



# Music House Museum *Perfect Pitch*

Newsletter for Friends of the Music House Museum - Fall 2016- Vol. 17, Issue 2

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## President's Message *by Dorothy Clore*

I hope that all of you have enjoyed, or are perhaps still enjoying, a relaxing and fun-filled time with friends and family. We are grateful to those of you who have spent time at the Music House, whether as visitors, volunteers, patrons of specific events, or acting as hosts for private parties.

One of the many joys for the Board and staff members is our opportunity to meet old friends and former visitors but also a great many people who have come to marvel at the wonders of our collection for the first time. Thanks to our marketing efforts, and particularly our participation in Traverse City's Dancing with the Stars last year, our attendance is up and we are seeing many new faces.

This year we have also expanded our calendar of events to include new artists - some from the area like pianists Steve Larson, Peter Bergin, David Chown, singer Miriam Pico, and The Accidentals, but others from farther away such as, Steve Kamerling and Barry Ross from Kalamazoo who performed with "Dr. Weber" (the reproducing "Gershwin" piano),

our "regular" silent movie organists from southern Michigan, Damaris Pike from Ohio, and a young pianist, ChaoJun Yang, hosted by her instructor, Michael Coonrod of Interlochen Arts Academy. We are also enjoying increased volunteer participation by some new people as well as long-standing helpers. We welcomed new consignors to our sale, appreciate all the yard work done by those gifted with landscaping talents, and found that our spring clean-up inside was accomplished in record time thanks to those dedicated to Beeswaxing nearly everything in sight. While there is always more to do, we are grateful to the many hands that help us along the way and hope you will consider increasing your efforts to help make us even more attractive, effectively run, and financially solvent as we move into the future.

## 2016 Volunteer of the Year!!

At the Elk Rapids annual Chamber Awards Dinner on Thursday, May 12, Bruce Ahlich presented an Outstanding Volunteer Award to Bob Clore. He was selected by the museum's board members (Dorothy abstaining from the vote) based on his service to the museum. In addition to electrical work, Bob was project manager for the new roof in 2015, drives the caliaphone in area parades, helps with fixing just about anything that needs fixing, and serves on the facilities committee. Before retirement Bob owned and operated Clorwell Electric in Ionia, MI and served as Director of Operations for public school districts in Ionia, Rockford, and East Grand Rapids, MI while these districts were expanding their facilities. Now living in Alden, Bob maintains his electrical license and enjoys mechanical clock repair - another talent that comes in handy at the Music House.



## Our Amazing 2016 Interns

The Music House was so fortunate this summer to have two interns, both from WMU. Not only were they a great help, but were hardworking and a lot of fun. We hated to see them go but wish them great success in their future endeavors! Here are notes from them:



My name is **Kelsey Ennis** and I am a 4th year student at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo majoring in Public History with a minor in German. I grew up in Midland, MI, where my love of history and story-telling grew by way of my grandmother's antique booth and our local history center. Not knowing exactly what I wanted to do, but wanting something related to history eventually led me to the Public History field. I first learned of the Music House Museum while I was in elementary school, when I came for a tour with my dad and sister. It wasn't until the museum was mentioned during class in relation to completing internships for the Public History major, that I thought of coming here for that purpose. Studying for this

type of experience and singing in choirs at Western made the Music House, for me, a clear choice of all the ones gone over. Since I've been here, I have gotten the chance to explore many aspects of running a successful museum, from marketing and financing, to docenting and managing a gift shop. I am very grateful that the Music House agreed to take on Peter and me and give us this truly one-of-a-kind, educational and practical experience. From here on out I will be continuing on to two other internships and later with my career. The experiences that I have had and will have here will come right along with me, guiding my actions with a solid background. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped me see what a passion for sharing history can do!

My name is **Peter Cook**. I am a senior at Western Michigan University where I am majoring in public history. I have lived in Kalamazoo, Michigan most of my life and have spent the better half of the last decade researching "rock n' roll" history. This interest expanded to a newfound appreciation for a wider understanding of history in general when I returned to school in 2012. The idea of majoring in a field where you research and interpret the past for the public was highly appealing to me. The opportunity to intern at the Music House Museum caught my attention because the focus of the museum covers the era of reproduced and recorded sound of which I had little knowledge, the 1880s to the 1940s.



