

RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS <u>WWW.JATOE.ORG</u> DON WALKER, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: <u>JATOEBARTON@GMAIL.COM</u>

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SEPT/OCT 2021



What A Celebration We Had! By Joel Martis

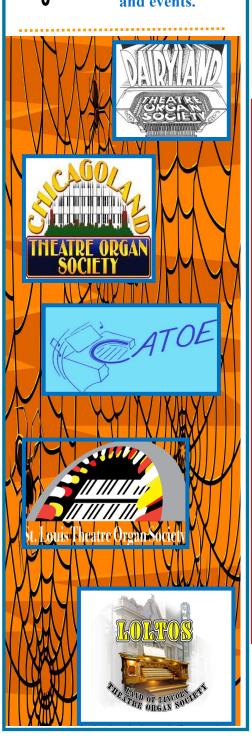
Not since the extravaganza's has there been such an event like this at the Rialto. Two plus wonderful hours of music by Nick Renkosik, Richie Gregory, Frank Pellico and Mr. Dave Wickerham. The Barton has never sounded better. After a delicious brunch at Syl's in Rockdale, everyone headed to the theater. We had 275 in attendance. We had Dave Calendine, Chairman of the American Theater Organ Society, Scott Peterson from Peterson Electro Musical, and a host of guests. People came from everywhere, St Louis Chapter was here, Dairyland, Land of Lincoln, a whole host of people. ATOS, CTOS, CATOE and JATOE teamed together for something never done before, from now until the end of the year a NEW person can join all 4 clubs for just \$55. Spread the word!!!!!We will even send in the info to ATOS for them. WOW all four clubs working together, what the heck is happening here? Is the world coming to an end? Good comes out of the bad remember that? The pandemic has been bad for all of our clubs but working together we can get our memberships back up and expose more to the wonder of the theater pipe organ. After the concert, cake and coffee were served in the rotunda. What a wonderful day! What a wonderful 50th celebration.

Our humble and sincere thanks goes out to:

The JATOE Board, David Rhodes, Scott Peterson, Joliet Electric, Dave Calendine, ATOS Chairman, Rich Renik, retired Col. Jack Moelmann for his most generous contribution to JATOE and the organists. To Dennis Nawracaj, Rick Steinke, Justin Krasowski and Don Walker, our work crew, Jan Trimby Stack for the beautiful decorations, Taylor Trimby for recording the entire event, and all those who contributed in any way to make this event such a success.



back up, click on the icon to go to their web site for the latest news and events.





Please Welcome

Brenda Dodge from Joliet

Darrah DeWitt-Wright from Powell Ohio

David & Jennifer Bayer from Winfield, Il

Vicki Woods from Corona, CA

Lawrence & Bonita Krupp from Collinsville, IL

Jack Moelmann from O'Fallon, IL



By Editor's Note

By Don Walker

Greetings!

I hope all of you are enjoying the summer, and the return of the arts industry. We are happy that JATOE was privileged to begin socials this past May with COVID restrictions in place. For those of you who were unable to participate in our 50th Anniversary celebration, you missed a wonderful event. The Barton, under the direction of David Rhodes performed flawlessly. Each artist brought out their own unique style and flair. Nick Renkosik presented the traditional theatre organ stylings that have become his trademark, all performed expertly. Richie Gregory offered a contemporary selection with a percussion/drum track, Bon Jovi's, "Livin' on a Prayer,' proving that the Barton can be a contemporary instrument. Finally, Dave Wickerham presented his crowd pleasing selections including the beautiful, "It is Well With My Soul." We couldn't help but think of his late wife, Rhonda Sue during this performance. We had 250 in attendance, and the rotunda looked beautiful with all the decorations. Thanks to all who assisted in this wonderful event!

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





Matt Gerhard has been a theatre organ fan since childhood. Matt's interest in the theatre organ was sparked by his first organ CD; It's a Grand Old Flag recorded by Melissa Ambrose-Edison on the Detroit Senate Theater's Wurlitzer, as well as two trips to the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis before its closing.

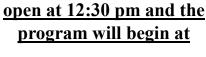
Matt enjoys being involved with the Central Indiana Chapter of the ATOS. Currently, he is 1st Vice President. In the past Matt has served as President, Recording Secretary, and At-Large board member.

As an artist, Matt has performed for a number of organizations across the country including Shepherd's Grove Community Church in Garden Grove California, Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts, the Central Indiana Chapter of the ATOS, and Olivet Nazarene University. Currently, Matt is one of the organists providing pre-show music at the Hedback Theatre and the Warren Performing Arts Center in Indianapolis as well as The Long Center in Lafayette. In the past he has substituted at Beggar's Pizza in Lansing, IL as well as the for the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra's annual Yuletide Celebration.

Since 2010 Matt has served as Director of Music at Kokomo Zion United Methodist Church in Kokomo, IN. He also serves as the Instructional Assistant for the choral program and marching band staff member at Northwestern Middle and High School in Kokomo as well as teaches piano lessons.

