

THE DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

VOLUME XLIX, ISSUE II

Board looks to fill Vacancies

With the general membership meeting just around the corner, the Board of Directors is looking for a few good men and women to fill some of the vacancies that exist on the Board and some of the committees.

The by-laws of the Society state that we can have up to thirteen board members and we have had only ten for the last two years. Two of the vacancies would be two year terms while the last open vacancy would be finishing the last year of a two year term.

We also have five positions on the Board that are up for renewal this year. These are also two year terms. Current board members up for renewal this year are Gil Francis, Tom Iwankovitch, Dick Leichtamer, Lance Luce and Bob Weil.

Some of our members are reluctant to step forward and fill one of the vacancies because of the need to set time aside once a month for meetings. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of every month at 7pm currently at the Senate Theater. While the meeting day will not change, the location will have to change sometime in 2010 with the sale of the Senate. You know every month when the meeting is and there are no surprise meetings except for an occasional special meeting.

The by-laws do require that you be a playing member and that you have been a member for at least three years to be eligible to run for an opening on the board of directors.

There are no requirements other than being a member of the Society to fill an opening on one of the standing com-

mittees that we have at DTOS. These committees meeting separate from the board and make recommendations to the board to make changes. At least one board member sits on each of the committees as a liaison to the board. It is up to each committee to plan their meetings. The standing committees include Membership, Policies and Procedures, By-Laws, Finance, Publicity and Program Planning.

The Annual Meeting will be held on April 27, 2010 at the Senate starting at 7pm. Any member wishing to fill a board vacancy must write a letter of intent to the board of directors no later than March 14, 2010 to get their name placed on the ballot that goes out to the general membership by April 1, 2010. Please include some information about yourself in your letter to go with the ballot.

COMING TO THE SENATE:

- ◆ **February 23rd** Board of Directors Meeting 7pm
- ◆ **March 30th** Board of Directors Meeting 7pm
- ◆ **April 27th** Annual Membership Meeting and Board Meeting 7pm

Delay in Sale of the Senate

While the potential buyer of the Senate and surrounding properties is still very interested in making a deal, he has obtained an attorney to go over the proposed purchase agreement that our attorney provided. This has caused a delay in a final purchase agreement that is agreeable to all parties involved.

The attorney obtained by DTOS has been in talks with the attorney for the buyer for the last two weeks and they hope to provide us with an agreement that allows DTOS enough time to conduct the vote by the playing membership stipulated in the by-laws of the Society as well as

enough time in which to move the Wurlitzer, grand piano and other articles from the Senate to storage.

One of the sticking points in the agreement is that the buyer wants us to start the process of removal of the instrument as soon as the purchase agreement is signed. If agreed, it will start a 90-105 day clock for us to remove everything not included in the purchase and be ready to turn over the keys to the building on the closing date.

The proposed agreement also stipulates that at any time during this time, the buyer can do his inspections of the build-

ing and withdraw his offer without any penalty. DTOS through their attorney, is asking for part, if not all, of the required 10 percent deposit to be non-refundable should the buyer withdraw his offer.

Once a purchase agreement is signed, a notice will go out to all playing members of the Society informing them of a special meeting at the Senate at which time the agreement can be reviewed and voted upon by them. The by-laws require a 14 day notice of any special meeting being held for this situation.

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From The President's Desk

I am approached on a monthly basis by the membership asking what is going on with the Senate and where the next home for the Wurlitzer might be.

As President, it is my obligation and in my better interest, to have an informed membership. I fulfill this obligation by putting together this newsletter.

The newsletter is the single most important thing I can provide to the members informing them of what is discussed and decided at monthly board meetings. It is up to the members to read each issue from cover to cover every month to be informed. If I am missing something here, please let me know. If I am not giving enough information for the members to be informed,

please let me know. If you have any suggestions for stories or have a specific question that you want answered, again, I am just a telephone call or letter away.

I want the membership to be informed especially with the many tough decisions that will be made in the next several months. We will need volunteers to help pack stuff up at the Senate and without the volunteers, we will have to spend money to have it done for us. We need to retain as much of your donations and membership dues to provide you with a quality concert and future home for the Wurlitzer. The use of these funds to pack items into boxes is irresponsible and not needed if our younger members would step up to the plate and spend a little time at the Senate with us.

The Society is going to be changing with the times in 2010. Be an active member of the Society this year as we make this change and look forward to an improved setting for the Wurlitzer and our activities. If you have ever had to climb those stairs to use the bathroom at the Senate, you know exactly why we are doing what we are doing. If you don't become active for the Society, become active so you will never have to climb the stairs again or walk across a parking lot that is covered with stone. We are making this change in venue to improve our membership and patron services. We can't do it without you so please contact us and ask how you can help us with this endeavor.

Alternative Storage for Opus 1953 examined

Over the last month, President Chris Dengate along with George Orbits have been looking at temporary storage locations throughout the metro Detroit area. Alternative storage has to be obtained for at least two years before the University of Michigan's Sterns Collection could store it for us if we decide on this plan. At least 2,000 square feet of space is required for the instrument in a warehouse type setting which must remain at a temperature

of at least 40 degrees or higher year round. It is also suggested that it have security and access 24/7.

