for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the Senate.



Melissa Ambrose-Eidson Re-Opens Senate

Sunday, November 16

3:00 p.m.



The Senate Theater re-opens with a Detroit-area favorite, Melissa Ambrose-Eidson.

Melissa began organ studies at the young age of thirteen. At age fourteen, she performed her first concert at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. Since then, she has performed on several notable theatre organs such as the Flint Institute of Music, Fox Theatre (Detroit), Redford Theatre (Detroit), Temple Theatre (Saginaw), and many more.

At age fifteen, Melissa won the state of Michigan Yamaha competition and the U.S. Regional Yamaha competition. She received the Royal Oak Musicale Merit Award for outstanding musicianship in the community. In 1995 she com-

peted in the Young Theatre Organist Competition internationally and was runner-up. She competed again in 1996 and won a college scholarship. Competing again in 1987, she won the Young Theatre Organist competition and was a featured performer at the American Theatre Organ Society's convention in Los Angeles on the Orpheum Theatre's Wurlitzer organ. She also was featured at the society's regional convention in Denver that same year. After winning, Melissa went on to perform at other great theatre organs in Toledo, Columbus and Mansfield, Ohio. She also performed in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Lockport and North Tonawanda, New York, Toronto, Canada, and Chicago,

Illinois. A graduate of Oakland University, she received her Bachelor of Art in organ performance under the tutelage of Frederick DeHaven, and continued her education at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, working towards a master's degree in organ under the tutelage of Marilyn Mason.

Melissa has been the Minister of Music at the First Congregational Church of Royal Oak since 1993. Melissa's love of music also has her teaching music to kindergarten through eighth graders at St. Vincent Ferrier Catholic Schools since 1991. She also gives private piano and organ lessons to twenty students weekly.

Melissa will be joined by another accomplished musician,

Joel Faddol. A percussionist, pianist, arranger, synthesizer programmer, studio engineer, computer systems integrator, audio, video and control systems designer, and more, his broad range of everything musical lets him become one with any type of concert that he is a part of. A recent recording project, "Made in Detroit" has been released by Frijid Pink just a few months ago.

Joel is currently the pianist at the First Congregational Church of Royal Oak.

Join us as we celebrate the re-opening of the Senate and enjoy a great concert on the Mighty Wurlitzer! Doors open at 2:00 p.m., with the concert starting at 3:00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there!

Election Time Is Here

Christopher Dengate
Election Committee Chairman

Along with the national election that occurred this month, we are not exempt from holding our own elections as an organization.

Those members eligible to vote will receive their ballots in the mail during the month of November. We urge everyone who receives the ballot to view the candidates and their credentials and exercise their membership right to vote for those who you want to lead the organization into the next

year and beyond. The ballot takes only minutes to fill out and we are looking for a 100 percent return on the ballots that are sent out.

To achieve our goal of the 100 percent return of the ballots, there are two ways to return them to be counted. The first is being mailed with the ballot and it will be a self-addressed stamped envelope. The second way is to self-deliver it to the Senate during your next visit for practice

time or our holiday concert held in December. An election box will be in the lobby of the Senate.

Along with the members on the board of directors, you will also be voting on some other positions whose terms are expiring and need renewal.

Ballots will be received throughout the rest of the year with the results of the election being announced at the Annual Meeting that is held at the Senate in January. Ballots



must be received by the start of the Annual meeting in order to be counted.



Saturday, November 29 8:00 p.m.
All tickets only \$5.00!
Organ pre-show concert at 7:30 p.m.



Saturday, December 20 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.
All tickets only \$5.00!
Organ pre-show 30 minutes prior to each showing

Visit our friends at the Redford Theatre for their classic film series.

November 14—Pilot Error

November 15—Animation Classics and Rarities Festival

November 21 & 22—A Christmas Story

December 5 & 6—Christmas Vacation

December 19 & 20—White Christmas

Full schedule of events, including times and prices, can be found on the web site

WWW.REDFORDTHEATRE.COM

A

Picture is Worth A Thousand Words

Dave Calendine

DTOS Board of Directors

It is an over-used phrase, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words," but in this case, as Newsletter editor, I am thankful that I can let the pictures speak

for themselves. Over the next three pages, you will see pictures of the work that has been happening at the Senate Theatre.

The first set of pictures deals

with our marquee. It looks mighty different on the front of the building now that the work crew has removed the lower section. Supports are in place

for the remaining vertical sign. Now for the expensive task of replacing the removed marquee with a new one!



Maj or Brick Repairs Completed

While the outside of the front of our building has changed drastically, there has been another major change that isn't as noticeable, but just as important. The brickwork pilasters, which are the large columns of bricks on the outside of our

theater, had been badly in need of repairs. The West side of our building had been repaired earlier. This year, the East side of our building required quite a bit of work as well. A result of the water leaking into the brickwork is easily seen by looking at

the East wall of the theatre inside, where you can see water damage in several areas of the plaster wall. Another area that received damage was the ladies restroom upstairs. A portion of the ceiling came down due to the water.

