



DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

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DTOS
Executive Board
& Directors

2018 Concert Series at the Senate

Sunday, March 18

Doors open at 2:00 p.m. Concert at 3:00 p.m.

- **President**
Lance Luce
lanceluce@wowway.com
- **Vice President**
Michael Fisher
fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
- **Treasurer**
Dave Calendine
dave@calendine.net
- **Corporate Secretary**
Kevin Werner
kewwer@comcast.net
- Joan Brown
jbeethoven@netzero.com
- TJ Casterson
tcasterson73@gmail.com
- Dick Leichtamer
tibiaplana434@buckeye-express.com
- Lynn Walls
clwalls@gmail.com
- Bob Weil
robertjweil@yahoo.com

The Detroit Theater Organ Society is pleased to open the 2018 concert season with a very familiar face at the Senate Theater, our own Lance Luce!

Lance Luce is an internationally acclaimed theatre organist. He has played hundreds of concerts all over the United States, Canada, England and Australia. In 2014 he was awarded Organist of the year by the American Theatre Organ Society. Most recently he became the head organist for the Detroit Red Wings at the new Little Caesar's Arena in Detroit.

He has played concerts for numerous chapters of the American Theatre Organ Society and other affiliated theatre organ groups and clubs. He has played for National and regional conventions of the ATOS in the United States and TOSA in Australia.

At age 18, Lance won first place honors in the Yamaha National Electone organ competition in California. The next year he was appointed the Head Staff Organist at Radio City Music Hall in New York, on the largest Wurlitzer ever built. Lance has made many recordings, including being part of the famous "Theatre Organ Greats - A Salute to Radio City Music Hall".

Lance was the house organist at several family style restau-

rants, two of them in Michigan. While at the Organ Grinder in Toronto, Ontario, he played for well over a million patrons in 8 years.

Lance has been a church organ consultant in Michigan since 1991. He is currently the church organ consultant for Allen organs for Evola Mu-

sic. He is also on the Allen Artist roster. Lance has designed and installed over 350 organs in churches, homes and institutions. His background includes pipe organ maintenance, as well as electronic organ design, installation, voicing, pipe interfacing and MIDI implementation.

Lance is currently on the staff at the Fox Theatre and Redford Theatre in Detroit, and the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor. He has been a



church organist for 42 years and is currently at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Hills.

It may be cool outside, but the Senate Theater is nice and warm, and the music will be hot! Come enjoy an enjoyable afternoon of great music on the Wurlitzer theater organ! As always, the doors open at 2:00 p.m., and the concert will start at 3:00 p.m.

We look forward to seeing you at the Senate Theater!

Water, Water Go Away

Just like your home, water is our enemy at the Senate. Especially in the basement where we have part of the organ installed and the boiler that heats the theater and keeps us warm. It is crucial that every effort is put forward to make certain that any water that does penetrate into the building through the foundation is

expelled out of the building through a sump pump system.

This past December, Christopher Dengate put a few hours into making sure that the system installed at the Senate is in working order. Problems with leaks in the past causing minor flooding in the basement have been corrected, and a new backflow preven-

tion valve was installed to prevent any water flowing through the system back into the basement.

The old system was a combination of galvanized and PVC pipe which is very difficult to make waterproof connections. The system that has been installed has all galvanized pipe which required the disman-

ting of the system and rebuilding to eliminate the PVC that was in place.

The board of directors and organ maintenance crew can rest assure that the basement will now remain dry and the only cause for water to accumulate in the basement would be the failure of the sump pump itself.



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, March 11, 2018

3:00 p.m.

Senate Theater Lobby

There will be a meal that follows, with the main course provided by Pasquale's Restaurant of Royal Oak. Please consider bringing a dish to pass. Call Carl Kiehler at (313) 283-0225 to let him know what you are going to bring.

We Need Your Help

The DTOS and the preceding DTOC have been in existence far longer than the founding members had ever anticipated. Thanks to the dedicated members over the years, the organ has now been playing longer in the Senate Theater than in its original home in the Fisher Theatre. There have been well over 700 concerts held thus far. We are the only place where patrons can walk through the pipe chambers, and we have been in existence for nearly 60 years now. Initially, club members spent several thousand man-hours over two years restoring the Senate Theater while the organ was being installed in four new chambers built on the old stage, and in the two original organ chambers on either side of the stage. This remarkable organ has been featured in monthly concerts at the Senate with internationally known artists since 1964. The Society continues its purpose of preservation, maintenance and playing of theater organs in a proper

setting as well as preserving and maintaining a historic theater.