In my four months at the Music House, I have learned a great deal about both the technology of the era and the music and performers of the time. More importantly, I have gained firsthand experience of what it's like to work in a museum and present information to the public. A good deal of the time has been focused on docent work, presenting a new instrument or two every week on tours of the automated mechanical musical instruments we demonstrate. I was admittedly nervous going in but, with the gracious guidance provided by the staff at the Music House, I have grown confident in presenting to tour groups. I am now capable of doing an entire 90-minute tour while fielding questions along the way. I have also spent a decent amount of time in the library cataloging old cylinders, records and piano rolls and working with Past Perfect software. I have also worked the front desk and gift shop, and helped with several museum events.

Watching people of all ages light up and react to music and instruments from roughly 100 years ago has been an exhilarating experience. I definitely feel as though I picked the right place to spend my summer and my time at the Music House has reassured me that I am on the right career path.

## Collections Committee Report by Bruce Ahlich

The spring and summer have been a busy time for the Museum and its Collections Committee. The Museum received a thorough cleaning and polishing to ready it for its 2016 opening and our guests. The smell of fresh beeswax and the shine of polished wood just makes the place smell and look clean. Windows were washed and some minor display changes were initiated. The challenge to any Museum, but particularly to ours with so many large objects, is how to keep the displays looking fresh. With attention to detail the Museum was definitely up to standards when we opened. I want to personally thank the volunteers who assisted with those efforts.

Several instruments have received tender loving care so far this season to keep them playing: The 1922 Mortier "Amarylis" dance organ's 1930 electric motor had significant work done. Vintage replacement motor brushes were ordered from a collector in California who graciously donated them to the Museum. It is working functionally flawlessly, however its computer now needs replacement; Glenn Kriese, our acting Curator, has performed minor repairs to the 1917 Cremona, 1913 Losche, 1926 Seeburg KT and 1913 Bruder band organ. The need for these repairs is the result of use and aging because, unlike other museums, patrons hear our instruments played, not a recording nor are performance times restricted; The 1925 Duo Art Weber reproducing piano has been having switch issues but has been repaired temporarily and is playing until replacement parts can be obtained; Glenn continues work on the Haines Ampico, a grand piano that was donated last fall, rebuilding its reproducing mechanism; and the 1909 Luis Castili street piano that was received last summer was restrung. If visiting the Museum, ask a docent to demonstrate it to you. It is definitely designed for the "street".

Among new items at the Museum is a 15" Reginal disc music box on loan from Henry Childs of Sparta, a longtime friend of the Museum. It will be used to play an eighty Regina disc collection received by the Museum as we do not own that sized instrument. Received also into the Collection was a circa 1900 65-note Pianola piano player. Piano players were the first form of what we now called a "player piano". Pianolas were the invention of Edwin Votey of Detroit, Michigan in 1895 working in his backyard workshop. It sits in front of the piano and while playing a roll has little fingers which depress the piano's keys to play the instrument. Modernized by its previous owner, the MHM is painstakingly restoring it back to its original foot pumped mechanism and 65-note tracker bar using vintage parts in our storage area. Its restoration will also us to use some of the 65 note piano rolls presently in storage in the Library.

Work continues on the 1830s Black Forest organ clock with its new face having been designed and being painted. Hopefully by the fall, this work will be completed and it will again be ringing its bell and playing its two rank flute pipe organ on the hour. The Buck Organ Company continues working on the Vorsetzer restoration project, which has progressed into much more of an ordeal than anticipated. The Vorsetzer is an instrument circa 1908 that could be described as a "Pianola on steroids". Invented by Michael Welte of Freiburg, Germany, it is the first reproducing system able to play back actual performances of renown pianists of the day. Like the Pianola invented in the USA, it sits in front of the piano. It is a rare piece.

The Museum's Miniature City buildings were out on the street this past year's Cherry Festival on the Westwood Elementary float. Buildings from the original City Zoo display, as well as, some rebuilt structures by the Museum's miniaturists were featured. A 2002 Chrysler Sebring convertible was donated by John and Diane Verpleogh. After repairs, it was used for the first time in the Cherry Festival to pull our Caliaphone in the Cherry Heritage Parade.

