

DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Senate Theater • 6424 Michigan Avenue • Detroit, MI 48210
Phone (313) 894-0850 • WWW.DTOS.org *Volume 61 issue 2, Feb 2021*

What's New?

Meet our new board.

Lance Luce – President lanceluce@wowway.com
Michael Fisher - Vice President / Co-Treasurer fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
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Stephen Warner – Director sjwarner@umich.edu
T.J. Casterson – Director tcasterson73@gmail.com
Roger Fisher- Director 61keys88@gmail.com
Zach Wojtan- Director zwojtan@yahoo.com
Gregory Garber-Director **New Director** gmgjtr@gmail.com
John Lauter- Director **New Director** 56packman@gmail.com

A big welcome goes out to our 2 newest board members that have joined us to help steer the ship. Longtime member John Lauter began his 2-year term on Jan 2021. Also, a big welcome to playing member Gregory Garber who also joined the team on Jan of 2021. Welcome aboard gentlemen!

A special note of thanks to outgoing board members Lynn Walls and Paul Ovares for their service on the board of direction over the past several years. Both Lynn and Paul however are not going anywhere. You will still see Paul and Dawn during events working the concessions area as usual and chipping in where needed just like normal. Lynn Walls has also graciously agreed to continue to handle all the membership duties as well as all the other things he does for our organization. Thanks Paul and Lynn!

Robert Weil (April 11, 1926 - Jan 31, 2021)

It is with the deepest sadness that we report that Bob Weil left us on Jan 31, 2021. Longtime member of both the Detroit Theater Organ Society (Senate Theater) and the Motor City Theater Organ Society (Redford Theater) Robert (Bob) Weil was a faithful volunteer and served as treasurer and on the board of direction at both places at various times.

Bob was born in Toledo Ohio on April 11, 1926. Serving during WW-2 he was stationed on the west coast and was an airplane mechanic. Shortly after the defeat of Japan he was relocated there until his tour of duty was over. After his return to the states, he attended Wayne state University and married.

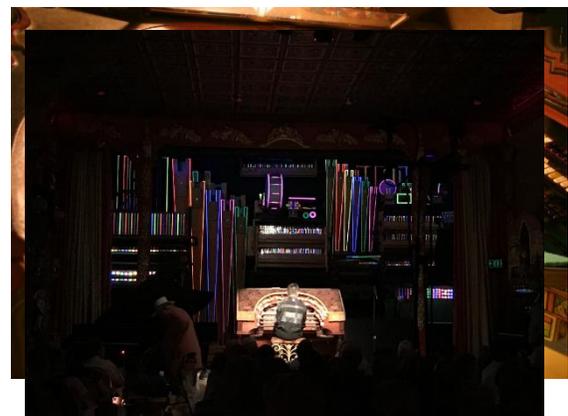
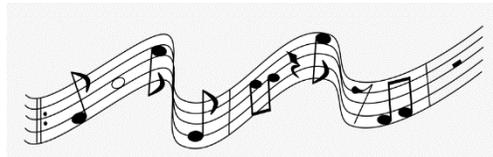
After serving for the Roseville school district for over 26 years teaching both high school chemistry and mathematics, he retired to his lovely canal home on Lake St Clair in St. Clair

Shores with his wife, Maryanne. Retirement did not slow him down, however. He was heavily involved at the Senate Theater, the Redford Theater, The Yankee Air Museum and Heritage Presbyterian church. He also served as treasurer at all 4 places at one point or another. And of course, we could always depend on Bob as the resident Santa Claus which he thoroughly enjoyed. In addition, he was one of the longest serving usher volunteers at the Fisher Theater. Bobs generosity of spirit was contagious and without complaint would carry out any duty that needed to be accomplished. He was cheerful in all situations and a true joy to know. Bob will be missed.

Requiescet in peace, Bob

Sponsor a Concert.

The DTOS is one of the oldest organizations that has produced a regular concert series for 60 years. Our first concert was held at the Iris Theater way back in October of 1961 featuring John Muri. We are well past our 700th concert and counting. At the inception of the organization the dues



were enough to cover the cost of the overhead and the costs

involved in producing a concert as well. As most things in life financially however that is no longer the case. Sooooo, consider sponsoring or partially sponsoring a DTOS concert, won't you? Typically, we cover 3 nights of hotel expenses, plane fare and the artist fee. If you think you might want to sponsor or even partially sponsor a concert, please contact me directly and I can fill you in with more details. Thank you for continued support and see you at the Senate!

