



Music House Museum

Perfect Pitch

Newsletter for Friends of the Music House Museum - Fall 2015 - Vol. 16, Issue 2



Music House is Dancing With the Stars!

We are so happy to announce that the Music House has been chosen to be one of the charities to benefit from the 2015 Swing Shift and the Stars!

For those unfamiliar, SwingShift and the Stars began 2008 when Judy Harrison, owner of High Impact Productions which produces the event, created an event that would benefit financially and raise awareness of area Non-profits. The event features six charities each season and has to date raised of 1.5 million dollars for area charities. In addition to the fundraising, the event is an excellent vehicle to raise awareness of area charities and the good that they do for the community.

The event itself is styled after 'Dancing with the Stars'. Local 'stars' are paired with area dancers to compete for their assigned charities in four

dance-offs that take place on the third Friday of each month from Sept. to Dec. Like 'Dancing with the Stars', there is a panel of judges that vote on the six dance teams. The audience also gets to vote for their favorite! The winners of the evening dance-off are awarded cash prizes for their charities for both the judges' award and the audience choice award. In addition, the audience gets to vote with their donation dollars. Each event features a different style and theme with music being provided by SwingShift, an elite ten-piece band, playing jazz, Latin, Swing-era and dance favorites. The night begins with free dance lessons for guests and ends with a SwingShift performance that allows guests to try-out their new dance moves while the votes are being tabulated.



We are so excited to announce our 'Star' and dance instructor! Our star is the lovely Kristen Lowe, evening news anchor for NBC's 7 & 4 News. Her dance instructor also carries some star power as he is Lite 93 fm morning radio show host, Tim Nixon.

We invite all to attend one or all of the dance events and support the Music House! The event dates this year are Sept. 18th, Oct. 16th, Nov. 20th and Dec. 18th at the City Opera House in downtown Traverse City and the doors open at 6:30 pm. There is a link on our website for purchasing tickets or you can contact the Opera House Box Office to purchase them directly. Ticket costs are \$30 for VIP seats and \$25 for General Admissions (General Tickets already sold out).* This event has become very popular because it is so much fun so be sure to order your tickets early.



If you cannot attend the events and wish to make a donation to the Music House's event totals you can do this through our website or by sending a check to Music House Museum, PO Box 297, Acme, MI 49610-0297. Please note 'Swing Shift' in the check memo. Each donation will be added into the event totals so will help us win the award to the month!

You can also find your team's dance results as well as on-going fund-raising results throughout the season by visiting our website www.swingshiftandthestars.com and they can donate directly to your organization there too!

* Please note that there will be a \$2 Wharton Center processing fee and the cost of the **tickets are not donations to the charities** but are to help offset production expenses.

We Will Miss this Wonderful Intern, Thank-you Ciara



My name is Ciara Larson, I'm a sophomore at Western Michigan University. My major is public history with minors in anthropology focused on archaeology and Latin. Basically, all of these things boil down to the fact that I want to work with very old artifacts within a museum. I've lived in Traverse City for about 7 years and I've been involved with music for the past 10 years, so naturally the Music House caught my interest.

I'm interning at the Music House Museum in order to learn how museums are run and operated and gain experience. I've worked here for about 4 months, and during that time, I've dipped my toe into just about every facet involved in museum operations; from marketing, to docent work, to finances. In addition, I was also set to work on a few projects, including archiving, reorganizing, and researching various things. I've met a multitude of incredible people who have enlightened me on just how amazing of a feeling it is to get the public excited about history. Museums are magical places where history truly does come to life, and it is an incredible feeling just to be a part of it.

My favorite part was definitely tours. I loved training for them and that sense of accomplishment both when I did my first presentation of an instrument, and when I finally completed my first full tour. It's been a fantastic experience, and I've never been so sure that I have found the perfect career for me. ☺

President's Message by Dorothy Clore

This newsletter comes to you earlier than usual (although I hope we can publish another edition later this year and establish a practice of at least three newsletters/year). Life at the our museum is so busy and exciting we are compelled to tell you about it.

