



Music House Museum

Perfect Pitch

Newsletter for Friends of the Music House Museum - Fall 2017- Vol. 18, Issue 2

Board of Directors 2017

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President's Message *by Dorothy Clore*

In northern Michigan, things seem to slow down, at least a little in August. Although we have fewer events at the Music House on our calendar, staff and Board members are continuing to operate in high gear. Responses to appeal letters have been good, and we received generous under-writing for our fund-raising event coming up in October as well as for our very successful School Days program in the spring. Our Antique/Collectible sale was a success with completely new consignors, more participation than last year, and a profit of approximately \$1800. Attendance from tours, daily walk-ins, and events has increased. We have hired Mission Computers (a local company) to help install and train staff in the use of our new on-line store, an expanded support for our gift shop efforts. A fun way to continue to support us financially is by attending the October 8th event written about elsewhere in this newsletter.

An oft-repeated phrase at the museum is, "We could not exist without the support of our members and volunteers." Two people who have made great contributions to us in these categories are Ellie Holdsworth and Barbara Goodearl.

The former has been in charge of volunteers, membership, and museum decorating for the majority of the years the museum has been in operation, and has been a valued member of our Board since 2013. Ellie and her husband Bill are retiring to Arizona, and will be back in Elk Rapids in the summer; therefore she will be leaving our Board in the fall. We wish the Holdsworths all the best as their lives take new directions. We certainly hope to see them back in our area and at the museum come summer.

Barbara Goodearl, along with husband Dan, has been a volunteer for many years and joined our Board in 2016. She has found it necessary to resign her Board position for personal reasons but promises to continue to serve as a volunteer, keeping the promise visible by helping chair the silent-auction portion of our October fund-raiser as well as serving on the fund-raising committee.

We miss her guidance on the Board but are extremely relieved that she is not leaving the museum altogether. These departures leave us with openings on the Board. If any of you are interested in serving, please contact me or other Board members. There are additional ways to participate, and I look forward to seeing familiar as well as less-familiar ones at the MHM.

Hitting the High Notes Fall Fundraiser *By Kelly Roberts Curtis*

The Music House is hosting its first annual Fall Fundraiser on Oct. 8th beginning at 6 pm! We have a fun event planned including music from our honorary Chairs, Miriam Pico and David Chown. The evening will be a celebration of all things 'Music House' with a delicious tapas style menu, beverages, an exciting Silent Auction filled with treasures and more!

Suggested attire is semi-formal although if you want to use it as an excuse to dress to the nines that would be wonderful! Tickets are on sale now through our website (MusicHouse.org/events) and are \$65 a piece or \$120 per couple. As this is a fundraiser, \$45 of the single ticket and \$80 of the couple tickets are tax deductible donations to the museum. We hope that you will join us for this evening of fun, food and beautiful music. For more information go the website or give us a call.





Volunteer Corner *By Becky Gagnon*

Volunteers have been busy with many projects and events this summer. The bake sale that was held in conjunction with the Antiques and Collectibles sale in June was a big hit. Thank you to Ann McNamara and Sandra Osgood for their help in organizing the event. Thank you, too, to all the volunteers who baked for the sale. A big thank you to the set up crew the weekend of June 15, as well as all who worked that weekend: Milton and Sandra Osgood, Marilyn Jensen, Ellie Canfield, Gladys Maguire, Jackie Miller, Ann Misiak, Ann McNamara and Barb Goodearl. Many thanks to those who worked behind the bar in the

Hurry Back Saloon for our Silent Movie evenings, most notably Marilyn Jensen and Phyllis Johnson, among others. Our Pizza and Pipes night in July could not have run as smoothly as it did without the assistance of Shirley Barrett, Phyllis Johnson, Ellie Canfield and Marilyn Jensen. The Peter Bergin concert on August 6 was a sell out so last minute volunteers stepped up to assist wherever needed, including the balcony area. Mr. Russ McNamara made a charming host as he escorted and seated guests at the performance.

There have been several of our volunteers that have also been active in keeping the grounds of the Music House Museum looking spectacular and the staff and board thank you for your gardening skills. The Newsletter and mailing crew are always on board for mailings, like this one!

We have added several new volunteers at the Music House Museum. We welcome Sasha "Rocket Man", Liam Berigan, Gladys Maguire, Jackie Miller, Theresa Carey, Pierre LaFolle, Ann Misiak, and Travis Hall. It will be good to see many of you at our October gala, especially those who has been recuperating from surgery this summer.

It's not too late to sign up to volunteer for the many tasks in and around the Music House. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Music House Museum at 938-9300. We'd love to hear from you.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!!