The most significant improvement to the Museum is new lighting significantly reducing our energy costs. A project sponsored by Hydra Energy and its president, Joe Thiel, has allowed the Museum to replace its incandescent lighting with LED. The company makes LED bulbs that successfully capture the softer yellow essence of incandescent lights, but still increases the candle power produced and reducing costs. The project is almost completed and has made amazing improvements. Stop and take a look!



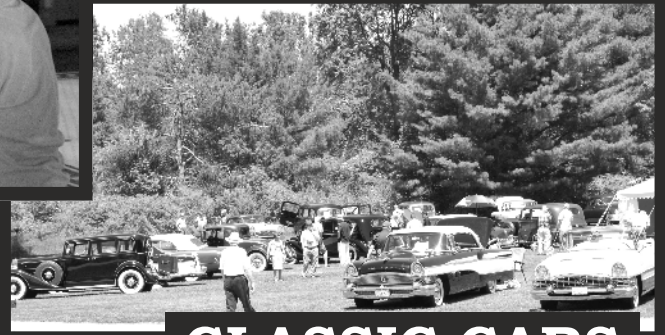
### A SAD FAREWELL TO OUR FRIEND DAN GOODEARL

One of the hardest parts of a non-profit organization is saying good bye to one of the family. This Spring, a long time volunteer and supporter of the Music House passed away after a long battle with several health issues. Despite his health challenges and with the support of his wife Barb, he continued to volunteer over the last year. His warm spirit and infectious smile will be missed. We are grateful for all that he has done for the Music House. Thank you 'Danta'!

# SUMMER FUN AT THE MUSIC HOUSE!!!



## SCHOOL DAYS



## CLASSIC CARS



## PARADES AND FESTIVALS



## CONCERTS AND MOVIES



# Even More Amazing Concerts!!!



**Gail and Dale Zieger**  
Sept. 23 - 7 pm

Our event season has been going great this year with several events selling out! Our concerts have offered a great variety, with something to appeal to everyone. Our next concert will be Dale and Gail Zieger. This talented couple always puts on a great show with Gail on piano and Dale on the Wurlitzer. They are from the Grand Rapids area and have a large following around the state, country and internationally!



**Miriam and Dave**  
Oct. 14 - 7 pm

In Oct. we will be bringing back Miriam Pico and David Chown by popular demand. Tickets for their May concert sold out and we ended up having to turn away walk-ins. We assured them that we would invite them back for the fall.

Also in Oct. Fr. Andrew Rogers will be combining his amazing skills on the Wurlitzer with a talk about what goes into creating a score for a silent film. This should be a fascinating evening of music and learning.

In Nov. we will be bringing back our popular Christmas Concert/Sing-a-long. This event is a great way to kick off the holidays with your family. Dave Calendine will be hosting this year's concert. This concert will be followed by 'The Accidentals' Christmas EP release party. There will be two concerts at 3 pm and 6 pm. This very popular group will sell out so be sure to order your tickets early. We finish the season with Pizza and Pipes: Gourmet Pizza Dinner and Concert featuring Red Wings organist Dave Calendine.

For more information or to purchase tickets go to 'Upcoming Events' on our website - MusicHouse.org.



