

# Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

July/August 2017

## President's Message

**Sunday, July 23,**  
**2017, 2:30 pm**  
**doors, 3:00 pm so-**  
**cial. Young Artist**  
**spectacular featur-**  
**ing three young or-**  
**ganist from across**  
**the U.S. at the Allen**  
**Organ Studios,**  
**Bolingbrook, IL.**  
**Artists will be Sea-**  
**mus Gethicker,**  
**Brett Miller and**  
**Luke Staisiunas.**

**Sunday, August 20,**  
**2017. Doors, 1:30**  
**pm, social 2:00 pm,**  
**Rialto Theatre,**  
**Joliet, IL. Our artist**  
**will be organ-**  
**ist/teacher, Henry**  
**Evans from the St.**  
**Louis, MO area.**  
**Henry is well re-**  
**spected in the St.**  
**Louis Area, and has**  
**served as Dean of**  
**the local chapters**  
**of the AGO. Henry**  
**performs both**  
**theatre and classi-**  
**cal organ literature.**

Wow!!

What great concerts we heard in conjunction with CTOS/CATOE and our club. David Gray from Scotland and Dave Wickerham from Upper Michigan were superb. I don't know how we can beat those two artists.

The JATOE Board met with the new General Manager Val Devine on May 25. I'm sure we added to her list of suggestions and items that we would like changed. Her list must be a mile long by now. She is a very personable lady and we hope she does well here at the Rialto.

I hope you read Don Walker's side bar as we are going to present some interesting programs for you in the upcoming months.

A number of organ related programs are coming up or have gone by-The Party on the Pipes in St. Louis is over with many of our JATOE members attending, but upcoming is the ATOS Convention in Tampa, FL. Dolores and I have attended many of these across the US and if you have not done this previously, put it on your Bucket List. They are a lot of fun.

Another coming up is also in St. Louis. Col. Jack Moelmann, Dave Wickerham and Justin Lavoie are presenting a program at the Fabulous Fox. This is on August 13. If you have not been to one of the Fox Theatres, you are missing some of the finest theatres in the USA.

The election results are as follows of the ballots submitted. It appears many of you did not vote or just forgot.

President – Jim Patak 78

Vice-President – Don Walker 75

Treasurer – Dolores Patak 78

Secretary – Barb Petry 73

3 of the following Board Members

Gerry Long – 37

Judy Matarelli – 43

Don Young - 50

Joel Martis – 51

Cheryl Turner – 34

Jim Patak

July 23rd Social location:

Allen Organ Studios

181 W. Crossroads Pkwy, Suite D

Bolingbrook, IL 60440

(630) 428-9701

The showroom is located just south of I-55, off of Rt. 53, and just west of I-355. Park in the front of the showroom and look for the Allen Organ canopy.

## Young Organists perform at Allen Organ Studios

Seamus Gethicker just graduated from Morse High School in Bath, Maine. Seamus' interest in pipe organs began at age 8, when he attended a Magic of Christmas concert at Merrill Auditorium in Portland, Maine and first witnessed the mighty Kotschmar Organ played by Ray Cornils. He then discovered the theatre organ soon after through the local ATOS chapter and was instantly hooked. He was a finalist in the Young Theatre Organist Competition in 2015 and was the overall winner for 2016. Seamus has been studying classical organ with Ray Cornils and plays regularly at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Bath, Maine. He is an active member of the Pine Tree Chapter and the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Theater Organ Society, and he is also a docent for the Friends of the Kotschmar Organ. Seamus is excited to be starting college at Oberlin Conservatory of Music in the Fall.

Brett has attended and performed organ concerts and silent films for the past four years. He is fifteen years old and recently completed the ninth grade. Brett's interest in the theater organ has continued to evolve. Each summer he attends the American Theatre Organ Society's "Summer Youth Adventure" featuring instruction from: Jelani Eddington, Jonas Nordwall, Martin Ellis, Chris Elliot and Donna Parker. Along with his brother he founded "[musicalpromise.org](http://musicalpromise.org)" a musical initiative to help fund the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Brett and his brother received the White House Student Film Festival honorable mention for a film featuring their community service work. Brett was also the recipient of the Kohl's Care and Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. He is a member of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra, his high school marching band, jazz ensemble and ATOS. He studies with Jelani Eddington and has played as a featured organist at his church, Rahway, Brooks Arts Center, Union County Performing Arts, Lowe's Theatre in Jersey City and at the Colonial Theatre. Brett is thrilled to be playing for JATOE.

Luke Staisiunas has just completed his sophomore year at the American University of Oklahoma. There, he studies the playing of both Classical and Theatre Organ, as well as Organ Building. He has appeared before numerous audiences, both for ATOS chapter events, the 2016 YTOC in Cleveland, and many pre shows. In addition to theatre organ performances, he currently holds a church job in Oklahoma City. While not in school, he enjoys spending time with his family, and helping with projects at home.

**Social date: Sunday, July 23, 2017, 2:30pm doors, 3:00 pm concert time.**



Organ Institute at the

## Henry Evans performs at the Rialto!

Henry Evans describes himself as "Someone who loves to play the organ!" He holds the Bachelor of Music Degree and a Post-Baccalaureate Certification in Piano Pedagogy from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville and a Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance from the University of North Texas. He has played the organ and conducted church choirs for thirty-five years. During his extensive training, he studied with several well-known organists. His teachers include Kathleen Thomerson and Jesse Eschbach. He was one of the last students of the French organist Marie-Madeleine Duruflé-Chevalier. His first organ and piano teacher, Bill Hart, was a commercial organist and pianist for radio station WTMV, East Saint Louis. Mr. Hart had a well know radio show that was broadcast in the 1930's and 1940's. Under Mr. Hart's tutelage, Henry developed a love for old popular music, as it is played on the organ and piano. Henry has played concerts for events of the Saint Louis Theatre Organ Society. He has served as dean of the Saint Louis and Southern Illinois Chapters of the American Guild of Organists.

**Doors open at 1:30 pm, and the program begins at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments to share. Rialto Theatre, 102 N. Chicago St. Joliet, IL. Social date: Sunday, August 20, 2017**

