

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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July/August 2015

President's Message

Social dates:

**Sunday, July 19—
Rialto Theatre,
Joliet 2:00pm, Justin
Lavoie, organist**

**Sunday, August 9,
Rialto Theatre,
Joliet 2:00 pm, Jay
Warren, organist.
Stage door opens at
1:30 pm for both
socials.**

**For sale or donation to
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1929 theater organ
built by the Schaefer
Organ Co. of Springer,
WI. This compact or-
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1985 with Peterson
solid state relay and
combination switching
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The organ is available
for audition in Highland
Park, IL. The receiver
must move and trans-
port.**

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Well, the officers were elected again. We have two new Board Members. The Officers and Board members are as follows: Jim Patak – President / Don Walker-Vice President / Dolores Patak-Treasurer / Barbara Petry – Secretary/ Board Members are: Gerry Long, Judy Matarelli and Don Young. I also have to thank Dennis N. for mailing out the ballots and compiling the results.

We were very happy at the turnout for Don Springer at the Allen Studio. Don did a great job playing the 5 manual Allen Theatre Organ. We also thank Lee Maloney for opening his dealership for us. We also thank the CTOS for joining us and a special thanks to those that take care of the refreshment table.

Our club is doing well financially and our membership is increasing. I wish the Rialto Square Theatre was doing as well as our club. We certainly hope their finances get better.

Our next three socials will be at the Theatre. Be sure to read Don Walker's side-bars and bios of the upcoming organists.

I have to mention our July 19th artist (Justin La Voie) coming from the Detroit area. He was a student of Jelani Eddington and Jelani told me that he cannot teach him any more. That is some statement. We should have a fine concert on that day.

CATOE is presenting Frank Pellico the Blackhawk Organist at the Allen Studio in Bolingbrook on August 23. This should be a fun day.

Our friend Col. Jack Moelmann is presenting a program at the Fox Theatre in St. Louis, Mo. On August 23rd also. The artists are Col. Jack, Walt Strony and Lew Williams. I wish I could attend everything.

Dolores and I and many of our JATOE Members attended the yearly Hopeful Heart Concert at the Sanfilippo Mansion. Jelani Eddington always impresses us but we also heard David Gray from Scotland. He was outstanding. This young man is a s good as any we have heard. He is primarily a concert pianist studying at the Royal Academy in London, England. He travels here on a work visa. I don't know how he does it but he has been here in the US 18 times, that is because he has a girlfriend in Oak Park, IL.

The Rialto is having bus tours again this summer. If you have a group that might want to tour the theatre with an organ concert, let Trish Stoner (815-726-7171 ext. 210) set it up for you.

Well, I can't think of anything else and I'm just waiting for the rain to stop and hope you all made it safely through the latest storm.

Stay Healthy,

Jim Patak

ATOS Young Organist Competition winner to appear at the Barton!

Twenty-year old Justin LaVoie possesses a steadfast dedication to the theatre organ art form. Upon hearing his first theatre organ recording at age six, he was compelled to begin electronic organ lessons at a local music store, which continued for the next seven years. He subsequently attended several ATOS Summer Youth Adventures, deepening his knowledge of both the musical and mechanical aspects of the pipe organ. In recognition of his diligence as an organ student, he was named ATOS Student of the Year in 2010, after which he began a period of study with acclaimed theatre organist Jelani Eddington. At the 2013 ATOS National Convention in Atlanta, Justin won the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition, achieving the prestigious title of Overall Winner. He currently studies at the University of Oklahoma, pursuing a Bachelor of Music Arts Degree. Away from the console, he enjoys cooking, spending time outdoors, listening to a wide variety of music, maintaining his extensive collection of early 20th century box cameras, and (of course) restoring his personal Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ!

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

Sunday, July 19—Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL



Chicago area silent film organist Jay Warren makes rare appearance!