Matt has had theatre organ coaching from Mark Herman, Justin Stahl, and Bob Salisbury. His classical and church training was under Rev. William H. Brown, Dr. Timothy Nelson, and Dr. Beverly Howard. Matt studied piane with Amy Shumway and Dr. Gerald Anderson.

Matt earned a Bachelor's in Church Music from Olivet Nazarene University and a Master's in Choral Conducting from California Baptist University.



Please note the new time

for this social. Doors will

1:00 pm!

Enter 121 Scott St. Stage Doors open at 12:30 pm Show starts at 1:00 pm. Bring Refreshments!







JATOE'S HALLOWEEN COSTUME PARTY

Spookiness , ghosts, goblins, witches, skeletons galore! Come dressed up as your favorite ghoul and join us for our Halloween Party featuring the artistry of Jelani Eddington.

At the age of 13, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition, prevailing over competitors ages 13-21 from the United States, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Jelani remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title. Jelani went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in 1996, and later received a Juris Doctor degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, after which time he was admitted to practice law in New York and later in Wisconsin.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, and has toured extensively throughout the world. He has also produced and marketed over 30 theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country.

In 2014, Jelani became the first—and to date only—musician to have a video of his theatre organ performance go "viral." Within a few short weeks, Jelani's performance of John William's Star Wars Symphonic Suite was viewed on YouTube over 1 million times in more than 200 countries around the world. As of 2016, that video has earned more than 2.2 million views worldwide.

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

Fire destroys pipe organ making business in

western Iowa

Fire has destroyed a western Iowa business that made pipe organs for churches, schools and customers from around the world

June 16, 2021

LAKE CITY, Iowa -- Fire has destroyed a western Iowa business that made pipe organs for churches, schools and customers from around the world, officials said.

The fire at Dobson Pipe Organ Builders in Lake City was reported around 4 p.m. Tuesday, officials said. Firefighters found the building engulfed in flames that caused its exterior walls to collapse.

One employee of the company was burned when he discovered the fire and tried to put out the flames, according to authorities. The State Fire Marshal's Office said it believes the fire was started by a malfunctioning fan that caused sawdust to ignite.

Lake City is about 70 miles (112.7 kilometers) northwest of Des Moines.

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders was founded in 1974 by Lynn Dobson, a Carroll, Iowa, native who attended Wayne State College in Nebraska, according to the business' website. During





his years at the college, he built an organ in a shed on his family's farm that he sold to Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sioux City, Iowa, where it is still played.



WORK IN ATOS GRANT

JATOE has been informed that the Grant application sent into

ATOS for \$11,082.00 for work David Rhodes has identified, has been approved for the Phase 2 repairs on the Barton organ. We are gearing up for the Chicago Convention and want the Barton to be one of the shining stars of 2023. We Thank ATOS for the Grant. Work includes: Lower Solo & Main Winkers, re-leather Diaphonic Diapason chest n25-85, Repairs to Tuba Mirabilis offset chest n7-18, Repairs to Main Tibia chest n25-85, Rebuild solo tibia tremulant , Re-leather upper solo shade primaries/valves , Tonal finishing/ regulation on Quintadena, Horn Diapason and tremulant adjustments.



In Memory of our IATOF Members







Click on the picture to read the full Obituary. May She Rest in Peace.



Grace United Methodists Church in Naperville, IL. Is looking for:

Principal Organist/Accompanist approx. 15 hours/week, Exempt \$20,000-\$30,000 commensurate with experience.

Qualifications • Minimum Bachelor's Degree in Music, preferably in organ performance or sacred music from an accredited college or university; or Professional certification as a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists (CAGO). • Five years of experience playing organ in medium to large size Christian churches. • Excellent music sight-reading capabilities on organ and piano. • Comfortable performing a wide variety of styles and periods at the organ and piano.

Application Requirements Please send a cover letter, resume, and three references, and digital videos (if available) of the following to

james.stellmacher@peopleofgrace.org: 1. Playing a hymn at the organ 2. Playing a standard piece of organ repertoire 3. Accompanying a choir at the piano

Choir Director approx. 20 hours/week, Exempt \$25,000-\$35,000 commensurate with experience

Qualifications • Required: Bachelor's Degree in music, church music, or other related degree. • Preferred: Master's Degree in music, church music, or other related degree and five years of experience conducting ensembles in medium- to large- size Christian churches.

• Demonstrated knowledge of Methodist/Protestant theology, liturgical practice, music as ministry, and use of music in diverse worship styles

Application Requirements Please send a cover letter, resume, and three references, and digital videos (if available) of the following to

james.stellmacher@peopleofgrace.org: 1. Playing a hymn at the organ 2. Playing a standard piece of organ repertoire 3. Accompanying a choir at the piano One page organ overview attached.

Application Requirements Please send a cover letter, resume, three references, and a digital video of the applicant conducting a rehearsal (strongly preferred) or in worship to **james.stellmacher@peopleofgrace.org**

Graces

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

CATOE/ATOS 2023 Convention Chairman

Live Organ Music Dance Session with Carl DeSanti Mondays, 7:30-10:00pm

Website: www.SkateAurora.com Facebook: AuroraSkateCenter



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Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts Celebrating 50 years 1971-2021



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