

# RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

[WWW.JATOE.ORG](http://WWW.JATOE.ORG) DON WALKER, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: KINURA8@SBCGLOBAL.NET



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May/June 2018

## UPCOMING EVENTS



*Calendars Mark Your Calendars Mark Your*

**Sunday, May 20, 2018**  
**CTOS, JATOE & CATOE**  
**Combined Social**

Allen Organ Studio  
Doors open 2:30pm  
Concert at 3:00 pm Artist: Dave Wickerham

**Sunday, June 17, 2018**

Stage Doors open  
1:30pm  
Concert at 2:00pm Artist: Dennis Scott

**See pages 3 & 4  
for more info!**



## WE HAVE EXCITING NEWS!

The Barton Grande originally had two xylophones when built. The master, which remains and is unenclosed on the left side, and the second xylophone was in the upper right chamber near the toy counter. For some reason, during the 1993 renovation of the organ, the second xylophone was never reinstalled. We have a spare xylophone that has been in the basement of the Rialto for the last four years. It has been decided to install it in the original position. Our organ technician, Glenn Tallar, of GT Organ Associates LLC will be doing the work. The work is scheduled to start sometime in July 2018. Glenn is also going to lower the toy counter so it will sit level with the swell shades. Presently, it sits above the swell shades and some of the sounds don't emanate well from the chamber.



### Presidents Message

WOW! we are on a roll - 9 new members in 3 months! Lets keep the momentum up. We do have a lot to offer. In March, we had the honor of bestowing upon Jim and Dolores Lifetime Memberships. We have much to be grateful for because of all they have done over the 20+ years that they were president and treasurer. They brought JATOE out of the ashes in the mid 1990's to what it is today. All of us must continue this legacy into the future. How? One person at a time, one group at a time. Just watch our membership grow! After all, It is our membership that makes us great! We had a great turn out for our March and April socials. Dave Stephens, the President of the St Louis Chapter and Burt Kuntz, also from the St Louis Chapter, preformed wonderful selections of music for our entertainment on the Barton Grande. The Board and I have been working very hard for all of you. We have some new and exciting ideas we are going to try. Your newsletter was the first, and we hope you like what has been done. We have cleaned up the basement and done inventory to see what can be sold. We have a new brochure to hand out at socials and tours. Check it out, it is awesome! There is a bright new horizon for JATOE, and it's all because of you! Our members, we can't do the things we do without you. THANK YOU!

Joel Martis

JATOE Member and past President Milton George, age 89, of Mokena, IL, passed away at Silver Cross Hospital on March 12, 2018.

Former JATOE Member Bill McFadden passed away March 12, 2018 in Mesa, Arizona. Please keep Milt and Bill's family in your prayers.



*In Loving Memory*



# What's Happening

## ST LOUIS

Party on the Pipes April 26-30

## **CTOS**

April 29, 2018

Allen Organ Studio

Taylor Trimby

## DAIRYLAND

May 14th, 2018

Organ Piper Pizza Social.

Dave Wickerham.

## **CTOS, JATOE & CATOE COMBINED SOCIAL**

May 20, 2018, 3:00 pm

Allen Organ Studios

Dave Wickerham

## **CTOS**

June 10, 2018

Allen Organ Studios –Ken Double



Please welcome Bradley Kuntz and Chris Harris. They come to us from Quincy, IL. Bradley and Chris have been

together 9 years and both are fascinated with theater organs. Bradley grew up around theater organs and marveled at the mechanics of the instrument. Chris's first experience was at Organ Stop Pizza. Bradley's dad Burt, was house organists at the Arden Pizza and Pipes in Sacramento California until 1996. Bradley is also a board member of our sister chapter in St Louis. While Brad and Chris really don't play the instrument, they both developed a love for it that will help the theater organ continue on into the future.