**The Accidentals**  
Nov. 27 - 3 & 6 pm



**Dave Calendine**  
Christmas Concert  
Nov. 25 - 6 pm



**Fr. Andrew Rogers**  
Oct. 20 - 7 pm

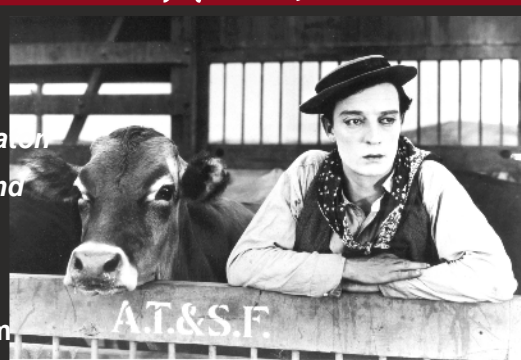


**With Dave Calendine**  
Dec. 28 - 6 pm

## Four More Great Films Scheduled for the Fall!!

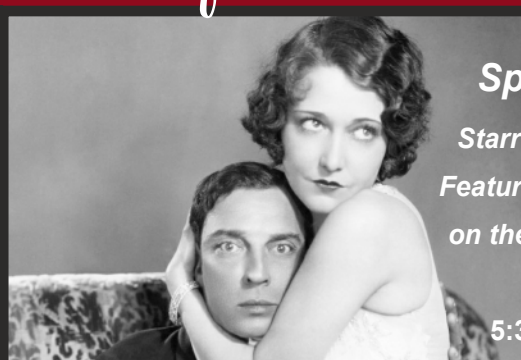
### Go West

Starring Buster Keaton  
Featuring Dale and  
Gail Zieger  
Sept. 24 -  
5:30 and 7:30 pm



### Spite Marriage

Starring Buster Keaton  
Featuring Dave Calendine  
on the 'Mighty' Wurlitzer,  
Nov. 26 -  
5:30 and 7:30 pm\*



### Nosferatu

Featuring Fr. Andrew  
Rogers Oct. 21  
& 22, 5:30 pm



### Christmas Shorts

Featuring Dave Calendine  
on the 'Mighty' Wurlitzer,  
Dec. 29 - 5:30 and 7:30 pm



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

What a wonderful first half of our season! It has been great to see so many people enjoying our tours and the incredible events. Our ambitious season has paid off with events that have required us to turn people away at the door. While we wish that we could accommodate everyone, we have a small venue.

We still have many great events planned for the coming months and hope that you will be able to take advantage of the beautiful music and great talent. Check out "Upcoming Events" on [musichouse.org](http://musichouse.org) to see all the details and to purchase tickets. Reservations are recommended!



On the development front, I continue to write and seek out new grant opportunities. As of this writing we are awaiting the word on the grant for the Michigan Council of the Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) which will be announced on Sept. 9th. This is one of the few grants available for Operational Support. While operational expenses are not glamorous (they include everything from staff salaries and utilities to toilet paper) they represent our largest expense. MCACA has given almost \$100,000 in operational support since I joined the organization in 2012.

We have completed our Strategic Plan for 2016-19 with the grant support of MCACA. It is ambitious but doable and I am confident that we can achieve these goals based on our Board's prioritization of the plan and achievement of our last 3 year plan. While the last plan focused on operational specifics, we have reached a point when we can focus on growth. There are so many exciting things in our plans that we will be sharing with you in the future! My personal goal over the next six months is to create an inclusive CRM (database) so that we can better communicate with all of you!

Thank you for your continued support of our amazing and unique museum. We would not exist without your support. We hope that you continue to share the Music House with your friends and family.

## Message from our Operations Manager by AJ Morley

Hello fans of the Music House! I hope the summer has been as wonderful to you as it has been to us. That being said, I can't believe summer is almost over! It seems like the more fun we are having, the quicker it flies by. In case you haven't made it in, let me share some of the great things that have been going on at your favorite Musical Museum.

First and foremost, we have had an incredible time with our two Interns from Western Michigan University. Kelsey Ennis and Peter Cook joined us in mid-May for their entire summer. They have been invaluable to our continuing growth in our Library and Gift Shop. They have helped out with special events and have learned to give wonderful tours. Their presence will be felt long after they leave. I thank them so very much for their contributions.

We have had some amazing special events this year. Unique concerts with Miriam Pico and David Chown (coming back in Oct. By popular demand!), as well as the Guitar and Violin combo of Ross and Kamerling, Damaris Pike, Peter Bergin and the amazing ChaoJun Yang. We've had some fun Silent Film nights, including our first with only a piano to accompany the film. If you haven't had the opportunity to check out a Concert or a Silent Film with us in our unique venue, Don't worry, there are still some fantastic events on the horizon including great concerts and films. The Music House Museum is an exciting place to be this Fall!

