

# DETROIT THEATER ORGAN SOCIETY

Volume 54, Issue 8

## HAPPY HALLOWEEN

October 2015

DTOS  
Executive Board  
& Directors

## Ken Double Returns

Sunday, October 18, 2015, 3:00 p.m.

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October brings Ken Double back to the Senate Theatre. Ken is no stranger to the Senate, having performed here several times in the past.

It is not often that one gets paid to have fun for a living. It is even rarer still when having fun and getting paid for it professionally happens twice in life. Such has been the good professional fortune of Ken Double, the President and Chief Executive of the American Theatre Organ Society.

than he was the athlete, and as early as age six, was mouthing the words sitting in front of the television, "practice" broadcasting the games he watched.

He parlayed that interest into a Degree in Radio-TV from Butler University in Indianapolis, and began his broadcast career that included:

- Indiana Pacers NBA and Purdue University basketball;
- NHL, IHL and AHL

Until 2008, music was always the "second career," almost an afterthought due to his 32 years in broadcasting. The Chicago native grew up with five brothers in a sports-loving family, but Ken was more enamored of the play-by-play announcers

- hockey;
- Sports Anchor assignments in Lafayette and Indianapolis, IN;
- the worldwide radio broadcast of the Indianapolis 500 Mile Race, and hundreds of other events.

The award-winning broadcaster finished his career with 17 seasons of hockey play-by-play, including a brief stint with his beloved hometown team, the Chicago Blackhawks.

Ken's parents made sure all six of the boys were introduced to some kind of music, and for Ken, it was organ lessons starting at age eight. About the time he was getting bored with that, and a high school radio station was providing broadcast opportunities, a school field trip took him to the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, IL and a chance to play the Wurlitzer theatre organ, and it was for him as it is for so many, that "WOW!" moment.

Several weeks later, the same teacher who guided students on the field trip took a group to hear Gaylord Carter at Chicago's famed Oriental Theatre and Ken was truly hooked. He steered lessons in the theatre organ direction, including one year of studies with legendary organist Al Melgard, where Ken took his lessons on Wednesday afternoons at the Melgard studio, and then met his teacher later that night for the Blackhawks hockey game at the old Chicago Sta-

# Ken Double ... continued from front page

dium. Talk about careers coming full circle.

While Ken pursued his broadcast career, he continued playing the organ. As a college senior, he provided music for sporting events at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis; worked summers as the organist at the famed Tommy Bartlett Water Show in Wisconsin Dells; later, had a stint subbing at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis.

While working his very first TV job in Lafayette, IN, Ken helped install the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Long Center, raising money, doing publicity, performing concerts and booking and promoting other shows at the former vaudeville house. He premiered that organ in 1982 and has been playing

annual concerts there ever since.

Ken's career highlights include:

- 32 years of concerts at Long Center in Lafayette, IN
- Seven tours of Australia and New Zealand;
- Twice invited to play concerts and act as Keynote Speaker for "Back To The Future" events in the UK;
- Invited to act as the Master of Ceremonies for no fewer than 20 ATOS annual and regional conventions;
- has performed concerts at 11 such events;
- 20 concerts and two recordings with famed trumpet player Skip Stine, formerly with the Harry James Orchestra;

- 17 CD recordings to his credit.

He accepted the top post at ATOS in the summer of 2007, and a year later, the Board of Directors asked Ken to accept the newly created position of President and Chief Executive. He has been working diligently to raise funds, raise awareness, create new and exciting programs, and help steer the 58-year-old organization in a new direction to ensure its growth and existence for another 50 years and more.

Since his arrival, fundraising has generated nearly two million dollars, with the ATOS Endowment Fund topping the one million dollar mark; the Summer Youth Adventure and the Technical Experience have been added to the program list;

and partnerships with organizations such as Ace Theatrical are opening doors for major installations of theatre pipe organs.

Broadcaster, musician, entertainer, MC, administrator, PR man, and even "crooner" occasionally, Ken Double has enjoyed "having fun and getting paid for it, not once, but twice!" As the song says, "Nice work if you can get it."

Come to the Senate for an enjoyable afternoon of music as Ken Double puts the Mighty Wurlitzer through its paces on Sunday, October 18, 2015. The doors will open at 2:00 p.m., with the concert starting at 3:00 p.m.

