



# Music House Museum *Perfect Pitch*

Newsletter for Friends of the Music House Museum - Spring 2017- Vol. 18, Issue 1

## Board of Directors 2017

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## President's Message *by Dorothy Clore*

The Music House Museum Board conducted its annual meeting in March of this year and we are pleased to report that for the first time in anyone's memory we were able to pay bills through the winter without having to borrow money from a line of credit. While we are not out of the financial "woods" by any means, we feel we are being good stewards of the museum and making great progress.

In April we are meeting to review our Strategic Plan to be sure our actions are in line with established goals. Our calendar of events for 2017 is in place and we look forward to sharing many special times with all of you.

In addition to on-going offerings such as School Days, silent movies, and concerts, Board members and volunteers are already hard at work converting the Lyric Theatre area to a much-needed storage and staging space. This will make it easier for staff and caterers to host parties where food is served. The Board has also identified other facility needs such as additional heating/air conditioning in our lobby/office and silent gallery areas, replacements for and repairs to existing doors, and additional landscaping. So of course we continue to search for sources of funding and additional volunteer help.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see photos of accomplishments, information about upcoming events, and information about ways that you can become involved with our museum life. We look forward to seeing as many of you, your families and friends, as possible in 2017. Do join us as able.

## Winterizing the Collection *By Bruce Ahlich*

One of the common misconceptions is that everything goes into hibernation during the winter season at the Museum. Although the heat is turned down to "jacket" temperatures and instruments "winterized", humidification of the space and activity continues in terms of repairing and restoring instruments.

During this winter repairs were made to the 1913 Losche orchestrion and the 1917 Cremona. The 1921 Haines Bros. Ampico A baby grand is in the process of having the piano restored. Staff met and came up with a monthly preventative maintenance plan to avoid instrument "down time". The 1890 Turconi (Greek) barrel piano was restored with a new sound board and piano strings, and repaired mechanism. All are sounding much better. The pump on the 1925 Weber Duo Art reproducing piano is presently being rebuilt to eliminate a "knocking" that has developed after 92 years. Volunteer Doug

White restored our Rockola juke box adding it to our Wurlitzer Model 1015 (bubble) as a working example of this phonograph genre.

Other projects extend into and through the 2017 season as we continue to work to bring additional instruments "on-line". These include the 1904 Welte-Mignon Vorsetzer, 1800 French Serinette, Ampico A reproducing mechanism, a 1890s Pianola piano player and a newly acquired Paillard 18 inch cylinder music box circa 1880s.

The funding of many of the restoration projects is provided by earnings from our Hughes Endowment supplemented by private donations.

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1920s Waltham's Piano Co. Electotone



# A Few Good Volunteers!

## Volunteer Tea/Coffee and Dessert Get Together

### April 13, 1 pm @ The Music House

Save this date! April 13 at 1 p.m. we invite our volunteers to the Music House Museum for our annual meeting. We will look at our slate of events and projects for the 2017 season and explore opportunities for volunteering. If you have thought about volunteering in the past but would like more information about how to get involved in Museum life, now's your chance. Please R.S.V.P. to [tours.events@musichouse.org](mailto:tours.events@musichouse.org) by Monday, April 10, so we can plan delicious refreshments for you! Feel free to bring a friend. See you April 13.

## Springtime Volunteer Needs *By Bruce Ahlich*

Anyone associated with a non-profit organization will tell you that the effective use of volunteers is vital for its success. Volunteer labor enables work to be accomplished that otherwise could not be done or paid for. The Music House Museum is not any different. Its volunteers are the life blood providing for our success.

Volunteers (all ages needed) help with mailings, working events selling concessions or escorting guests, helping repair instruments, facility improvements, landscaping, cleaning and organizing. We are looking to expand our volunteer pool this coming season to take advantage of the expertise available to us.