In the beginning, membership dues were more than enough to sustain our beloved Wurlitzer and the theater which houses it. I can remember attending concerts where there was standing room only during the 1970's. However, beginning in the 1980's, the membership began to decline, and it became apparent the dues alone were not going to be enough to sustain the building and continue to maintain the organ. It was decided that we needed a new business plan, and it was time to explore other income opportunities. The stage was enlarged so that it could accommodate other types of entertainment, such as stage plays and live bands. Money for a large movie screen was donated so we could begin to show movies. Over the past several years we have had stage plays, live bands, dancing groups, graduations and the always popular silent movie shown on our grand movie

screen. This business plan is beginning to slowly pay off financially. The number of volunteers, however, are having a hard time keeping up with the number of movies, rentals, and the continued organ concerts that are happening at the theater. We are fortunate that we have a core group of dedicated volunteers that are working these events, but we need more help from you, the membership. Please consider volunteering to help run the DTOS, your society.

Just a few reasons to volunteer:

- Gain confidence. Volunteering can help you gain confidence by giving you the chance to try something new and build a real sense of achievement.
- Meet people. Volunteering can help you meet different kinds of people and make new friends.
- Learn new skills. Volunteering can help you learn

new skills, gain experience and sometimes even qualifications.

- Take on a challenge. Through volunteering you can challenge yourself to try something different, achieve personal goals, practice using your skills and discover hidden talents.
- Have fun! Most volunteers have a great time, regardless of why they do it.

There are health benefits too.

- Decrease your risk of depression. Volunteering increases social interaction and helps build a support system based on common commitment and interests—both of which have been shown to decrease depression.
 - Enjoy a sense of purpose and fulfillment—and increase your self-confidence while you're at it!
 - Reduce stress levels. You'll feel a sense of meaning and appreciation—both given and received—which can be calming.
 - Experience "The Happiness Effect." You know that feel-good sense you get after a vigorous workout? It comes from a release of dopamine in the brain. Volunteering has the same effect—so the more you volunteer, the happier you become!
- Consider just once a month or once every few months. Give it a try. Just contact anyone of your board members, we'd be glad to have you join us! Their contact information is on the front of this newsletter.



F

irst Lifetime Achievement Award

Dave Voydanoff & Glenn Rank

The year was 1967. The national convention of the American Theatre Organ Enthusiasts was in Detroit for the first time during their twelve year history. It was a hot, steamy July day, and steamier yet within the confines of the un-air-conditioned Senate Theatre. The opening concert was about to begin, yet few were thinking about the discomfort of the heat. A full house of excited listeners had travelled from far and near to experience firsthand the talents of Don Miller, the organist most closely identified with the Fisher Theatre Wurlitzer. Miller had performed intermissions in the earliest days of the theatre, and returned years later to the same console to be heard coast-to-coast on radio station WJR, in addition to Friday evening intermissions. In fact, some people came just for the intermission and skipped the movie. One could accurately say that organist Don Miller was legendary. That memorable afternoon, anticipation turned into realization, and at the end of the concert of a lifetime, during which he received two unprecedented standing ovations, Miller spoke eloquently. Reflecting on a long career, he stated authoritatively that there are three things in life we all require: recognition, appreciation and acknowledgement.

As we plod through life, times change, friends change and interests change, yet time moves on relentlessly without stopping for anyone or anything. People move away, go away, pass away and inwardly, we chide ourselves, wishing we

would have done something to show our appreciation. We wish we would have honored their dedication, their devotion and their tenacity. There are probably as many reasons why we don't as there are people. Maybe more. But, from time to time, we need to stop and sincerely offer to others that which Don Miller urged: recognition, appreciation and acknowledgement.

At the November concert, the Detroit Theatre Organ Society honored longtime members David Voydanoff and Glenn Rank with the organization's first Lifetime Achievement Award. It's been a long time in coming.

David Voydanoff was practicing on the organ at the Fisher Theatre when he heard that "someone" had bought it and needed help with removal. He introduced himself to new owner George Orbits and was put to work wrapping switches in the relay. He subsequently helped reinstall the organ at the Iris Theatre, later deinstalling it and reinstalling it at the Senate.

Glenn Rank read about the formation of the club in the Detroit Free Press, on September 24, 1961. He was an 18-year-old college student. Glenn joined the club immediately and spent his savings on a membership, despite his parents' opinion that this newly-formed club was a potentially losing proposition.