## WELCOME new members

Welcome the Pizzo Family (Ed, Sharon, Vincent 9 and Michael 7) . We are thrilled to join JATOE! After living in Joliet for over 12 years, we relocated to Minooka in March of 2014. It is here that both boys began music, each beginning with piano soon after their 5th birthday. Mom and Dad have never played piano or organ but each played an instrument when they were younger



(Mom the flute and Dad the trumpet, French horn, baritone and drums). We recently had the pleasure of attending a JATOE social as a guest and wanted to participate with and contribute to this wonderful and important organization going forward. We are excited to meet everyone soon!



Please welcome Paul Garbarczyk & Mitchell Bramstaedt. Paul and Mitchell reside in Burbank Illinois. Paul and Mitchell are organ hobbyists. They have a Rodgers 32B and a Hammond CV with Hauptwerk. It is their goal to build a Hauptwerk organ one day. It is because of Hauptwerk that they found JATOE on the internet along with other local theater organ clubs. They both have attended ATOS conven-

tions. Besides being hobbyists at the organ, they both like photography and cooking. One of their favorite pieces of music is Bach's Prelude in F.

WELCOME!



Please welcome back Taylor Trimby. Taylor is a member of CATOE and helps maintain the many organs of the club. He is also a board member of ATOS. Taylor is in charge of planning the 2021 Chicago convention. He is a very busy man! Taylor looks forward to retiring this year and loves spending time with his buddy Joey, a Dalmatian. Taylor is an accomplished organist who loves the xylophone in his registrations and is always a pleasure to listen to. The Barton is very near and dear to Taylor.



Have some interesting news? An Item for sale? News about one of our members. Email Don Walker to get it in our newsletter.

*Please remember the following members in your prayers.*

Jan Challender, Barbara Petry, Don Borre and Ron Newman.



**LIVE AT THE  
ALLEN ORGAN STUDIO  
SUNDAY MAY 20, 2018  
DAVE WICKERHAM**

Dave Wickerham was born in Encino, California in 1962. He began playing the electronic organ at the age of four and had his first pipe organ experience at age ten. His musical education started at age seven.

When he moved to Arizona in 1976, he became Associate Organist at the famous Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson. While in Arizona, he continued his musical studies with Roseamond Crowley, one of the few remaining descendants of the Louis Vierne line of organists. He attended the University of Arizona in Tucson on a full scholarship, pursuing classical organ studies for six years with Dr. Roy Johnson.

In 1984, Dave moved to the Chicago area to become Staff Organist at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. In addition to his performance there, he concertized frequently, as well as ministering musically and serving at various churches.

August of 1990 found the Wickerham family – Dave, his wife and two young children - moving to Wisconsin, where he was one of the featured Staff Organists at the Piper Music Palace in Greenfield, a position he held for 10 years.

In the spring of 2000, Dave ushered in the new millennium with a limited special engagement, as a featured organist at "Roxy's Pipe Organ Pizzeria," part of a \$26,000,000 expansion phase at the FIESTA Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Wickerham's, Dave, Rhonda, and now three great kids, spent two years there before returning back home to Wisconsin in August of 2001...

For the next three years, Dave resumed his position at the Piper Music Palace and was also the Principal Organist at Williams Bay Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva, WI.

He enjoys concertizing frequently to many audiences including various chapters of the American Theatre Organ Society. In April of 1999, he took great pleasure being a feature artist in Melbourne, Australia for the convention of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia for which he received rave reviews. He returned "Down Under" for a six-week concert tour in Australia and New Zealand during the summer of 2003 and 2012, as well as October/November of 2015.

Dave also enjoys recording and has recently "sold out" his fourth CD "Sounds of Music" recorded on the famous 5 Manual, 80 Rank Theatre Organ at the Sanfilippo Residence in Barrington, IL. There are several NEW recording projects that are soon to be completed and released. After seven years as Organist - Curator with the legendary Milhous Collection in South Florida, Dave and his family currently enjoy living in Upper Michigan in the historic town of Crystal Falls.

Dave and Rhonda have three grown kids, two married with children of their own. So, with three grandchildren and concertizing, there are many opportunities for travel.



