

# RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS



[WWW.JATOE.ORG](http://WWW.JATOE.ORG) JATOE.BARTON@GMAIL.COM



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May/June 2019

## Upcoming Events

**Sunday, May 5, 2019**

Doors open at 1:30pm

Program at 2:00 pm

Guest Artist:

**Tim Duckworth**

**Saturday, June 29, 2019**

Stage Doors open at 1:30 pm

Program at 2:00pm

Guest Artist:

**Dr. Steven Ball**

See pages 3 & 4 for more!

## TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

When I look at our membership list, I notice that out of 151 members, only 43 also belong to the American Theater Organ Society, (ATOS). ATOS has for the last year and a half offered a special membership rate of just \$25.00 to join. While you do not have to belong to ATOS to belong to JATOE, I would highly encourage joining and try it out. Here are just some of the things your membership with ATOS supports:

*The Journal*– the official magazine of ATOS

1. The annual ATOS convention
2. The Summer Youth Adventure
3. The George Wright Memorial Fellowship
4. The Young Theater Organist Competition
5. Youth Scholarships
6. The Endowment Fund
7. Technical Corner
8. Technical Experience

You can read more about each one of these categories on their web site, <https://www.atos.org/>



## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



To all our JATOE Mothers and Fathers

## call for NOMINATIONS

We will have nominations for the JATOE Board at our May event. We will also have a short business meeting with annual reports.



# CALENDAR of Events

## CTOS

**April 27th, 10:30am**

**Beggars Pizza in Lansing, IL**

**Artist: Glenn Tallar**

## DAIRYLAND & CATOE

**May 20th, 6pm**

**Organ Piper Pizza**

**4353 S. 108th St Greenfield, WI**

**Artist: Walt Strony**

## **ORGANIST, CHOIR DIRECTOR OPENING**

St. John Episcopal, Lockport, IL

Sunday's at 10:30

Music director as well

Choir practices one hour before  
the service. Contact:

Shawn Schreiner

Church: 815-834-1168

Shawn: 847-909-8147



## **Board Meeting**

**Where: Rialto Green Room**

**Date: April 18, 2019**

**Time: 10am**

**ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!**

The following is our article submitted to the ATOS Journal, Chapter Notes by Dennis Nawracaj, our Secretary.

J.A.T.O.E (Joliet Area) Joliet, Illinois

To begin the New Year our newsletter has been totally revamped by our President, Joel Martis, and Vice-President, Don Walker and can be found at [www.JATOE.org](http://www.JATOE.org). The new design and colorful newsletter was a real hit with many very positive comments from our members.

Our president had some new ideas he wanted to try. We had our very first ice cream social and our board members were the entertainment for the day. They each came up and went down on the organ lift, playing the Grande Barton. Everybody enjoyed the songs and the various styles of the organists.

Next, we held our very first Halloween Masquerade Ball, on October 28th at the Rialto Theater. Our Guest artist was Jelani Eddington, rising on the lift in a cloud of smoke. One of our largest turnouts, we had close to a 160 members and friends. Many came in costume which really made it festive.

Our November event was held at the First Congregational Church of Christ in Lockport, Illinois where our guest artist Jay Warren accompanied some silent movies. This was our Veterans Day event so Jay accompanied the 1921 silent movies, "Felix Turns the Tide" and in honor of all veterans "A Sailor Made Man."

Our January event featured Carl DeSanti and Kenned McIver. They have entertained many groups and churches and have also released a number of CDs. After the show, we held our annual "After the holidays" party in the Rotunda of the Rialto Theatre. Once again we had a very good turnout of at least 100 members and guests. We are also using the Barton to do pre-show entertainment before the movies and shows. We have presented the Barton for the pre-show to The Oak Ridge Boys. We are off to a Very Good Year!



Rhonda Wickerham is battling cancer. A gofundme page has been set up by the family. Dave is having to cancel some of his concerts so he can be with Rhonda in this difficult time. Anything you can do to help Dave and Rhonda is greatly appreciated, including your prayers. Below is the go fund me site.

