



# Detroit Theater Organ Society

March 2012 Newsletter **HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY** Volume 51, Issue 3

## HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

## SCOTT FOPPIANO AT THE SENATE

Sunday, March 18  
3:00 P.M.

The 2012 concert season starts at the Senate Theatre with Scott Foppiano. Scott is no stranger to the Detroit Theater Organ Society, having lived for a time in the metro-Detroit area.

Scott Foppiano was born in Memphis, Tennessee in 1965. He began private study of the piano and started playing in church while a student at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle. In addition to his private musical study, he also began playing the Mighty Wurlitzer organ at Memphis' Orpheum Theatre.

Critically acclaimed and sought after as a classical recitalist, theatre organist and silent film accompa-

nist, he has played and recorded some of the greatest classical and theatre pipe organs in the United States, Canada and Europe. To date he has six solo organ CD's with future projects pending. He has served as house organist at the Fox Theatre in Detroit and Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor.

He has served as Organist and Director of Music for several prominent congregations and has also held positions on the administrative boards of both the American Guild of Organists and the American Theatre Organ Society at local and national levels. Thoroughly trained as a classical and Liturgical organist, he holds an

Artist's Diploma, a Bachelors and Masters degrees in organ performance as well as the Service Playing and Colleague certifications of the American Guild of Organists. Subsequent to his formal instruction, he continued private study with the late William Whitehead and also with his friend and mentor the late, great Thomas Hazleton. He has played for national and regional conventions of the AGO, the ATOS and the OHS.

In 2001 he took his choir on a 10 day tour of Italy where they sang in the Cathedrals of Milan, Assisi and Florence as well as for the Solemn Latin Mass in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome under his direction and accompaniment. The Mr. Foppiano and



## SCOTT FOPPIANO ... (continued from front page)

the choir were presented to Pope John Paul II and sang a motet to the late Pontiff.

He was a featured artist in 2006 at the ATOS Regional Convention in Eastern Massachusetts as well as the 2007 ATOS Convention in New York City which brought him to the great console of the historic Möller organ in the Cadet Chapel of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He performed at the 2008 ATOS National Convention in Indianapolis and in Seattle for ATOS 2010. In addition to his full time ecclesiastical duties as a Parish Organist-Choirmaster in Kansas City, MO where he resides, he maintains a very active schedule as a solo performer. In 2007 Mr. Foppiano received the ATOS' Organist of the Year award.

While Scott is in town, he will be returning to the Angelica Lutheran Church in Allen Park to perform

for a special presentation of the 1925 silent film epic, "Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ," starring Ramon Navarro. The concert on March 19th starts at 7 p.m., and the church is located at 8400 Park Ave in Allen Park. The pipe organ of Angelica Lutheran Church was originally built in 1952 by Casavant Frères of Canada as a 15-rank instrument. Beginning in 1997, the organ received a multi-year renovation and expansion by the Renaissance Pipe Organ Company of Ann Arbor, updating and completing the instrument according to a new specification. It now comprises 32 ranks and 2,014 individual pipes

Be sure to make both of these concerts and find out why Scott has been sought after as a concert and silent film accompanist for both classical and theatre organ concerts across the country!



## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dick Leichtamer  
President, DTOS

Greetings to every one and here's hoping the winter hasn't been too harsh. The Staff is up and ready to get the concert season moving along. A lot has been accomplished since the Christmas Concert. Our first concert on March 18th is coming up soon featuring Mr. Scott Foppiano. He has been to the Senate many times over the years.

We will be doing last minute cleaning and polishing so that everything will be spic and span on March

18th. If you have some extra time and would like to help please call Connie Masserant to check for times. Her number is 734-379-6645. She and everyone would sure appreciate it.

Another thing you can do would be to bring some friends of yours who haven't been here before and are missing out on this wonderful music. Let's get a big crowd out to the Senate on March 18th. See you there.

# MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

Fred Bruflodt, Bob Weil & Lance Luce  
DTOS Board of Directors

As I continue the series on introducing you to your Board of Directors, I come to the next three Board members that are also up for re-election at the upcoming election in April. This month, I asked Fred Bruflodt, Bob Weil & Lance Luce to answer the same eight questions that each board member will be asked throughout the next several Newsletters. Here are their responses.

## 1. Introduce Yourself

Fred Bruflodt – I joined DTOS as an associate member about the time DTOS began to renovate the Senate Theater. I had been invited to attend a few concerts at the Iris by Glenn Rank and was “hooked.” I became a “playing member” in the early 1990s.