**Doors open at 2:30pm Show starts at 3:00pm Bring Refreshments! See page six for directions.**



**LIVE ON THE RIALTO'S  
BARTON GRANDE THEATER ORGAN  
SUNDAY JUNE 17, 2018  
DENNIS SCOTT**

Dennis Scott is an internationally known silent film organist. He first began accompanying silent films in the 1970s, when he started playing theatre pipe organs installed in pizza parlors in the Midwest and on the west coast. He would accompany a couple of “two-reel” comedies every evening. His style has been compared to that of his legendary mentor, the late John Muri, who recorded numerous silent film scores for Blackhawk Films. Suzanne Lloyd, granddaughter of the comic genius Harold Lloyd, dubbed Dennis the “Master of Magic Notes.”

He is house organist at Chicago’s historic Music Box Theatre, playing weekend intermissions, the annual Sing-Along Sound of Music, the annual Music Box Christmas Sing-Along, several themed film festivals, special events, and the award-winning Second Saturday Silent Cinema Series, which was named Best New Film Series of 2011 by Chicago Magazine and Best Matinee Film Series of 2012 by the Chicago Reader.

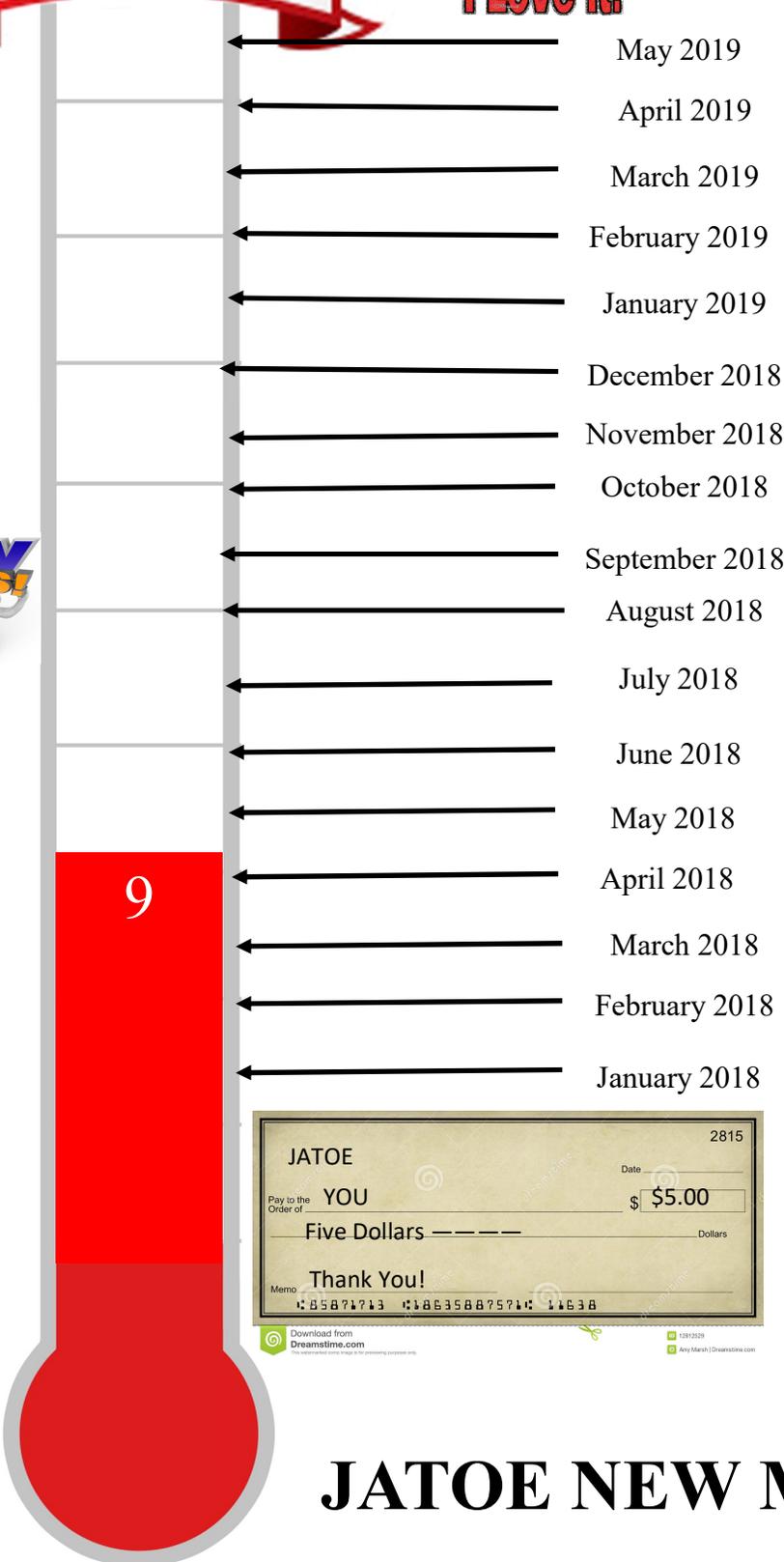
Recently, Dennis recorded several theatre organ scores for a historically large collection of Mack Sennett films which was released in a DVD box set. Currently, he is scoring films for two other silent film projects – one featuring Buster Keaton and the other featuring the major work of Roscoe “Fatty” Arbuckle. He has also recorded a CD with Chicago’s very popular West End Jazz Band, recreating the brief era of the “marriage” of the theatre organ and the jazz bands of the 1920s and 30s.