[www.gofundme.com/the-rhonda-sue-wickerham-cancer-fight](http://www.gofundme.com/the-rhonda-sue-wickerham-cancer-fight)

*Please remember the following members in your prayers.*  
Jan Challender, Barbara Petry and Rhonda Wickerham



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

**SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019**

**TIM DUCKWORTH**



Tim Duckworth first heard a theatre organ at age 13 and was captivated by the sound. Within a year, he was learning to play. A self-taught musician, Tim plays by ear and does not read music, but this doesn't stop him! Tim first played for JATOE at age 16. Now 22, he returns to the Rialto Theatre and hopes to show attendees what he has learned. Tim has also performed for the Central Indiana Chapter of ATOS. Tim practices on a virtual theatre organ he has built in his home.

**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**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29, 2019**

**Dr. STEVEN BALL**

Steven Ball has recently been named as Director of Sacred Music at The Oratory of St. Francis de Sales in St. Louis, Missouri. The Oratory is famous for a unique and varied choral repertoire spanning several centuries and performed by numerous ensembles. The liturgies are conducted exclusively in Latin using the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite, the universal form of the Roman Catholic Liturgy before the changes which followed the Second Vatican Council. As such it provides a unique cultural and musical setting in which the music of some of the greatest composers for sacred choral and organ music can be heard in their original context.

A native of Michigan originally, Dr. Ball studied at the University of Michigan where he later went on to teach, serve as University Carillonneur, and the Director of the famous Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments. He received his DMA in 2007 as a student of Marilyn Mason. A former Fulbright Scholar to the Netherlands, Steven Ball is also well known for his work in the world of campanology (the study of bells), improvisation, as an organ consultant, for silent film accompaniment and as a theater organist. He has traveled and performed extensively in both the United States and abroad including concerts in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, France, Portugal, Ireland, England, Switzerland and Italy. He was inducted as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (a Papal Knighthood) in 2017.

He comes to this position from New Jersey where he last served as Organist and Director of Outreach (now Emeritus) for the world's largest pipe organ located in Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City. His time there also included a position at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, PA. Previous to his appointments in Atlantic City and Philadelphia and while serving on the faculty of the Organ Department at the University of Michigan, he also served as Cathedral Organist at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit and Senior Staff Organist at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

St. Francis de Sales Oratory is one of the largest and most important examples of gothic revival architecture in the nation. Tied for 6th tallest church tower in the United States, it is located on historic Route 66 and is open daily for visitors. Named America's most beautiful church in a recent nationwide contest, the church is served by priests from the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest.



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



We started a membership drive back in January 2018. The goal was set at 17 new members by May of 2019. I asked for your help, and you delivered. Here it is May 2019 and I am happy to say as of this month we have 35 new members. That's a 22% increase. We not only met the goal, we surpassed it. I'll even go out on a limb to say I don't believe any other organ club has raised their membership like we have in such a short period of time. If they have, they sure are being quiet about it, and that's one thing you can't do! We have a great reason to be proud of all the changes we made since January 2018, that is also one of the reasons we have grown. We have many people spreading the word about JATOE and we will continue to grow. I could not be more proud of the parents who have let their children join JATOE. The looks and the smiles on their faces when they get on that bench is priceless. Sarah Randolph told me she wanted a goal of 200 total members. Is that possible? ABSOLUTELY!!!!!!! Anything is possible when you believe in something and I believe we are going nowhere but up. We have something very special to share with people, its not just the beautiful Rialto Theater, its not just the majestic Barton Grande pipe organ, it is ourselves. Each and everyone of us is what makes JATOE what it is. Keep spreading the word!!!! Here are our newest members that joined us in February.

Joel Martis, President

**Please Welcome Dolly Militello, Dolly comes to us from Joliet. Welcome Dolly!**

**Please Welcome Rich Kniefel, Rich comes to us from Kouts, Indiana. Welcome Rich!**

**Please Welcome Valerie Dussich, Valerie comes to us from Valparaiso, IN. Welcome Valerie!**

**Please Welcome James Badal, James comes to us from Chicago. Welcome James!**

**Please Welcome Lola Rodriguez, Lola is one of our student members.**

**Please Welcome Victor Cieslak-Kaczmarczyk, Victor is one of our student members. Welcome Victor!**

**Please Welcome Sophie Ervin, Sophie is one of our student members. Welcome Sophie!**

**Please Welcome Allison Renehan, Allison is one of our student members. Welcome Allison!**

**Please Welcome Tim Placher, Tim comes to us from Joliet. Welcome Tim!**

**Please Welcome Terry and Gerald Briick. Terry & Gerald come to us from Crystal Lake, IL**



## From Pipes to Virtual Pipe Organ to Pipes

By Joe Fisher

As the old saying goes, “What goes Around, Comes Around”. That seems to be the case with my Virtual Pipe Organ’s.

It all started some twenty five years ago, maybe longer when I bought nine ranks of theater organ pipes. There was no console, relay or blower, so everything sat in storage for a couple of years, until I found a two manual Wurlitzer console and a blower. I designed and built a diode keying relay system, which was replaced by an Artisan midi keying system.

All was fine, until someone told me about this three manual electronic organ that someone had built. Well, that was the start of the Virtual Theater Pipe Organ part of the story. After stripping out all the old vacuum tube tone generators for a new midi system, it was decided that I didn’t want to use the Artisan uMidi cards because of the long configuration files that was have to be written. After researching what else was available, I thought there had to be a better way, which was the start of my own midi cards and DTS MIDI Systems.

The home three manual console is operating on Hauptwerk and a small PC computer. The theater organ samples include the Paramount Organs ranging from the 3-10 to the 4-50, as well as a couple of Barton and Morton samples. Audio is broken down to ten channels that are routed to four pair of right and left speakers for channels 1 to 8. Audio channels 9 and 10 are routed to a 12 inch sub-woofer. To add some big sound, reverberation is provided through a software program called Reaper. The end result is a very pleasing in the theater, theater organ sound.

As I said at the beginning, what goes around, comes around, so back to the pipes. The nine rank pipe organ is played using an Allen three manual theater organ console that has been converted to full midi in and output. It is running Hauptwerk Virtual Organ software, and the Paramount Organ Works 341 sample set that in turn is driving



the

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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.

April 25th - Rudy - **Don Young**  
 May 30th - Star Wars: The Force Awakens- **Don Young**  
 June 20th - Ferris Bueller's Day Off- **Jim Patak**  
 July 18th - Field of Dreams- **Jim Patak**  
 August 15th - The Sting-**Judy Matarelli**  
 September 19th - Walk the Line -**Don Walker**  
 October 17th - Hocus Pocus - **Carl DeSanti**



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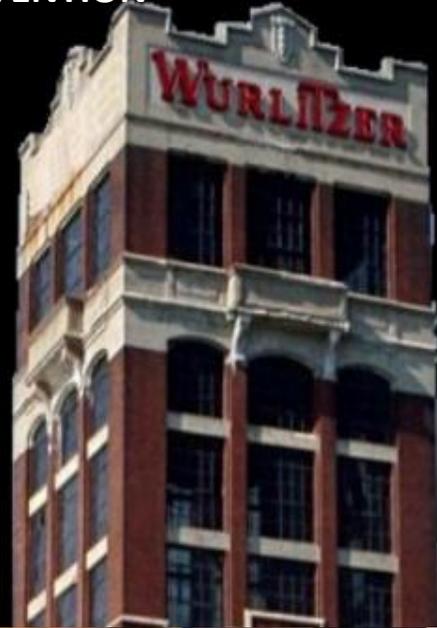
**TUESDAYS 5:30PM TO 8:30PM**  
**FRIDAYS 5:30PM TO 9:45\* PM**  
\*OR LATER DEPENDING ON AUDIENCE



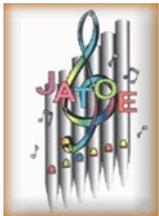
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Hosted by the  
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