Repairs to the outside of the building have been made, and plans are in the works to start the repairs on the inside where water has taken its toll. Here are more pictures that show the repairs on the brickwork.



Boiler Working Better Than Ever

Keeping the theater warm in winter is a major task, especially for a room the size of the theater. Last year, a major failure with the boiler almost froze

the theater closed. Thankfully, quick acting on the part of some of our members got the heat back working, and prevented major damage inside the build-

ing. Over the summer, more major repairs were done to the boiler to ensure that it is working better than ever. After

weeks of work, it is back up and running and keeping the theater comfortable for everyone during the upcoming cold months.



Lobby Carpet Cleaned

As reported in a previous Newsletter, the carpeted areas of our lobby have been given a good and thorough cleaning. Long overdue, this has improved the look of the building. A noticeable difference will be seen when you enter the doors!

Our thanks to Centurion Services, Inc. for donating their time and effort in cleaning the carpets in the lobbies!



Annual Meeting Date Set

Sunday, January 11, 2015 2:00 p.m.

Mark your calendars now to attend the Annual Meeting of the Detroit Theater Organ Society. The meeting will take place at the Senate Theater on Sunday, January 11, 2015 starting at 2:00 p.m.

This has been a very busy year for the Board of Directors and many other members of the

society. Come and hear about all of the work that has been done, and hear about the work that is planned in the coming year.

A major part of the Annual Meeting is the election for seats on the Board of Directors. A separate mailing will be sent to all eligible members with infor-

mation on candidates and a ballot. Please read the information sent and send in your completed ballot.

This is *your* organization. You have made this society what it is, and can help keep the society moving forward for many years to come. We highly encourage all of you to make it to the An-

nual Meeting so that we can, together, keep the Senate Theater and the Detroit Theater Organ Society going and presenting great concerts and movies for many years to come.

We hope to see you there!

Notes from the Editor

What a summer! So much has happened at the theater since we were last open. Boiler work, brick work, carpet work, marquee removal, alarm system upgrades, and organ work have kept many people behind the scenes working at a feverish pace to get the building ready to re-open for concerts and movies.

Repairs to the marquee were the biggest ticket item that has been worked on this summer, as reported many times before this, and as can be seen from pictures earlier in this Newsletter.

Now that the structure is down, the vertical (tall) part of the marquee is now being temporarily supported by steel beams down onto the sidewalk. These beams will remain until a new marquee can be installed. This is where it can get really, really expensive. Several thousands of dollars have already been spent just for the removal of the marquee. Now, we must look at spending several thousands of dollars more to replace it with a new marquee. We will be starting the process of designing the new marquee in the upcoming months, then raising the needed funds to see it hap-

pen.

Another major repair has been with the boiler. After last winter's major failure and subsequent emergency repairs, it was decided to have some major work done on the boiler during the summer months. Several clogged pipes were replaced. Many new control pieces were installed to help the boiler operate at a much more energy-efficient level.

Work has been completed, and just in time! The theater will be nice and warm for the organ concert this month featuring Melissa Ambrose-Eidson.

The brick pilasters on the outside of our building have received much work over the last couple of years. The West side of the building was completed before, as they were in the worst shape. This summer, the East side of the building received some much-needed repairs as well. There were many areas where the bricks were just crumbling and letting water enter the building where water was never intended to enter the building! One of the areas to have water enter was over the ladies restroom up-

stairs. A portion of the ceiling ended up on the floor. The area was cleaned up and will soon be repaired. Other areas that received damage is seen on the wall inside the auditorium. This damage will have to be cleaned up and repaired over the next few months.

Another major item that is being worked on is our prized Mighty Wurlitzer organ. Due to spending so much effort on other areas of the theater, many items with the organ have slid by us and not repaired. We realize

that this has affected the organ, and we are now working on getting everything back in shape to be used by our members without any problems. Many items will be done before this month's organ concert, and work will continue until everything is back up and working like new.

All of this is costing the society great amounts of money. Anything that you can do to help defray these costs would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Lance Luce if you are able to help.

Dave Calendine
DTOS Board of Directors



The general cancel button from the organ being repaired. It also lets me do the obligatory cheesy line ... "C" you at the Senate!

DETROIT THEATER
ORGAN SOCIETY

Over 50 Years of Entertainment!

Detroit Theater Organ Society

Dave Calendine, Editor
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

2014 Concert & Movie Series

November 16—Melissa Ambrose-Eidson

3:00 p.m.

November 29—Film:

“A Christmas Carol”
(1938 film version)

8:00 p.m.

December 7—Donnie Rankin

3:00 p.m.

December 20—Film:

“The Polar Express”
2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.



photo: Lance Luce