Two locations meet these requirements so far. One location in Redford includes about 1,000 square feet of office space that could be used as a temporary home for DTOS. The only concern with this location is security that could be addressed by adding some motion detectors in the warehouse. The building does not

have security 24/7.

The other location would bring the Wurlitzer back to the same warehouse that George used when he moved it out of the Fisher Theater in the 1960's. This location has security 24/7 and is constructed of mostly concrete which reduces fire risks. The warehouse can be alarmed at DTOS expense and meets all other requirements the board has set.

Merchandise from the Senate

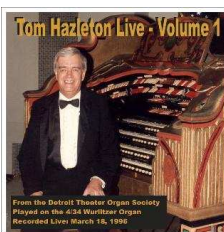
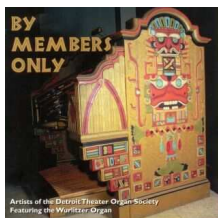
Still have several copies of recordings available for sale from the Senate Theater. Although they can't be purchased from Bob at the counter anymore, they can be purchased by sending a request and check to:

DTOS Merchandise

630 Alberta

Ferndale, Michigan 48220-1802

By Members Only CD is \$10 plus an additional \$3 for shipping and handling. Hazleton CD is \$20 plus \$3 for shipping and handling. All merchandise is shipped within 24 hours of getting the request.



Don't forget about our DTOS apparel that is available as well. We carry a long sleeve denim shirt for \$35 and a short sleeve polo shirt for \$25. Please add an additional \$3 for shipping and handling.

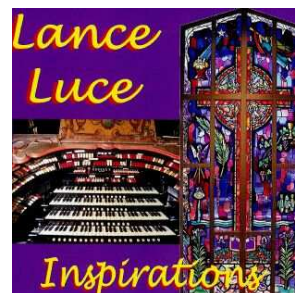
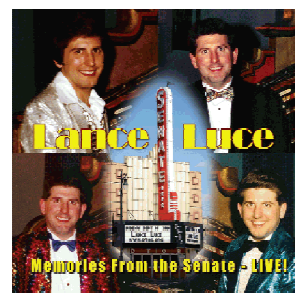
Both articles have an embroidered photograph of the Senate Wurlitzer and "The Detroit Theater Organ Society" on them. This is another way to support the organization. Order yours today and start showing your pride for our wonderful instrument.

COMING TO THE REDFORD:

- ◆ Feb 21- OPEN CONSOLE
- ◆ Mar 21- Organist Scott Foppiano
- ◆ Apr 18- Organist Mark Herman
- ◆ May 16- Organists Ken Double
- ◆ June 13- OPEN CONSOLE

All open console dates are open to DTOS playing members. Hours are 2pm - 5pm.

Admission to all concerts are free to DTOS members and 3 of their guests. Concerts start at 3pm.



These CD recordings done at the Senate Theater are available by going to www.lanceluce.com

Financially Speaking

At the regular board meeting held on January 26th, treasurer Bob Weil distributed a Profit and Loss Statement for the month reflecting the following numbers for the month.

Total income for the month of January was \$3,385.00 which was made up of \$585.00 in operation donations and \$95.00 donation to the Pipe Organ fund. Combined membership dues totaled \$2,595.00 and income from the January 3rd gathering brought in \$110.00.

Expenses for the month totaled \$1,214.25 and is made up of \$167.00 in building security, \$691.45 in expenses for the January 3rd buffet and \$355.80 in utility expenses.

The Society showed a net income of \$2,170.75 for the month of January.

A big thanks to those of you who have made dues payments and sent in donations as well. Donation letters will be going out for tax purposes by the end of the month.

Bob also reported that IRS forms 1099 have been prepared and sent to all of the artists for tax year 2009. This is required by the Internal Revenue Service and we want to remain friends with them, of course.

As always, those who have chosen to utilize the payment plan for paying your dues, the next payment is due during the month of March so please send those along on time. Bob's address is written right on the payment coupon for your convenience. There is no penalty for late payments but the sooner we get them, the sooner we can get them

working for the Society. Any donations sent in after December 31st can only be used on your 2010 tax return not your 2009 return.

If you have not sent in your payment as of yet, you will be receiving a telephone call from a member of the board because we want to know if there is anything we can do to make it easy for you. We want to retain you as a valued member of the Society.

Newsletter going on-line

In an effort to save money in postage and printing of the newsletter, those members that currently have an e-mail address listed with the Society will no longer receive a printed copy of the publication.

President Dengate reports that over \$200 is spend on a monthly basis to print and mail the newsletter out to every member of the Society. Along with the mailing that goes out, he has created an e-mail group of mem-

bers that also get a copy of the newsletter sent to them over the internet in PDF format. In addition, the newsletter can be viewed on our web site www.dtos.org.

By making this change, the Society will reduce the production cost of the newsletter by about 60 percent.

Of course, we understand that not every member has access to a computer and internet so we will con-

tinue to print and mail copies of the newsletter to these members.

