



# DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

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DTOS  
Executive Board  
& Directors

## 2016 Concert Series Announced

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Scott Foppiano  
Sunday, March 13



David Gray  
April 17



Martin Ellis  
May 15



Jonas Nordwall  
June 26



Dave Calendine  
September 18



Pierre Fracalanza  
October 16



Justin Stahl  
November 20



Lance Luce  
December 4

The Detroit Theater Organ Society is pleased to announce their theater pipe organ pops concert series for 2016.

All concerts are on Sunday afternoons at 3:00 p.m. Doors to the Senate open at

2:00 p.m. Membership in the Detroit Theater Organ Society includes all concerts in the series. Membership also lets you bring in up to four guests with you to each concert.

General admission tickets

are \$15, children 12 and under are \$5. Discounted tickets for groups are also available!

We look forward to seeing you at the Senate for these fine concerts!

# Dolores (Dolly) Davidson

Glenn Rank

It is with deep sadness that once again we have to report the passing of another longtime DTOS member. This time it is Dolly Davidson who passed away on October 30 at age 89.

Dolly along with her husband Richard have been members since 1964. Dolly was an important part of our organization for the first 40 years of our existence. After President David Voydanoff's Freudian Slip refer-

ring to her as Dolly Madison while making announcements, she was known to many of us as "Miss Madison".

For close to 30 years Dolly assisted the various treasurers of the Club, maintaining the detailed 150 playing members account records that included monthly dues payments, and organ overtime practice charges.

In addition to the above, Dolly and Dick were the ones

you called to reserve private practice time on the organ. With 150 playing members her telephone was kept quite busy, especially when the end of the month was near as everyone wanted to use up their two hour per month practice time that was included in their membership.

Dolly is survived by her husband Richard and many nieces and nephews. Rest in peace, our dear friend.



# Help Needed to fund repairs on our Wurlitzer

Lance Luce, DTOS President

Our Wurlitzer is an amazingly complex instrument. For notes to play a series of things have to happen including mechanical relays in the relay room, and pouches and valves in the chests under the pipes have to work. It was truly an ingenious invention, and I marvel at it every time I think about the complexity and the fact that it all happens, and happens so quickly. Another related system is the "combination action" which are all those little white buttons in between each keyboard. These are presets that allow the player to push a button, and have a predetermined group of stop tabs move either up or down in an instant, making quick stop changes easy, much easier than trying to change them by hand. You see the organists push them, and stops moving up and down before they start to play, and then during their songs as well. Again, pretty amazing invention, with a complex system of things happening behind the scenes to get the end result.

A little more technically

speaking, the piston or pre-set button sends an electrical signal from the console into the relay room, to a combination action "machine" where a magnet pulls a metal armature, letting a tiny amount of air to escape outside of the pressurized box. This allows a small pouch to vent to the atmospheric pressure, opening a larger valve allowing a greater amount of air to escape, collapsing a larger pouch. This pouch has a metal shorting bar on it which then presses onto a series of electrical contacts. This completes circuits that send electricity up to the "setter board" which is a series of rows and columns with settable switches. The organist has set these to the on or off position, or neutral on a wood strip in between. This selection of on and off choices by the organist is his or her "combination" of stops they want on that particular little white button. The electricity is then directed back to the console, either down the on or off wire, to another magnet and pouch set in the console. The desired pouch inflates at

this point, pulling a cloth strap (like a shoe string) and physically moves the stop tab up or down. And that all happens in the blink of an eye, with no electronics or computers, all mechanical and basic 12vdc electricity. Amazing.

Well, the years have taken their toll on the leather on the pouches in the combination action "machines" and they are starting to fail, so the little white buttons are becoming unreliable and frustrating organists. We have 4 of these machines in the relay room, and we'd like to have them re-leathered one at a time. Hopefully this work can be done in-between con-

certs and not be an inconvenience to organists. We have a proposal to have this work done for \$8,000. Each machine is \$2,000 each. What we'd like to ask is for a donation for the first machine, or more than one machine if you are able. If you are able to



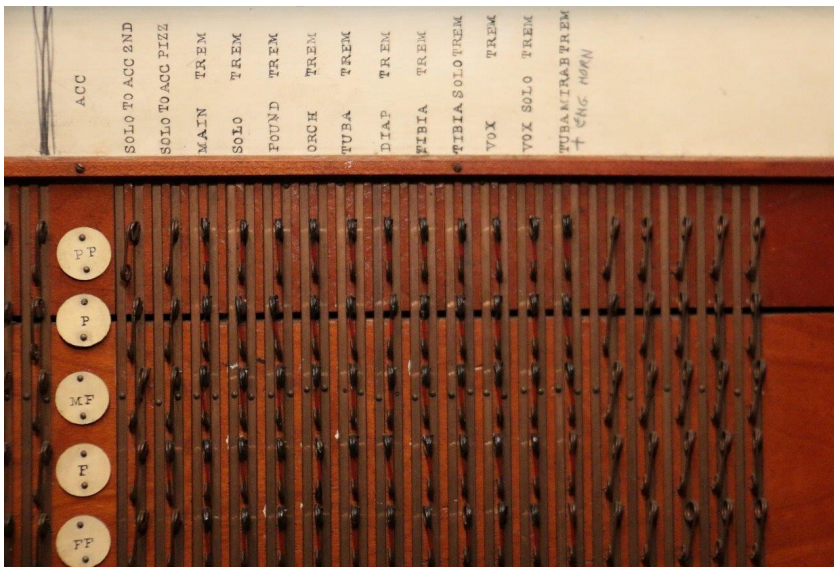
contribute it would be greatly appreciated, and will help facilitate some much needed maintenance on our beloved Wurlitzer. The ATOS convention is in Cleveland this coming summer, but, they are offering a pre-glow side trip by bus to Detroit to hear two concerts, and we are one of

them. It would be great to get this work done before we get several hundred theatre organ fans in the Senate in July.

There are more things that need to be done to the organ as well, and we'll probably be mentioning them as time goes, and asking for your financial assistance. According to our

organ maintenance crew, the above mentioned combination action machines are at the top of the list. Thank you in advance for considering a donation, and remember, we are a 501(C)(3) so it's tax deductible in most cases. If you are able and willing to help make this happen, we would ask you to

mail a check to DTOS at 6424 Michigan Ave, Detroit, MI 48210 and write "Wurlitzer" on the memo line. Also, please let us know if you'd like to remain anonymous or if we can publicly acknowledge your gift. Thank you very much.



Above: Setter board. Each piston on each manual has setter pins as pictured above. Each piston has a pin for each stop tab on the console that it controls.

Right: The mechanical guts of the combination action. Note how many wires! Each piston has its own chunk of wires to each stop tab on the console that the particular piston pressed could control.

Previous page: The entire combination system. This is located in the back corner of the relay room.



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

February 19 & 20—To Catch a Thief

March 4 & 5—Goldfinger

March 18 & 19—Monty Python and the Holy Grail

April 1 & 2—Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

April 15 & 16—Three Stooges Festival

April 23—The General—Silent Film Special with Lance Luce at the Barton organ

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

[WWW.REDFORDTHEATRE.COM](http://WWW.REDFORDTHEATRE.COM)

  
DETROIT THEATER  
ORGAN SOCIETY

*Over 50 Years of Entertainment!*

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.DTOS.ORG](http://WWW.DTOS.ORG)

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## **2016 Concert Series**

March 13—Scott Foppiano

April 17—David Gray

May 15—Martin Ellis

June 26—Jonas Nordwall

September 18—Dave Calendine

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photo: Lance Luce