

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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May-August 2012

Join us on Sunday, July 8 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL for a tribute to Kay McAbee with JATOE's own Don Young at the Barton organ! The doors open at 1:30pm and the program begins at 2:00pm. Please bring refreshments to share. Open console will follow.

Join us on Sunday, August 19 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL as we feature JATOE's own Paul Johnson at the Barton. Joining Paul will be Kay McAbee's niece, Ellen Schroll in a special guest appearance! Ellen will perform some vocal selections accompanied by Paul. The doors will open at 1:30pm and Paul's program begins at 2:00pm. You will not want to miss this social. Please bring refreshments to share.

President's Message

The month of June was entirely booked at the Rialto Theatre. I'm sorry we could not have a social during this month. We have two socials upcoming as you can read in this newsletter.

We have received the files from our previous embroidery company so that we can produce some of the items the theatre is asking for. Our previous embroiderer was in Olympia, WA., and has not completely resumed his business since his wife passed away. I am looking for reasonable company. A few of our members have asked about some of the items we had before.

The Theatre and Joliet are starting tours five days a week. They will be between 10am and 2pm daily. This will include an organ program. We now have five organists that will take a day each. Sam Yacono-Monday, Len Perretta-Tuesday, Don Young-Wednesday, Joel Martis-Thursday and me (Jim) on Friday. These tours will take place from June 11 through August. This is a new adventure and we are not sure how this will turn out. Many vacationers take Route 66 during the summer and we are hoping that this will bring people into the theatre.

Our 17th Extravaganza is already set for the last week Saturday in April 2013, and our date at the Sanfilippo Mansion is set for the next day. Our attendance at this year Extravaganza was 1014 people at the Theatre and 285 at the Sanfilippo Mansion. The theatre and we were pleased with the turnout.

Our Extravaganza CD is still in production. You may or may not know that each artist must (OK) their portion before we can produce the CD. Some artists are on tour and therefore this takes time. We also had to wait for the files coming from the program at the Sanfilippo Mansion.

The Barton is in great shape, however, there are some air-leaks. We are in the process of rectifying this problem. Years ago the crew used a foam material instead of leather for the gaskets. This is now deteriorating and causing the leaks. The artists that played our last extravaganza noted this. Peterson Company has upgraded the relay system and is still working on making it to the artists liking. They actually brought artists there to give them opinions of the relay's performance.

Have a great summer. Stay cool and healthy.

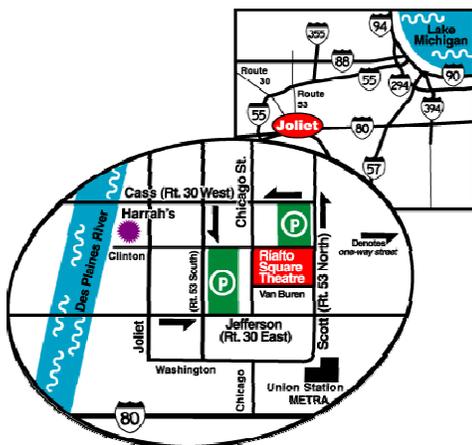
Jim Patak

Editors note: Raymond Dion's wife, Josephine passed away on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 2012. Josephine Kavanagh was born in Dublin, Ireland. She and her girlfriend came to this country in their 20's when she met and married Raymond. They had one daughter, Kimberly and have three grandchildren. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Dion family during this time.

A Tribute to Kay McAbee with Don Young at the Barton!

Join us on Sunday, July 8 as JATOE member Don Young plays a tribute to his late teacher, Kay McAbee on the organ that started it all! Don has several special selections planned that will showcase not only the Barton organ, but Kay's unique style that really started the theatre organ renaissance in the Midwest. Don has had a lengthy career playing in various public eateries and lounges. We are happy that he is active again in the Chicago area theatre organ scene. Don is also a JATOE board member.

The stage doors will open at 1:30pm, and Don's program will begin at 2:00pm. Please bring refreshments to share. Open console will follow Don's program.



Paul Johnson returns with special guest on August 19!

Born right here in Joliet, Paul Johnson has been playing keyboards for over 40 years. At six Paul started on piano and at age ten added the organ to his musical instruction. Paul honed his skills at the organ serving as organist/musician at various area churches. He served as Worship Arts Director in Frankfort and Downers Grove.

Paul's performance and "entertainer" skills were developed in Naperville's top fine dining restaurants during the 1990's. In Chicago he entertained for a year on Rush Street where numerous Chicago celebrities became regular fans. Bill Zwecker of the Chicago Sun Times said, "Paul Johnson tickles those ivories with style, he'll make you smile."

In 1995 he released a CD entitled, "Night Moods," which sold thousands of copies across the country. That made Paul a voting member of the NARAS (the Grammy Association). This year he is composing selections for a new CD of original piano music. Another CD is in the works with Paul's arrangements of Andrew Lloyd Webber songs.

Locally he entertains at the keyboard Monday evenings from 6 to 9 PM at Bonfire Steaks and Seafood in Homer Glen where you can enjoy an outstanding meal with exceptional service in a warm, intimate atmosphere. The music is present, but not overpowering. For more information you can visit www.pianobypaul.com or www.bonfirehomerglen.com.

Paul's program will attempt to do just this as he plays selections by George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, Andrew Lloyd Webber as well as well known movie themes and a sampling of "classic" musicals. All of his selections will be his own, unique arrangements, designed to showcase his musical talents and feature the capabilities of the magnificent Barton Grande Pipe Organ.

Paul's musical guest will be Ellen Schroll, Kay McAbee's niece. Ellen will perform some vocal selections. Doors to the stage will open at 1:30pm and Paul's program will begin at 2:00pm. Open console will follow the program. Please bring refreshments to share.

