

Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



WWW.JATOE.org

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July/August 2005

Join us at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet on Sunday, July 31, 2005. Young organist David Rhodes will perform at the Barton. Doors open at 1:30 pm, with a 2:00 pm program. See page two for details.

Our August social will be held at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet on Sunday, August 14, 2005. Artist will be 2004 ATOS Young Organist Competition winner, Mark Herman from Ft. Wayne, IN. Doors will open at 1:30 pm, and the program begins at 2:00 pm. See page two for details.

President's Message

Dolores and I attended the ATOS 50th Anniversary Convention in Pasadena, CA. I have written part of this letter from Brooking, Or. and finished it at my sister's home in Wilsonville, Or., just outside of Portland.

Those of you that have not as yet been to a National Convention be sure to attend one someday. The artists, the venues, the camaraderie of people from around the world is very exciting. We heard wonderful organs, but the Rialto Theatre and the Barton Grande have a special place in our hearts.

Some of you may not have heard, but JATOE received a \$4000 grant from the Pauls Foundation to be used to rewind and renovate the upper main chamber which was put together very quickly before the 1993 ATOS convention. It needs a lot of work.

Our election results were as follows:

President – Jim Patak; Vice President – Don Walker; Secretary – Barbara Petry; Treasurer – Dolores Patak; Directors – Jim Bradley, Thom Day, Mike Cierski.

Please keep the following dates on your calendar for the exciting 10th Anniversary Extravaganza. This is a milestone for JATOE. It is also a milestone for the theatre. The Rialto Theatre and the Barton Grande will be 80 years old in 2006.

Artists for the show are:

Rob Richards and Ralph Wolf
Jelani Eddington
Chris Gorsuch
Chris Elliot
Rosemary Bailey

Dates are as follows: Friday - April 28, 2006 – VanDerMolen Residence --- Saturday – April 29, 2006 at the Rialto Square Theatre – Sunday – April 30, 2006 - Victorian Palace.

Jim Patak, President

Vice-President's Message

Greetings everyone! I wanted to remind all of you that it's never too late to sign up for receiving your newsletter via e-mail. The file I send is the widely used PDF file format that allows you to save the file to disc, or print it in full color! Not only will you save your chapter in postage expense, but you will receive your newsletter more quickly. If you are interested, simply send me an e-mail request titled, "JATOE Newsletter" to kinura8@sbcglobal.net, and I will add you to my distribution list.

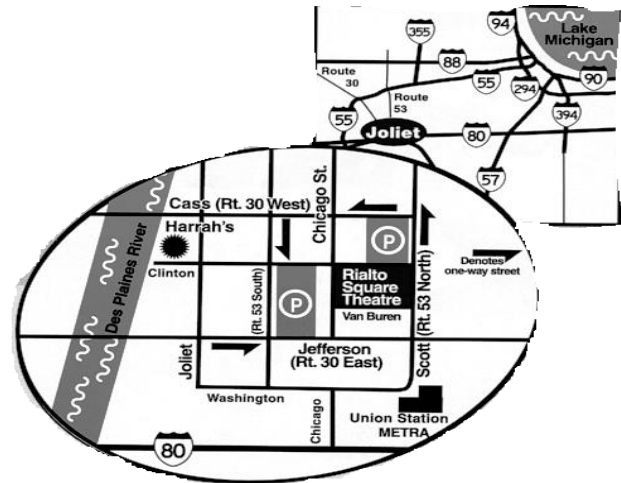
The 2005 ATOS National Convention held in Los Angeles is now history. Four of your JATOE Board members represented JATOE at this event. Some very positive programs are being devised, one of which is a new Youth Representative Committee of which Mike Cierski and I are members. We met with the new ATOS Youth Representative, John Reister and ATOS Board member Jelani Eddington to brainstorm ideas on how to involve and excite more young members (30 and under) in joining the ATOS. If you know of any young people who play the organ, please let Mike or I know. One of the most exciting plans for next summer is the proposed ATOS Theatre Organ Summer Camp in Indianapolis, IN. Mike Cierski has worked very hard on this project that will involve lectures, concerts, demonstrations, musical/life focus sessions, musicianship studies, lessons (advanced to beginner), master classes and group activities. The camp is open to all young people ages 13-30, with complete details to follow in an upcoming *Theatre Organ* journal in 2006. Remember, the future of theatre organ depends on our youth! I'll see all of you in July!

