



RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA

THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

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May/June 2020

upcoming EVENTS

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Doors open at 1:30pm

Program at 2:00 pm

Artist: **Richie Gregory**

**This event will depend on the
status of the Covid 19 virus
restrictions.**

**See page 3
for more information!**



A Message From The JATOE Board of Directors

Dear JATOE Members,

It is a very strange time we are in right now. With the continued spreading of the Covid19 virus throughout the world, we keep the safety and well-being of our members first. Please continue to do as suggested by the C.D.C. and local Health Authorities and we will all get past this.

Because of the seriousness of this virus, the JATOE Board has decided to suspend all future socials until it has been declared safe to resume gathering in groups. As you know, the Governor has closed many businesses including theaters. We deeply regret this action as we know how much you all love the Rialto and the Barton Grande. While we do have a social scheduled for May 31st, that will depend on the status of the Covid19 virus restrictions issued by the Federal and State levels.

Please continue to keep each other and all the world in your prayers that this terrible virus will end and life will return to normal. May God bless all of you and keep all of you safe.

Sincerely,

The JATOE Board of Directors

Coronavirus claims Las Vegas icon 'Uncle' Phil Maloof

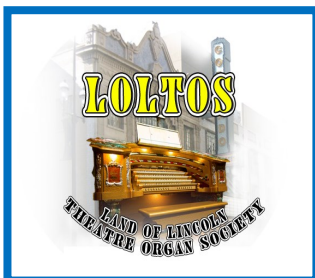


Coronavirus has claimed "Uncle" Phil Maloof of the high-profile Maloof family of Las Vegas. George Maloof, Phil Maloof's nephew, confirmed his uncle's passing Saturday in Las Vegas at age 93, with Coronavirus as the cause. "He was a great man who loved his dogs and his collection of classic cars, art, and theater pipe organs. He was a bachelor, he never married. He had been stricken with Coronavirus and was diabetic and had been ill of late. He owned over 200 classic cars, and thousands of paintings, he also owned the original Roxy Theater pipe organ from New York, which was featured at the Fiesta, the Maloof family's original hotel in North Las Vegas." He also owns the original Barton organ console from the Chicago stadium. Phil started a Foundation before he died. His intent was that his car, art and organ collection be left as a private mini-museum so people could come see them.

upcoming EVENTS



Click on the icon to go directly to our sister chapters web site for their latest news and events.



HELLO

NEW MEMBERS

Please Welcome our Newest Members to JATOE!

John Narcissi from Mokena

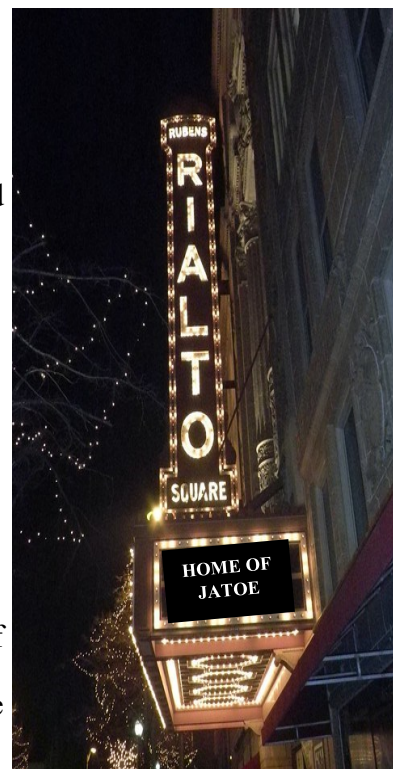
Jim Stevens from Plainfield

Arthur & Harriet Hrvatin from Joliet

WELCOME

Rialto Nominated For ACM Award

It's a huge honor for Joliet's Rialto Square Theater. The Rialto has been nominated for the "Theater of the Year" award at this year's Academy of Country Music Awards. Other nominees include The Beacon Theater in New York City, The Chicago Theater, The DeJoria Center in Salt Lake City and Ruth Eckerd Hall in Clearwater, Florida. The winner of "Theater of the Year" was announced at this year's ACM ceremony at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 5th. The nominations for the 55th Academy of Country Music Awards™ were announced, including the Rialto Square Theatre's nomination for Theatre of the Year! The team at the Rialto is incredibly excited and honored to be nominated for this prestigious award, and would like to thank all of its volunteers, patrons, and supporters for making the theatre the amazing place it is today. We are so grateful for the support we have received throughout the past years, and are especially thankful for our management team at VenuWorks for everything they have done. The Theatre of the Year award will be presented along with the other Industry Awards and Studio Recording Awards as part of ACM Honors™, a special event held annually in August at the historic Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, TN.



