

# Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



WWW.JATOE.org

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May/June 2005

**Join us at the Beautiful Sound (Allen Organ studios) on Sunday, May 15, 2005. Dennis Scott will perform on the George Wright 4-manual organ. Doors open at 2:30 pm, with a 3:00 pm program. See page two for details.**

**Our June social will be held at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet on Sunday, June 26, 2005. Don Springer will perform at the Barton organ. Doors will open at 1:30 pm, and the program begins at 2:00 pm. See page two for details.**

**The JATOE Board of Directors is proud to share the breaking news that Mike Cierski has been elected to the ATOS Board for the 2005-2008 term!**

**ATOS Secretary Jack Moelmann reported the results on Friday, April 22. We wish Mike all the best as he works to promote the goals of ATOS especially with our youth!**

## President's Message

By the time you get this newsletter, Pipe Organ Extravaganza IX will be just a memory. I'm hoping that many of you were able to attend.

You will receive your ballot shortly to vote for the Officers and Board Members that will take JATOE through 2007. Those of us that have been in office for the past two years, hope that you have been satisfied with our leadership.

The Barton has been performing brilliantly as some of you heard when Jim Kozak of Houston was here to play at our last social. I have to personally thank Taylor Trimby for helping us with the computer problems we had. I also want to thank Leroy Petry for changing some of the computer chips that had created some strange problems.

JATOE will be looking for a new pipe chest for the brassless trumpet we purchased a few years ago that were supposed to fit in an installed chest. The measurements were incorrect and as a result some of the upper notes will not fit because of the flairs on the top of the pipes. This was done before we were in office. It is just another hurdle we have to jump over.

At a recent country western show, a fan ran down the aisle in front of the organ and fell over the rail onto the Barton. He required three stitches in his head. The organ was fine as he probably landed on the bench. At The Ted Nugent Rock Show some of the performers were standing on the console. Needless to say I let the theatre know that this could have been a disaster to the Barton.

Dolores Patak and Barbara Petry had been busily sewing new material provided by the Rialto. They had made new mini-drapes that will be installed behind the front stage railing.

We will again be producing an Extravaganza IX CD with Jerry LeCompte as the recording engineer. This recording will be out shortly after the Extravaganza.

We are already planning Extravaganza X which will be a great milestone for JATOE. The date for this is April 29, 2006. This will also be a tremendous year for the Rialto and the Barton Grande as both will be celebrating an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

After a recent discussion with the Board Members we are going to invoke a previous rule JATOE had about recording at our socials. **Recording with battery operated devices will be permitted. We will not permit using the theatre's power.** This could get us in trouble with the Stage Hands Union. We are fortunate that we are able to use the facility and in no way do we want to jeopardize this relationship. We hope that those that record will understand this decision. The last thing I'm going to say is congratulations to Mike Cierski as he was elected to the American Theatre Organ Society Board of Directors. This is a fine honor for such a young man. Good Luck Mike.

*Jim Patak*

## Calendar of related theatre pipe organ events/concerts

**Wednesday, May 11, 2005**—Join Don Springer and Lee Maloney as they offer another installment of their Theatre Organ 101 workshop at the Beautiful Sound in Countryside, IL. Bring your favorite theatre organ arrangement! Some topics will include how to read piano music, and covert it to a successful organ arrangement. Door open at 6:30 pm, and the workshop begins promptly at 7:00 pm. Call Lee Maloney at (708) 482-7100 for additional information and directions. Best of all, it's free!

Upcoming JATOE socials—Mark your calendars now!

