

Music House Museum's Perfect Pitch

Connecting You with the
Enduring Magic of Music

Newsletter for Friends of the Music House Museum - Spring 2018 - Vol. 19, Issue 1

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President's Message by Dorothy Clore

At our Annual Meeting our Board and staff agreed that this is going to be an excellent year at the Music House Museum. We welcome our new Executive Director, Timothy Keaton and Board member Ed Kennedy. Both men bring new perspectives, expertise, and enthusiasm to our organization and give us all a renewed sense of purpose and dedication.

Volunteers are hard at work moving items to provide easier access to contractors installing our new furnace (which is in the Barn area) and updating existing heating/cooling systems. The silent gallery area is now heated for the first time ever, something which leads us to consider the possibility for some late fall/winter events. Visitors arriving once we open will also find a more comfortable environment in the lobby and gift shop areas. Staff is looking forward to improvements in the office and library areas. Collection committee members are making big plans for new acquisitions and displays.

While our financial situation would never be described as "rosy", we have received some very generous donations toward our heating/cooling/insulating expenses. On our calendar of events you will find many exciting offerings. And as always there are opportunities for you to

contribute - as a patron, a volunteer, and as a financial donor. Whatever you are able to give in whatever ways, we remain very grateful for your help and look forward to seeing you at the MHM as often as possible in 2018. Please help us make this a very Happy New Year.

Executive Director Message By Timothy Keaton



I am very excited to be able to introduce myself to the Music House Museum family. I am honored by the opportunity to serve as the new Executive Director and I am extremely enthusiastic about the plans that we have been working on for the coming year.

First, I'd like to tell you a little about myself. I will start with what drew me to the Music House in the first place. I am basically a life-long musician. I have been singing in choirs as long as I can remember. I have performed in numerous musicals, music groups and bands and have played the guitar and wrote music for over 40 years.

Professionally, I spent the majority of my career in marketing and advertising in the Metro Detroit area. I spent a number of years running the Chevrolet Advertising account at Campbell-Ewald but I also have significant experience working in marketing and development for several non-profits, including the United Way of SE Michigan, the National Fatherhood Initiative, Christ Child House (a group foster home for boys in Detroit) and Brother Rice High School.

I have been coming to this beautiful part of northern Michigan for most of my life and a few years ago, together with my family, made the decision to settle full-time in the Traverse City area. I am very excited about the Executive Director position here at the Music House Museum because it is a role that will allow me to leverage my professional experience, allow me give back to our community and finally speaks to my love for music and the arts.

I look forward to helping our organization grow by providing all of our loyal patrons, members and guests the opportunity to make a special connection to the enduring magic of music and having a memorable experience that is unique to our region.

The words "connecting you with the enduring magic of music" are very important to us here at the Music House Museum. Soon after I started, I asked the members of our Board of Directors and our staff to help define the Music House Museum's Brand Promise, essentially a succinct statement that describes what we uniquely provide to our patrons, members, guests

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Volunteer Corner *By Becky Gagnon*



Did you know that collectively, our MHM Volunteers clocked more than 5,500 hours in 2017 valuing over \$100,000.00? To the Board and staff, your time and dedication to the Museum is priceless. That is why we held our "High Tea" for all volunteers on Friday, April 6. We shared our exciting line up of events and explored additional opportunities for volunteer experiences. Volunteers are the life blood of the museum and we hope that you will consider joining in the fun!

School Days will again occur in April from the 23rd to the 27th, so those of you who especially enjoy this activity will have ample time to sign up! If you were unable to attend the "High Tea" and wish to participate, please contact us so we can include you in our planning.

Volunteers have already been active in 2018. A special note of thanks to Barb Goodearl and her committee of dedicated folks, Ron Gurdak, Peggy Bushnell, Sherry and John Boucher, Gladys Maguire and Jim Warner who helped take down holiday decorations in January. We could not have done it without you! **A big thank you to Bob Clore and John Verploegh for their work on the heating and cooling system as well as repair to the Wurlitzer blower and motor. Assistance in relocating the Wurlitzer blower to its new location was provided by Matt Olson, Bruce Ahlich, Bob Clore and Tim Keaton.**

If you have never volunteered at the Music House and would like further information about volunteering, please contact Patte Richards or Becky Gagnon at tours.events@musichouse.org or call 938-9300, extension 4 to talk to us.

Working together we can make the Music House Museum a magical place for all who visit.

Antiques and Collectibles Sale 2018

Along with saving the dates for other events listed in this newsletter, please plan ahead for our annual **Antique/Collectible Sale Friday/Saturday June 15th and 16th** this year. Thanks to the participation of several consignors and many volunteers, this sale usually nets the museum between \$1,000 - \$1500. If you would like to participate as a consignor (you receive 75% of sales and museum receives 25% and you set the price on any items \$10.00+) please contact Dorothy at dorothyclore@gmail.com. In addition we welcome donations of any costume jewelry, which has brought in between \$400-\$600 for us in years past. Last year's sale featured baked goods as well. Do contact Dorothy if you are willing to help in any way.



