



# RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

[WWW.JATOE.ORG](http://WWW.JATOE.ORG) DON WALKER, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: JATOE.BARTON@GMAIL.COM



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**JULY/AUGUST 2019**



## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, July 7, 2019

Doors open at 1:30pm

Program at 2:00 pm

Guest Artist: **Richie Gregory**

### Sunday, August 4, 2019

Stage Doors open at 1:30 pm

Program at 2:00pm

Guest Artist: **Frank Pellico**

### Sunday, August 25, 2019

Doors open 2:30 pm

Program at 3:00 pm

Guest Artist: **Tedde Gibson**

Allen Organ Studio,  
Bolingbrook, IL

See pages 2, 3 and 4  
for information!

## Barton Work Continues in Preparation for the Chicago ATOS Convention!

In preparation for the ATOS convention, many items have been identified that need repair. Glenn Tallar has compiled a list:

1. Main Tibia Chest needs to be rebuilt
2. Concert Flute Chest needs to be rebuilt
3. Upper main chamber swell shade action needs rebuilding
4. Lower main swell shade control arms need to be replaced
5. Main Vox Regulator needs to be rebuilt
6. Lobby Organ tibia may need rebuilding and a tremulant added.
7. Toy counter needs work
8. Fix wind leaks
9. Update the software program from Peterson running the Barton relay.
10. New engraved stop tabs to replace the ones with tape on them

The second xylophone has been installed in the upper solo chamber with the glock behind it. The toy counter has been lowered, sitting in front of the swell shades for better sound egress of the traps. Drums will be lowered for the same purpose. There are other miscellaneous items that will need be addressed too, such as wind leaks. The Barton is going to have some sounds and traps never heard before. The addition of a solo string would like to be accomplished. It originally had two solo strings.



## President's Message



Nominations and elections were held May 5th at our social. As per our by-laws, since no one ran

against those nominated, and since 20% of the membership was present, by show of hands the nominee's were elected. The results are shown to the right. We want to thank Jerry Long for his service to JATOE and also welcome Rick Steinke to the Board. We are all looking forward to working together for the benefit of our members and the Barton Grande.



**President—Joel Martis**

**Vice President - Don Walker**

**Secretary—Dennis Nawracaj**

**Treasurer—Jim Patak**

**Board Member—Judy Matarelli**

**Board Member—Don Young**

**Board Member Rick Steinke**



**DEBUT PREFORMANCE**  
**ON THE RIALTO'S 4/27 BARTON**  
**GRANDE THEATER PIPE ORGAN**  
**SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2019**  
**RICHIE GREGORY**



Richard was exposed to the theatre pipe organ at age 1 at the Roaring 20's Pizza and Pipes in Ellenton, Florida, thus igniting his interest in the pipe organ. Wanting to learn organ, he began playing on the piano by ear, trying to mimic what he saw organists do on large theatre pipe organs. Getting his first organ in 2008, he continued to grow, becoming one of 3 finalists in the American Theatre Organ Society's 2016 National Young Theatre Organist Competition. He has since gained interest in the majesty of the classical pipe organ and has been studying with Chad Baker (Organ Professor at Capital University) starting between 2016 and 2017. Planning to attend Capital University beginning Fall of 2019, he hopes to pursue music education and organ performance. Richard loves composing, arranging, and spending time with his nieces and nephews (He LOVES children).

(Editors note—you will not want to miss this performance! Richie's energy and enthusiasm is contagious!)

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





**LIVE ON THE RIALTO'S  
4/27 BARTON GRANDE THEATER  
PIPE ORGAN**



**SUNDAY AUGUST 4, 2019**

**FRANK PELLICO**



While this man does not need an introduction, the well known, popular and legendary artist, Frank Pellico, for over 60 years has entertained audiences with organ music. From the X-66 Hammond he played at the Matterhorn Restaurant, the custom X-66 at the Aurora Skate Center, the one of a kind Barton at the Chicago Stadium to the custom Allen Organ now at the United Center, home of the Blackhawks. Frank knows his way around any organ keyboard, from ballads, marches and waltzes to the snappy Latin tunes. Frank also inspires those at his church with his playing. He has done yearly benefits there and he has brought joy to many thru his music. Since 1991, Frank has played the organ to accompany Chicago Blackhawks home games. For three years, he played the Chicago Stadium Barton Organ, which produced a sound so rich that it literally shook the seats in the building. When the United Center opened in 1994, Frank began tickling the keys of the custom-made Allen Organ, welcoming fans into the building as the doors open and providing a background to announcements and player introductions. Since becoming the team organist, he hasn't missed a Blackhawks home game.