The board of directors is making every attempt to cut our monthly expenses in an effort to have more funding available for renovations when a new venue is found for the Society.

The Boardroom News

A regular meeting of the board of directors was held on January 26th at the Senate Theater.

President Dengate called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. All board members were present except Ball, Calendine and Iwankovitsch. A motion was made and seconded to excuse Calendine and Iwankovitsch from the meeting.

Dengate and Weil reported some minor repairs to the boiler during the month and Dengate reported one trip down to the Senate for shoveling and salting of the sidewalks on the properties.

Scott Smith e-mailed a report indicating that while no work has been done on the instrument over the last two months, he along with Steve Warner hosted members from ATOS on January 23rd to document the instrument and take a lot of photographs.

The first open console day on February 21st at the Redford was discussed and assignments were made for staffing by DTOS members. A time limit for each member was discussed and the board decided to see how members got along before placing time restraints.

Dengate reported that office space for DTOS has been looked at in Southfield. He explained that it was necessary to continue activities once we are out of the Senate. After much discussion about this added monthly expense, he will look into any requirements from the State regarding the retention of our non-profit organization status and the need to have a mailing address on file with them.

Moving of personal items out of the Senate was discussed and a starting budget of \$1,000 was approved to start this process and at least get things into a central location.

The Senate Theater
6424 Michigan Avenue
Detroit, Michigan
48210

Office Telephone (313) 894-0850
Concert Hotline (313) 894-4100

www.dtos.org

Executive Board

Christopher Dengate, President
Dick Leichtamer, Vice President
David Calendine, Secretary
Robert Weil, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Steven Ball, Director
Jeff Cushing, Director
Gil Francis, Director
Tom Iwankovitsch, Director
Lance Luce, Director
George Orbits, Director

Time is running out for Practice Time

To all playing members of the Society, your time is coming to a close when it comes to scheduling practice time on the Wurlitzer.

As previously mentioned, February may be the last month that is available for players to play so that crews can begin the daunting task of removing the instrument from the Senate. We want to get a jump start on the process and get as much time as possible so that we are not rushed and can do a good job. The process will begin with George Orbits and a crew of about 6 other volunteers as the begin

to de-solder the thousands of wires at the console, relay and pipe chests. This is a very important part of the process and probably the most time consuming.

Also in March, preparation will begin with the construction of about 50 pipe trays that will be required to store and protect the pipes. These trays are made out of lumber with plywood tops and bottoms. They are glued and screwed together.

That being said, the instrument will not be playable once the work starts

and all playing members key fobs will be de-activated in the system except for those doing the work. It has been a great run of 45 years at the Senate but it is time that we move onward and forward into the future. It is safe to assume that your key fob will no longer allow access to the Senate on March 1, 2010.

Get your time in now by utilizing the reservation system on our web site www.dtos.org. Reserve your time today to alleviate walking in on someone who is practicing.

Membership Information

This month, we are asking the membership to keep member Tom Iwankovitsch in your prayers as he recovers at home from Outpatient Surgery last month.

On Saturday January 30, we received a telephone call from a TJ Casterson alerting us of water that was in the basement and that the sump pump was not working. Thanks to member Bob Weil along with his friends Bob and Mathew Huether, they responded down to the theater to fix the problem. While being entertained by a playing member taking advantage of some playing time, they spent several hours taking apart the pump and clearing the debris that was clogging the intake. Thanks for the quick response on the weekend. As a side note, Bob called me to tell me that I had mail in the office and that he was down in the basement 24 hours prior to the flood and reported that everything was fine.

Membership Chairperson Gary Grzebienik reports that as of the January 26th board meeting, there are 40 playing members and 25 associate members in the Society.

Gary also reports that at the meeting, three new applications for membership were approved. We welcome playing members Ed Miller of Inkser, Michigan as well as Michael A Covatch of Sterling Heights, Michigan. We also welcome associate member Ken Holden of Ferndale, Michigan to the Society.

Lastly, Gary reports that your new membership cards will arrive in your mailbox this month. Because of the concerts being held at the Redford, every member will receive a card for 2010, including the playing membership. You will be required to show this membership card to the ticket booth at the Redford for free admission into the DTOS concerts.

If you have any membership questions, questions about the playing member reservation system on the DTOS web site or questions regarding your 2010 membership renewal, Gary can be contacted at (248) 435-3266 or garyg@cdnet.net.

SENATE SCRABBLE

Unscramble the artists names below that performed at the Senate Theater in 1971.

- A. rakm ldoyks
- B. yln esraln
- C. raolc nejos
- D. ele rwien
- E. raryh nubllne
- F. ylgraod tracer
- G. mimjie upailn
- H. nan lfea
- I. nhoj ensj

LAST MONTHS TRIVIA ANSWER

Scott Foppiano is scheduled to perform for us in March at the Redford and is the subject for this month's trivia.

With 6 digital recordings to his credit, his very first was:

- A. Christmas at the Arlington
- B. Fanfare
- C. Scott plays the Detroit Senate
- D. Scott Foppiano back in Black