Spring cleaning is coming up and with the Museum's reputation as having a well-kept facility and displays. Our efforts begin in early April to sweep, Swiffer, and polish the Galleries, Lobby and Museum proper so that we "shine" for our opening May 1st. Two weeks following those dates (April 23 and 24th) is reserved for outside work raking, trimming, and planting for the opening the following Sunday. More information will be available at our Volunteer get-together on April 13th and will be available on our website ([musichouse.org](http://musichouse.org)) and on Facebook. Please check your calendars and mark off time if able to help prepare for our opening for the 2017 season.

## Winterizing the Collection *(Continued from pg. 1)*

A small portion of the Endowment earnings fund minor repairs to existing instruments as well as fund insurance coverage on the instruments. A majority of the earnings that are available for Museum use are specifically directed to the acquisition of new instruments and their restoration. Funds are very much dependent on stock market performance.

Last spring the Museum acquired a circa 1920s Waltham's Piano Company Electotone automated piano in an instrument trade. With a bank of organ reeds and a mandolin rail, this roll playing instrument is one of two surviving by this Milwaukee based builder (1885-1931) known to still exist. This rare and beautiful instrument will be restored in the fall of 2017 and on display in the Saloon to be played on tours for the 2018 season.

The Board, this past March, authorized the purchase of an 1894 Aeolian Grand player reed organ from a collector in Ohio. These

instruments were built for a short period of time between 1890 and 1900 before the player piano took over the market. Equipped with seven (7) ranks of reeds (two manual and five played by a 58 note roll), this instrument will round out the roll playing residential instruments in our collection. Plans are, after some facility improvements, to display and demonstrate it during the 2019 season. As you see, there is a lot of activity going on whilst we are closed at the Music House.



## The Man Behind the Music by AJ Morley



Here at the Music House Museum we pride ourselves on the unique journey we are able to share with our guests. We have sights and sounds that can't be seen anywhere else. But have you ever wondered who is behind keeping all our instruments sounding so good? Today I would like to introduce you to the man who does most of our restoration and all of the upkeep on our beautiful collection of instruments, Glenn Kriesel! Glenn is the first-born child in a family of five which included two sisters. The Kriesels raised their family in Detroit and prided themselves on being mechanically inclined. Glenn attended Oakland University where he left with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology as well as a Bachelor's in Economics. Before leaving school, Glenn started at the Oakland Press in Detroit. He would stay for four years running

their mailroom and being in charge of distribution. He would later spend half a decade working for the Dept of the Army as an Industrial Specialist and later a Contract Specialist. But during his time at Oakland Press, Glenn became interested in Player Pianos. It started by accompanying his mother to purchase a player piano. As soon as the instrument made its way home with them, Glenn became fascinated with the mechanics and inner workings. Glenn decided he would go to the library and learn everything he could about the instruments. And forty years later, he's still at it. He is completely self-taught. Glenn's tuned ear and eye for detail makes him an intricate part of helping the Museum to function. Not only does he maintain our collection, but he shares his wisdom with his customers all over the state. When asked what his most consistent challenge is he replies, "Time. As the instruments continue to age their original adhesives and parts start to break down. Finding duplicate materials sometimes proves impossible." Glenn has been a staple of the Museum for over two decades now. He has worked on countless instruments, helped with numerous events, and continues to be a wealth of knowledge for Docents, Interns, and anyone else that has a passion for these Instruments. If music is the soundtrack to our lives, then thank you Glenn for keeping our soundtrack going!

## Getting Ready for the Big Sale!

Our 6th annual **Antique & Collectibles Consignment Sale** is planned for Friday and Saturday, June 15th & 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., so get your things ready and plan to participate. Bring us your treasures and let us do the work for you! We will be on-site Saturday, June 10th and Tuesday, June 13th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. to provide you with instructions and tags for your items. At that time, consignors will pay a non-returnable fee of \$20 for set-up and clean-up.

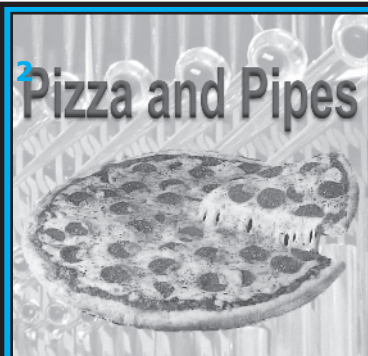
Intake of items will take place on Thurs., June 15th, 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Questions/comments may be directed to:

Ellie Holdsworth (phone: 231-264-5451; email: [billell@chartermi.net](mailto:billell@chartermi.net)) or

Dorothy Clore (phone: 231-331-6587; email: [dorothylclore@gmail.com](mailto:dorothylclore@gmail.com)).