Although we had to tap into a line of credit in order to finish the roof - the work is completed! During construction Mariage Roofing discovered that a complete tear-off was not necessary so we saved some money in that department - but of course by spending just a few thousand dollars more we could put a new roof over the gallery (self-guided collection) of the building. That work was also completed along with new eave troughs, considerable inside painting in the barn, and trim painting on the outside. We have new, more-visible signage. Trees have been removed and/or trimmed. We lost trees and limbs in a recent, severe storm, but the buildings are fine and we are grateful that the roof and surrounding tree work was done before this storm hit (early August).

School Days had to be re-scheduled for November due to construction work on the roof, but our pre-/post-construction clean-up efforts resulted in a very thorough cleaning and re-positioning of items so we have a new look inside as well as out. We were able to open our season on time.

This season's event offerings have been successful. You will read elsewhere about the Antiques and Collectibles sale. Please consider donating to this or becoming a consignor yourself next year. We have had presentations about phonographs (Jim Warner) and clocks (Dave Hartman) and will have one by Chad Pastonik (a local printer and original book maker) in September. By the time you read this, actor Damaris Pike will have performed her "Evening with Frankie Gershwin", Peter Bergen's Ragtime Concert, and two silent movies plus Pipes and Pizza will have occurred. (Note elsewhere the schedule of other events for Sept - Dec.)

A very new and exciting fund-raiser is coming up - our participation in Traverse City's annual "Swing Shift and the Stars". We were invited along with five other area non-profits to participate in this. Please see Kelly Curtis's article providing detailed information and find out how you too can participate. We were given a very generous \$10,000 donation to start up our account and we hope to match that during this fund-raising event.

The gift of that amount, by a donor who had examined the Museum's recent financial reports, indicates that he believes our Board and staff are good stewards of our financial resources. In addition, we were complimented by a grant panel on our decision to use the Heffer money to pay off our mortgage. Everyone on staff continues to work hard to provide outstanding tours for our guests, increase tour business, and guarantee that the daily operation runs smoothly. It is thanks to them, our volunteers, our members and donors that the Music House Museum is thriving and moving forward in very positive directions. It continues to be a pleasure and a privilege to represent this very special museum.

We Have a Roof and it is Beautiful!!



While it was touch and go for us this spring, Mother Nature cooperated and the new roof was completed at the end of April in time for opening day on May 1st. We had added incentive to get everything cleaned, tuned and back in place as we hosted the regional conference for Music Box Society International and the Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association on May 7th. All went well with the help of many volunteers and the staff.

We were also very grateful for making the decision to replace the roof this last Spring while we were still in the process of fundraising. We had one of the strongest storms the area has ever seen go through on Aug. 2nd. You may have seen the video taken by Dee Smith (it has been viewed almost six million times!) as the storm was passing just behind us. We are still cleaning up the downed trees and branches. The Music House was very lucky that we had minimal building damage and also realized that the old roof would never have lasted through this storm. The new roof kept our collection safe and dry!



Did you know we now have many of our gift shop products for sale on musichouse.org website via our Online Music Museum Store?

You can order online in the privacy of your home and choose to pick up at the museum at your leisure- no shipping charge, of course!

We carry a diverse collection of music boxes, instrument-designed jewelry, CD's, and even musical related house wares, from sophisticated to whimsical!

Come visit our gift shop at The Music House Museum during the month of September and receive 10% off your purchase by just mentioning you saw this article in the *Perfect Pitch*!

Missing and Needing Volunteers *by Ellie Holdsworth*

We could never survive without our volunteers! There many ways that you can help. New or old volunteers are welcome!!

1) If you've ever been a volunteer at the Music House, chances are you may still be on our list, even if we've been out of touch! Please let Ellie (264-5451) know if you're still interested or not.

2) We are always "in the market" for new volunteers, so please let your friends, relatives, neighbors know about the opportunity.

MORE FUN EVENTS!!!

Concerts:

Pizza and Pipes with Fr. Andrew Rogers - Sept. 18, 6 pm. Gourmet dinner and a very special concert on the 'Mighty' Wurlitzer. This has become one of our most popular events!



Christmas Concert and Sing-a-long with Fr. Andrew Rogers - Nov. 27, 7 pm. This fun family event was so popular last year that we are doing it again. Come in and get your holiday spirit on!

Educational Talks:

Our final speaker in the series is traditional book maker, Chad Pastonik of Deep Wood Press talking about the art of traditional bookmaking on Sept. 17 at 7 pm.



