

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net May/June 2013

Join us on Sunday, May 26, 2013 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet IL as we welcome to the console, Frank Pellico! It has been more than 25 years since Frank has been featured at the Barton and we are so pleased he has agreed to perform for us! The doors open at 1:30pm and Frank's program will begin at 2:00pm. Open console and refreshments will follow the program.

Please join us on Sunday, June 23, 2013 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet as we welcome the Detroit area favorite, John Lauter. John has agreed to travel quite some distance to perform for us, and we are happy to have him in the Chicago area after quite some time. The doors will open at 1:30pm, and John's program will begin at 2:00pm. Open console and refreshments will follow the program.

President's Message from Jim Patak

Well the 17th Extravaganza is over with accolades and criticisms being heard.

The show was too long, we didn't like the combo, the Lowery organ was too boomy, and the organists didn't play the Barton enough. We cannot please everyone. Our members have to remember that the Saturday is a Rialto show. JATOE does not incur any expense for that day. The artists are paid by the theatre, as are all other expenses. Some people want just organ music, but this is not profitable. We need to attract other attendees.

The Sunday Sanfilippo presentation is all JATOE. It does cost us a great deal of money there. The artists have to be paid, \$25 of every ticket goes to the Sanfilippo Foundation, the recording costs, and the dessert buffet is very expensive. Those of you that were there enjoyed great performances by Jelani Eddington, Walt Strony and Zach Frame. It was a great day.

We are proud of the fact that Glenn Tallar has done a great job preparing the Barton along with his helpers Gerry Long and Don Young. The Barton sounded great. There are still some issues that Glenn will address as he has time.

We are still at an impasse on the organ lift usage. The problem is that we cannot jeopardize our relationship with the theatre. They have been very good to us. At this point I am letting the problem die down and am working other avenues to try to solve this predicament.

We have just received our latest CD. This was a problem with the Chris Gorsuch passing and Dave Wickerham's move from Boca Raton, FL to The Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Dave and Rhonda are managers of the Crystal Falls Theatre in Crystal Falls, MI. With our recordings, we send the artists their portion to okay. This takes time. Then we had the issues listed in the previous sentences.

Some of our upcoming socials are very exciting, as Don Walker has listed in his column. Make sure you put the dates on your calendar.

The Rialto Theatre will be totally scaffolded this fall and the Terracotta will be replaced at a cost of \$2.4 million dollars. Some had already fallen.

The Rialto also has a very exciting new season with plays, Broadway shows, symphonies and of course the 18th Extravaganza the last Saturday of April.

Jim Patak

Frank Pellico returns to the Barton!

While in high school Frank studied with famed Chicago Stadium organist, Al Melgard and long-time roller rink favorite, Leon Berry. He played at the Hub Roller Rink on Tuesdays on the first pipe organ ever. From skating rinks Frank went to Wrigley Field and played from 1970 to 1975 for the Chicago Cubs. Frank was the featured performer at Matterhorn Lounge in Palos Hills for 20 years. He traveled with his band in concert from coast to coast, and even performed at the Rialto in the 1980's featuring the Barton to an almost sold out house. Frank has over 40 recordings to his credit, from LP records to tapes and CD's. Frank has also performed at the Plaza Hotel in New York, four years in Disney World, Florida, and conventions all the way to California. At the present time he plays for the Chicago Blackhawks and has been there for the last 23 years. He also plays at the Aurora Skating Center.

Doors will open at 1:30pm and Frank's concert will begin at 2:00pm. We must inform you that due to Frank's commitments at the United Center, if there is a Blackhawks game scheduled, he may not be able to play for us. If that happens, we will have a suitable replacement.



Detroit favorite, John Lauter to perform in June!

Detroit native John Lauter has been presenting theatre organ concerts for over 25 years. John made his public debut at the Redford theatre at age 16. Since those early days John has presented concerts at many major theatre organ venues throughout the US, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Lauter was a featured performer at the American Theatre Organ Society's 2009 convention in Cleveland.

John spent three years playing at "Theatre Organ Pizza and Pipes" in Pontiac, Michigan.

At home in Detroit, John has presented nine concerts at the Detroit Theatre Organ Society and many concerts and silent film programs at the Redford theatre.

The Michigan theatre in Ann Arbor, Michigan featured John as staff organist for 17 years during which John accompanied such silent film classics as **Metropolis, The Birth of a Nation, The Phantom of the Opera, It, Robin Hood, Greed, The Big Parade, Nosferatu, The Gold Rush** and many others.

The Detroit Fox theatre's 1988 re-opening found John playing before **Frank Sinatra, Liza Minnelli, Sammy Davis Jr.: The Ultimate Event**. Lauter has played at the Fox ever since for film and live shows.

Lauter has used the theatre organ in very traditional roles as a solo and silent film accompaniment instrument, in addition to other unique combinations - with big bands, a Bluegrass-Fiddle band and behind vocalists and instrumentalists.

In preparation for the opening of their new IMAX theatre, the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn contracted John to compose and record a silent film accompaniment to a silent film collage featured in a specially produced IMAX short subject shown before each feature there.

In February 2010, John was a musical guest on NPR's popular **Prairie Home Companion** program. Host Garrison Keillor remarked, "the man (Lauter) has unerring good taste". Lauter performed solos on the live broadcast and joined forces with PHC's "guys all-star shoe band" for some numbers. The show was performed live before 5,000 people and broadcast live into 4 million homes.

John is the organist for the Unity Church of Lake Orion and is also the pianist for the "Swing City Big Band" in Canton Michigan.

John lives in Farmington Hills, Michigan with his wife Amy, son Benjamin and daughter Maryanna.

Doors to the Rialto open at 1:30pm and John's program will begin at 2:00pm. Please bring a refreshment of your choice to share. Open console will follow the program.