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



Tedde Gibson is one of a few musicians comfortable playing jazz, gospel, and classical music on the pipe organ, which is the ultimate instrument to showcase his talents.

A native of Tacoma, WA, Tedde began playing piano at age four, studying with Gail Brooks and the late Dorothy Bade. He later studied pipe organ with the late Dr. Edward Hansen, former American Guild of Organists (AGO) president, piano with Dr. Stephen Moore, and voice with the late Dr. Thomas Goleeke at the University of Puget Sound (UPS). He studied classical organ improvisation with Prof. David Dahl of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA, and Dr. J. Melvin Butler of the University of Washington (UW) and St. Marks Cathedral, Seattle, WA. While attending UW, he also studied pipe organ with Dr. Carol Terry. Tedde has also coached with theatre organist Jonas Nordwall of Portland, OR and the late Andy Crow of Olympia, WA. Since moving to the Metropolitan DC area in late 2003, he has studied classical organ with Howard University professor and musicologist Dr. Mickey Thomas Terry. Mr. Gibson briefly studied at Peabody Conservatory of Music as a student of former AGO President Dr. John Walker.

He cut his theatre organ teeth as an organist at Pizza and Pipes in Tacoma, WA for 5 years until that restaurant's demise in 1999. He performed extensively on the premier theatre and classical organs in Washington State prior to moving to the east coast.

Mr. Gibson is a sought after silent film accompanist and has performed in Seattle, New York City, Detroit, Burlington, NC, Stone Mountain, GA, Jersey City, and Philadelphia, PA at the famed Macys/Wanamaker store which hosts the world's largest playing pipe organ. Tedde has collaborated with several gospel and jazz artists including Twinkie Clark, Jennifer Holiday, and Dorinda Clark-Sheard.

Tedde is organist/musician-in-residence at the First Baptist Church of Highland Park in Landover, MD ([www.fbhp.org](http://www.fbhp.org)), organist/pianist at Capitol Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church, (<http://www.capitolhillsdachurch.org>) and organist at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church (<https://hscchurch.org>), both in DC. He teaches general music at Highland Park Christian Academy in Landover, MD. He has recorded two cds on a 4 manual 38 rank Wurlitzer theatre organ in a private residence in Great Falls, VA: *At Last*, and *Let There Be Praise Volume I*.

Tedde Is the Vice Chairman of the Board of the American Theatre Organ Society.

The Allen Organ Studio is located at: 181 W. Crossroad Parkway, Unit D, Bolingbrook, IL 60440 Phone: 630-428-9701. From Rt. 53, turn west onto Crossroads Parkway, then an immediate left at the entrance to the business location. Pull around to the front of the building. The Allen canopy is visible at the entrance.



Thanks to our sister chapter, CATOE for inviting us to share in this social event, and Tedde's first performance in the Chicago area.

**Sunday, August 25, 2019**



**Store Doors open at 2:30pm Show starts at 3:00pm. Bring Refreshments!**



**Please Welcome Cliff Stepina! Cliff comes to us from Joliet. Welcome Cliff!**



***Please remember the following members in your prayers.:*** Jan Challender, Barbara Petry, Rhonda Wickerham, John Devona and John "Jack" Heavens who passed away May 30th.



### **Visitors from the UK at the Rialto!**



JATOE recently had the honor of showing our beautiful theater and the Barton organ to Charles Brown and his wife Wendy. They were here in Chicago in the beginning of June on holiday and wanted to see our theater. Charles is an organ enthusiast living in the north west of England, and owner of a Compton Theatre organ (currently in storage). He is also the resident ballroom organist at the Wurlitzer organ in Stockport Town Hall (NW England), and plays for the regular ballroom dances there. Charles also volunteers as a Duty Manager at the Plaza Theatre in Stockport, England - a recently restored 1932 vintage theatre - and is one of the team members which looks after the pipe organ installed there. Listening to Charles play, you could just picture people dancing. You would think you were at the Blackpool Tower Ballroom. We were very happy to give Charles and Wendy the chance to see the Magnificent Rialto Theater and for Charles to be able to sit down to one of the finest theater organs in country.