I hope that you have been able to check out our new layout in the Gift Shop! We have a lot of new cherry items, men's ties, and fun new kids' toys. Every item in our Gift Shop has a musical presence and is appropriate for everyone in your family. It is a great place to do Holiday shopping! The Fall is stacked with unique, once in a lifetime events. And if you want to have your own event at the Music House, we would like to help you! You may not be aware that we offer our Museum for private events as well. All provide a unique and personal experience that cannot be duplicated anywhere else. If you are interested in receiving information about how to book yours today, please contact us at [tours.events@musichouse.org](mailto:tours.events@musichouse.org). Thank you so much for your continuing support, and I look forward to seeing you this Fall.

## Meet Our Newest Board Member by Dorothy Clore

The Board regretfully accepted Cynthia Ciaravino's resignation from the Board last spring. Personal circumstances drove her decision, but we are delighted she is willing to remain active as a volunteer and member of our Collections Committee. During her tenure on the Board, Cynthia provided considerable expertise regarding the value of items in our collection and great assistance with our Antiques and Collectibles Sale.

To fill out Cynthia's term, Barb Goodearl has been welcomed to the Board. She and her husband Dan have been volunteers for many years and now she finds she has the time to continue in a more active role "...carrying Dan's musical self in my heart and soul as I help the Music House in any way I can." You will see her at many of our events. Please introduce yourself to her and express your appreciation.



## Become an Underwriter!!

This year we have seen an increase in individuals and local businesses willing to help underwrite our events. **Bruce Ahlich and Don Wilson** have given financial support for our silent film series for many years. In addition, we are grateful to the hearing specialists at **Audicare** who also helped underwrite events. If you would like to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help the Music House and also promote your business or organization, we would love to have you join our team! For more information on becoming an underwriter of an event or an entire season, please **contact Kelly Curtis at [marketing@musichouse.org](mailto:marketing@musichouse.org)**.

## Antiques and Collectibles by Ellie Holdsworth

Once again we had a very successful Antique & Collectibles Sale. We had fewer consignors than last year, but all tables were FULL. We had a great variety of items and even had 9 and 10 News on sight for coverage on their morning show the day of the event! The crowd was great and both the consignors and the Music House made some money.

We are so grateful for all of the volunteers who worked hard to prepare, create gorgeous displays and worked tirelessly during this busy event!

These sales not only make some money for the museum, but help to make us more and more noticeable by the public. Our 6th annual A & C Sale is planned for June 16 & 17, 2017. Get your "stuff" together and plan to participate. Let us do the work for you!

## Now is the Time to Become a Music House Member by Ellie Holdsworth



As always, we are most grateful for your purchase of a membership at the Music House Museum. Memberships not only provide support for the Museum programs, but also benefits 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  
Couple - \$40.00  
Grandparent - \$45.00  
Family - \$50.00

Supporting-\$100.00  
Sustaining - \$250.00  
Benefactor - \$500.00  
Angel - \$1,000

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

# Talbot's MHM Fundraiser

The Traverse City women's shop, Talbot's, has graciously offered us one of their three evenings offered to non-profits this fall. **On Thursday, October 6th, the shop will be open after regular hours to allow invited shoppers an opportunity to come and expand their fall/winter wardrobes. Light refreshments will be served.** 10% of the money spent will be donated to the museum. We are very grateful to Talbot's for giving us this opportunity not only to increase our income but our visibility in the community. If you would like to participate in this event, please email **Dorothy Clore at dorothisclore@gmail.com or call her at 231.331-6587 to reserve a spot.**

## MUSICAL MONDAY Fall Special!!!

# 2 for 1 GENERAL ADMISSIONS

## All day, every Monday through Oct.

\*Discount does not apply to scheduled tours.



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 520  
Traverse City, MI

# Community Cash

The local Village Market groceries support local non-profits by offering a 1% payout for money spent on groceries and/or gasoline from Labor Day through Memorial Day annually. The MHM participates in this program which brings us some money but also community awareness.

If you are in Elk Rapids and/or the Alden areas during the fall and winter/spring months please consider shopping at these markets and drop off your receipt slips at the museum or send them to Dorothy Clore ( PO Box 474, Alden, MI 49612). Be sure they are dated and marked "com. cash" appropriately.

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



Music House Museum/@musichousemuse

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