



Our annual reports are online at www.debencemusicworld.com. Details of past years spending are there, along with benchmarking to measure our performance.

We have a blog issued weekly, mostly about our internal activities such as repair of instruments. You can find it easily from our website, www.debencemusicworld.com

Free Publicity

On September 1 we furnished information and videos for WQLN in Erie to be used in their Our Town series..

In the July/August issue of Mechanical Music, the MBSI journal, our Berry Wood orchestrions made the cover and inside there was a six page article about the museum and our instruments.

Financial Situation News:

It looks like we will end the year with our operating budget at about a break even state.

Our sprinkler system maintenance costs are up as the local service sold out to a national firm with the accompanying rate increase.

On the good side our change in electricity supplier and the weather have cooperated to stabilize our utility costs.

We obtained 2018 grants for the school tours, and the mini events which will allow these programs to continue.

Thanks to several donors our trust has grown to \$22,000. We are not taking any income from the trust, as all the income is directed back into the trust to allow it to grow. We could use your help with a one time donation for this cause.

We are fighting the increased service costs for our elevator by switching to a

cooperative agreement with another supplier which has saved us about \$800 this year.

We have attained the platinum level with GuideStar.



[OIL REGION MUSIC PRESERVATION MUSEUM \(DeBence Antique Music World\)](#) is a GuideStar Exchange Member

Serving our Community

Our total attendance for the 2016 year was close to our all time record so we really do not expect to exceed it this year. Right now we are running slightly below last year, and are ahead of our three year rolling average

The Mini-Event program of free one hour presentations continued, sponsored by the Rees Trust, with 2017 attendance down slightly because of bad weather and competition from a city sponsored *music in the park* event which blew away one of our events

Our repair of antique music machines for the public was continued.

Our free 4th grade tours program continued in 2016, sponsored by the Eileen J. Luce Charitable Trust,

We offer low cost rental space for events or meetings in the third floor ballroom or the open area in the basement, and as of Oct 2 usage of this feature is up substantially from 2016.

Last year we hosted the first Snowflake Ball which was a semi-formal dance with live music in our ballroom. It was enjoyed by many, so we intend to try it again. If you don't get a better offer for the evening of February 2, 2018 then we invite you to our second Snowflake Ball. We also need some sponsors to help pay for the live music.

Progress With the Collections:

- 1) Work on the Cremona J progressed to the point where it was returned to the main floor.
- 2) Our Link AX came to the shop for repair. We built and installed a mandolin rail to replace the original which had been removed before we got the instrument. The Tambourine supports had to be replaced as the music roll shelf had sagged and caused their destruction. The wood block beater valves required restoration. It was in the shop for several months, but is now back on the main floor with all functions working.
- 3) The Cremona C had a coin drop installed and was moved into the basement area where it may be played for 25 cents.

Progress on Updating the Building

In September we received a matching grant to paint the rubber roof white which allows us to complete the last major piece of our energy usage reduction project. The grant covers 90% of the cost, but we have to come up with the rest. Up until now the air conditioning unit has been sitting on a black roof where the air that cools it is in the 190 degree range on a summer day.

Please consider filling in the appropriate blanks, and returning your fully tax deductible donation in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for your past interest and we look forward to hearing from you. You may use Visa or MasterCard if you prefer.

Yes, I'd like to help out with the building renovation and instrument restorations.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ email _____

Card Type (Circle one) M/C or Visa _____ Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Cardholder please sign here _____

Security Code (from back of card) _____

mail to DeBence Antique Music World, 1261 Liberty Street. Franklin, PA, 16323

This obviously reduces its efficiency, thus raising our electric usage. This black roof also heats the attic area over the third floor which makes it more difficult to keep the ballroom temperature under control. With cooperation from the weather and the contractor we got the job done on October 4..

Memorial or Honor Donations

Since the last newsletter we have received donations in memory or honor of five persons. If you know anyone with a love of music machines you might consider honoring them in this way. The honoree gets a notice of your donation, you get a tax deduction, and we get some needed and appreciated funding. For a person interested in mechanical music a prepaid admission or a membership would make a great gift.

Our Opportunities

The Trust needs to be properly funded, and our reserve fund is smaller than recommended.

We still need a ten foot stepladder, more folding chairs, and some manikins.

We invite those of you not now sustaining members to join us. Our ability to get grants depends in part on our membership support. A family membership only costs \$50 per year.

We have several Holiday CDs of songs on our machines which might make good Christmas presents. You can buy them from our website, or by mailing us an order.