## 2. Tell where you grew up &

## 3. Where you went to school

I am a Detroit native and attended Detroit schools, graduating from Southeastern High School. I then attended Michigan State University and then returned to Detroit to work while obtaining a degree in journalism from Wayne State University

## 4. Life’s Profession(s)

I worked in Public Relations at WSU and then for Chrysler where I put out the plant newspaper at the old Hamtramck Assembly (Dodge Main). In 1967, I moved to East Lansing to work in media relations at MSU. In 1983, I entered the sound contracting field to design and sell audio and multi-media systems. Although semi-retired, I continue to provide sound and communication systems and also do concert recording, editing and CD production.

## 5. Outside interests (hobbies)

I enjoy live theater and classical music concerts. I served two terms on the East Lansing Arts Commission. I also serve on the Board of Lansing Theater Organ and was one of its founding members. Hobbies include vintage radios and antique phonographs.

## 6. DTOS activities you have been involved in outside of Board meetings

The primary ways that I have volunteered at

DTOS have been in the areas of sound and recording, beginning with assisting Frank Laperriere in 1990 and later succeeding him as recording chairperson. During this time, DTOS transitioned into digital recording and we updated our recording and sound equipment. I have been a member of the DTOS Board since being appointed to fill a vacancy two years ago.

## 7. Talents and abilities you can offer to the club

I have assisted in the recording and production of the two DTOS CDs -- "By Members Only" and the Tom Hazelton CD project. As part of our theater renovations, I have been able to make improvements to our electrical and lighting systems and hope to continue these and other efforts.

## 8. Name your goals for DTOS in the next year

The reward for all the work of the Board members and the DTOS volunteers is to see DTOS continue into the future. As a Board member, I am committed to making the Senate Theater a better venue for our theater pipe organ concerts and for rental to outside groups.

## 1. Introduce Yourself

I am Bob Weil.

## 2. Tell Where you grew up

Born, raised and grew up in Toledo Ohio.

## 3. Where you went to school

Graduated from Longfellow grade school and DeVilbiss High school and went to the University of Toledo.

## 4. Life’s Profession(s)

Spent 2 years in the United States Air Force, taught all sciences in country school, was Traffic Manager for a truck company, went back to teaching chemistry, physics and math in Roseville.

## 5. Outside interests (hobbies)

Like boating, ushering at theatres, volunteering at the Yankee Air Museum, Church work, active member of the Motor City Theatre Organ Society, and I love organ music.

(continued ...)

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

March 16 & 17—The Quiet Man

March 30 & 31—Shirley Temple Double Feature

April 21 8pm Only—Mary Pickford Silent Film “Duds”

accompanied by Dave Calendine

at the Barton Theatre Pipe Organ

April 28 (Saturday only!) - James Cagney Double Feature

May 18 & 19—Grease (Sing-A-Long Version!)

June 1 & 2—It Happened One Night

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)**

Please consider helping the society save money each month by electing to receive this Newsletter electronically. The savings on paper, printing, and mailing are quite significant. It is quick and simple to sign up. Just send an e-mail to:

**Dave@Calendine.net**

and ask for your Newsletter to be sent to you each month in your e-mail.

# Meet Your Board ... (continued)

6. DTOS activities you have been involved in outside of Board meetings

I am an active DTOS member, currently the treasurer, I am the unofficial toilet and rest room cleaner, assistant maintenance helper, record counter seller, meter reader, and all round gofer.

7. Talents and abilities you can offer to the club

Not many nameable talents., but I help out in any way possible around the theater.

8. Name your goals for DTOS in the next year

Work on ways to vary our programs to attract more young people, make our building useable for more non-organ outside entertainment and meetings.

1. Introduce Yourself

Lance Luce. I was born in Flint , Michigan in 1959

2. Tell where you grew up

I grew up in Warren , Michigan

3. Where you went to school

I went to Cousino High School and Oakland University.

4. Life's Profession(s)

I have played the organ in church since 1975. For 12 years I played the theater organ in pizza parlor style restaurants, and have been a church organ consultant for 20+ years now.

5. Outside interests (hobbies)

Besides the organ I enjoy photography and traveling.

6. DTOS activities you've been involved in outside of board meetings

I have been involved at the Senate theater helping with the recent renovations including painting and carpentry, etc. I also maintain the DTOS web site and serve on the membership committee.

7. Talents and abilities you can offer to the club

I have designed the new brochure, marketing materials, web site, photography, as well as helped with radio advertising and other media in the past.

8. Name your goals for DTOS next year

I feel one of the biggest goals in the future is to increase attendance at our programs, and find additional uses for the building itself.

# RENOVATIONS UPDATE

Connie Masserant  
DTOS Board of Directors

This month work began on the enclosure for our Mighty Wurlitzer. A box is being constructed of panels that attaches to the back chamber wall so that we may tuck the Wurlitzer away, but only when we have rentals. The panels will close around the cables when the console is in place on the stage.