Please keep in mind that we accept items starting at a value of \$10.00. We cannot accept clothing/shoes, TVs, microwaves, computers and/or related items, records or piano rolls. Note that the Music House retains 25% of sales.



## Double the Deliciousness!

Our **Pizza and Pipes: Dinner and Concert** remains one of our most popular events so we will be bringing you two again this year! Guests are treated to a delicious gourmet pizza dinner and a Wurlitzer concert from world-renowned organist, Dave Calendine.

Red Wings and Fox Theater Organist, Calendine, will be entertaining audiences July 15th and December 27th at 6 pm. Dave will bring his amazing skills and fascinating antidotes for two shows that you will not want to miss. He loves to take requests too!



# Music House's 2017 Silent Films

**June 10 – 5:30 pm & 7:30 pm**

**The Son of the Sheik (1926)** - With Rudolph Valentino and Featuring Steve Larson on Piano



In Valentino's final film, considered by many his best, he is the son of the Sheik who falls in love with the wrong woman and finds himself held for ransom by a den of Moorish thieves.

**July 21 & 22 – 6:30 Documentary, 7 pm**

**Ben Hur (1925)**  
featuring Fr. Andrew Rogers



A short documentary of this classic will be shown at 6:30 with the movie at 7 p. This 3.5 million dollar film was the most expensive silent film ever made and MGM's first big hit.

**August 26 – 5:30 & 7:30 pm**

**Safety Last (1923) starring Harold Lloyd**  
featuring Steven Ball



When a store clerk (Lloyd) organizes a publicity stunt, in which a friend climbs the outside of a tall building, circumstances force him to make the perilous climb himself. This hilarious comedy is Lloyd's best known because of his amazing and funny stunt work. It will be accompanied by renowned Steven Ball who is traveling from Atlantic City, NJ.



**September 23rd – 5:30 and 7:30 pm**

**Steamboat Bill Jr. (1918)** with Buster Keaton  
Featuring Dale and Gail Zieger



The effete son (Keaton) of a cantankerous riverboat captain comes to join his father's crew finding love and helping his father save his riverboat in this classic Buster Keaton film.

**October 20th – 5:30 and 7:30 pm**

**Phantom (1925)** Featuring Andrew Rogers



Music House Museum is presenting Phantom of the Opera starring Lon Chaney Sr. with accompaniment by Andrew Rogers on the 'Mighty Wurlitzer'. Experience this 1925 horror classic silent film as it was meant to be seen.

**November 25th – 5:30 and 7:30 pm**

**Silents with a Side of Christmas**  
Featuring Dave Calendine



Dave Calendine is putting together a delightful collection of short films that include classics from Charlie Chaplin, Laurel and Hardy and little known magical holiday shorts. It will be a perfect evening of fun and great music!

**December 28th – 5:30 and 7:30 pm**

**To Be Announced**

featuring Red Wing Organist Dave Calendine

Red Wing's and Fox Theater organist, Dave Calendine, is going to accompany a second great evening classic silent films. A treat for the whole family! Check our website for details on this and all of our season events.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fall 'Fun'd-raiser

Much of a non-profit's expenses often from the non-glamorous Operational expenses and finding grant monies to support this is difficult. We will be fund-raising for such projects as the Lyric theatre and General Store make-overs, door repairs/replacements, etc. To help with these dull but imperative expenses we are throwing a party on Oct. 8th from 6 p to 8:30 p. This will include fun, food, beverages, a silent auction and beautiful music from Miriam Pico and David Chown. Be sure to mark your calendars!

