

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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April/May/June 2015

Please join us at the Rialto Theatre on Saturday, May 9 as we welcome ATOS President, Ken Double to the Barton organ. This meeting is also the required meeting for nominations of Officers and Board Members. Please attend this important social. Note the different day for this social, a Saturday, not Sunday. Ken will also share exciting news and happening across the country as it relates to ATOS.

JUNE 14

Join us at the Allen Organ Studios, Bolingbrook, as we are joined by our sister chapter, CTOS. Our organist will be Don Springer. Don will be performing on the magnificent Allen five manual theatre organ. Doors will open at 1:30pm and Don's program will begin at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Don's program. See page two for address and directions to the studio.

President's Message

Happy Spring, Members. I hope you will be ready to work in the garden and start cutting grass again. My son takes care of that fortunately.

Well, we are at the year of elections. The next social is May 9 (Saturday) at the Rialto and there we will have nominations for Officers and Board Members. So, put on your thinking caps and be prepared to nominate.

We are pleased to have Ken Double, the CEO of the American Theatre Organ Society play for us. He lives in Atlanta, GA, but is performing for the Indianapolis Chapter on Mother's Day and he will be here the day before.

Dolores and I have known Ken for a long time since we were the Archivists for 13 years before the ATOS moved it to the University Oklahoma. (yeah!)

Tickets for the 19th Extravaganza are going slower than I expected. Last year we had 280+ at the Sanfilippo Mansion and to date (April 2) we have 102. We don't seem to be getting as many out of state attendees this year. We do have attendees from California, Wisconsin, and Washington DC so far. I'm sure the attendance will still come up.

The theatre seems to have a lot of issues lately, especially with maintenance. I hope this is solved. It only takes money, which they don't have.

Let's not forget to file your income taxes by April 15. The Federal Government needs the money too. They have to subsidize the people that can't afford the Affordable Health Care Act. That is the only political statement I'll make. So, send them you hard-earned money. (I probably should not have said that)

I can't think of anything else to let you know about , so I'll see you at the Extravaganza or on May 9.

Be Well,

PLEASE BRING REFRESHMENTS TO THE MAY 9 SOCIAL

Jim Patak

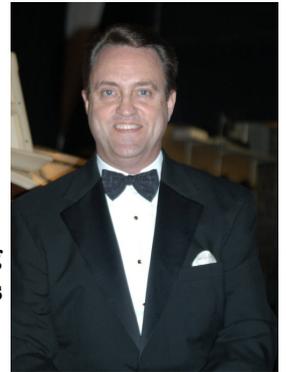
Important Reminders!

- **This is your official notice! The nominations of Officers and Board members will be held at the May 9 Rialto social.**
- **There is a theatre event the morning of our May 9th social. For those of you who arrive early to our socials, please note that the stage doors will be locked until 1:00pm. You will not be able to enter the theatre until that time.**
- **We will not have a regularly scheduled social in the month of April due to our annual extravaganza concert and Sanfilippo program.**

ATOS President Ken Double to appear at the Barton!

Ken was raised in a family of six boys. His parents made sure all six of the boys were introduced to some kind of music, and for Ken, it was organ lessons starting at age eight. About the time he was getting bored with that, and a high school radio station was providing broadcast opportunities, a school field trip took him to the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, IL and a chance to play the Wurlitzer theatre organ, and it was for him as it is for so many, that "WOW!" moment. Several weeks later, the same teacher who guided students on the field trip took a group to hear Gaylord Carter at Chicago's famed Oriental Theatre and Ken was truly hooked. He steered lessons in the theatre organ direction, including one year of studies with legendary organist Al Melgard, where Ken took his lessons on Wednesday afternoons at the Melgard studio, and then met his teacher later that night for the Blackhawks hockey game at the old Chicago Stadium. Talk about careers coming full circle.

He accepted the top post at ATOS in the summer of 2007, and a year later, the Board of Directors asked Ken to accept the newly created position of President and CEO. He has been working diligently to raise funds, raise awareness, create new and exciting programs, and help steer the 55-year-old organization in a new direction to ensure its growth and existence for another 55 years and more. Broadcaster, musician, entertainer, MC, administrator, PR man, and even "crooner" occasionally, Ken Double has enjoyed "having fun and getting paid for it, not once, but twice!" As the song says, "Nice work if you can get it."

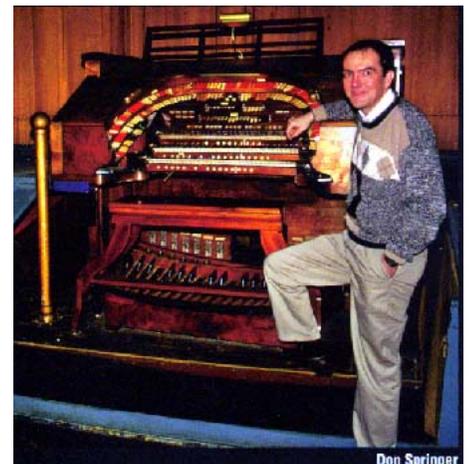


The stage door to the Rialto will open at 1:30 pm and the business meeting will begin at 2:00pm. Ken's program will follow. Please bring refreshments to share. Open console will follow Ken's program.

Don Springer performs on the Allen theatre organ V!

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."

