

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Senate Theater • 6424 Michigan Avenue • Detroit, MI 48210
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Whats New?

Letter from our President. (Lance Luce)

Dear Members of D.T.O.S.

I'm hoping this letter finds you well and keeping safe.

To say that 2020 has been an interesting year would be an understatement. We've never been through anything like this in the history of our club. When theaters were first shut down in March, we were optimistic that it wouldn't be that long until we could have movies and concerts again. As you saw, we gradually pushed back concert dates and cancelled movies and concerts as the shutdown was extended.

Then, theaters were allowed to re-open and we complied with all the guidelines for allowing 20% seating capacity back into the theater, etc. We did show some regular movies and even had one silent movie during this time. Then, as you know, theaters were again shut down to try and slow the spread of the virus.

We are hoping we will be back to more of a "normal" schedule in 2021. We really appreciate all of you sticking by us through this trying time. Your support through your membership and donations has kept us afloat; we couldn't have done it without you. We are asking for you to re-new your membership so that we can continue operating both the Senate Theater itself as well as our Mighty Wurlitzer.

Not all was bad in 2020. We finished the new marquee and the metal flashing out front. The sign is amazingly eye catching as you pass on Michigan Avenue. There is no doubt that we are alive as well! As of today, the sign says "WE WILL BE BACK". The sign can be programmed remotely, so it can be changed at a moment's notice.

The under canopy 134 LED lights illuminate the sidewalk in front of the building. *Photo, Lance Luce*
The red and white blinking LED's on the front of the sign, as well as the 4 new neon blue stars on end really grab people's attention.

Our new boilers are working great and the temperature can be adjusted via WIFI. This allows us to save energy when the building is not in use.

We still have some work to do on the building. Crumbling plaster in the left percussion chamber is one project coming up. We also need to move the fence to expand the parking lot to include the 3 new lots we now own.



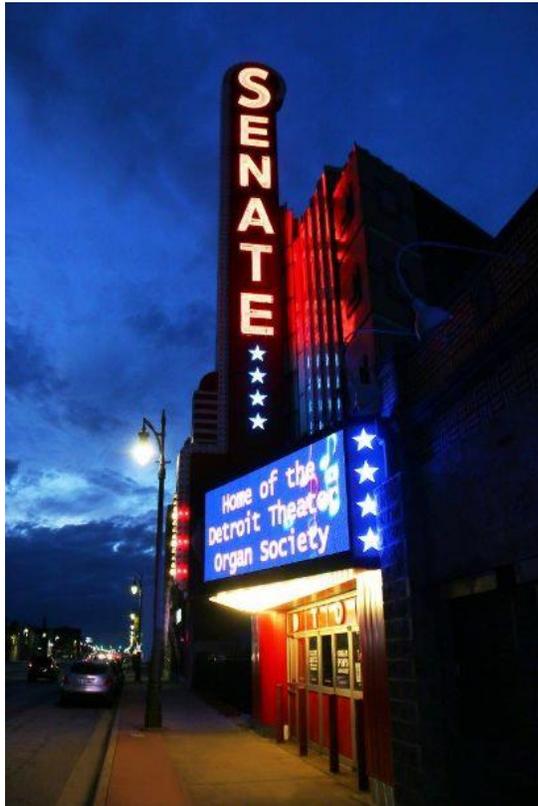
We will get through this together. Thank you for your continued support and we all look forward to seeing you at the Senate, hopefully in the not-too-distant future.

Gratefully,
Lance Luce

President, D.T.O.S.

Where did 2020 go? A review. (Kevin Werner)

It has been an interesting year here at Michigan and Livernois. Last year



photo, Lance Luce

at this time the new boilers were being completed and the new marquee work was underway. We had just completed a pretty successful year filled with great organ concerts, movies, both sound and silent and we were fortunate to have many rentals. We were on track to surpass that success in 2020 and then the virus hit. At first, we were



hopeful that this wouldn't last long. We finally received word that we should be able to reopen on a limited basis. Proper markings on the floor, sanitization protocols and special made plexiglass dividers by our own Lance Luce were installed. We had a few movies and even a silent movie that were successful, and then the latest closure order came down from the State of Michigan. Oh well. This too shall pass as it is said.