## *A Season of Amazing Concerts!!!*



**Charlie Millard Band**  
May 20



**Peter Bergrin**  
August 6



**Gail and Dale Zieger**  
September 22



**Dave Calendine**  
November 24

We have been hard at work all winter putting together another exciting season. Our goal is provide a wide variety of music to suit many musical tastes. We are bringing back several of our popular performers from past seasons as well as adding some exciting new events.

Favorites that will be returning will be Kalamazoo's Barry Ross (violin) and Steve Kamerling (guitar and vocals) who charmed and entertained guests last year with their musical talent and humor. Also returning, ragtime pianist Peter Bergen, who has as much fun playing our pianos as the audience has hearing him play. Dale and Gail Zieger will be gracing our venue again this year with their charm and piano and organ duets. We will, of course, be bringing back our wildly successful Pizza and Pipes (x2) and our Christmas Concert Sing-a-long with Dave Calendine.

In addition to these returning favorites we have a number of exiting new performers. Charlie Millard impressed us at last year's 'Accidentals and Friends' concert. This gifted pianist and singer/songwriter will be bringing along his band for a great night of music May. In August guests will be treated to the Aeolian Chorus from the Detroit area. This 20 voice a cappella group will be filling the rafters with sounds from classical to jazz.

In Oct. we are honored to present John Ledwon. This West Coast based organist is known around the world and has been featured in numerous film scores.

Our final concert of the year will feature internationally acclaimed harpist Marta Power Luce. While originally from the area, Marta studied at Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris, in France where she now teaches and performs.

We are even adding in some dancing fun on May 19th. Please check out our website for event details!



**Ross & Kamerling**  
June 17



**Aeolian Chorus**  
August 25



**John Ledwon**  
October 21



**Marta Powers Luce**  
December 29



## Facilities Improvements *By Bruce Ahlich*

For many years the Museum has talked about the need to improve our catering and storage facilities as we try to grow the line of income from special events. Work has begun on Phase One of the project to renovate the former "Little Theater" into a catering staging and organized storage area. Items stored in the former "Candy Store" will be moved into the renovated area when finished.

The space has been gutted and preliminary framing put up thanks to volunteer labor provided by Bob Clore, Jim Warner, Jim Cox, Bruce Ahlich, and Milton Osgood.

**Volunteers are needed to finish this phase of the project before we open on May 1st.** Plumbing, dry wall, painting need to be done as well as new flooring and doors still need to be installed. If interested and able to help, please contact the Museum (231 938-9301) or Bob Clore (231 313-0351) who is coordinating the project. If you are not skilled at construction, monetary donations to help purchase materials are welcome as well.

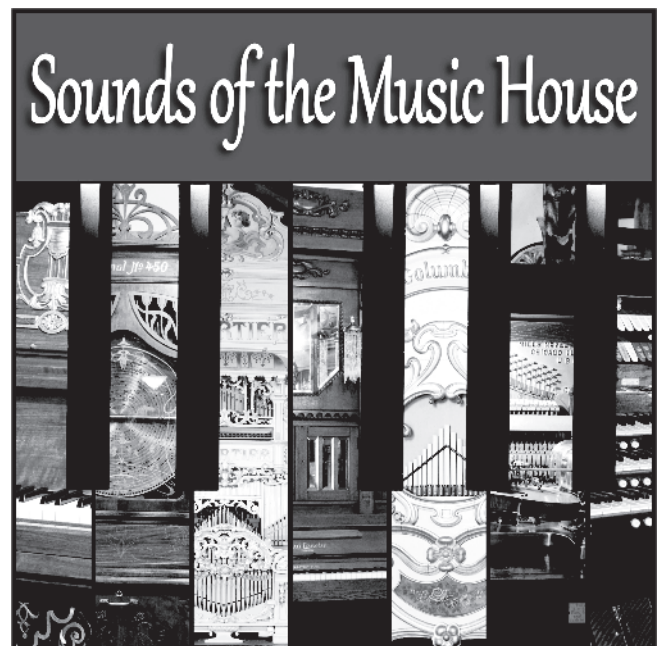
The second phase of the project will renovate the "Candy Store" space to perhaps house the Miniature City allowing the building to be geographically positioned correctly and additional building currently in storage to be displayed. This will free up gallery and lobby space for Phase Three.