We hope to see you at the Senate!

# Hallmark Basket Raffle Brings Needed Funds

Joan Brown

DTOS Board of Directors

"Life is a Special Occasion"

This is a wonderful Hallmark saying which lets us see fun and excitement in everyday activities. I believe going to the Senate Theater is a very special occasion. Just take the time to really look around it the next time you are there. We tend to take this beautiful old theater for granted.

With the cooler fall weather almost upon us and the holiday season not far behind who couldn't use an extra bit of party items or a wonderful gift for that last minute invite? Over the next few months I will be raffling off a beautiful basket of Hall-

mark goodies valued at more than \$250. But, wait there's more! When you buy a ticket (one dollar each or six for five) you will also be able to choose from a table of Hallmark products for yourself. Values can be anything from three to twenty dollars! Make a donation to the theater of any amount, get a free gift. I will have holiday items,

stationary, party goods, gift wrap etc. Give yourself several gifts when you visit the Senate Theater—a wonderful concert leaving both your spirit and heart filled, the chance to be in a building our grandparents and great-grandparents ad-

mired, a place where time stands still and a great Hallmark gift of your choice!

Look for me across from the record and fifty/fifty counter. See you soon at the Senate!

*Life* IS A SPECIAL OCCASION.  
Hallmark

# Men's Restroom Plumbing Fixed And Gutters Too

Lance Luce  
President, DTOS

If you said, wow, it must be a slow news month when they're writing about the men's bathroom plumbing, you would be wrong. It has been a busy month of building repairs and fixing things that have needed to be done. It became apparent to us some months ago that there was a problem with the men's restroom drains. Upon closer inspection through a hatch, looking up to the second floor, we found patches to the plumbing that had been done in the past. I'm not a plumber, but I'm pretty sure that wrapping a cloth around

a leaking drain pipe is not the proper fix! There was a towel or rag wrapped around the joint of one of the drain pipes to stop the dripping. We knew that correct measures needed to be taken, so we got a couple of quotes to properly repair the drains. The work is done, with white PVC pipe, and no more leak. The cost was about \$3,600. The old iron pipe pieces were totally rusted out.

The floor of the men's bathroom is yet another story. The terrazzo tile floor is sinking, and needs to be repaired. We haven't gotten a quote on

that work yet. If anyone would like to talk to us about helping in any way with that repair, we'll listen.

The East wall was painted this year and it looked beautiful. Until the heavy rain came again in August. According to the gutter man, some of the gutters were pulled away from the edge by at least an inch. Some of the seams were not together, and some of the flashing wasn't positioned right. So. Water, again, has come down the inside of the brick wall, and festered the plaster walls. He has reattached the gutters, etc. so

now, in theory, no more water should come inside. Old buildings are a constant source of maintenance.

There are other items that our volunteer crew has had to tackle this year, and my hat goes off to Building Manager, Michael Fisher and Kevin Werner as well as others, to keep things going. Contractors are busy with bigger jobs, and sometimes we are the small fish in the pond. They have been very diligent in making phone calls and appointments to get repairs done as needed to keep our theatre open.

# It's Time to Consider Serving

As the colder air begins to set in on the region and we prepare to see both National and Local elections take place, it's time again to select members to serve on the Board of Directors in 2016. Those selected will be serving a two year term pursuant to the by-laws of our organization. The only requirement is being a Playing Member in good standing.

Along with selecting members to serve a two year

term, we will also be looking for members to serve a one year term. With the death of Fred Bruflo in December of 2014 and George Orbits in April of 2015, we need to fill those vacancies that they left. Both were re-elected in last year's election. So, there are opportunities on both a long term and short term basis to help the organization.

It is expected to be a crucial time for the organization with many difficult decisions

that will need to be made. As a member of the board, you will have a voice as to the direction the organization takes in 2016 and beyond. Meetings take place the last Tuesday of every month (weather permitting) and usually last 2-3 hours. On occasion, additional meetings may take place regarding important topics or emergent things taking place. Every attempt will be made to avoid additional meetings but sometimes

Christopher Dengate  
Election Chairperson

it is unavoidable.