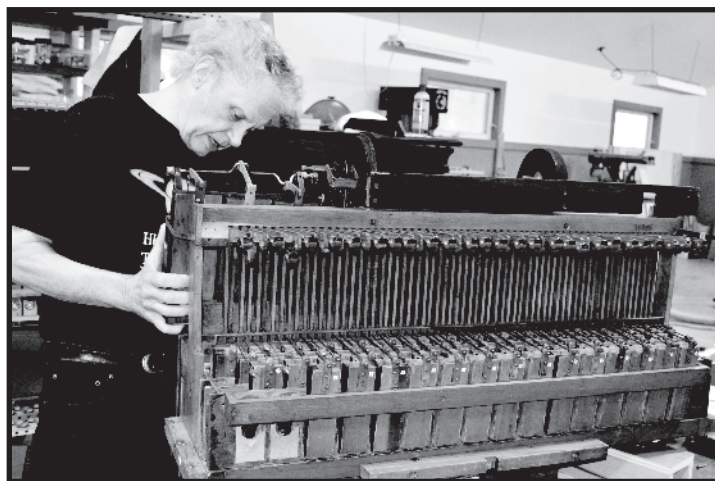
Our Collection Grows *By Bruce Ahlich*

The Museum has had a good season with visitors enjoying our Collection of automated instruments. Discussed in the prior *Perfect Pitch*, the Museum did succeed in acquiring a 1894 Aeolian Grand player reed organ, a Brinkerdorf player piano (65 note tracker bar) and a 1901 Pianola piano player (also with a 65 note tracker bar). All three instruments arrived with collections of appropriate music rolls to be played on them in June and are stored in the Workshop.

A Pianola is the first of the automated piano playing machines. Invented in Detroit, Michigan in 1895 by Edwin Votey, the Museum's early example (1901) is presently under going selective re-leathering and sealing to stop some mildew/mold damage and restore its major vacuum handling mechanisms. It will be on display in the Music Room to be demonstrated on tours by the middle of September. This work is being done in-house by master restorer Glenn Kriese.

Starting in September, work will begin on restoring our Waltham's Electotone (1920s) automatic piano. The Waltham Company of Milwaukee, WI (1885-1931) was

noted for building high quality pianos, but not aesthetically fancy piano cases. This is one of two known surviving examples of an automatic instrument built by Waltham. The piano is equipped with a bank of brass harmonium reeds and plays a "G" music roll. The cost of the restoration is \$12,000 with work being done by both the Buck Pipe Organ Company of Grand Rapids (player mechanism, cleaning reeds and case touch-up) and the Cox Piano Service of Suttons Bay (piano rebuild). The restoration will be largely funded by the Museum's Hughes Endowment Fund, but private contributions are always appreciated as well. The instrument will be available to be heard for the opening of the 2018 season.



(Continued on Page 6)

2017 Event Season Continues to Shine!

Amazing Concerts With Artists From Around the World



Gail and Dale Zieger
September 22

September brings the amazingly talented Ziegers with Dale on the Wurlitzer and Gail on piano.

October we welcome world renowned organist John Ledwon. Coming to us from the Vegas area, John is the accompanist for Disney's El Capitan Theatre in LA and travels the world giving sold out concerts.

November features our incredibly popular Christmas Sing-a-long concert hosted and accompanied by Red Wings organist Dave Calendine!

December's concert features Harpist Marta Powers Luce and friends. Marta comes to us from Paris, France where she studied at the famous Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris and now teaches and performs around Europe and the world.

All concerts begin at 7 pm. For more information on all of these concerts a MusicHouse.org!



John Ledwon
October 21



Dave Calendine
November 24



Marta Powers Luce
December 29



Another Chance for the Fun and Food!

Our **Pizza and Pipes: Dinner and Concert** remains one of our most popular events. Guests are treated to a delicious gourmet pizza dinner and a Wurlitzer concert from world-renowned organist. Dave Calendine. Calendine is Red Wings and Fox Theater Organist and will be entertaining audiences on December 27th at 6 pm. Dave will bring his amazing skills and fascinating antidotes for a show that you will not want to miss. He loves to take requests, too!

Great Films and Artists Still to Come!

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 Announce

Featuring Red Wing's Organist Dave Calendine

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



Our Collection Grows *(Continued from pg. 2)*

New to the Museum and currently on display in the General Store is a very fine 1878 Paillard double spring and triple comb "en harmonie" cylinder music box. It is pinned with ten tunes, mainly light opera. This very powerful and elegant sounding instrument was acquired last fall in Petoskey and restored through the donated skills of Henry Childs of Sparta, Michigan over the winter. Also new to the Museum is a donated early Columbia gramophone (1905-08), painted tin horn and collection of cylinders. This early example of Columbia's work is rare due to their use of pot metal in construction of their machines which led to their failure. This machine is in good condition with only some minor work needed to make it playable. Room needs to be made for its display.