Phase Three will be to down-size the General Store space. The area doesn't have a great deal to do with the Museum's focus on automated instruments and takes up a large foot print. Downsizing would open up additional space for displays and seating for events. Gallery space occupied by the Miniature City would be used to display cylinder and disc instruments grouped together. Phase Three will also include reorganizing the phonograph gallery into chronological order and removing duplicates creating space for additional items now in storage.

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

Spring is always a busy and exciting time at the Music House with the planning for our season marketing and event schedule, School Days, grant writing and more. As much of this has been covered I thought that I would share one exciting project that has been in the works for the last several months. We are thrilled to be producing a new CD!! 'Sounds of the Music House' features 27 songs from a selection of 15 of our most popular instruments. Produced, recorded, mixed and mastered by Howard Byrne for the Music House Museum, with technical assistance and direction from A.J. Morley and Andy Struble, this beautiful CD is will be available by May 1st both in our Gift Shop and on our website. Bruce Ahlich contributed the information for the liner notes and I was honored to be asked to provide the artwork.

We are looking forward to another exciting year of beautiful music and fun and are looking forward to seeing you all!



# *Fall Season Fun at the Music House*



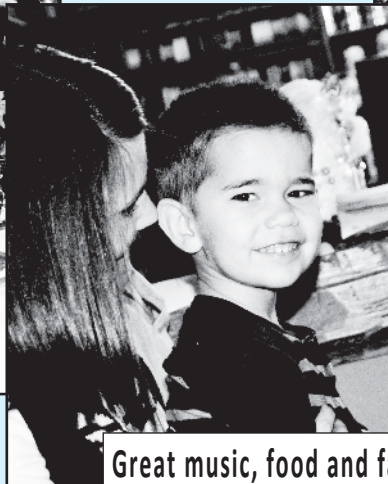
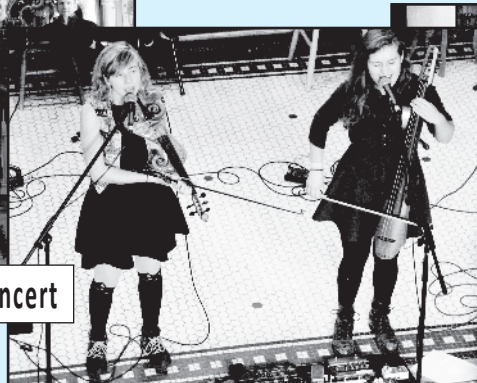
Shopping fun and fundraising at Talbots



Volunteers decking the halls



The Accidentals and Friends Concert



Great music, food and family fun with Dave Calendine



## Become a Member of MHM!

We are always most grateful for your purchase of a membership at the Music House Museum. Memberships not only provide support for the Museum programs, instruments and operational expenses, but also benefit you with free admission, guest passes and Gift Certificates for the Museum Gift Shop. Please consider becoming a Music House member in one of the following categories:

**Individual - \$35.00**  
**Family - \$50.00**  
**Couple - \$40.00**  
**Grandparent - \$45.00**  
**Supporting - \$100.00**  
**Sustaining - \$250.00**  
**Benefactor - \$500.00**  
**Angel - \$1,000.00**

We also offer Student memberships at \$5.00, and free Teacher memberships.



## Community Cash

Local Village Markets in Alden and Elk Rapids generously donate 1% of receipts for gas and groceries collected from Labor Day through Memorial week ends annually to various local organizations. For the third year we are participating in this program and appreciate support from those of you who live and shop in the Alden and/or Elk Rapids areas. If you shop at these stores and are willing to collect your slips for us we will be most grateful. Slips can be dropped off at the museum or sent to Dorothy Clore at PO Box 474, Alden, MI 49612 any time between now and May 31, 2017. Be sure to use a pen to circle the date, and the amt. indicated by "community cash." If you are purchasing gas, please be sure to request a receipt and a "CC" stamp on the slip.

Follow the Music House Museum on Social Media  
for up-to-date and in-depth information !



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