

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN

October 2016



DTOS
Executive Board
& Directors

Pierre Fracalanza Returns

Sunday, October 16, 2016, 3:00 p.m.

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The Detroit Theater Organ Society is pleased to welcome back Pierre Fracalanza to the Senate Theatre on Sunday afternoon, October 16.

Pierre Fracalanza came to the world of theater organ quite by accident. On a fateful night about 1980, he visited Theater Organ Pizza and Pipes in Pontiac, Michigan (one of two pipe-organ-equipped restaurants in the Detroit area). With a little coaxing from organist Fr. Jim Miller, he joined the staff of the restaurant.

After Pizza and Pipes and concerts in Michigan and Ohio, Pierre left the theater organ world but didn't leave music. Pierre played some of the finest spots in the Detroit area as a pianist/vocalist.

Pierre actually began music as a three year old growing up in a household where his late Dad, Professor Romeo Fracalanza taught piano and organ privately. Able to reproduce most anything by ear, Pierre was playing in church by age eight and was a Church organist-music director by age sixteen. He continued his studies at the prestigious Eastman School of Music in

Rochester, New York.

After over a decade of piano/vocal entertaining, Pierre joined the staff of what was Michigan's largest piano and organ retailer, Hammell Music. As staff artist, Pierre introduced the Yamaha Disklavier player piano to Detroit audiences, did Yamaha commercials and also demonstrated Yamaha's Millennium piano - the Disklavier 2000. Pierre also concertized on Steinway pianos, Yamaha Electone organs, Roland Digitals and Atelier Organs.

In 1992, Pierre opened for Carol Channing at the Macomb Center for Performing Arts. Pierre has also entertained for First Ladies, the National Governor's Association and the late Senator Edward Kennedy.

In 2002, Martin Dyde

launched a new software platform to host virtual pipe organs called Hauptwerk. As the software developed, theater pipe organs were added to the offerings the company, later purchased by Brett Milan, would sell. The development of theater organ sample sets led Pierre to dive back into the theater organ world. Representing Paramount Organ Works, Pierre began publishing a steady stream of organ videos, featured on YouTube which have brought him a cult following around the world.

In 2012, Pierre was officially named to the Steinway & Sons Artist Roster, a world-wide list of musicians who have exemplified the ideals of Steinway & Sons both now and in the past.

In 2014, Pierre presented a special multimedia-enhanced tribute to the late organist Buddy Cole for the ATOS Convention



Pierre Fracalanza ... continued from front page

in Indianapolis. Highly regarded for his research and parody of Cole arrangements, Pierre marked fifty years since Buddy Cole's untimely death in 1964.

Pierre continues to post

his YouTube creations and concertizes around the United States. His concerts in the United States and Canada often feature digital artistry and a surprise or two. Pierre is also Music Director

for St. James Roman Catholic Church in Novi, Michigan, a 2800-family Parish. Pierre resides in the Metropolitan Detroit area.

Come enjoy an enjoyable afternoon of music with

Pierre Fracalanza on Sunday, October 16. Doors open at 2:00 p.m., with the concert starting at 3:00 p.m.

Restroom Repairs Completed

Joan Brown
DTOS Board of Directors

Artist Restroom

Well after many hot weekends and some outside assistance from a good friend and plumber the artist bathroom again has a sound floor and smells much better. Not to mention no more mushrooms growing behind the

toilet.

Next time you are at the theater take a peak and a sniff, the improvements are noticeable and will be far more welcoming to our guests artists and renters.



Above: New subfloor, new floor, fresh paint, and a good scrubbing of all surfaces have spruced up the artist's restroom after much-needed repairs were completed this summer.

Right: Many volunteers come together to patch the large hole in the ceiling of the men's restroom.

Men's Restroom

Several people came down to the Senate Saturday October 1st to fill in the hole in the men's bathroom. This had to be done to be in compliance with the city code. We faced a fine for not getting it taken care of. Another

inspection will be scheduled soon with the hopes all is now up to their code.



Rentals

The Senate continues to slowly build rental clients. Each month we gain interest in using our wonderful old theater for a variety of event ideas.

Often the inquiries simply end as that, only questions and perhaps a tour. As we understand, working with our "sister" theater, the Redford this is often the case. It is estimated by them that only about twenty percent of inquiries actually end up being "booked events". I would judge that to be just about the same scenario with the Senate.

I am beginning to feel that we are only beginning to experience the "tip of the iceberg" of rentals and events that are going to become a major source of income for our weary but wonderful club!

What are some of the draw backs as perceived by our potential tenants?

1.) parking, (somewhat limited for any substantial sized event)

2.) lack of a functioning curtain for plays and related shows

3.) lack of first floor restrooms

4.) no marquee to advertise their event

5.) no air conditioning

6.) limited sound system

7.) location (in general terms)

These items seem to be often our stumbling blocks, as most of you already know. I simply list them here as form of feedback from our pool of inquires.

The problems or issues we seem to experience, as the organization, is often disappointing numbers of attendees combined with perhaps lower dollar returns on our valued time as a group of volunteers and an organization. However,

we are beginning to see the effect of the rental income on our bottom line and I believe, will continue to climb upward for a long time to come.

The interest in our fair city and all its potential is only on the cuff of discovery and redevelopment. The Corktown neighborhood continues to "creep and crawl" toward 6424 Michigan Avenue. We are in a good position to continue to develop ourselves as a true venue, thus allowing as to continue to maintain a great home for our "Mighty Wurlitzer" and help preserve what rightfully

(at this point, in my opinion) a historic building housed in the strong neighborhood known as "Southwest" inside of a vibrantly city which is beginning to "re-blossom".

Our events continue only due to the devotion of a "decent" group of our mem-

bership. Sincere thanks and gratitude I wish to extend to each member of this group. Simply put; We couldn't do it without each of you. You know who you are!

Lastly, as the vice president of our good organization, your club, why not step forward at one of these upcoming rentals and become involved? We have between four and six more rentals from now through the end of the year. I encourage each of you to consider becoming more involved with the Senate this fall. We have so many ways in which we can use your help, regardless of your abilities. Please contact myself or a fellow board member to see how you can get further involved in securing a solid future of the wonderful assets that are The Detroit Theater Organ Society and the Senate Theater.

Volunteerism Plays Vital Role for Senate

Kevin Werner
DTOS Board of Directors

People who share a common passion can make an idea, a goal, a dream come true. The DTOS has been around for well over fifty years now. In that time there has been literally hundreds of volunteers. From the first

moment the first pipe was lifted from a chest at the Fisher Theater and gently packed to today when several people gathered at the Senate Theater to repair a hole in the men's room ceiling. Each person who comes to the Senate and

donates their time I expect does it for a different reason. To reduce stress, find friends, reach out to the community and perhaps learn new skills are just a few reasons. The dedication of the very first founding volunteers to the

ones who operate the theater today is staggering. Consider helping out at the theater during one of our events. We would love to have you.



Dee Werner and Bob Weil



Michael Fisher and Ron Ludy



Nancy Luce and Dawn Overes



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



photo: Lance Luce

2016 Concert Series
October 16—Pierre Fracalanza
November 20—Justin Stahl
December 4—Lance Luce