If you are interested in having a voice on the Board of Directors and serve either a one year or two year term, please contact me at (248) 361-3961. I will promptly return your call if I am unavailable and answer any other questions you may have. You may send me a note to my email address: dengates@att.net.

# Marquee Project Continues

Dave Calendine  
DTOS Board of Directors

It has been a bit since anything of major note has been mentioned regarding our missing marquee, but work is definitely ongoing for the project.

A call for bids was sent out to various sign manufac-

turing companies throughout the Metro Detroit area. They were invited to come to the Senate to scope out the project and submit bids.

The first step has been completed, as there were visits by some of the companies to

the Senate. Measurements were taken and a more in-depth look at the project was given. We are now awaiting the results of those visits in the form of bids to do the work. Once received, the Board can take the next step

on replacing the missing sign.

As the project continues, we will keep you informed of the progress. We hope to have the bids in the next few weeks.

# A Fun Time Was Had By All

Kevin Werner  
DTOS Board of Directors

Great weather, great food, great fellowship and great entertainment all compliments of our hosts Dave Voydanoff and Glenn Rank.

We couldn't have asked for a better day. The sun was shining, there was a cool breeze off of the water and the food was excellent. Again, a

special thanks to Dave and Glenn for providing all the food.

Many members came to the DTOS picnic which has been a tradition for many years because of the generosity of our hosts. Several members travelled from as far away as Ohio and other long distances

here in Michigan.

After lunch came the music. We all ventured to the "music room" which houses the Wurlitzer pipe organ. The organ, OPUS number 1193, a style 3D Wurlitzer, was originally installed in the Lancaster theater on W. Jefferson in

south west Detroit in 1925. After a few different owners it became the property of Dave Voydanoff.

Several people took their turn entertaining the group. DTOS members and guests gathered around the Wurlitzer for a wonderful afternoon.



Top Left: Lancaster Theatre Marquee shown on left side of picture. The theatre was located on Jefferson Ave. in south west Detroit.

Top Right: Ron Werner and Glenn Rank enjoy selections bring played by Lance Luce on the Wurlitzer.

Bottom: Guests sit outside in the sun and shade while enjoying music on the Wurlitzer.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE SENATE THEATER

October 18 – Ken Double in concert  
October 24 – Phantom of the Opera – silent movie with live organ accompaniment  
by Dennis Scott  
November 15 – Nathan Avakian in concert  
November 28 – Movie – Planes, Trains & Automobiles  
December 6 – Christmas Concert with John Lauter  
December 19 – Movie – Holiday Inn

Visit the website of the Detroit Theater Organ Society to see the most up-to-date listing of activities happening at the theater at [WWW.DTOS.ORG](http://WWW.DTOS.ORG).

## Organists Needed for Holiday Walk

Meadow Brook Hall at Oakland University

Once again the original-condition 1919 Aeolian organ in Meadow Brook Hall will be featured during the annual Holiday Walk from Thanksgiving until Christmas. Meadow Brook Hall was designated a National Historic Landmark

last year. It is the 88,000-square-foot former home of Alfred and Matilda Dodge Wilson, and is on the campus of Oakland University.

In past years, members of the DTOS, MCTOS, AGO and others, have generously joined in volunteering to

man the console and provide holiday music for the hall's visitors. Around the end of October, interested organists will be contacted to set up schedules. If you have an interest in playing this historic instrument and would like to be added to the con-

tact list, please contact Pete Townsend at: [ptownsend@comcast.net](mailto:ptownsend@comcast.net) so your name can be added to the email list. If you have an interest in a short practice or trial session prior to then, please also contact Pete.

## UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE REDFORD THEATRE

October 9 & 10–The Night of the Hunter  
October 16-18–Tippi Hedron in person, with movies The Birds and Marnie  
October 21–Back to the Future 2  
October 23–Young Frankenstein  
October 24–The Ghoul hosts Godzilla Fest  
October 31–E.T.  
October 31–Halloween  
November 5 & 7–Roman Holiday  
November 14–Classic Cartoon Festival

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)



DETROIT THEATER  
ORGAN SOCIETY

*Over 50 Years of Entertainment!*

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

[WWW.DTOS.ORG](http://WWW.DTOS.ORG)

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photo: Lance Luce

## **2015 Concert Series**

October 18—Ken Double

November 15—Nathan Avakian

December 6—John Lauter