Welcome Back From Our Docents! *By Ed Kennedy*



This photo features **AJ Morley** (L), our Operations Manager and also one of our wonderful docents, **Ed Kennedy** (C), who has retired as a docent but is the newest member of our Board and **Becky Gagnon** (R), who has also taken on Volunteer Management and assists as Event Coordinator and with the Gift Shop.

Every year we look forward to welcoming our docents back. They have given a total of over 30 years of dedicated service to the MHM! Each of our four docents offers a unique perspective in conducting their tours.

Tom Dionne is one of our senior docents and has been with us over 11 years, giving tours that only a professional musician can offer. Tom has been involved with the public arena for years and volunteered with Munson Hospice for 10 years. **Charlie Mack** was with the EMT in the Detroit area for 30 years and also volunteered at the Redford Theater. He brings a wealth of mechanical knowledge and enthusiasm. **Jim Onon** has a unique background as a retired professor who taught at a number of colleges. He likes to add a bit of American history and humor with his tours. **Becky Gagnon** is a retired teacher and also works part time at the Peninsula Community Library. With her bubbly personality, Becky offers lively tours that grab and keep your attention.

With this group of diversified people, you are sure to have an educational, enjoyable, and unique tour on every visit!

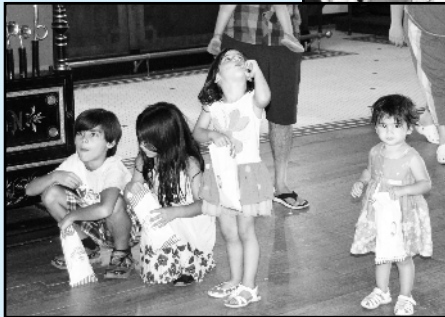
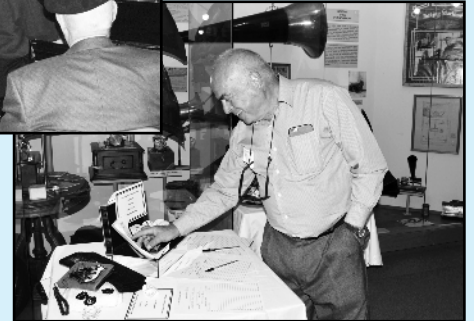
2017 Fall Season Fun at the Music House



Family Day at the Museum



October Fundraiser Fun with
Miriam Pico and David Chown



Pizza and Pipes

Marta Power Luce Concert with Ivan Suminski



Some of Our Amazing Volunteers!



Music House's 2018 Event Season!

SILENT FILM SERIES TO FEATURE SEVEN FILMS!

June 9 – 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Sherlock Jr. & One Week - Starring Buster Keaton
and Featuring Steve Larson on Piano



Two classic silent comedies, featuring Buster Keaton, first as young detective and then as a young newly-wed. Both will be accompanied on piano by Steve Larson.

The Tramp finds himself an accidental star of a circus as he escapes from the police and then falls for the owners step-daughter in this classic Chaplin Comedy!



August 17 & 18 – 7 pm

The Ten Commandments (1923)
featuring Andrew Rogers



Cecil B. De Mille's first version of this classic which begins with the journey of Moses and ends with a the story of two brothers dealing with the ten Commandments in life.

This retelling of the classic tale starring comic genius, Colleen Moore as Ella, who escapes her evil step-mother and step-sisters to become a Hollywood star!



October 19 & 20 – 7 pm

The Cat and the Canary (1927)

Featuring Andrew Rogers on the Wurlitzer



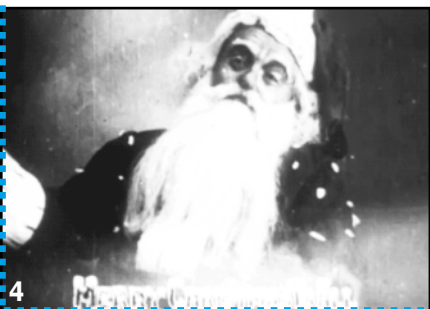
This comedy/horror is perfect for the Halloween season! At the reading of Cyrus West's will 20 years after his death, the family is shocked that his entire fortune is left to his niece, Annabelle, if she is deemed sane. As the family spends the night at his brooding mansion, a series of mysterious events begin, some of which point to Annabelle being unstable. Add to this the escape of a psychopath, the "Cat", from a local asylum and you have a evening of great Halloween family fun!



