



RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA

THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS WWW.JATOE.ORG

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July/August 2021



upcoming EVENTS

Sunday, July 25, 2021

**Rialto Square Theatre,
Joliet**

Doors open at 1:30 pm

Program at 2:00 pm

Guest Artist:

**Nick Renkosik, Richie
Gregory and**

Dave Wickerham

**Sunday, August 15,
2021**

**Rialto Square Theatre,
Joliet**

Doors open at 1:30 pm

Program at 2:00 pm

Guest Artist:

Jay Warren

See Pages 4 & 5

JATOE'S

By Joel Martis

50th Anniversary Celebration Set!

We promised you one heck of a party for our anniversary and we are delivering on that promise. Mark your calendars for July 25th. We will start out with a delicious brunch at one of the finest restaurants in the Joliet area, Syl's in Rockdale Illinois (masks are required to enter and at the buffet) from 11am to 1pm. Syl's brunch buffet features waffles, bacon, sausage, several potatoes dishes, prime rib, a complete omelet station, scrambled eggs, complete salad bar and a desert table. Coffee, tea, soft drinks included. JATOE is covering half of the bill for each member. For members wishing to attend the brunch, it's only \$12.00 per person. Don't forget to mail in your check with the number of people attending by July 1st. After a delicious meal, we will proceed to the Rialto Square Theater. Nick Renkosik, Richie Gregory and Dave Wickerham are the artists for the afternoon, with some special surprises. This will be a mini extravaganza! We have invited our sister chapters to our celebration at the theater along with others who helped get the Barton back to 100% working. What a wonderful afternoon this will be! After the program we will have cake and coffee on stage.

Masks are recommended for those who are not fully vaccinated. Those fully vaccinated do not need to wear masks. Hand sanitizer is available. The rotunda and balcony will be open. All of us on the JATOE Board look forward to seeing you.

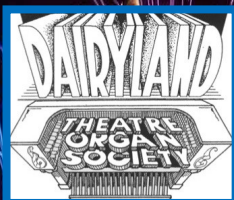
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY JATOE!

BACK TO NORMAL.

Due the Governor lifting all of the restrictions on June 11th, starting July 25th we go back to inviting guests to our events, and starting in August you can bring refreshments again. Lets bring back the "social" part of our socials.



As our sister chapters open back up, click on the icon to go to their web site for the latest news and events.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please Welcome

Eileen Ulbricht,
Ryan Thoryk,
Charles & Darlene Rhodes

Jan Stack, Karl Bruhn, Doug & Kathy Renkosik

June 6th Membership Elections Results

**President-Joel Martis, Vice President- Don Walker,
Secretary- Dennis Nawracaj, Treasurer- Jim Patak,
Board Members- Judy Matarelli, Rick Steinke and Joe Fisher**
Congratulations!

By Don Walker



Editor's Note

Hi Everyone, I hope you are enjoying the summer weather. The last social with Dean Rosko really felt like a 'normal' social for the first time in over a year. Our hope is that once public places begin opening up, we will see an increase in our membership as well as attendance at our social events. You will not want to miss the July 25 social/anniversary celebration. We've lined up the best artists in the Midwest! I dare to say that our anniversary celebration will undoubtedly be the theatre organ event of the year! Our sister chapters have been invited, including our friends with the American Guild of Organists. A warm welcome is extended to all. I'll see all of you on July 25th!



Please remember the following people in your prayers
Bill Reynolds, Don Young, Bernice Walker, Jack
Moelmann, Bill Curry and Stan Zimmerman



JATOE'S 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
NICK RENKOSIK, RICHIE GREGORY
AND DAVE WICKERHAM ON THE ALL NEW
4/27 BARTON GRANDE THEATER PIPE ORGAN
SUNDAY, July 25 , 2021



Join us July 25th for our 50th Anniversary Celebration!

What a show we have planned for you on the all new Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ.