Jay Warren - Chicago's foremost photoplay organist - brings all the color, excitement, and glamour of the silent film era back to life with his original scores for the silver screen. As a regularly featured photoplay organist for the Silent Film Society of Chicago, he has accompanied most of the great silent films throughout his forty year career in his famous rousing style. He has been featured annually for the society's highly regarded *Silent Summer Film Festival* since its inception in 2000. For twelve consecutive years he held forth playing the huge E.M. Skinner pipe organ for silent films at the University of Chicago's famed Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. He also performs film accompaniment on the beautiful Letourneau pipe organ in the Crimi Auditorium of Aurora University. Jay has also made several silent film photoplay appearances on the incredible 5/80 Wurlitzer located at the Sanfilippo Foundation's Place de la Musique in Barrington, Illinois.

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

Sunday, August 9—Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL



Jan's Joliet Jottings

The longest running event known to ATOS, JATOE's 19th Rialto Fest Extravaganza. Wow! Each year we say "That was Terrific!" "How can they ever top this next year?" But! They do! This Extravaganza was Wow!

Jelani Eddington is the George Wright of this era. He is precise, professional, and exceptional---He never disappoints.

I thought it was a ploy to have some fun. Nope! Jerry Nagano's luggage was lost so he played the first half in traveling clothes---white slacks, white shoes and a Hawaiian shirt. The airlines sent his luggage to the Rialto's Stage Door. Nagano looked nifty in his tux for the remainder of the program. His playing was more than nifty. Jerry plays with ease to please. Let's hope we have him again---and soon.

Then there was clever Clark Wilson who kept us chuckling as he tied each of his numbers to The Rat Pack. Clark is always a class act---We've missed him!

Now, who wouldn't enjoy Pierre Fracalanza on the "Virtual" organ? His playing is so entertaining and his stories unique. His added 20 lbs just made him more huggable. Pierre is a "showman."

And---The Joliet Area Symphony Orchestra playing for the second time in the Extrav was superb. They are the best orchestra JATOE has presented for the Fest.

As a special treat, Glenn Tallar, our "Jim Dandy" Barton restoration man, looked dashing in his tux and treated us by playing "Can't Take My Eyes Off Of You" on the Barton. We all were very proud of him! Glenn made us proud of the Barton, too! It sounded great!

Everyone who was fortunate to attend Sunday's event at Sanfilippo's Mansion was simply thrilled to hear all four artists play that "world's largest pipe organ" with another outstanding program. The goodies were so tasty while some enjoyed riding the carousel and hearing the music machines. The "weekender" was absolutely wonderful! THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU...Jim and Dolores Patak for all your time and energy to make JATOE the best chapter of ATOS!

JATOE was thrilled to present Ken Double, the CEO of ATOS, on May 9th. Fortunately his presets were still in the Barton from a while ago.

His opener was a lively "There's No Business Like Show Business." Ken played a saloon song, "I Love Being Here With You."

Remembering Beverly Sills prompted "Kiss Me Again" starting with the four-foot tibia that carried the melody. Next, "Softly As A Morning Sunrise."

Ken doesn't research the composers, rather hears a singer that inspires him. Latin rhythm was featured for "Sway" as recorded by Dean Martin and more recently by Michael Buble.

Commercial Break: Ken brought four different CD's and gave us a Mother's Day Discount on them.

I loved his tunes from "Follies": "Beautiful Girls," "Broadway Baby," and "Losing My Mind." After Chicago, Atlanta is his second home so he proceeded to play "Atlanta GA," "Georgia On My Mind," then "Chicago."

Ken told of an ATOS Retreat attended by 20 Directors---learning 8 categories of Self Evaluation. 17 of them rated "D" on management! They will work on that! ATOS has 2500 members---quite low from years ago. They will work on that! This year's Convention will be in Philly and well attended. The next three will be Cleveland, Tampa, then LA.

Ken closed with Jerry Long's request of "Portrait Of My Love" followed by "Let There Be Peace On Earth." His Encore---a bouncy "Please Don't Talk About Me When I'm Gone."

He is definitely a "people pleaser." Having only 10 min. of practice time, Ken presented a beautiful program. As Jean Jacobi exclaimed, "He's Smooth!"

Musically yours, Jan