Please remember the following people in your prayers

Rhonda Wickerham, Bill Reynolds, Tom Wisvader, Patty Hewlett, Bill Graffis and Stan Zimmerman



LIVE ON THE 4/27 BARTON GRANDE

SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020

RICHIE GREGORY



THIS EVENT DEPENDS ON THE STATUS OF THE COVID 19 VIRUS RESTRICTIONS.

Richie has had a lifelong interest in the theatre organ since age 1, when his grandparents began taking him to visit the Roaring 20's Pizza and Pipes (Ellenton, FL). This continued each year up until its closure in 2010. At age 4, he was given CD's of Bill Vlasak and Dwight Thomas, which he burned into his head, now triggering various nostalgic memories.

Richard began playing the piano by ear at age 6, interested in only perusing organ, later obtaining his first spinet (Kimball) when he was 9 years old. He took up percussion for school, eventually participating in all three concert bands, and put in charge as head "section leader" for the percussion section of the elite band (with a preference for Timpani). Richard also enjoys arranging for ensembles. He has arranged for big band ensembles and marching band, as well as scored several short films. Richard now studies organ privately with Chad Baker of Capital University (Bexley, Ohio), and has recently come around to a

deep and satisfying appreciation for the classical pipe organ.

Richard is currently the organist and bell choir director at Saint Andrew Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Dublin, Ohio, and the Synth/Audio tech/staff for the Worthington Kilbourne High School Marching Band (Worthington, Ohio). In his free time, Richie likes goofing off and spending time with his nieces and nephews.

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



Letter from the editor

By Don Walker

Dear Members,

I hope that all of you are following the guidelines outlined by the CDC and state officials to stay health during this pandemic. I must say that in my lifetime, I've never experienced anything like this. Even my mother who is 91 years old commented that this is the first time in her lifetime that she hasn't been able to attend church services. My heart goes out to those who have lost jobs and are unable to pay their mortgage, rent and other bills.

By all signs, theatre organ activities will be halted until it has been deemed safe to congregate in groups. As a result, when we can go back to normal activities, it's going to be a very special time! It is possible that the May 31 social will go on as planned, so keep that date penciled in your calendar.

I was saddened to hear about the passing of "Uncle" Phil Maloof of Las Vegas, NV. For those of you who have access to a computer or Smartphone, search for "Phil Maloof" in YouTube to find several videos of his collection. According to theatre organist, Walt Strony, Phil fell and fractured his right femur. He was sent to a rehab clinic. Allegedly, he was infected with Covid-19 there. However, he already was on the verge of death. It just made it worse with all that was wrong with him.

I know some of you had made plans to attend the Midwest Theatre Organ Convention in St. Louis and/or the ATOS national convention in Indianapolis. Unfortunately, we will all have to wait until next year.

Stay safe and healthy, everyone!

