



# Detroit Theater Organ Society

June 2012 Newsletter

Volume 51, Issue 6

## HERE'S TO 50 YEARS ... AND MORE!

Senate Theater  
Friday & Saturday, June 8 & 9, 2012



Our celebration for the Detroit Theater Organ Society's fiftieth anniversary concludes this month with two magnificent days of entertainment featuring our own Lance Luce at the Mighty Wurlitzer organ console!

Join us for a special event on Friday, June 8 when Lance starts the celebration weekend with three silent films, accompanied live on our Wurlitzer. Come see Laurel & Hardy, Buster Keaton and Charlie Chaplin while Lance provides the musical score and all of the sound effects, right from the console of our Wurlitzer. This is, after all, what the organ was built for!

The price for this special presentation is \$8.00 at the door. *Please note that this is a special event and is not covered by your associate or playing membership dues.*

The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and the movie starts at 7:00 p.m.

The final day of our celebration is Saturday, June 9th.

Starting at 1:00 p.m. Lance Luce will take to the stage and take everyone on a tour of the Wurlitzer. All of the various sounds will be demonstrated as well as some of the various features of the organ, such as pizzicato, second touch, what the couplers do, and much more. He will also have a mini visual demonstration of the "behind the scenes" workings of our organ, showing areas of the organ that are not available on the regular chamber tours. A sample of the various types of pipe work that make up our

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY ... *continued from the first page*

organ, and the sounds that they produce.

At 2:15 p.m., John Lauter will give us some insight into what makes our one-of-a-kind Wurlitzer so unique, and introduce us to the organists that played the instrument while it was still installed in the Fisher Theatre.

3:00 p.m. will be a special round-table discussion with some of the charter and "old-time" members who have been around for a while, telling stories and more.

For those that bought tickets for the dinner, their part of the weekend will start at 4:00 p.m. with

light hors d'oeuvres and wine, followed by their buffet dinner at 5:00 p.m. *(please note that you needed to purchase your tickets in advance for hors d'oeuvres and dinner)*

The evening ends with a gala concert by Lance Luce at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. for those that wish to get their seats early for the concert.

Please join us for this special weekend of events as we celebrate a landmark anniversary. Our fiftieth!

Here's looking to at LEAST fifty more!



## MORE ABOUT LANCE LUCE

Featured Organist for the 50th Anniversary  
DTOS Board of Directors

Lance Luce is an internationally acclaimed theatre organist. He has played hundreds of concerts all over the United States, Canada, England and Australia.

His concerts are praised for appealing to audiences of all ages, containing a wide variety of musical styles.

At age 18, Lance won 1st 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.

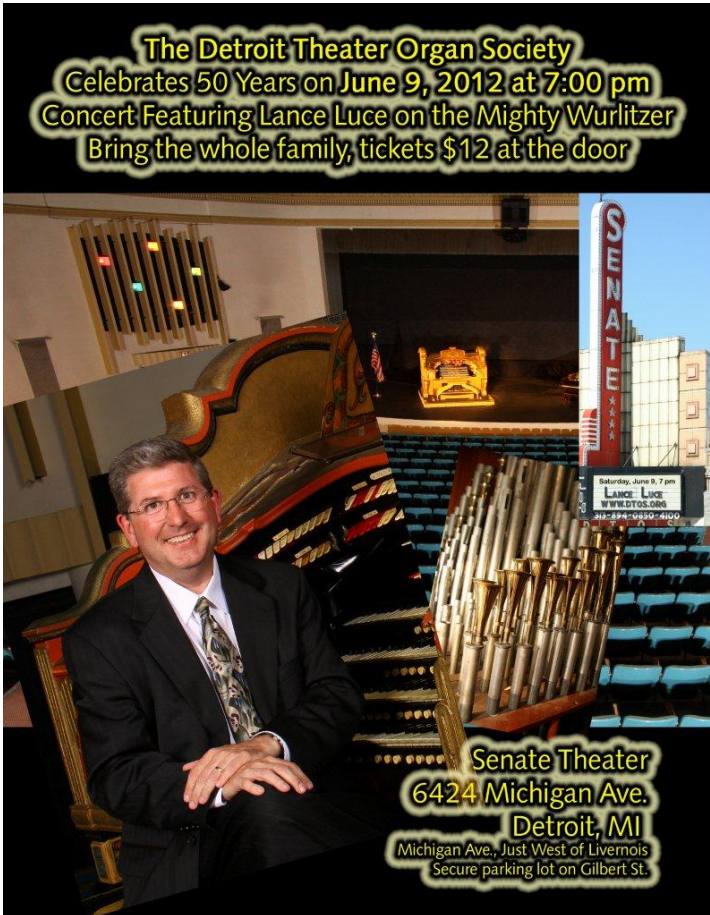
Lance has made many recordings, including being part of the famous "Theatre Organ Greats - A Salute to Radio City Music Hall" double LP.

For many years, Lance was the "Featured Entertainment" at the console of a theatre organ at several "Pizza Parlor" style restaurants. Two in Michigan, and the highly successful "Organ Grinder Restaurant" in Toronto Canada, where he played for 8 years.

Lance began playing the theatre pipe organ at age 10 at the Royal Oak Theatre near his Michigan home. By age 13 he was playing at that same theatre for intermissions. During his teenage years he began playing the organ at a local church on Sundays, and performed countless times for area organ clubs and societies.

Lance has been a church organ consultant in Michigan since 1991. He is currently the church organ consultant for Allen Organs and Reuter Pipe organs for Evola Music. Lance has designed and installed over 250 organs in churches, homes and institutions. His background includes pipe organ repair and building, as well as electronic organ design, installation, voicing, and pipe interfacing.

Lance is currently on the staff at the Fox Theatre, and is one of the organists at the Redford Theatre in Detroit, Michigan. He continues to be a church organist, recording artist, and concert artist.



The Detroit Theater Organ Society Celebrates 50 Years on June 9, 2012 at 7:00 pm Concert Featuring Lance Luce on the Mighty Wurlitzer Bring the whole family, tickets \$12 at the door

Senate Theater  
6424 Michigan Ave.  
Detroit, MI  
Michigan Ave., Just West of Livernois  
Secure parking lot on Gilbert St.

# THEATER RENOVATION UPDATE

Connie Masserant  
DTOS Board of Directors

LET THERE BE LIGHT!!!



Lights are shining at the Senate. Last month we put out a request for donations for additional lighting equipment to brighten up our stage. Well thanks to a generous donation, we are halfway to our goal of \$2000. As a result, we were able to raise the truss with a few lights. We aren't there yet, but we are on our way to having a great system that will not only brighten up our stage, but be able to be controlled from several locations in the theater. Many thanks to Fred Brufloft who did all the foot work in configuring our system and



putting it up along with Nicholas Grunas and Connie Masserant.

Work has begun on the face of our building. The 2 display windows on each side of the front entrance have been renovated and updated so as to hold posters and information of upcoming events as well as Ads for rentals. It is planned that a portion of the front will get painted in time for our 50th Anniversary Celebration.



*(from the Newsletter editor ... please make sure that you give a BIG thank you to Connie & Dave Masserant who have spent many, MANY hours at the Senate doing everything it takes to make our theater what it is today. Countless hours have been spent by these two wonderful people climbing and crawling through many spaces of the theater that haven't been climbed or crawled in for many decades! It is their tireless effort that has brought the Senate back to life. And they continue even now with many more projects to make this a great place to come see a show. Hats off to them both for all of their efforts! And to all of the people that have faithfully come in and helped out, my heartfelt gratitude goes out to you as well for all of your help in making our*

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Connie Masserant  
President, Detroit Theater Organ Society

The Detroit Theater Organ Society kicked off its 50th Anniversary Celebration with a glorious concert given by Ron Rhodes. The audience was treated to cake and coffee during intermission before returning for more music from the Wurlitzer.