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

About the Artists

Born in 1998 and based out of the Chicagoland area, Nick Renkosik is a nationally acclaimed young organist that has performed at such venues as Sanfilippo's Place De La Musique in Barrington Hills, IL; the Oriental and Riverside Theatres in Milwaukee, WI; the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, IL; Allen Organs of Chicago in Bolingbrook, IL; the Rialto Theatre in Joliet, IL; the Tampa Theatre in Tampa, FL; the Fox Theatre in St. Louis, MO; Carma (Carmex) Laboratories in Franklin, WI; and the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar, CA.

Nick also competed in the 2017 American Theatre Organ Society's Young Organist's Competition in Tampa, FL, and was placed as a runner up.

When he is not performing in a solo setting, Nick is an organist/accompanist on staff at several churches in Northern Illinois. He has also appeared as a guest organist at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, WI, for the annual Milwaukee Film Festival.

Nick is a recent graduate of Carthage College in Kenosha, WI, achieving a major in classical organ performance and a minor in classical piano performance. He is a student in the studios of Mr. Christopher Berry (organ) and Dr. Wael



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 past 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.



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 studied 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.



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

**LIVE ON THE ALL NEW
4/27 BARTON GRANDE THEATER PIPE ORGAN
SUNDAY August 15, 2021**

Jay Warren

Jay Warren – Chicago’s foremost photoplay organist – brings all the color, excitement, and glamour of the silent film era back to life with his original scores for the silver screen. As a regularly featured organist for The Silent Film Society of Chicago, he has accompanied most of the great silent films throughout his career with his famous rousing style. He has been featured annually for the society’s highly regarded Silent Summer Film Festival™ since its inception in 2000. Jay has made 14 appearances at the historic E.M. Skinner pipe organ for silent films at the University of Chicago’s famed Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. He also performs film accompaniment on the beautiful Letourneau pipe organ in the Crimi Auditorium of Aurora University. He is the official silent film accompanist for two ongoing silent film series at St. John Cantius in Chicago and the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles, plus featured solo organist for the monthly Pickwick Theatre Classic Film Series in Park Ridge, Illinois. Jay has also made several silent film appearances on the giant five manual Wurlitzer located at the Sanfilippo Foundation’s world-renowned Grande Place de la Musique in Barrington, Illinois.




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

ATOS Unconventional Convention!

from Dave Calendine



I have mentioned in the past that we will be doing a virtual convention this year, and the plans are being finalized. The name “virtual” has now become more common that I could have ever thought it would be, so that word was ditched for name with some fun to it, and I now welcome you to learn more about the upcoming **Unconventional Convention!** We are aiming for a release date of Thursday, July 8, with videos being released each day from Thursday through Sunday, July 11. Since we are unable to attend the theatre together to hear the organ, it was decided that **none of the organs in the Unconventional Convention will be in theatres** as well! We have six concerts in the works, with four being in private collections, one in a store, and one in a warehouse! Most of these organs will most likely be new to everyone, which also makes this more fun. Other parts of the convention will also be included, such as the Annual Membership Meeting and the Awards Ceremony. Other items that we aren’t able to accommodate fairly for the Unconventional Convention will be tabled until we get to meet in person again next year in San Diego. Each week, I will put information up regarding the organs that are going to be used for the Unconventional Convention.

The first organ I will introduce is in the private music collection of B Bronson, located in SE Michigan. Along with many small and large mechanical musical instruments is a 3/10 Wurlitzer. The organ, originally a style “D”, Opus 0683, has been in several locations. Originally in the Strand Theatre, Madison, Wisconsin, it was repossessed and moved to the Gem Theatre in Crystal Falls, Michigan. From there, it went to Saint Mary of the Angels in Green Bay, Wisconsin, then to a private owner in Green Bay, who sold it to a private owner in Cleveland, Ohio, before being installed in its current home in southeast Michigan in 1987. The organist is Justin Stahl, originally from Indianapolis, now living in Columbus, Ohio. Justin was featured at the last Indianapolis Convention, and we are thrilled to have him perform for the Unconventional Convention. More information on the organ and the organist will be placed on the [ATOS convention page](#). 