Don Walker, Vice-President

Young Organist David Rhodes will be featured on July 31!

David Rhodes is 20 years old, and lives in Lisle, Illinois. David has loved the organ and wanted to play it ever since he was a toddler. He started taking piano lessons at age 7, and classical organ at age 12. His organ instructor for 8 years was Fr. John Palmer C.S.V., a former professor at Benedictine University. Fr. Palmer has studied in the U.S., Canada, England, and was a student of Jean Langlais in Paris, France. David's first encounter with a Theatre Organ was at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove when he was 14. Through Dennis Scott he became a member of CTOS, and a substitute organist at the Tivoli. Through the Tivoli David met Jim Schaffer and soon after became a member of CATOE. For the past 4 years David has played prelude music at DGN High School for their Band and Choir concerts. He was also Organist at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles, until the Theatre recently closed its doors. David has been a member of the organ crew for the Tivoli and Arcada Theatres, the Hotel Baker, DGN High School, and the George Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium. David is currently studying music at Concordia University in River Forest, his organ professor is Dr. Steven Wenthe. David is also the Director of Music at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church LCMS in Des Plaines. David's Theatre playing is mostly self taught, from listening to George Wright and Don Baker recordings, with some much appreciated guidance and pointers from Lee Maloney. In addition to all of this, David is currently in the process of building a 2/10 Theatre Pipe Organ in his basement.

Doors to the theatre will be open at 1:30 pm. Please enter through the gray stage doors at the rear of the theatre on Scott Street. Please bring refreshments for this social. The program will begin promptly at 2:00 pm. Open console will follow David's program.



ATOS Young Organist Winner Mark Herman returns!

Mark Herman was born on August 25, 1987, and currently lives in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He has been studying the piano since he was seven years old and started classical organ lessons in the sixth grade. His first introduction to the theatre organ was when he was in fourth grade and was at the Embassy Theatre. This was made possible by Bob Goldstine and the local AGO's "Room on the Organ Bench" program. He has been studying theatre organ with John Ferguson of Indianapolis for about three years and piano with Christine Freeman at IPFW for about three and one half years. In the summer of 2003, he was given the opportunity to play a cameo performance at the American Theatre Organ Society's annual convention in Oakland, California. Mark is also still involved heavily with the Embassy Theatre. He is one of the volunteer pianists and organists and serves on the Embassy Organ Committee and the Embassy Organ Crew. He is also currently a sophomore at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne. In addition to playing the organ, Mark is an avid pianist and loves trying his hand at composing pieces for practice and recreational purposes. Mark feels special gratitude towards his parents, Ron and Andrea, who have supported him from the beginning. Mark just returned from a very successful ATOS convention concert performance at the famed Fullerton High School Wurlitzer. We are pleased to welcome him back to perform for us, this time at the Barton organ! Mark was also a featured performer at this year's Rialtofest Extravaganza in April.

Doors to the Rialto Theatre, Joliet will open at 1:30 pm, and the program will begin at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments. Enter at the rear of the theatre, (Scott Street stage door entrance.) Parking is available behind the theatre, city streets, and Harris Bank parking lot just south of the theatre.

Editors Note: Jim/Dolores Patak, Mike Cierski and I had the pleasure of hearing Mark perform a full concert at Fullerton High School for the ATOS National Convention in Los Angeles. He did an outstanding job, and made his parents and teacher very proud of his accomplishments. Mark is only 17, and we are happy to welcome him back for his second JATOE appearance. Please welcome our sister chapters, CATOE and CTOS to this event!