90-year-old organ, Mighty Mo, will undergo a year of restoration

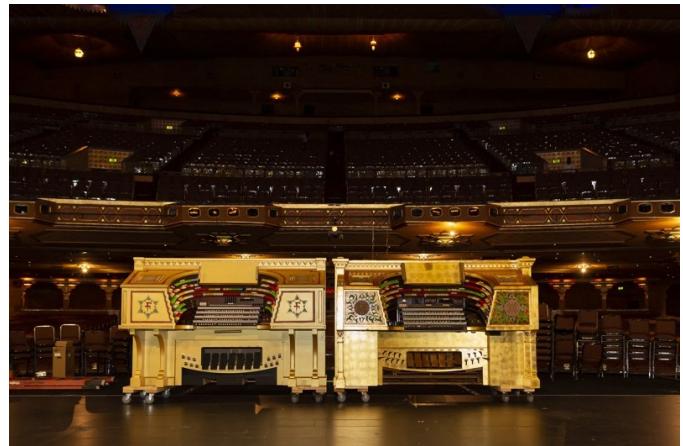
A visitor to the Fox Theatre on a drizzly Jan. 2 — a "dark" Thursday — might have seen a rare sight, akin to a do-si-do between Hulk Hogan and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. Rolling from one end of the stage on a four-wheeled dolly was the half-ton Mighty Mo console, the gilded and bedazzled driver's seat from which musicians play the Fox Theatre's world-renown pipe organ. Coming from the loading dock at the other end of the stage was — what? Another console, equally huge, glittering and gold, with the same four sets of keyboards and the same bewildering array of buttons, tabs and pistons. It was a doppelgänger, a Mighty Mo manqué. "We're having an organ transplant," joked musician Ken Double, master of the Mighty Mo, looking on from a safe distance. "Be careful please," he cautioned the handlers. "It's not the time for a fender bender." After the two consoles posed together for photographs, the new console, built over the last six months, was installed on the Fox Theatre's organ elevator, while the 90-year-old Mighty Mo console was bundled into a box truck and whisked away to a Lithonia shop where it will undergo a year of restoration. Built in 1929, the Möller is one of the biggest theater organs in the country, and one of the most famous. Audiences at the Fox are familiar with that moment when the spotlight shines on the wildly elaborate console as it rises from the orchestra pit like some golden chariot, to lead the audience in a rendition of "Tie a Yellow Ribbon" or "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." (continued on next page)

90-year-old organ, Mighty Mo, will undergo a year of restoration (continued)

But the Mighty Mo is feeling its age. The electro-pneumatic-mechanical switches that trigger its pre-set pistons are plagued with leaky leather valves and balky contacts. Old repairs are coming apart. Paint is flaking and the case is cracking. That's just a matter of age, complexity and wear-and-tear. Each key of the four keyboards and all of the 376 stops communicate with the 3,600 pipes through a thick bundle of 4,000-plus wires that snakes out of the base of the console like a black umbilical cord. These wires carry impulses that, up in the chambers, trigger electro-magnets which shift leather valves in the wind chests, allowing air to flow through pipes that range from the size of fountain pens to the size of three-story Corinthian columns. (The 32-foot diaphone pipe actually causes the building to shake.) The combination of switches and valves is a Rube "Goldbergian" nightmare. "To a certain degree, it's incredible that they work at all," said Double, "and it does this in an eyelash of time." Visible inside the guts of the console were scars and repairs from years past, including work done by the late Joe Patten, the original "Phantom of the Fox," who was responsible for restoring the unplayable organ in the 1970s. Patten then galvanized Atlanta's preservation community to save the Fox itself, which was in the path of the wrecking ball. Because of great service offered to the ornate theater, Patten was granted a lifetime lease to an apartment inside the theater's labyrinthine private area, and he made it his responsibility to keep Mighty Mo in fighting trim. Shortly after Allan Vella became the Fox Theatre's CEO and president in 2006, the septuagenarian Patten led him on a climb up vertical ladders into the dusty chambers holding the organ's pipes. "I was able to tap into some of my old rock-climbing skills to get through those chambers," said Vella. In addition to its pipes, the Mo is tricked out with a wild array of sound effects and pneumatically-controlled instruments, including a slapstick, a xylophone, drums, gongs, bells, songbirds, ocean waves, a steamboat horn and many others. They fascinated the new CEO. Such instruments and sound effects were utilized during the heyday of the theater organ, when they were played as an accompaniment to silent films. By 1929, the silent era was waning, and theater organs were on the way out. The restoration of the organ will cost just north of \$500,000, said Vella. The expense is worth it, he said, considering the emotional bond between the citizens of Atlanta and the Fox Theatre's Mighty Mo. There are few theatre organs in the country with a following as devoted, he said, and "very few organizations put this amount of resources into (preservation)." The substitute Mini Mo is currently using this same computer technology. Double, who shares musical responsibilities at the Fox with Rick McGee, said the result is like taking off the handcuffs. Voices and combinations that were difficult to use before are accessible now. "This will unleash the color of this instrument like it's never been heard before," he said. Double is concerned that old school fans will be alarmed by the introduction of the computer interface. But he cautions that the computer is strictly a signal processor. The ranks of pipes will still be voiced by forced air from the blower room, moving past leather valves in the wooden wind chests. There will be no MIDI sounds in the Mighty Mo. "We will clearly hear from the preservationists, who will express their sorrow that this happened," said Double, "but this was totally the right thing to do."