November 24 – 5:30 and 7:30 pm

Holiday Film TBA

Featuring Dave Calendine



December 28 – 5:30 and 7:30 pm

Film TBA

featuring Red Wing Organist Dave Calendine



The very talented Red Wing and Fox Theater organist, Dave Calendine will be the featured accompanist for both our November and December films. A treat for the whole family! Watch our website event listings and future newsletter for more details on the films.



Family Day Celebrations

We will host three 'Family Days' this season. These fun days include discounted admission prices and special, family friendly tours and treats, with the focus on the very young and the young at heart! They are perfect for families with young children. Our first will be held on May 6th with the second, (including lawn games and crafts - weather permitting) on September 9th and a special Holiday event on December 16th. We hope that you can join us and that you will let other families know about this perfect way for the whole family to experience the magic of the Music House!

A Season of Amazing Concerts!!!



Miriam and Dave
May 26, 7 pm



Andrew Rogers
July 20, 6 pm



Annual Fundraiser
Oct. 7, 5:30 pm



Christmas Classics
Dec. 14, 7 pm

Whatever your musical taste, this year's concert series has something you will love. We at the Music House are crazy about music and our rafters will be ringing with beautiful sound all season long. Here some highlights of the concerts we have scheduled and more are in the works!

We begin in May with two of our favorites, Miriam Pico and David Chown, bringing us their original music as well as classics.

In June The Charlie Millard Band will be bringing their mix of classic folk/rock and originals to the museum. Millard is a popular Northern Michigan singer/song writer and pianist that you won't want to miss.

We will have two evenings of our popular Pizza and Pipes featuring Andrew Rogers in July and Dave Calendine in December.

August will feature a Ragtime and Great American Songbook Sing-a-long with popular pianist Peter Bergin.

In October we will be holding our 2nd Annual Fall Fundraiser with great music, great food and a lot of fun! Our theme this year is the "Roaring 20's" so be sure to mark your calendar for this speak-easy fun!

And if that wasn't enough, November will bring our Christmas Sing-A-Long with Red Wings organist, Dave Calendine and December will feature a Christmas Concert with Peter Bergin.

We also have two dance events scheduled since it was so popular last year! Local dance instructors, Mel & Nancy Kiogima, will be giving dance lessons and then host an evening of dance on June 7th and Sept. 14th.

The Music House has several more concerts in the works so please follow us on social media and check our website for more details and information on all of our events. For information on purchasing tickets go to MusicHouse.org or call (231)938-9300.



Charlie Millard Band
June 10, 7 pm



Peter Bergin
Aug. 26, 7 pm



Christmas Sing-A-Long
Nov. 23, 7 pm



David Calendine
Dec. 27, 6 pm

Executive Director Message *(Continued from Page 1)*

and the community at large. This was a very collaborative process that began with an exploration of our guest's needs and the benefits that we provide to address these. We collectively believe that "Connecting you with the Enduring Magic of Music" best describes what we here at the museum strive to do every day for all of our guests whether they are new or returning, members or volunteers, teachers or students – and we have used this as our guide as we developed all of this year's programs and events. We, of course, be continuing those programs that are Music House Museum favorites but also adding some new ones to the mix. Our event season for this year is featured on pages 4 and 5 and we have more exciting events in the works. We are very enthusiastic about the coming year and hope that you are as well.

As always, your continued support of the Music House Museum is what allows us to continue making that connection to the enduring magic of music. As they say, whatever you are able to give in time, treasure or talent is very appreciated. I look forward to seeing you here at the museum this year.

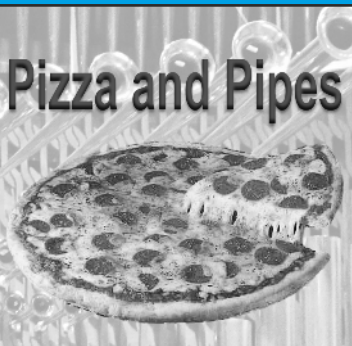
Collections Committee Report *By Bruce Ahlich*

The Museum collections will have grown with addition of a 1920s Waltham's Electratone automatic piano and a Aeolian Pianola (1901) piano player. Both of these unique instruments will be on display for demonstration purposes when we open in May or shortly thereafter. The Pianola is an example of the first "working" efforts to product a device to automatically play a piano. The technology had been developed for reed organs, but was largely unsuccessful for pianos. In 1895, working in his garage in Detroit Michigan, Edwin Votey successfully put together the various attempts to automate a piano and produced a push up player he called a Pianola. The device was patented and purchased by the Aeolian company and became the standard means of playing piano rolls until around 1914. Votey, in partnership with W. R. Farrand, also built reed and pipe organs.