DTOS Membership (Stephen Warner)

This last year has presented everyone in our country and the world with an ongoing barrage of challenges. Each challenge has forced us to continuously re-evaluate our priorities and choices in our use of time, focus and money. It is no surprise that our renewal rate at DTOS has been lower this year. For some in our group, there are completely legitimate reasons to hold off renewing in the short term, but for those on the fence or struggling to make a choice



where to place your valuable financial resources, let me offer a few ideas to support the idea of membership with DTOS.

Our membership comes with a number of benefits, which include admission to concerts and even films as well as the privilege to play and practice on the Mighty Wurlitzer. This last year, obviously, the club was unable to present concerts and only was able to screen a handful of films before the shutdown. It is important to state, however, that our membership shouldn't be viewed merely as a price for admission or as an exchange for entertainment, but as a contribution of support to an organization which works to preserve and celebrate the art of the Theater Organ. It is really a vote of support which serves as a baseline for our operation. The presence and support of a membership body are what give our organization the legitimacy to apply for outside funding to take the operation to the next level.



I have really always viewed the membership in terms of access to the Wurlitzer itself. There is no better teacher for learning the pipe organ than spending time on a beautiful example of one. This is why so many universities have recreated historic instruments for their students to practice and perform on and why so many programs take trips abroad. Many of us dream of having a music room like Jaspar Sanfilippo. In reality, this organization was formed partially to give us all a chance to have a co-op version of just that! This amazing, one-of-a-kind, (roughly 2 million dollar)

instrument is available nearly 24/7 for your personal enjoyment and discovery!

So, then there is the basic recognition that many of us have been hit financially from the Pandemic. I, for one, lost about six concerts, easily a dozen weddings and funerals as well as the entire Easter tuning season. All purchases related to music for me are paid for by concert or service fees. (This is why, I too, was late in renewing this year.) I know there are MANY who are in much harder circumstances. For some, it is perfectly legitimate to let their membership lapse this year.

However, there is some good news: You can pay your membership in installments! It may be easier to pass off \$45 a quarter, rather than \$180 up front. Just note that you are doing this on your renewal form and the check. If you are paying online, it may be best to send our membership chairman, Lynn Walls an email to let him know. His email is clwalls@gmail.com. You can also pay using a credit card. See Kevin Werner, Lance Luce, or Michael Fisher if you would like to use that option. We are always grateful for your presence, support and ownership and hope you can continue to be a part of our ranks!



Movie Theater Snacks

One does not just go to the theater one experiences the theater. As soon as you pass the ticket taker stand the aroma of concessions beckons you. One must partake and give into the senses overload. The smell and sound of the popcorn being popped. The candy and sodas are all visible and soon the taste and texture will be

satisfied. We at the Senate like to think of ourselves as big screen, big speakers, big food, and big Organ. What we offer are a massive selection of sodas, large bags of popcorn with real butter and enough candy to keep you satisfied through a screening of the entire Star Wars and Lord of the Rings sagas. But concessions stands and movie theaters were not always such natural bedfellows. Here is how they ended up together.

The Early 20 Century



The nickelodeons that popped up in small towns across the country in the early 1900's offered five-cent silent movies and the live accompaniment of a piano or organ but no food. Instead, patrons purchased food and drinks from nearby restaurants and boldly carried their stash in with them, a brazen violation of today's ubiquitous "no outside food or drink" rules. Theaters even allowed self-employed vendors to roam the cinema selling sweet and salty wares like popcorn and peanuts. In the 30s and 40s, nickelodeons were replaced by more upscale movie theaters. These European inspired "palaces" with their marble lined hallways, crystal chandeliers, billiards rooms, and drop off day care centers courted

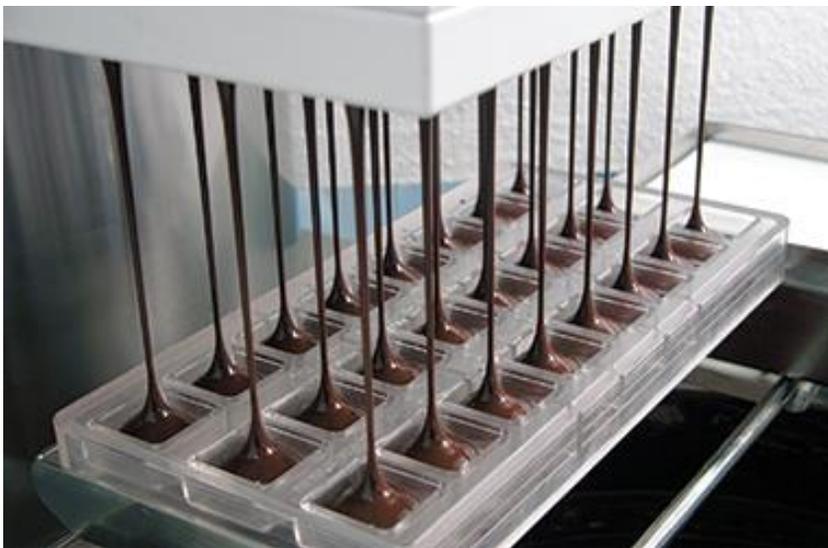
wealthier customers and were intolerant of messy and disruptive snacks. 1902- Necco makes first conversation hearts. A popular Valentine day candy with messages printed on them. (1847) Joseph Fry invents the first "modern" candy bar in England by mixing cacao butter, cocoa, and sugar into a paste and placing it in a mold. The candy bar genealogy goes something like this: Clark Bar (1916), Oh Henry! (1920), Reese's Peanut Butter Cups (1922). Baby Ruth and Milky Way (1923) But not for the baseball player but after Grover Cleveland's daughter. Mr. Goodbar (1925 Snickers (1930, 3 Musketeers .1932, Kit Kat (1933), and Nestle's Crunch (1938).