Check this out. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4cKf0wn2gA> Charles at Stockport Town Hall.

### **VTPO NEWS**

#### ***The Music Box Theater gets a new Virtual Theater Pipe Organ***



Dennis Scott and Thom Day had a dream. They wanted to put a new virtual theater pipe organ, run by Hauptwerk in the Music Box Theater to replace the worn out Allen theater organ. Dennis has brought much joy with his music to the patrons of the Music Box. He had acquired a nice 3 manual, double bolster Kimball theater organ. They had the console refinished and it turned out beautiful. Thom is the technician. He add the necessary midi cards from DTS Midi Systems, our own Joe Fisher built Syndynes, power supplies, computers, speakers and amplifiers to make the organ speak. It is running on two computers each operating a separate sample set, Neil Jensen's and the Paramount 450. The twenty four speakers were separated and put in the original organ chambers. Pipe sounds were separated and the results are amazing. The Music Box, while having organ chambers never had a real pipe organ. You can

imagine how the audience is thrilled by the sounds of the Kimball. To the normal person, one would think there is a real pipe organ. Christmas time is especially wonderful with the holiday movies and the sing -along. Be sure to visit some time and hear another great virtual instrument. Hearing is believing!

## Someone You Should Know



Have you noticed how nice our tables look at the socials? Meet Carol Young. Even when Carol can't attend, she still makes the time to bring down her table center pieces to brighten up our events. Carol has a creative streak for sure. Eight lucky people at each social get to take Carol's center pieces home with them. Thank You Carol, for all you do for JATOE and its membership!

## Membership Report

JATOE had 156 members 2018. We achieved fantastic results in our membership drive. We gained 36 new members because of our efforts. After renewals for 2019 were collected, I'm sad to say we lost 23 members. We are still ahead! Those that filled out and returned the survey, said they left for personal reasons (health, distance, etc.) We will continue to spread the word and invite different groups, and you can too! Let others experience all that JATOE, the Rialto, and the Barton Grande has to offer!

CTOS invites members of JATOE for a special opportunity to have a private concert, dinner, and a Q & A session at our MEET THE ARTIST program to be held in the fall of this year.

To take advantage of this opportunity you need to join BRAVO PARTNERS.



For a donation of \$100.00 or more, you and your guest will be invited to this program, receive a one year membership in CTOS, receive our monthly newsletter and be enrolled in our Bravo Partners. To join please send your check made out to CTOS to George Wine, 7N783 Stevens Road, Saint Charles, IL by October 6<sup>th</sup>. You may also join on our web site using Pay Pal at <https://ctos.club/donate-form/>

### Allen Organs

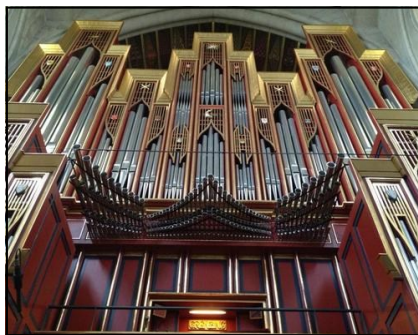
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2019 "Reels at the Rialto" Movie line up, tickets are just \$5, all shows start at 7pm. The Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ plays half an hour before all shows.

July 18th - Field of Dreams— **Jim Patak**  
August 15th - The Sting—**Judy Matarelli**  
September 19th - Walk the Line –  
October 17th - Hocus Pocus - **Carl DeSanti**



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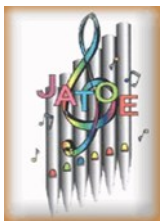


New  
Hours

**Rialto Square Theater, Van Buren Street Exit, November 13, 1930**



*November 13, 1930 — The "atmospheric lobby" of the Roman Gardens was host to many teas and functions. An impressive air prevailed in the gardens at the happenings because the people were admitted by uniformed attendants opening the doors. The lobby was used as the Van Buren Street exit and had to be opened from the inside for entrance.*



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