Lastly, added to the collection is a Rolmonica (1928), a collection of music rolls and its original shipping carton. It is a harmonica that plays music rolls. A child's type toy, it was available through the Sears and Roebuck catalogue. This is an instrument that Museum did not have a working example of available. It adds to our children's automatic music instrument collection.

It is hoped that this winter, we can begin work on also restoring the Aeolian Grand player reed organ, on site, new veneer is required to be applied to its top lid due to extensive water damage and potentially there are 300 little pneumatics to be re-leathered. Volunteers with much personal patience and manual dexterity are welcome to assist in project working under the supervision of Glenn Kriese.

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Marketing and Development *by Kelly Roberts Curtis*

We have had a wonderful and busy Spring and Summer! Our events have been well attended and loved, those who tour continue to share how much they love their experience and we were selected as one of the top 15 museums in Michigan by AroundMichigan.com! We have a lot to be proud of and continue to work the Music House even better. As Dorothy touched on, we will be launching a new online store any day now, just in time for your holiday shopping! If there are items that you have seen at gift shop that aren't listed on the new site, please know that you can always call us!

Due to the regular sell-out of our events we have developed a new ticket sale/box office system to ease processing and better track ticket sales. We now have a designated 'Box Office' extensions which you can access anytime and leave a message for our team. We will be promptly responded to your requests. We will also have regular Box Office hours on Mondays and Wednesdays two weeks before events from 3 pm to 6 pm. As always, you can order tickets online anytime by going to the events area of MusicHouse.org. Pre-ordering your tickets is highly recommended as our events have often been sold out this season.

Dorothy also shared the news of two amazing Board members who are leaving us. Both Barb and Ellie are amazing



volunteers! While Barb will continue on as a volunteer, we will only have Ellie in the area for the summer months. We are excited to have our docent, Becky Gagnon, taking over Ellie's volunteer management duties and Diane Verploegh stepping in to take on Ellie's Membership and Donor Management. Becky has also become an invaluable member of our gift shop team.

I will end with a shameless plug as that is my job. Did you know that many businesses offer matching donations to non-profits that their employees support? Rotary Charities and other organizations also offer this. Doubling your donation could be that simple. As always we are so grateful for all of your support!

Great Things Happening at the Music House! *By AJ Morley*

Hello Everybody! I hope the late Spring and Summer have treated you all well. Now that we are over half way through our 2017 season, I thought it might be nice to reflect on all the wonderful changes that have happened here at the Music House Museum this season. From outside to inside we are constantly updating our facilities to provide the most unique, exciting, and comfortable experience we can for our guests.

Let's start with the first thing people see when turning into the Museum, our new Road Sign. Our previous sign was elegant and beautiful. But it's age combined with it's dark colors, was making it more and more difficult to see. We have updated it with a stunning bright red and white design that truly catches the eye. We were also able to add another line of changeable copy to the sign, giving us the ability to share our messages more efficiently with the public.

Next up is our Visitor's Center. Our Visitor's Center has always been a welcoming place for our guests to learn more about the Museum before entering. It's also a place to learn more about other exciting adventures, opportunities, and unique places to visit in Northern Michigan. This fan favorite has had a rough couple of years with some very strong storms roughing up the roof. Fortunately, this year we were able to get the roof completely redone on this special place, ensuring our guests will get to enjoy this for years to come.

Some fantastic changes also happened behind the scenes that our guests don't necessarily get to see on a regular basis but have been vital to our continued operations. Our new folding chairs for events have worked out wonderfully. We have redesigned and re-purposed some of our storage areas to make them more efficient and far more organized. All of these projects have made our jobs easier and our guests' experiences more comfortable.

And this is the part where I say THANK YOU! Thank you for donating. Thank you for coming to visit us. None of these projects could have happened without you! It's your continued support that gives us the ability to educate, demonstrate, and most importantly continue to restore our collection as well as maintain this incredible place. 2017 has been an amazing season. And you all deserve as much of the credit as we do. Thank you. I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Museum soon.

Antiques and Collectibles Sale a Success

Our 5th Annual Antiques and Collectibles sale was another great success! We had 20 consignors, most being first time participants. In addition, we had a many items donated for sale including beautiful jewelry and had many miscellaneous Music House items. We also had a delicious bake sale organized by Becky Gagnon and Ann McNamara.

More than a dozen volunteers helped with the set-up of sale and the sale days. Sandy and Milt Osgood provided invaluable help not only with the sale but with the post-sale financial's.



In the end we made about \$1800, with consignors earning over \$2200. This fun event brings hundreds of new people from our community into the Music House as well as providing extra money to help with our operational expenses.



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
Couple - \$40.00
Family - \$50.00
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.

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