

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

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Our next social will take place at the Rialto Theatre on Sunday, May 17 at 2:00pm. We welcome Dave Calendine from Michigan in his first performance at the Barton Grande. Don't miss this exciting theatre organist!

Join us on Tuesday night, June 23 for a program by Don Springer. He is always a favorite of JATOE members and you don't want to miss this social. Doors open at 6:30pm, and the program begins at 7:00pm.



President's Message from Jim Patak

Well, I hope that some of our next socials and the Extravaganza get through without the problems we have had with parts of the Barton. During the Ron Reseigh social, the tibia trem blew out the bottom board and during the Joel Gary social the power supply was unintentionally turned down to cause some problems. We are now past that and everything is as it should be.

The ticket sales for the extravaganza are moving along very well, so if you are interested in any of the venues, please contact me at (708-562-8538). We have had one change. Donna Parker and Martin Ellis will be performing at the Wheaton Fox. Jelani Eddington and Jonas Nordwall will be entertaining us at the Krughoff Wurlitzer Park. If you had not been to the Wheaton Fox and heard Paul VanDerMolen's Wonder Morton, it might be the last time at this venue. Paul has the house up for sale.

The Rialto Theatre building is going through a major renovation. The third and fourth floors will be part of the University of St Francis. I have also been told that the second floor will be revamped in 2010 to include a communications area (TV, radio station), which ultimately means that the ATOS Archives will have to move. I'm not looking forward to this. The good thing is that the theatre will also have a lobby elevator located somewhere near the Rotunda bar.

We are increasing security for the Barton only because we believe that some funny things have been happening. I keep telling Leroy that it is the Rialto ghost, but he feels differently. The strangest happening is that the Lobby Organ's tibias were in perfect tune. The lobby organ has not been played for years and the pipes should not have played as well as they had. The pedal midi extensions had gotten very loud and we had to turn them down. As a result, the security has been upgraded and only limited access will be permitted.

Our next social will be May 17, 2009 at the Rialto. You will be happy with the artist as he was just here in Chicago Area and stopped by to do some practicing on the Barton. He is involved with the Detroit Fox Theatre. He is very good.

I have to thank those members that have kept us in office for another 2 years. (Thanks A Lot!!!!!!) We will again do the best we can for you.

Jim Patak

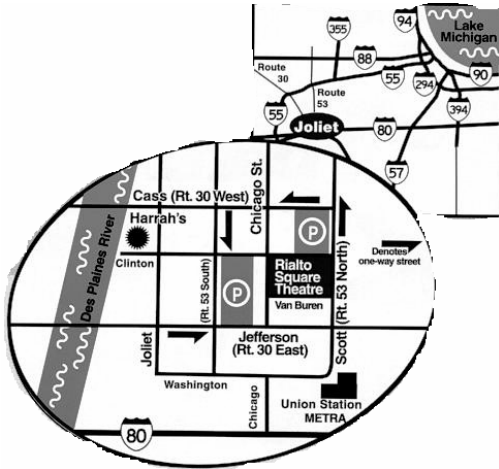
Information you should know...

- During the 2008 New Year's Eve program at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign, Illinois, the Champaign Park District and local singing ensemble The Chorale recognized Warren York for his contributions to the Virginia Theatre. In addition to numerous other programs since 1988, Warren has played overture, intermission, and sing-along music (using the theatre's collection of antique glass slides) on the 2/8 Wurlitzer for all but one of the annual shows since 1991. He has contributed immeasurable time, expertise, materials, and finances, not solely to bring back the organ from neglect and decay, but also to assist in the maintenance and operation of the theatre itself. A plaque to be installed in the theatre was presented, listing his name as House Organist since 1988.
- Jelani Eddington has just published the first of a series of books containing fully written-out arrangements for theatre organ. A new website, www.theatreorganarrangements.com, has been established to provide information about these books. The first book of the series was released in early March and can be ordered online at www.theatreorganarrangements.com or by check/money order directly from RJE Productions at P.O. Box 44092, Racine, WI 53404-7002. The book contains 130 pages and is available for \$34.95 plus \$6.00 shipping/handling within the USA & Canada.
- From Mark Herman: "I just wanted to let everyone know that I've just released a new CD entitled "A Kid in the Candy Store." It was recorded on the massive 4-manual, 60-rank theatre organ in the Aveni mansion in Cleveland. This is the first and only recording of this organ in this installation." This CD is available for purchase on a new website solely devoted to selling theatre organ CDs. www.TheatreOrganCDs.com

Dave Calendine debuts at the Rialto!

Dave Calendine, an Ohio native, started his musical career with the player piano at the age of 3. By age 5, he was playing some of the music without the aid of the player mechanism. By age 9, he was playing at his church, where he also started to teach himself the organ at age 15. When at age 16, Dave first heard the magnificent sound of the theatre organ, he was instantly hooked and determined to play the theatre organ at whatever the cost. His wish came true when, one night after a movie, the management of the Akron Civic Theatre let him play. Shortly after that, he was hired as one of the house organist at the 2,678-seat movie palace. The youngest person to ever hold the position, he entertained audiences there for over 3 years. After leaving the Akron Civic Theatre, he continued on, playing at several restaurants featuring theatre pipe organs, such as the Organ Grinder (Toronto, Canada), and Shady Nook (Cincinnati, Ohio). Dave has also played several theatre pipe organs throughout the United States and Canada. In 2000, he went on his first overseas solo concert tour through Germany and Switzerland, playing to packed houses. Dave currently holds the position of Staff Organist for Detroit's fabulous Fox Theatre, holding that position for 16 years now. He has also played nine years for the Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular, featuring the world-famous Rockettes. Dave's enthusiasm for the theatre and theatre pipe organ had him serving on the Board of Directors of the Motor City Theatre Organ Society, which owns and operates the Redford Theatre in Detroit.

Doors to the Rialto Theatre will open at 1:30pm, and the program begins at 2:00pm. Please enter at the rear of the theatre, stage door entrance on Scott Street. Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Dave's performance. Rialto Square Theatre 102 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432



“Dandy” Don Springer returns to the Barton in June!

Don Springer, who grew up in Whiting Indiana, began his musical studies at the young age of nine. Only four short years later after the Hoosier Theatre re-opened with the installation of a Wurlitzer pipe organ, Don became a regular feature creating spectacular music at the mighty theatre pipe organ. It was during high school that Don met the great Al Melgard, who was the staff organist at the Chicago Stadium for over four decades. Don studied with Al for several years during which Al not only imparted invaluable information about playing the organ, but also gave Don the pipe organ expertise, and showmanship that a great musician must have. Then it was on to DePaul University for classical organ studies under Mr. Herman Pedtke who headed the organ faculty. Don had an opportunity to return publicly to the theatre pipe organ at the unique north side venue, Sally's Stage which featured a Barton Pipe Organ. With roller skating waiters, musical revues and amateur gong shows Don had an opportunity to provide comedy routines in additions to his playing. One of his favorite routines was finding a sweet young lady to ride the organ lift with him. Don recorded an album while employed there called "Don Springer Live from 'Sally's Stage'" on the Barton Theatre Pipe Organ. Much later Don provided organ interludes at the Kimball-Wurlitzer hybrid organ in the Hinsdale Theatre up until the closing of the theatre. During this time Don recorded a new album on the Hinsdale organ called "Intermission Interlude."

Social date, Tuesday, June 23, 2009. Doors to the Rialto will open at 6:30pm, and the program begins at 7:00pm. Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Don's performance.