Allen Organs of Chicago From Rt. 55 take Rt. 53 south to the second traffic light which is Crossroads Pkwy. Turn right to the FIRST drive on the left and follow around the building to the front (faces Rt. 53) From Rt. 53 drive north to the second traffic light which is Crossroads Pkwy. Turn left to the FIRST drive on the left and follow around the building to the front (faces Rt. 53) Address: 181 W. Crossroads Pkwy, SUITE D, Bolingbrook. Same Phone: 630-428-9701 Lee's Cell: 815-693-9510 (Lee's "Allen Organ" awning is visible from Rt. 53)



Don Springer

JAN'S JOLIET JOTTINGS

A February Social with an artist from Indiana? Why not?! We certainly were glad to hear the artistry of a young Justin Nimmo. He cleverly intertwined "Chicago" with "You Do Something To Me." Thank You, Justin.

His teacher, John Ferguson, helped with this Cole Porter arrangement: "It's De-Lovely," "I Love You," "Let's Fall In Love," and "It's All Right With Me." Watch for the movie on TV "It's De-Lovely" on the life and love of Cole Porter. Ashley Judd is beautiful and Cole's music is wonderful.

John Ferguson taught so many students that turned out fantastic and Justin sure has those qualities. We definitely lost "one of the greats" as John passed away a few weeks ago.

Seldom heard "Heat Wave" was written in 1933 by Irving Berlin. I really enjoyed "Guess I'll Hang My Tears Out To Dry," made famous by Frank Sinatra. Justin had a great arrangement on "Girl From Ipanema" -- best elevator music I've ever heard.

"Part of Your World" from the 1989 Disney Movie, "Little Mermaid," was a pretty ballad. Next, we heard Johnny Mercer's "Something's Gotta Give." "I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover" and "Buttermilk Sky" reminded me of a home-made record of my singing at age 5? Guess I always loved music!

His closer was a haunting medley from Delta Video Games. Justin's Encore was a cute and peppy "Married I Can Always Get." John Ferguson would have been proud, Justin! Keep up the good work! *Musically yours, Jan*

Jan, Marge, and Jim Challender attended a pipe organ concert at the Rialto Square Theatre, 1974?, performed by Larry Rooou from Wilmington. Someone in the balcony yelled out the date of another pipe organ program at the Patio Theatre---We attended. We also signed up to be members of CATOE. One of their Socials was held at the Aragon Ballroom. As we stood behind the console we talked with Milt George and his wife who invited us to come to JATOE.

There we were, Mom and me, seated next to DOROTHY MAVRICH at a JATOE Social in the home of Lee Maloney. Dorothy exclaimed, "We can't let them turn the Rialto into a department store---worse, still, a parking lot"!! "I'm getting a group together for a meeting at the Joliet Library---Please Come." That group, formed in 1975, was the Rialto Square Arts Association, later renamed Cultural Arts Council of Will County.

Yes, DOROTHY MAVRICH worked long and hard --- attending meetings to gain support and asking corporations as well as individuals for funding. She obtained Landmark Status for the Rialto with the aid of Illinois Representative LeRoy VanDyne. She also produced several programs at the theatre for public support.

This single lady was crippled from polio as a child, the oldest of four girls, and a piano teacher in Joliet. She was strong, smart, determined, and one fantastic fundraiser. Dorothy passed away on February 10, 2015, age 94, with her funeral on Valentine's Day. Everyone that passes through the doors of this "Jewel of Joliet" or sits at an organ program, even better---plays the Barton Grande, owes a great big THANK YOU to DOROTHY MAVRICH!!!

"Third time is a charm" so they say--- however, the first two programs by Tim Duckworth were mighty special. This young man from southern Indiana is definitely going places. I must say he was "clean cut" with a new version of the old "pompadour" hair-do. I'm sure this adorable high schooler impressed the large audience as he took command of the Barton (in stocking feet). In observance of 30 years of music at Lockport's Kelvin Grove School, teacher Sarah Randolph brought many students to hear Tim --- a great fit of audience and performer.

Tim began with "A Wonderful Day Like Today." This self-taught organist takes control of the console and plays with such ease.

He played a medley beginning with "I Had a Dream" and "Everything's Coming Up Roses." Next, "De-Lovely" and "No Business Like Show Business." Who doesn't like "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" from "Wizard of Oz"? Tim used great registration and a jazz arrangement on "Theme From Mr. Lucky" by Henry Mancini. All of Mancini's music is pleasing to my ears. I'm sure the students enjoyed "Pure Imagination" from "Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory."

Tim likes to pay tribute to a special organist so, in memory of Dan Bellomy from Texas, "There Will Never Be Another You," using Dan's arrangement. Then the first song Tim ever learned --- Cole Porter's "From This Moment On." Inspiration from his French teacher gave us the beautiful "La Vie en Rose;" I would love to hear Don Walker's registration on this song. "When Sunny Gets Blue" was a jazzy ballad. For his mom came Irving Berlin's "Puttin On The Ritz" followed by "The Good Old, Bad Old Days" theme song from the 1972 musical of the same name. He ended with "Land of The Pharaohs" using Kay McAbee's registration. (deja vu --- as if I heard it yesterday) Tim's Encore and signature tune was "12th Street Rag." Let's hope some of the students in the audience were inspired to pursue a musical career.