Despite the pandemic several projects have been able to,

be completed. The front façade has been completed thanks to members Chris Dengate and the crew of volunteers who helped him. Paul Ovares, Lance Luce Michael Fisher and Bill Layton just to name a few.

Maintenance work continues on the Wurlitzer thanks to our dedicated crew. Recently a problem with the blower starting up was traced and fixed thanks to members Scott Smith, Stephen Warner and great friend of the Senate Jeff Slabaugh for tracking this down.

Also, through the dedicated work of Lindsay



Robillard, several grants are in the works and we received some too. If you've ever applied for a grant you know what a tedious and arduous process this can be.

This past year could have been much worse if it were not for the financial and physical support from our dedicated members and volunteers. While I write this piece the weather outside is frightful, as the song says but the state of and the outlook for our DTOS/Senate Theater is quite the opposite. As we go into the Holiday season, we are reminded of all the things we are grateful for. We are grateful for all the wonderful and generous members and volunteers. Our regular customers and tenants. Grateful for the wonderful people who came before us and left us with this wonderful instrument and venue. And finally, grateful for the great potential and the certain success that we are about to experience. We are poised to have the best year ever once these restrictions are lifted and this virus is behind us. The new marquee, even during this closure, is telling people maybe for the first time in over 60 years that yes, we are here. We will be back in operation, and we look forward to all to visit the Senate Theater to see a movie, experience a silent movie maybe for the first time, hear a live concert on our fabulous Wurlitzer or become a volunteer. They will "experience the music where the music is part of you".



Consider a bequest

A bequest is a **gift from your estate**—a transfer of cash, securities, or other property made through your estate plans. You can make a bequest to the Detroit Theater Organ Society by including language in your will or living trust leaving a portion of your estate to the DTOS, or by designating DTOS as a beneficiary of your retirement account or life insurance policy.

Remembering DTOS with a bequest from your estate will help sustain and strengthen the organization in years to come. Some of the advantages of creating a bequest include:

- A bequest costs nothing now yet gives you the satisfaction of knowing you have provided for DTOS in the future.
- You retain control of and use of your assets during your lifetime.

- You may modify your bequest if your circumstances change.

Gifts to DTOS from your estate are exempt from federal estate taxes

A **bequest to DTOS** can be made for a specific amount, for a percentage of your estate, or for all or a portion of what is left after you have made bequests to your family. To make a gift to DTOS from your estate, you must sign a new will or living trust instrument, add a codicil to your present will, or make an amendment to your present trust instrument.

Alternatively, you can designate DTOS as a beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy. To do so, contact the retirement plan administrator or life insurance company and complete the appropriate beneficiary designation form. Our employer identification number is 38-2827795

There are several types of bequests:

General: Usually cash or property like other items that are distributed.

Specific: A designated amount of cash or a specific property.

Percentage: A certain percentage of your estate.

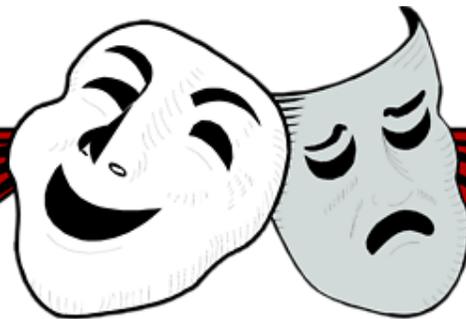
Residual: A portion of what remains of your estate after other bequests are made.

Charitable: A gift serving a religious, scientific, political, educational, or general social purpose. These can reduce estate taxes that might be owed on your estate.

Demonstrative: A gift made from a specific source.

Executory: A gift that takes effect only when an event takes place, such as a child's 21st birthday or graduation from college.

In conclusion: If you are 70 ½ years old, you have to take minimum required distributions from your investment accounts. In many cases, these distributions are taxable. If, however, you have them sent directly to a non-profit (like the DTOS) you can avoid paying taxes on the distribution. Check with your tax advisor, they will know all of the details of this law. We appreciate the people that are already doing this once-a-year transfer. Thank you very much for your continued support!



Back Stage Happenings.

Merchandise.

And just in time for the holidays. We have shirts, hats, patches, posters and sunglasses all at great prices. Visit the gift store at the Theater or visit

“senatetheater.com” for more details.





Coming in 2021

We'd love to hear from you. Questions, Suggestions... We even take requests!!
Our Board of Directors are here to serve you. Email them at:

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