Open Houses:

Family Day at the Music House -Sept. 13, noon to 4 p

A fun event for the whole family with games, special discounted admissions, popcorn and tours geared to the youngsters.

Christmas Open House - Dec. 20th, noon to 4 pm. This is a chance for us to show off our beautiful Christmas decorations with special admission discounts and tours.

SILENT FILM SERIES HAS FOUR MORE FILMS!

September 19th – 5:30 and 7:30 pm

Hot Water (1924) – Starring Harold Lloyd, featuring Fr. Andrew Rogers



Fr. Rogers has chosen a hilarious, episodic look at married life and in-law problems starring Harold Lloyd. Adventures include a ride on a crowded trolley with a live turkey; a wild spin in a new auto with the in-laws in tow; and a sequence in which Hubby accidentally chloroforms his mother-in-law and is convinced that he has killed her. When she begins sleep-walking, he thinks that she has returned to haunt him.

October 23rd and 24th – 5:30 pm

Alfred Hitchcock's **The Lodger (1927)** featuring Fr. Andrew Rogers



Fr. Rogers has chosen suspense for the October film, a perfect fit for Halloween! This film starring Ivor Novello is considered Alfred Hitchcock's best silent film. Hitchcock also considers this his first film in the 'suspense' genre that he is so famous for. A landlady suspects her new lodger is the madman killing women in London, a serial killer known as "The Avenger", based on Jack the Ripper.

November 28th – 5:30 and 7:30 pm

A Christmas Carol (1910), A Christmas Accident (1911), The Adventure of the Wrong Santa Claus (1914) and Santa Claus Vs. Cupid (1915) Featuring Fr. Andrew Rogers

Fr. Rogers will be back again in November and we are so happy to have him! Because of scheduling conflicts with other artists, Fr. Rogers, a brilliant theater organist and crowd favorite, has stepped in to fill in these gaps. For the holidays he has chosen four classic Christmas films highlighting a Christmas past. These four enchanting silent films offer a nostalgic peek into the Yuletide pleasures of the early 1900's.



December 29th – 5:30 and 7:30 pm

Film to be determined featuring Stephen Warner

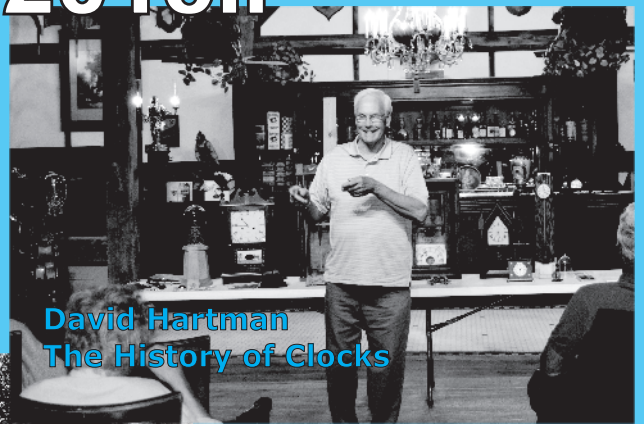
We are very excited to be bring back Traverse City native, organist Stephen Warner, to round out our season. He is the organist at Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit and a staff organist at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor. He grew up in Traverse City, Michigan, where he studied piano from age seven and participated in almost every facet of the Traverse City Public Schools music program. He as a dual degree in organ performance and mechanical engineering at U of M. Mr. Warner studied engineering primarily due to his interest in organ building and is an assistant for the Holden Pipe Organ Company.



Summer Fun 2015!!



Music Box Society International
Regional Conference in May



David Hartman
The History of Clocks



Damaris Pike as
Frankie Gershwin



Cherry Festival 2015
Patte and Ciara thrilling the kids



Dale and Gail Zeiger
Concert and Silent Film



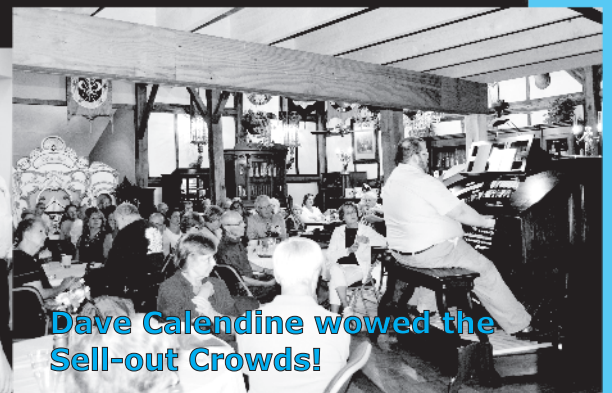
Swing Shift and the Stars
Media Release Party



Peter Bergin's Ragtime Concert



Our Fabulous Dance Team
Tim Nixon and Kristen Lowe!