Both have been board members when called upon over the years, and continue to serve as members of the Organ Trustee Committee. David was President on three occasions,

and traded off the responsibility of Organ Maintenance Chairman with Dave Brewer for several years. Glenn was the club's longtime Treasurer, and directed a monthly billing for dues to all members every month, at a time when we had many more members.

The two have worked quietly behind the scenes in many capacities over the years. Both have selflessly assisted club members with their pipe organs and in so many other ways. Sometimes, just as shoulders to lean on.

They've entertained DTOS and other organ club members in their various homes over time with picnics and parties on countless occasions. Their home was the unofficial center for the Wolverine Chapter of the ATOS for many years. They've hosted bus tours at their home during numerous Detroit-based conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society. One of them recently said, "what good is all of this stuff unless you share it?"

Both were and still are Wurlitzer pipe organ owners. The (Detroit) Cinderella Theatre Wurlitzer was eventually sold to the Music House in Acme, and the (River Rouge) Lancaster Theatre Wurlitzer quite possibly holds the record of the most reinstalled theatre organ that stayed intact...ever.

In more recent times, these gentlemen have stepped up and provided financial support for the organ, the stage reconstruction, and the fence and gate

on Gilbert Street. When it appeared that one member would not have an obituary in their local paper, they assisted in funding one.

Beyond DTOS, they helped to revive the organs at the Redford, Royal Oak, Punch & Judy, Six-Mile Uptown and Fox theatres. Probably more.

Both were also present to assist in recording sessions of iconic recordings at the Senate, Fox and Six-Mile Uptown theatres. During the Six-Mile Uptown sessions in 1970, David sat on a folding chair up in the Solo chamber to make sure the Tibia tremolo kept running, while Glenn assisted John Muri at the console as the human combination action.

They have arguably helped in some way to launch the careers of more than one organist and more than one organ technician.

The list goes on and on.

This special award recognizes these gentlemen not only on behalf of the board of directors and current membership of the Detroit Theatre Organ Society, but also the hundreds of members and guests who have entered the Iris and Senate theatres, and the thousands of lives they have affected with their actions.

Congratulations, David and Glenn!



Restoration Continues

Kevin Werner
DTOS Board of Directors

Built in 1926, the Senate Theater has survived over 90 years. It has stood the test of time and everything mother nature had to throw at it, and then some.

When the DTOS (DTC) first came into the theater, the basement was flooded, and the roof was half gone. After many hours of work from volunteers, it was

brought back to life, and has served as our home ever since. It's important to keep the maintenance of the building up and not let things get too far gone.

Over the past few years, many restoration projects have taken place. The outer east wall has been excavated, water-proofed and painted. The inner lobby has been restored

and painted and upgrades to our sound system are under way as well.

Now it's time to restore and paint the west wall of the concessions lobby, the stairs to the ladies' lounge, and men's room, as well as the north east exit area. The work involved in stripping, skim coating and painting is considerable since some of the areas have not

been painted in many, many years. We've broken the projects into four separate projects, each costing approximately \$2,000.00 each. Please consider a donation to help cover all or part of the costs involved. Remember your donations are tax deductible. Thanks, and see you at the Senate.

Upcoming Movies at the Senate Theater

Friday, March 9 — 8pm — Notorious

Saturday, March 10 — 8pm — Rear Window

Saturday, March 24 — 8pm — Jesus Christ Superstar

Saturday, April 7 — 8pm — The Black Pirate (Silent)

Accompanied on the Wurlitzer Theater Organ by Scott Smith

April 13 — 8pm — Guys and Dolls

April 14 — 3pm — An American in Paris

April 14 — 8pm — Gentlemen Prefer Blondes

April 28 — 8pm — Sunset Boulevard

May 5 — 3pm — Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory

May 12 — 8pm — Imitation of Life

May 26 — 8pm — The Apartment

June 16 — 8pm — The Hustler

June 30 — 8pm — A Streetcar Named Desire

July 14 — 8pm — Dirty Harry

July 28 — 8pm — Deliverance

DETROIT THEATER
ORGAN SOCIETY

Over 50 Years of Entertainment!

Detroit Theater Organ Society

Dave Calendine, Editor & Publisher
DTOS Newsletter
The Senate Theater
6424 Michigan Ave.

Phone: (313) 894-0850
Concert Hotline: (313) 894-4100

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.DTOS.ORG

2018 Concert Series

March 18—Lance Luce

April 22—John Lauter

May 20—Brett Valliant

June 10—Nathan Avakian

September 16—Walt Strony

October 14—Christian Elliott

November 18—Hector Olivera

December 2—Stephen & Rose Warner



photo: Lance Luce