Lumber was first cut (pictured is Connie Masserant) to reinforce the panels.



Then casters were installed on the bottom edge of the panels for easy moving. Pictured above are George Orbits, Dave Masserant, and Lance Luce.

Finally the hinges were placed by Michael Fisher and Lance Luce.

The right side of the box was completed in the first session. The left side will be completed Saturday, then all is needed is a black coat of paint. Stay tuned



for the final pictures.

I would also like to mention that the theater seats have now been numbered and labeled (all 805). Thank you to Dave Calendine and Lynn Walls for all of their bending and stooping to get the job completed. We will now be able to issue reserved seats on future ticketing for upcoming events.



We are excited to have our badge board back. You will notice that when you enter for our next concert March 18th, that our badge board is here. It will be filled with badges for all members. As you enter the door from the parking lot, please look to your sharp right and proceed to the board to select your badge.

Please put it on and proceed to the ticket stand. You will still need to get your ticket. Upon departure from the building, please remember to return your badge so that it will be available for the next time you come to an event.

## ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING NEXT MONTH!

The Annual Meeting of the Detroit Theater Organ Society is April 24th at 7:00pm. Elections will also take place at that time. All eligible voting members will receive balloting information in the mail soon. Please be sure to attend and vote!

# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Dave Calendine  
Editor, DTOS Newsletter

I would like to start my little corner of the Newsletter with a word of thanks to Scott Smith for his wonderful series of articles that he wrote about our Wurlitzer organ. Over a year's worth of articles were written about various topics regarding the DTOS organ.

Many weeks and months went into making the series. The research and investigation put into the articles brought out facts that many long-time members did not even know, and brought to light many facts about how unique our Wurlitzer is out of all of the organs that were built by the Wurlitzer company.

I hope that at the next concert when you see Scott, you say thanks to him for putting so much time and effort into writing as much as he did. Again Scott, I say THANK YOU!

Many important things are coming up in the life of the Detroit Theater Organ Society. The first of those events happens in April with the election for the Board of Directors. Shortly, you will be mailed your ballots along with bios of everyone that is running for the Board. It is important that you look them over and vote before the April meeting. The election ballots are counted at the annual meeting of the Detroit Theater Organ Society, which this year will be held on Tuesday, April 24. More on the Annual Meeting will be in the next Newsletter.

The other important date is one that is also an important milestone in our organization. We will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary with a two-month celebration, starting with May 20th.

Ron Rhode, no stranger to the Senate Wurlitzer, and one of the more sought-after organists in the country, will be performing a concert on May 20th starting at 3:00 p.m..

The celebration continues with a series of events in June. Details are still being worked out for the weekend, but mark your calendar now for the weekend of June 8th and 9th. Friday's events are still being finalized, but we hope to have a silent film screened with live accompaniment with the Wurlitzer.

After all, that is what the organ was built for!

Saturday, June 9th will be a full-day of events, starting with our own John Lauter, Lance Luce and Tony O'Brien doing a program on the history and more about our Wurlitzer and the Detroit Theater Organ Club / Society.

Hors d'oeuvres and dinner will take place later in the afternoon, and then Lance Luce takes to the organ bench to do a "celebration concert" to cap off the 50th anniversary celebrations.

Cost for the hors d'oeuvres and dinner will soon be announced, but with space limited for each of them, it is highly recommended that you make your reservations at the next concert or by contacting any member of the anniversary committee:

Glenn Rank, Chairman—941-613-1055

Michael Fisher—313-378-1275

Connie Masserant—734-652-6004

This committee is working tirelessly to make this a very special event. Please make every effort to attend this memorable weekend!

Have you been to the theater in the last couple of months? If not, you haven't seen the amazing work that is still being done to renovate the place. Much thanks to Dave and Connie Masserant for their tireless effort working on finishing the stage expansion, helping George Orbits build the protective box on the stage for the organ and the cables, and in finishing up other work throughout the lobbies and restrooms. Thanks also to Mike Fisher and Lance Luce for helping with much of the work. Without their dedication to the organization, we might not have been able to keep the theater open to do concerts.

See you at the Senate!

Happy  St. Patrick's Day



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Look for us on Facebook!

## 2012 Concert Series

March 18—Scott Foppiano

April 15 —Ken Double

May 20—Ron Rhode

June 8—50th Anniversary Celebration

Weekend starts!

June 9—Lance Luce

September 16—Pierre Fracalanza

October 21—Steven Warner

November 18—Melisa Ambrose-Eidson

December 2—Fr. Andrew Rogers