Dave Calendine wowed the
Sell-out Crowds!

Operations Manager Report by AJ Morley

Greetings and salutations, fans and friends of the Music house Museum. I can't believe we are half way through our 2015 Season already! It's been a great season so far. Our new roof has been a huge blessing. We have a lot more control over our temperature and humidity levels in the barn, thus keeping all of our instruments in better condition. The roof also helped us survive the big storm of 2015 with minimal damage.

Our Bruder "Columbia" Fair Organ made its way back to the Museum the second week in May after spending the winter down in Ohio for restoration work. The Museum was far too quiet without her.

The tours have been steady, the Silent films have been fun, and the Concerts have been magical. Have we seen your smiling face yet this season? If not, we still have a lot of wonderful events on the horizon. Already been in and can't get enough of the Music House Museum? Become a member and see more, more often! We have memberships for all different groups from students, to teachers, to families, to grandparents, all the way to corporate memberships. If you are interested, we have a membership plan for you! I hope the summer has treated you all very well. And I look forward to seeing all of you as we say goodbye to summer and welcome in the fall. Thank you so much for your support. See you soon!

What's Happening in Marketing and Development by Kelly Roberts-Curtis

Crazy wonderful times at the Music House but it is all good...well most of it is. The only real negative has been the road construction season. While the work on US 31 was much needed and they have done a beautiful job on the first section, there was a definite effect on museum traffic. And they will begin the second section on Sept. 1st. The traffic challenges from the first portion of the reconstruction led to a 20% decrease in admissions over last year's numbers and we are nervous about the effects of the fall road construction. The financial challenges are augmented by the necessity to replace the roof before we were able to do the necessary fundraising. We are really happy that we made this decision, as our Aug. 2nd storm would have destroyed our old roof and we don't want to think about the damage that it would have cause to the collection! The gifts that we received from our generous donors and the \$20,000 grant from Michigan Council of Arts and Community Affairs (MCACA) helped, but we were still forced to pay the \$90,000 balance through our line of credit. This has added to our already challenged Operational Budget.

On the positive side of this, we have had amazing traffic for July and August and our events have been very well attended. While this may not be enough to make up for our Spring and possible Fall numbers we have some pretty exciting news on our horizon!

As you have likely already read, we were chosen to be a part of Swing Shift and the Stars Dance-off for Charity. Not only does this opportunity offer a fundraising avenue to help pay off the line of credit for the roof, but it also gives our wonderful Music House amazing exposure. The exposure alone is worth the work we have been, and will be, putting into the event! (You can get ticket information or donate online through our website musichouse.org)

We also will be hearing about our MCACA 2015/16 Grant, for up to \$25,000 Operational Support, on Sept. 18th. In watching the review panel discuss the application our prospects look very good. The reviewers said that the grant was 'a pleasure to read' and that 'other organizations should be looking at our board and do what they are doing'. Anyone who has ever written a grant knows that this is a really good sign.

I will let you know how things turned out for Swing Shift and the Grant in our next newsletter or, better yet, follow us on Facebook, Twitter (@musichousemuse) and check out the website often! We have a great online store.

Collections Committee Report *by Bruce Ahlich*

The spring of this year saw the completion of the Bruder restoration project. This 1913 instrument, formerly at the Wildwoods Amusement Park in Cape May, New Jersey, was mechanically restored and its library was expanded with the addition of 10 extended play music books. The organ sounds very nice and even louder with all of the air leaks repaired and all pipes playing.

In anticipation of the Bruder's return, significant reorganization of the automated pianos and orchestrions took place with new platforms being built to replace the 1980s versions that were significantly sagging. Recognition and thanks should be given to the many volunteers who helped complete the project building platforms (Bob Clore), sorting through wall displays to determine what were originals and what were reproductions (Cindy Ciaravino and Patte Richards) and others who helped muscle instruments around and hang things back up (Matt Olson, John Verplough, Brad Clingan, Mike Anderson, Glenn Kriese, and Matt Stow).

