

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

September/October 2015

President's Message

Social dates:

Sunday, September 13—Rialto Theatre, Joliet 2:00pm, Steven Eaklor, artist.

I hope that all of you are handling this heat the best way you can. Thank goodness for air-conditioning. I can't complain for my sister lives south of Tuscan, AZ it is going to be about 109 degrees. Drink plenty of water or beer or whatever is your pleasure to keep cool.

I'm still trying to get the theatre to think about silent movies. I have been trying since John Peters of CATOE suggested that to the management in 2002. Jay Warren, who performed for us at the last social does silent movies at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, IL and is quite successful. He even stated to me that he would play for no salary and also would help promote the event. The theatre has a negative attitude toward these presentations.

Thursday evening, (Aug 13) Dolores and I went to the Genese Theatre in Waukegan, IL with Cheryl Turner, Sharon Dieter and Bill Reynolds to see the large screen version of Vertigo with James Stewart and Kim Novak. The Genese Theatre is looking for a donor to come up with the money to reinstall the Barton Organ they have in storage. The theatre has been restored beautifully. Anyone?

We are finally getting our 2 years of recordings from the 17th and 18th Extravaganza's together and we will work to get something out since we have not produced a CD in the past 2 years. I'm expecting about 2 dozen recordings from the recording engineer within the next week or so.

Sunday, October 4, Rialto Theatre, Joliet 2:00 pm, Tony Thomas, artist with special guest, vintage crooner Mark Demmin. Stage door opens at 1:30 pm for both socials.

If any of you are looking for sheet music, I found the KMOX Popular Sheet Music Collection at the Lovejoy Library of Southern Illinois University. I found a piece of music I had been looking for since I heard Simon Gledhill perform it. I even asked Simon for it and he didn't have it. You can contact (domeyer@siue.edu) for requests. You may also Google the underlined above.

Please read Don Walker's side bar about our next two socials. They are both at the theatre and we hope to see you there.

I would appreciate any of you letting me know of any illness or passing of any of our members. (jpatlak31@att.net)

PLEASE SUPPORT THE RIALTO THEATRE- (rialtosquare.com)

Stay Well

Jim Patak

Steve Eaklor returns with exciting program planned!

Steven Eaklor is one of the most versatile and accomplished Concert and Recording organists in the world. Equally at home in the classical organ repertoire, Theater Organ, Jazz, Hammond Pop and Gospel styles, his arrangements and orchestrations are renowned for their innovation, excitement and pure musicality. Steven's musical training began at the age of 6, on the Hammond Chord Organ. Soon advancing to Pipe Organ and Trumpet, He pursued and completed formal study at Adams State College in Colorado, earning a B.A. in Music Performance. Steven's passion and utter mastery of the Hammond Organ brought him to a career with the Hammond company, and for 15 years he served as Director of Product Planning and Development. His ideas and innovations continue to be found throughout the Hammond/Leslie product line. Steven's devotion to Sacred Music performance and his vast knowledge of Gospel Music has led to positions as Organist and Choirmaster at Mt. Pisgah A.M.E. Church in Philadelphia, and Minister of Music at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chicago, as well as numerous National Gospel Music Seminars and Clinics for the Hammond Organ Company. Steven also tours with the R&B group "August", The Ron Porter Trio (jazz), and performs to popular and critical acclaim worldwide as a solo Hammond, Theatre Organ and Classical Artist.



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

Sunday, September 13—Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL

Tony Thomas makes Rialto Debut! Vintage Crooner to perform as guest!

Memphis based Tony Thomas is a nationally known pianist, organist and keyboardist. Although earning a Bachelor of Music Degree in Organ Performance under the late Gerhard Krapf at the University of Iowa in 1968, he is known best as a jazz artist with improvisation his forte. He performs as a solo pianist, with a trio (under his name), as well as numerous other types of jazz ensembles, and a jazz-influenced theater organist.

At age 8, he heard his first recordings of George Wright. The next few years, Tony made numerous visits with his parents to various venues where "Mighty Wurlitzers" and other instruments could be found. By age fourteen he was performing regularly on a 3/15 Barton in a local roller rink, and at age 15 became the youngest soloist ever to give a concert on the newly-installed 4/34 Fischer Wurlitzer (then) at the Iris Theatre, now at DTOS's Senate Theatre in Detroit. Immediately, Tony's acquaintance with these fascinating and colorful instruments revealed to him the ultimate jazz orchestra!

As a theater organist, Tony has performed theater organ concerts nationally and enjoys improvising silent movie accompaniments. He has recorded one CD of jazz-influenced arrangements entitled "Something Different...Something Wonderful..." which he will have available for purchase. Also, as a solo pianist and with his own Tony Thomas Trio, Tony has several CD projects available at Amazon.com or through iTunes.

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

Sunday, Oct 4—Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL

