

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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July/Aug/Sept. 2008

Our next social will take place on Sunday, August 31, 2008 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL. Featured organist will be Juan Cardona from Newtown, Connecticut! This will be Juan's first time at the Barton Grande, and he is very excited to perform for our chapter. Doors open at 1:30pm, and Juan's program begins at 2:00pm.

Join us Sunday, September 14, 2008 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL. Featured organist will be Dean Rosko. The doors will open at 1:30pm, and Dean's program begins at 2:00pm. Please bring refreshments. See page two for details.

President's Message

JATOE was well represented at the ATOS National Convention in Indianapolis, IN. About 20 JATOE members ventured out to hear some of the finest performance to be heard in a long time. Everybody was great, however, Simon Gledhill and Rich Hills were incredible. I was particularly taken by one of Walt Strony's remark about rock music on the theatre organ. He said in order to play the present day music it must have a melody. The program Mark Herman gave at the Embassy Theatre was a great highlight of the convention. His friend Anthony sang some selections with Mark at the organ. Dyne Pffefenberger then joined Mark at the piano for more great music.

The theatres we visited were spectacular and the organs were a compliment to Carlton Smith, who takes care of them. The convention had 525 attendees. Australia, England, Canada and Scotland were well represented. Dolores and I were very happy to see old friends and making of new friends is always a pleasure.

JATOE also did very well in the Records Shop where we sold \$1458 in CD's (after the Central Indiana Chapter took the amount for selling). Our new CD (Extravaganza 12) sold very well and will be available at our next socials. JATOE also congratulates Mike Cierski for his receiving a scholarship from the ATOS.

The next convention will be held in Cleveland, OH. Cleveland has many great theatres with fine organs in them. This should be a great convention and it is within driving distance. Those of you that have not ever been to a convention should try to make the next one. It is a wonderful experience.

The ATOS is in a quandary in that the membership is declining rapidly. This puts a strain on the finances that are used for scholarships and grant to chapters that are in need of help in restoring theatre organs. The ATOS has hired Ken Double as the CEO/President. His job will be to dedicating himself to righting the ship and to develop a partnership with corporations for fund raising. The ATOS will not be able to fund their many programs (grants to Chapters, Summer Camp for young organists, scholarships and other programs) without new monies coming in.

One of the problems is the way membership is handled. In about 1985 a change was made that chapter members were not required to be ATOS Members. Some Chapters like Central Indiana require that all members must be members of both. JATOE does not require that, however, it would be a wonderful gesture on your part if you also supported our parent organization. The cost is only a little over \$3.00 a month for the ATOS portion. Please think about this.

By the time you get this letter, JATOE will have hosted the second Summer Camp on July 24 at the Rialto Theatre. The 2009 Summer Camp will be located on the West Coast.

Jim Patak

A word from one of our members...

So the song goes... "I work Hard for My Money..." However, the three days of JATOE extravaganza was the best money I could have spent. I am sorry for those of you who missed the Extrav...it was outstanding: The artists were some of the best in the world, the venues were tops, and the organs were beautiful as were all the musical programs. What an adrenalin rush!!

The Patak's, President Jim and Treasurer Dolores, spend countless hours taking phone calls, answering e-mails, filling ticket orders, and keeping everyone happy. It is a tremendous job, and they have devoted many years to this very successful and fun fundraiser for JATOE. (In fact, ATOS Chapters in other parts of the country may attempt something similar.) Many, many thanks Jim and Dolores.

There are good employees. There are bad employees, and there are "Volunteers!" Where would organizations be without dedicated volunteers? They give time, talent, money, gasoline, dedications and love. As I look back several years, JATOE has had the best. My Dad, Jim Challenger, spent hours, days, and years on the Rialto Grande because he loved this organ so much. We had Will Briar, Norman Martin, Milt George, Lee and Oma Rajala, Sam Yacono, Joel Martis, Taylor Trimby, June and Sam Levy, Eileen Sheridan, Lee Maloney, Barb and Leroy Petry, Dolores and Jim Patak, Thom Day, Don Walker, Bernice and Don Walker, Sr., and all of the Board Members who have steered the club in the right direction. (Too, toot: I obtained artists and venues, wrote the newsletter, and set up the refreshments for some 5 or 6 years, a long time ago." I would be remiss not to include the very hard-working ladies who set up and clean up all of our delicious refreshments each month...Norma Peters, Millie Juricic, and Dolores Patak.

Thank you to everyone and who has and still is giving their 'volunteerism' to make JATOE one of the very nicest and most successful chapters of ATOS!

Jan Challenger, Joliet, IL, July 1, 2008

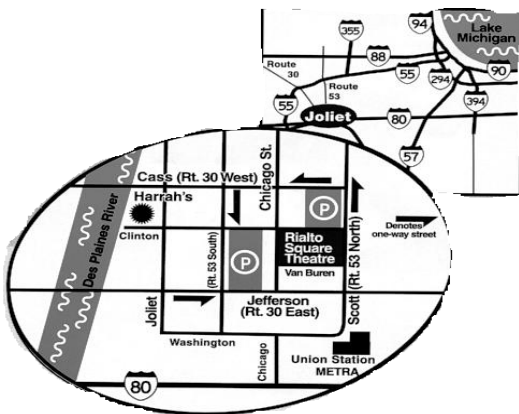
Iuan Cardona make his Rialto Debut!