Partially funded by a grant from the Fanny Wurlitzer Foundation, the Museum's "Cinderella" Wurlitzer pipe organ had its original toy chest restored to it and its missing Glockenspiel replaced in the early summer. These replaced electronic digital reproductions that had been used up to now. With the exception of its Marimba/Harp percussion, the instrument is completed.

Three projects are pending completion at this time. The Museum's 1830s Black Forest Clock has been returned from the shop of Nathan Bower, a nationally known clockmaker in the Grand Traverse area. It is now outfitted with an antique English clock movement and chime. The two rank pipe organ that will be played by it on the hour after chiming the hour has been examined and proclaimed in good condition. The clock is presently in the Gallery opposite the mini city display. Work continues on obtaining hands and a new face for it as well as minor adjustments. It is hoped that by the fall this two year project will be finished and able to be heard by our visiting public. Special kudos to Bob Clore.

The Museum's Vorsetzer reproducing piano player is being restored in the shop of the G.M. Buck Pipe Organ Company. It was discovered when its stacks were disassembled that inferior materials were used in a earlier restoration and had deteriorated literally melting within the mechanism. This has delayed the project significantly in terms of completion. The Museum's French Serineette, a part of the Levy Collection dating from the time of the French Revolution, is also undergoing restoration.

The Museum will be receiving in the fall an Ampico A reproducing piano housed in a Haines Bros baby grand. The instrument will be added to the Music Room display necessitating a rearrangement of instruments found there and physical modifications to the space. This will be a project is slated to start the week of August 22 in the evenings/late afternoon. The piano will arrive with a library of 160 Ampico reproducing rolls. The instrument presently plays, but it is anticipated some minor restoration work will be needed.

In the Gallery, a new barrel piano is on display. Built in Barcelona, Spain at the turn of the last century, it is awaiting a tuning in order to test it. The owner who sold it to the Museum had purchased it in the 1970's from an antique store in Interlochen where his parents had a cottage on Duck Lake. The instrument has a large wood barrel with nine tunes on it and is also outfitted with five "Spanish" bells.

The Music House received as donations several organettes, an Edison talking doll, and on loan, a French station music box from the collections of Henry and Lucille Childs of Sparta, Michigan. These are displayed in the General Store, Music Room and the Gift Shop. As we continue to expand and increase the depth of the Museum's collections, please keep us in mind if you have heard of or have an item that might be of interest. Again, thank you to all of you who have assisted with financial support of our projects.



Antiques and Collectibles Sale *by Ellie Holdsworth*

Once again we have had a very successful Antique & Collectibles Sale. Our 4th annual event saw almost twice the number of consignors participating, and we had a record attendance of 200. After paying the consignors their percentage and covering advertising expenses, the museum realized a net profit of almost \$2000. We are so grateful to all of our who volunteers did a great job in creating the displays of all or our treasures and handling the big crowds.

Recognitions *by Dorothy Clore*

It is with sorrow that we note the passage of former board member *Gene Veliquette* (member from 2005-2011) who not only contributed financially to the museum's success but provided considerable property improvements with his large machines....It was with regret that we also accepted the resignation of *John Perschbacher* who was with us about two years and often served as a host for movie events in addition to his work on the Board. He is being married this fall and we wish him and Shirley the best possible future together....In addition, our intern from Western Michigan University, *Ciara Lawson* has completed her work with us and returns to WMU this fall to continue her work on a degree in Public Preservation. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have her help us this summer, with everything from docent assistance to computer upgrades. We are flattered that she chose our museum as a place to help complete her course requirements and appreciate her young eyes and youthful energy contributions to our aged collection.

Board of Directors 2015

Dorothy Clore, President
Bruce Ahlich, Vice President
Ellie Holdsworth, Secretary
Sally Lewis, Treasurer
Cynthia Ciaravino, Director
Jim Cox, Director
Robert Jackson, Director
Patricia J. Richards, Director
Ruth Stow, Director
Jim Warner, Director

Music House Membership

Please refer to the insert in this issue of the *Perfect Pitch*. Your membership contribution means so much in support of our daily expenses and our special programs. Thank you.

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for up-to-date and in-depth information !

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