There is much in store for our continuing celebration on June 8th with silent movies and June 9th with activities, dinner and concert by Lance Luce. Be sure you attend and help us celebrate!



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

June 15 & 16—American Graffiti

June 29 & 30—Casablanca

July 13 & 14—The Wizard of Oz

July 20 & 21—Cool Hand Luke

August 10 & 11—Abbott & Costello Double Feature

August 24 & 25—North by Northwest

All of these great films are shown Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:00 p.m. as well as Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. (unless otherwise noted)

Organ overtures start thirty minutes prior to each show time.

Sit back and enjoy the movies under the Redford's star-lit sky!

**Visit the Redford Theatre on the web at [www.redfordtheatre.com](http://www.redfordtheatre.com)**



# THE BASS DRUM IS BACK IN ACTION

Dave Calendine  
DTOS Board of Directors

It has been some time now since we have had a working bass / kettle drum in our organ. The original drum head had ripped and made it unusable several months ago. Due to the ongoing restoration of the organ, it was always kept towards the bottom of the list of things to get done. Now that we have gotten down the list, the drum head finally was ordered. It has now arrived, and thanks to our organ restoration crew, it is finally installed and placed back in its home in the percussion chamber up high on the left side of the theater.

The two smaller beaters on the right of the drum are the two mallets that are used for the kettle drum effect. The bass drum tablet uses the large beater on the left. The percussive sound of this drum has been missed by many organists. It is nice to have this percussion back in the organ!



# RECORDING POLICY CLARIFIED

Dave Calendine  
DTOS Board of Directors

In the last Newsletter, I mistakenly stated that with mini recorders, members could sit anywhere in the theater and record concerts. According to the by-laws of our organization, recording using any type of mechanism, is restricted to the back row of the theater.

As a reminder, the back row is provided for our members that wish to record concerts. Everyone wishing to record a concert must sign a release form that can be obtained at the sales counter for recordings.

There are several plugs available to "tap in" to our professional microphones that are used for our organizations own recordings.

For those members that would like a copy of the concert but do not have their own recording equipment, you may purchase a copy of the concert by signing up at the recording counter. Copies of the concert made right after the conclusion of the concert, so don't hurry out. The copies will be brought down from the sound booth as soon as they are made.

Those that wish to purchase a copy of the concert must sign up by the end of intermission in order to have a copy made of the concert. Please note that all recordings are for personal use only and may not be copied or broadcast without the written permission of the Detroit Theater Organ Society and the artist.

# MEET IN THE MIDDLE

Grand Ledge Opera House  
Sunday, August 5, 2012 1:30 p.m.

"MEET IN THE MIDDLE"  
THE AUGUST ORGAN EVENT!  
The Multi-Club Meet!

Sunday, August 5, 2012  
1:30 P.M.

Grand Ledge Opera House  
121 S. Bridge St. (M-100) @ River St.  
Grand Ledge (just West of Lansing)  
Michigan

Lunch, Concert & Open Console!

Tony O'Brien, Organist

Cost: \$25 per person  
Buffet luncheon

Please pre-pay and reserve by July 22

All theatre organ clubs, committees  
and museums within a two-hour  
drive of Lansing are invited to attend  
this now-annual event! See old  
friends, meet new ones!

Have a meal, hear a mini-concert and  
enjoy open console at the



3/20 Barton organ!  
Send checks or money orders to:  
Lansing Theatre Organ, Inc.  
P. O. Box 26154  
Lansing, MI 48909

Questions?  
Email: [LTOPOPS@AOL.COM](mailto:LTOPOPS@AOL.COM)

# OPEN CONSOLE AT THE FOX THEATRE!

Dave Calendine  
DTOS Board of Directors

For the first time in many years, the Fox Theatre in downtown Detroit is letting the doors open to the Fox for an open-console time at the Mighty Wurlitzer on Saturday, August 25th, 2012. The doors will open at 2:30 p.m.