Dear Fellow Theatre Organ Enthusiast,

It seems as if we are “rounding that corner” with regards to COVID and lockdowns and should be back to “normal” soon. With that in mind, the American Theatre Organ Society 2023 Convention Committee needs to restart and continue with planning for the Chicagoland convention. We will have **the best artists** playing **the best theatre organs**! But in order to have **the best convention**, we need to have a great and enthusiastic group of volunteers.

At this moment, I am looking for 4 volunteers to head up 4 committees. These are very important for the planning of the convention and must all work together to have **the best convention**. The four committee leads are:

1). **Transportation** 2). **Registration** 3). **Hospitality** and 4). **Publicity**.

1). **The Transportation Committee Chairperson** will coordinate with the bus company to provide schedules, route maps, loading/unloading points, etc. Will also need to get bus captain(s) for each bus.

2). **The Registration Committee Chairperson** will work with the Hotel, Hospitality, Banquet and Publicity Committee Chairman to provide proper information needed for registration, banquet and special needs. All aspects of the registration will be your responsibility. Will also need to get volunteers to help during check in. This is one of the most important and time consuming committees.

3). **The Hospitality Committee Chairperson** will work with the hotel, assist the Registration Committee as well as working with the Young Theatre Organist Competition participants to ensure they have transportation to the Tivoli for rehearsal time and if other “special” transportation needs are required.

4). **The Publicity Committee Chairperson** will collect photographs necessary for the press releases, create articles for *Theatre Organ* magazine, work with the graphic designer to create the convention brochure and pocket guide. Will also create publicity for the convention in local papers, contact civic leadership for “welcome” letter, secure advertisement in local press for concerts open to the public, reach out for sponsorships, work with the convention reviewer, etc.

There will be compensation for the committee chairpersons in reduced hotel rates for the convention. These are just some of the highlights and I have a complete rundown of what we need to do in the ATOS Convention Policy & Procedures Handbook (2017 edition v2).

We will begin to meet on a monthly basis (...starting in August...) with the first few meetings going over the handbook and also what has been done so far.

There will be compensation for the committee chairpersons in reduced hotel rates and for the convention (only) registration fee.

If you have any questions **AND** would like to volunteer, please let me know. You can phone or send an email.

Phone: 815.955.0522

Email: catoe2023@att.net

Thank you,

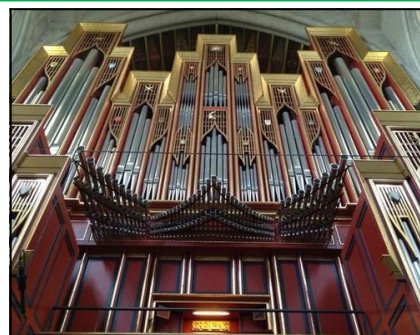
Taylor Trimby

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Chairman

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with **Carl DeSanti**
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Website: www.SkateAurora.com

Facebook: [AuroraSkateCenter](https://www.facebook.com/AuroraSkateCenter)



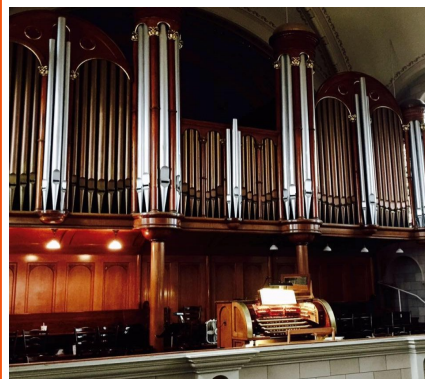
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Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts Celebrating 50 years 1971-2021



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