The Great Move!



The old and the new Temporary console

Hauptwerks 5.0.1 Complete System for Sale Suitable for Home or Church

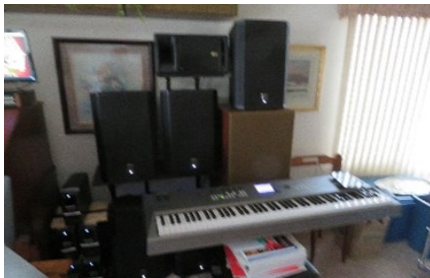
This system does not include any keyboards. The system does have the following equipment:

- HP all in-one computer with 23" touch screen, 16 gig of ram and an I7 processor running Windows 10 Pro, two additional hard drives for backups.
- A second 23" touch screen.
- A 20" monitor to show the picture of the organ be played.
- Advanced license for Hauptwerks 5.0.1.
- ILOK licensing software.
- The complete library of Paramount Virtual Theater Organs.
- Moto AO24 audio interface.
- A Yamaha MM8 digital keyboard that is MIDIed into Hauptwerks and uses Midi-OX to program the voices.
- Novation Launchpad
- Kensington USB 3.0 Dual Display Docking Station
- Ten Electro-Voice ZLX-12P powered PA enclosure with a 12" woofer and 1.5" titanium compression driver.
- Two ZXA1-Sub 12" Powered Subwoofers.
- One JBL 5" powered monitor enclosure for stop-action sound.
- Two Yamaha 10" passive speakers.
- Yamaha MX2 10-Input Powered Mixer with Dual 250-Watt Amp.
- All the necessary cabling for 17 channels of audio.

Asking \$10,000 or reasonable offer. Equipment is located in Tinley Park, IL. and is pickup only.

The Allen Organ GW319 Q with nine Allen Organ speakers is also available for sale.

Contact Rick at Rick8500@live.com with any questions or to see the system.



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2020 "Reels at the Rialto" Movie line up, tickets are just \$5, Doors open at 6pm, show time 7pm. The Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ plays a half an hour before all shows.

Future Movies depend on the status of the Covid19 virus restrictions.

May 7th – Grease, organist Carl DeSanti

June 25th – Uncle Buck, organist Taylor Trimby

July 16th – The Sandlot, organist Taylor Trimby

August 20th – Casablanca, organist Carl DeSanti

September 17th – Toy Story 4, organist Taylor Trimby

October 29th – Hocus Pocus, organist Carl DeSanti



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2020 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of the printing of this newsletter, we had 31 members that did not renew this year. Eleven more than last year. We now stand at 137 members. The good news; ATOS membership within JATOE has gone up. We have 60 ATOS members this year as compared to 45 last year. I want to thank all of you for your continued support of JATOE and the Barton Grande during this difficult time.

Gift Certificates are \$30.00 and are valid for dues and has no expiration date. See a board member to purchase one.



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Mondays, 7:30-10:00pm

Website:

www.SkateAurora.com



LIVE Organ Music
PERFORMED BY Glenn Tallar

TUESDAYS 5:30PM TO 8:30PM

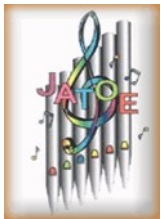
FRIDAYS 5:30PM TO 9:45* PM
*OR LATER DEPENDING ON AUDIENCE



New Hours



The Rialto's 4/27 Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ



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