Our Corporate Secretary, Dave Calendine, works at the Fox Theatre as resident organist and tour guide. He has worked out details with the theatre management to make this special event happen. There are some rules with must be followed, and the event is limited to the first 150 people to sign up and attend. The event will last for two hours. Here are the details in how this special event will work.

Those that will be attending will need to sign up for the event (directions later in this article). On the day of the event, those attending may park in the Fox Parking Garage next to the Fox Theatre (behind Hockeytown Café). A discounted rate of parking has been arranged to be offered for this event.

Entrance to the event will be through the Fox Receiving entrance, just to the right of the marquee (look for the sign above the entrance). Once in, you will need to stop by the security desk to check-in. After that, you will enter the theatre. The main floor and balcony will be opened. Please note that the lobby organ is not a part of this event and will not be able to be played.

The Fox is letting the theatre be available for two hours. Open console time will be limited, and the process will be stated to everyone before the day of the open console.

As part of the event, the staff organists, if available, will also perform a selection or two so that you can hear the organ at its best.

It is hoped that open console events at the Fox will happen more often if everything goes well with this first one. Please help make this a successful event so that this can happen again in the future!

Here are the details for signing up to attend: Send an e-mail to Dave Calendine contain-

ing the following information:

- Your name
- Your phone number
- Number that will be attending
- Which organ club(s) you are a member of
- Do you wish to play the organ?

After your information is received, you will get a reply mail sent to you from Dave letting you know that you are signed up to attend.

Further information regarding this event will be sent to those that signed up to attend.

If you would like, Preservation Detroit (formerly Preservation Wayne) is doing their annual theatre tours in downtown Detroit the same day as the open console. Tours go through the Fox, Fillmore, Michigan, Opera House, Gem, Century and Music Hall theatres. Lunch is included in the cost of the tour. Further information on the tours can be obtained by going to [www.preservationdetroit.org](http://www.preservationdetroit.org).

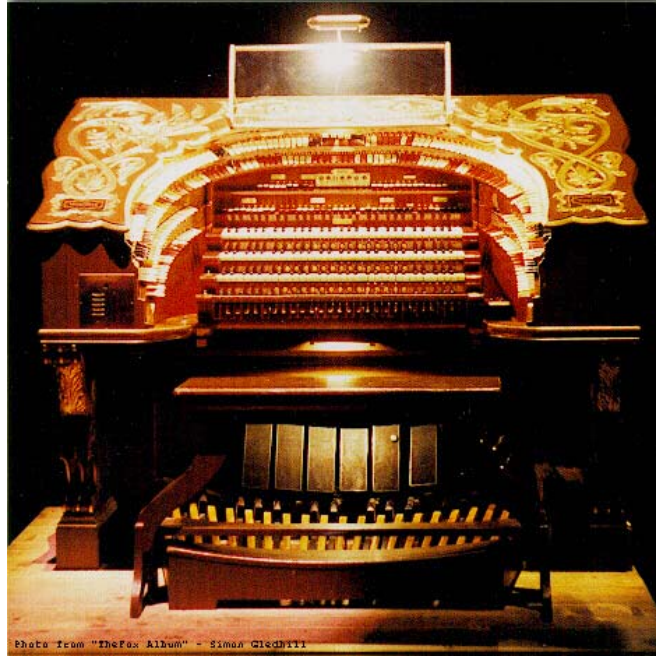


Photo from "The Fox Album" - Simon Gischlitz

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

Website: [www.dtos.org](http://www.dtos.org)  
Look for us on Facebook!

2012 Concert Series

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION WEEKEND

June 8 & 9—See articles inside!

September 16—Pierre Fracalanza

October 21—Steven Warner

November 18—Melissa Ambrose-Eidson

December 2—Fr. Andrew Rogers