Since 2007, Dennis has been the official organist for the International Buster Keaton Society and accompanies silent Keaton films every year for their convention, held in Muskegon, Michigan, where Buster spent much of his childhood. He played for two seasons of monthly silent film presentations at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, and was a regular performer for the Sound of Silents Film Festival in Three Oaks, Michigan. In 2013, Dennis was the first organist to accompany a feature length silent film for the prestigious Detroit Theatre Organ Society in its 50+ year history. A co-founder and former President of the Silent Film Society of Chicago, Dennis was featured in the SFSC’s annual Silent Summer Film Festival from 2000 through 2010. He was a staff organist at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, Illinois for nine years, where he became organist and music coordinator for Our Town Productions, an award-winning children’s theatre company. For a number of years, he played the organ background for the annual live radio broadcast of “It’s a Wonderful Life” at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet, Illinois.



**Enter 121 Scott St. Stage Doors open at 1:30pm Show starts at 2:00pm Bring Refreshments!**

# GOAL 17



JATOE has maintained 130+ members since the mid 1990's. While that is excellent, we still need to grow. We are venturing out to let people know we are here, and that we care for and maintain one of the finest instruments in Illinois. The Board and I are pleased to announce that for **each** new member you recruit to join, you will receive \$5.00



**Our Organization is GREAT because of its members!**



## JATOE NEW MEMBERS

ATOS 2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION

# HOME IN PASADENA

atos2018.org

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 2018  
THROUGH  
TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018



Find us on  
**Facebook**

**Directions to Allen Organs of Chicago:**

**From Rt. 55 take IL 53 south to the second traffic light (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 (Crossroads Pkwy.) Turn left to the first drive on the left and follow around the building to the front. Address: 181 Crossroads Parkway, Suite D, Bolingbrook, IL The Allen Organs awning is visible from Rt. 53. Phone: 630-428-9701**

**Did you know?**

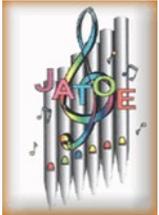
*Hearings on the organ.*

One of the liveliest chapters in American organ history began in 1934 when Laurens Hammond (owner of a clock manufacturing company) patented an electronic keyboard instrument called the "Hammond Organ". Hammond claimed that the instrument could equal a pipe organ in its range of harmonics and could produce the tone colors necessary for proper rendition of the great works of organ literature. Counter-claims were made by organ builders in organ periodicals. Complaints were filed with the Federal Trade Commission in 1935 and hearings were held in Chicago, Atlantic City and Washington, D.C. The outcome: In 1938, the FTC ordered the Hammond company to cease its claims that the instrument could equal a pipe organ.



**Pardon our dust!**  
We're making some improvements to our website.

[www.jatoc.org](http://www.jatoc.org)



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