**Sunday, July 31, 2005**, David Rhodes at the Rialto Theatre Barton Organ

**Sunday, August 14, 2005**, Mark Herman at the Rialto Theatre Barton Organ—Details to follow in the next newsletter.

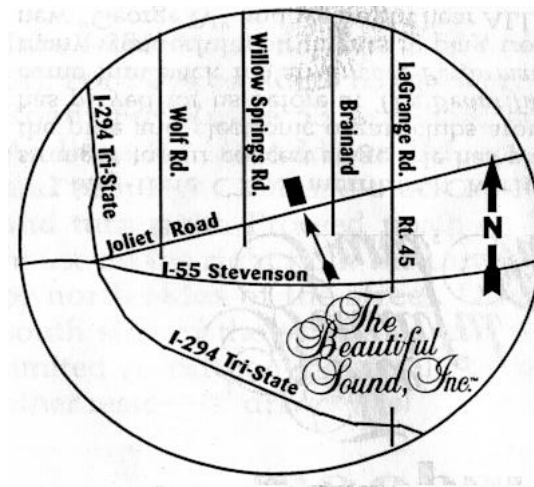
**Sunday, May 15, 2005, 2:00 pm**—Barry Baker will be performing for the Annual Buddy Nolan Memorial Concert at the Embassy Theatre, Ft. Wayne, IN. Tickets are \$12 per person and are available at the Embassy Box Office, all Ticketmaster outlets and at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). More information can be found online at [www.embassycentre.org](http://www.embassycentre.org). The Embassy is located at 125 W. Jefferson Blvd, Ft. Wayne, IN. Call the Embassy box office at (260) 424-5665 for additional information by phone.

## Dennis Scott to perform on the George Wright Allen organ!

Dennis Scott has worn many musical hats since his days at the University of Tulsa where he majored in journalism -- not music.. He worked in public relations in Chicago for a number of years before becoming a full-time musician. During the late 1970s, he traveled as a concert artist for an electronic organ company before getting involved in the pizza organ circuit, working in San Francisco and Detroit. He claims that was like playing for Vaudeville every night!. During those "pizza years" he also began accompanying short silent movies (20 minute two-reelers) as part of his evening's entertainment schedule. Working from a large library of two-reelers he played most of those films "cold" and quickly developed his improvisational skills while watching those films for the first time with the audience! This is much the same way it happened for the silent movie organists of the 1920s.

In recent years with a renewed interest in classic silent films, Dennis has been in increasing demand. Since his return to Chicago in 1992, he has played many solo organ programs around the Great Lakes, but he is by his own admission, most at home playing silent film presentations. He played intermissions for more than six years at the Music Box Theatre in Chicago. He is President of the Chicagoland Theatre Organ Society and a founder and President of the Silent Film Society of Chicago. (Chicagoland chapter members will be joining us this afternoon.)

**Doors to the Beautiful Sounds will not open until 2:30 pm, with the program beginning at 3:00 pm. Please bring refreshments. Contact the store at (708) 482-7100 if you need additional directions. Please do not try to enter prior to 2:30 pm. The Beautiful Sound is located at 8475 Joliet Road, Countryside, IL 60525. Many thanks to Lee Maloney for allowing us use of the wonderful studios and Allen George IV!**



## “Dandy” Don Springer to be featured at the Grande Barton!

Join us at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet on Sunday, June 26, 2005 to hear Don Springer on the world-class Barton theatre pipe organ! Don is no stranger to Chicago area theatre organ enthusiasts. He has performed at the original Sally’s Stage in Chicago, all of the major theatre organ installations in the Chicago area, and has held the distinction of being ‘house organist’ during the last years of the Hinsdale Theatre’s existence. Don has a keen love for old standards, and has the unique ability to emulate the great theatre organists of the past. He is particularly gifted as a devotee of Jesse Crawford and George Wright’s technique. He has also performed with jazz/dance bands in concert with organ/orchestra duets, as well as featured solo performances too numerous to mention. Don began his study of music at the age 6, and his instructors include none other than Al Melgard who was staff organist at the Chicago Stadium. He studied Classical Organ Performance at DePaul University in Chicago, and has performed throughout the Midwest. He has been featured on Radio and Television, and has one CD to his credit which was produced with Jim Glass at the Hinsdale Theatre Wurlitzer/Kimball.

**Doors to the Rialto Theatre, Joliet will open at 1:30 pm, and the program will begin at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments.**