Juan Cardona, Jr. of Newtown, Connecticut, began studying piano and organ at the age of seven and has continued his musical training through college, majoring in classical organ. He studied classical organ with Angela Salcedo at the University of Connecticut. He graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts, majoring in classical organ. In addition to his studies he trained and refined his Theatre Organ skills with Jelani Eddington.

Juan has been the staff organist at the Thomaston Opera House for last fourteen years and for the past 8 years he has been the staff organists at the Bardavon Opera House in Poughkeepsie, NY. In 1994 and 1995 Juan was awarded first place in the American Theatre Organ Society's Hobbyist Division Competition.

As a concert artist, he has performed theatre organ concerts in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey Rhode Island, Alabama, Georgia and Missouri. Juan began doing silent film work, by accompanying silent cartoons at a stage production of "School House Rock" at the Thomaston Opera House and accompanied the Academy Award winning film "Wings" as his first full length feature film. Other films he has scored are: "Phantom of the Opera", "Robin Hood", "The Beloved Rogue", "Tell it to the Marines", "Speedy", "The General" and silent short comedies: "The Great Race", "Big Business" and "One Week".

Juan has been the featured artist for 5 years for the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society in their "Silents in the House" Film series. The list of films he has accompanied has grown to over 30 silents short comedies and full length features. Juan has had the distinct honor of performing at Woolsey Hall as guest organist with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Skitch Henderson with vocalists, Laurie Gayle Stephenson and Keith Buterbaugh from Broadway's "Phantom of the Opera". Juan has also had the honor of opening for 50's and 60's pop star Neil Sedaka and opened and played with Tito Puente at his last performance. In July of 2003, Juan was a featured artist for the American Guild of Organists Regional Convention in Cape Cod and New Bedford, MA and received a standing ovation for his original score for the Harold Lloyd film "Speedy." Juan was also a featured performer at the 2005 "Meet Me in St. Louis" Theatre Organ Event and received rave reviews from the audience members with his three performances. Some of his other hobbies include building and flying radio control model airplanes and N scale model railroading. He is currently working for WaterWorks as a Senior Systems Engineer in the Information Technology Department.



Doors to the Rialto Theatre, Joliet will open at 1:30 PM, and the program begins at 2:00PM. Open console will follow. Please bring refreshments to share with our members/guests. Please enter the stage door located at the rear of the theatre off of Scott Street. The theatre is located in downtown Joliet at 102 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, Illinois.



Dean Rosko returns to the Rialto!

Dean Rosko, 23, began playing piano as soon as he could reach the keys! When he entered First Grade at St. Sebastian's Elementary in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, he began piano lessons, coupled with three years of accordion. Shortly after that, a trip to the Organ Piper Music Palace piqued his interest in the organ, theatre organ in particular. After subsequent trips to hear Walt Strony at Milwaukee's Riverside Theatre, and an opportunity to attend the final hockey game ever played at Chicago Stadium (home of the largest theatre organ ever built), the deal was sealed. In 1994, he began classical organ and theory lessons with Marilyn Stulken in Racine, WI, which lasted for 6 years. At the age of 13, Dean began regular duties playing for skating sessions at Rollaero Skate Center in Cudahy, Wisconsin, and in the summer of 2001, he played for his first USA Roller Sports Great Lakes Regional Championships, and has been doing it ever since, also playing for many local competitions. The summer he graduated from High School, he was hired by the Milwaukee Brewers as the Official Organist of Miller Park, and the following winter, was offered a position as Associate Organist at Milwaukee's Organ Piper Music Palace. This was the very place that had sparked Dean's interest in the instrument, so it has been a real thrill to be able to perform there. Dean had the honor of being invited to furnish the music for all dance events at the 2007 St. Patrick's Day Valley Skating Invitational, the largest invitational roller skating contest in the country. Also, Dean currently serves as Organist and Music Director at Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Antioch, IL. In addition to his duties at the roller skating rink, which unfortunately came to an end in late 2005, at Miller Park, and at the Organ Piper, he has had the honor of performing several times for the Land Of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society at Rockford's Coronado Theatre, for the Chicagoland Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (CATOE) at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, Illinois, and for the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (JATOE) at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, and also provides occasional intermission music on the fabulous Kimball organ at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre. From about 1994, until the time theatre closed in 2000, Dean provided intermission music on the 3/27 Wurlitzer in Milwaukee's Avalon Theatre. Dean also serves as President of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society (DTOS), a chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS), and also on the Board of Directors of CATOE. Dean is part of the crew that works to maintain many of the theatre organs in the Chicago area, including the Wurlitzer's in the Pickwick Theatre, the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, Downers Grove North High School, and the magnificent Wurlitzer organ in the George Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium at the University Of St. Mary Of The Lake, in Mundelein.

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