Other sweets just prior to the turn of the century; 1893 Quaker City Confectionery Company, located outside of Philadelphia, introduces Good & Plenty, which goes on to be the oldest branded retro candy still in production. (1896) Leo Hirshfield, New York confectioner, introduces Tootsie Rolls, named after his daughter's nickname, "Tootsie". Many other classic candies appeared during this time, including goobers (1925), Milk Duds (1926), Raisinets (1927), and the Bob White (1922), a large nonpareil that was eventually broken up into the Sno Caps we know today. At the same time, a red-licorice war was brewing, pitting Twizzlers (born in the mid-1800s) against upstart Classic Raspberry Vines, created in 1920 and later renamed Red Vines. 1928 An important year for any candy lover as the beloved Reese's Peanut Butter Cups are first marketed.

The Great Depression.

Times were tough and cinema owners needed cash to stay afloat, which meant they no longer had the luxury of ignoring movie refreshments. At first, they simply installed candy dispensers of old (rather than gave away) _ space to those entrepreneurial vendors who formerly strolled the aisles. Eventually, though, theater construction itself started to



incorporate concession stands into the design, the new star of the concession stand was no candy but popcorn, which had become popular in the U.S when the first popcorn machine was invented. It was easy to store and cheap to produce, and movie going Americans, swallowed it by the bucketful, as we continue to do in 2021. At many cinemas' popcorn remains the no. 1 best seller, followed by sodas, pretzels, nachos, and hot dogs.

Post War

In the middle of the century, moviegoers' options expanded to Junior Mints, named for "Junior Miss," a Broadway play turned radio show starring Shirley Temple, as well as those gummy Dots that stick so stubbornly in our teeth. (1941) M&Ms arrived, too having found initial success with American GIs in World War Two, who received the "melts in your mouth, not in your hand" treats as part of their rations. Sour Patch Kids appeared in the 1970s. Then in the 1980s, the makers decided to cash in on the Cabbage Patch Kids craze, and the Sour Patch Kids we

know and love today were re-born. Late to movie candy game were Reese's Pieces, created in 1978 but a minor player until ET started gobbling them up four years later, and Skittles, which were imported from Europe starting in 1979.

Today.

These Days Cinemas are moving way beyond popcorn, candy, and half gallon sodas. Hot dogs, Cheese drenched nachos, and ice cream have been staples at chain theaters for decades.

Special thanks to Rachal Friedman whose information on the subject was very thorough. Rachel Friedman is the author of "The Good Girl's Guide to Getting Lost: A memoir of Three Continents, Two Friends and One Unexpected Adventure."

We would love to hear from you. Questions, suggestions. . .
We even take requests!! Our Board of Directors are here to
serve you.

Lance Luce – President lanceluce@wowway.com
Michael Fisher - Vice President / Co-Treasurer fisher.michael65@yahoo.com
Kevin Werner - Secretary / Co-Treasurer kevwer@comcast.net
Stephen Warner – Director sjwarner@umich.edu
T.J. Casterson – Director tcasterson73@gmail.com
Roger Fisher- Director 61keys88@gmail.com
Zach Wojtan- Director zwojtan@yahoo.com
Gregory Garber-Director gmgjtr@gmail.com
John Lauter-Director 56packman@gmail.com



Coming in 2021

Mar 14	3pm.	Concert	Lance Luce	\$17.00
April 18	3pm	Concert	John Lauter	\$17.00
Dec 12	3pm.	Holiday concert	Mark Herman/Anthony Snitker (vocalist)	\$17.00

Also,

An assortment of sound movies (6.00) and silent movies as well. (\$12.00)

And more to come!

Perry White - Editor.