Felt covered fingers are activated by a mechanism that the operator controls by pumping foot bellows. Using the generated vacuum, the fingers mechanically depress the piano keys that they sit on top of causing the hammers to strike the piano strings. The operator, via levers in the Pianola case, manages the sustain and soft pedals of the piano as directed by the piano roll. By the mid of the first decade of the 1900s, the player mechanism was moved into the piano case giving the appearance of today's standard player piano for economy of space. The Pianola will be placed in the Music Room on a small Cable spinet so that guests can observe it working.

The Waltham Piano Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin produced fine quality pianos from 1885 to 1955. Although their case design was simple, they incorporated many mechanical features into their pianos only found in the finer brands, such as Steinway and Chickering. They also built player pianos. Little is documented about their automatic instrument output, which appears to have been a side venture outside of normal piano manufacturing, appearing in the late 1880's and early Twentieth Century.

The Electratone is a combination of piano and organ reeds (think pump organ or accordion) that is played by a G roll. The MHM's instrument is one of two known surviving examples of this particular type of nickelodeon. It is housed in a standard Waltham design, a simple oak case with backlit stain glass front. It can be activated via its original coin mechanism. The case has been cleaned up with some veneer restoration but still left with some of the badges of its history, with cigarette burns and water rings. The original stained glass front is still intact. The Electratone will be displayed in the Saloon for the opening of the Museum for its 36th season. Come and hear it...you will not soon forget it!



Double the Deliciousness!

Our **Pizza and Pipes: Gourmet Pizza Dinner and Concert** remains one of our most popular events. 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 organists, Andrew Rogers and Dave Calendine.

Rogers, a staff organist at Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor, will perform on July 20 and Red Wings and Fox Theater Organist, Calendine, will be entertaining audiences December 27th.

Spring Brings More Museum Fun! *By AJ Morley*

Hello Everyone! Spring is in the air and that can only mean one thing, getting the Museum ready for another exciting season! I hope all of you are as pumped up as we are. Why am I so giddy about the 2018 season? I am excited for this upcoming season because 2018 is the season the Music House Museum will bring you MORE!!!

More staff! The Museum is thrilled to be bringing in a new Executive Director, Tim Keaton. Tim is bursting with new concepts and ideas for the MHM. With an eye for detail and wonderful approach to customer service, we are all delighted to have him here. We have also added new Board member, Ed Kennedy. Ed had been a docent here for almost a decade before joining the Board a earlier this year. His unique perspective is a welcome addition for us. While we are happy to have Ed on the Board, that means we have an available position with our Docents. So you can expect to see one or two more fresh friendly faces this season as well.

More events! Movies, dancing, and concerts, oh my! We have something for everyone this season. Not to mention our famous pizza and pipes and of course our family days and open house events. Adding in our unique daily tours to the mix, the Museum is the place to be in 2018. Keep your eyes on us all season so you don't miss out on a single moment.

More Comfort! We are so proud to unveil our new heating and cooling system going through our entire facility. From our incredible gift shop, through the wonders of our self guided galleries, all the way to the 1909 barn that houses our collection. This massive project started in mid November 2017 and just completed in February 2018. Stop in to enjoy the Museum in a whole new level of comfort.

MORE! MORE! MORE! The MHM is so pleased to bring you so much more this season! We look forward to seeing you and sharing our passion for automated musical instruments with you.

Exciting Things Happening *by Kelly Roberts Curtis*

Spring is always and exciting time of year for us at the Music House. While our doors are closed to the public during the winter months, the activity never stops. Our planning for the season actually begins the year before but goes into full swing after the first of the year. There is nothing 'slow' about our winter break!

The addition of our new Executive Director, Tim Keaton, has added fresh new energy and ideas for the season and our future. He has been a wonderful addition to our team and has hit the floor running! We hope that you will have the opportunity to meet him soon.



Before the doors even open, we hold our first event, School Days: The Science of Sound. This week long hands-on program, led by Tom Kaufmann, is a staff and volunteer favorite. Each year hundreds of 3rd through 5th graders from a six county area are the invited to learn about the science of sound and the children have so much fun they forget that they are 'learning'. Their laughter will be filling the Music House April 23rd - 27th.

Our 2018 Season is shaping up nicely with many exciting events already planned and several more in the works. We are working to include even more exciting concerts over the season, including everything from the contemporary to the classical.

We are also excited about our 2nd Annual Fall Fundraiser on Oct. 7th. Our theme this year will be "The Roaring '20's" and we hope you will all mark your calendars for this speak-easy fun!

We are also working on a redesign of our brochure, TV, Radio

and Print ads and other materials all reflecting our new brand promise: Music House Museum- Connecting you with the enduring magic of music. And we are also looking for and writing grants, grants, grants . Exciting times at the Music House!

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/Grandparent - \$50.00

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

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