

# Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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**Our next social will take place on Saturday morning, May 26 and will feature Chris Gorsuch at the Van Der Molen residence Robert Morton theatre organ. Doors will open at 10:00 AM, and the program begins promptly at 10:30 AM. See page two for details.**

**Join us on Saturday, June 16 as we visit the new Chicago Piano Superstore in Downers Grove, IL, home of the Allen Organ showroom for a premier performance on the George Wright Signature series four manual theatre organ with guest organist, George Smith from Anderson, IN. Doors will open at 7:00 PM and the program begins at 7:30 PM. See page two for details.**

## President's Message from Jim Patak

Our Extravaganza 11 weekend was a great success. The only setback was that Clark Wilson was not able to appear due to severe Bronchitis/Sinus infection. The programs put on by the new Trio Con Brio (music from the Little Shop Of Horrors and Harry Potter) were outstanding. One of the most outstanding performances was a Grieg piano concerto played by Jelani Eddington accompanied by Jonas Nordwall at the organ.

JATOE had about 1500 attendees at the Rialto, 106 at Van Der Molen's and over 260 at the Victorian Palace. These numbers were all above last year's attendance. Those of you that did not attend should make the effort next year. Extravaganza 12 will be April 26, 2008.

I thank Jan Challender, Barbara Petry, Faye Wheeler, Judy Matarelli, Norma Peters and Dolores Patak for providing the refreshments at the Wheaton Fox. They did a great job. I must also thank Paul and Linda Van Der Molen for opening their home for our event. A special thank you goes to Leroy Petry for getting the Barton in shape for the concert. Organ Supply Industries of Erie, PA stepped up and quickly repaired a marimba mallet and they also provided us with a beautiful CD holder which we raffled off at the Victorian Palace. I hope I didn't forget anyone. If I did, forgive me.

The Membership Meeting surprised the JATOE Officers and Board because the membership voted to dispense with the election and insisted that the present officers and board continue for the next 2 years. Thanks a lot!!!

The Peterson EMP (makers of the relay) worked very diligently to make sure that everything worked well. We still have to make a few adjustments to the relay and are waiting for the artists comments as to what should be done to make it even better.

The program was recorded by Robert Ridgeway/Steve Margison and we will let you all know when the finished product is available.

Jim Patak

### Important information and directions to the Van Der Molen Residence:

Coming from the south, take I-355 or IL Rt. 59 north to the Roosevelt Road exit. Proceed west to Main Street in Wheaton (one block west of Naperville Road) (If you are driving from IL Rt. 59 north, follow the signs to turn east on Roosevelt Rd, then left on Main St.) Turn right on Main Street, and proceed north to Harrison St. Turn left on Harrison to Gary Ave. Turn right (North) on Gary to Jewell Road (1st traffic light) Turn left on Jewell Road. Count four (4) streets on the right side of Jewell Road, and turn right on Willow Road. Proceed to the second block. The Van Der Molen residence is the large gray house (3rd) on the left. **Watch for the attendant for parking directions**, or park in the driveway, or on the west side of the street only.

From the north, take I-355, Illinois Rt. 59, or I-290. Exit at North Avenue, Rt. 64. Go west to Gary Avenue. (If traveling from Rt. 59, turn left, going east on North Ave to Gary.) (White Castle is on the SW corner, about 10 miles from I-290) Turn left and go south about 2 miles to Jewell Rd, the fifth traffic light. Turn right and go west. Count four (4) streets on the right side only of Jewell Road. The fourth street is Willow Road. Turn right, go into the second block. Look for the third house on the left side of the street. **Watch for the attendant for parking directions**, or park in the driveway, or on the west side of the street only. **The Van Der Molen residence is located at 0N 468 Willow Road, Wheaton, IL 60187. Paul's phone number is: (630) 653-4986**

### Important information and directions to the Chicago Piano Superstore:

The Chicago Piano Superstore is located at 1205A Butterfield Road in Downers Grove, IL 60515. (Frontage Road just south of Butterfield Road and west of Highland Avenue) **Enter off of Butterfield Road on Downers Drive, one light west of Highland Avenue and two lights east of I-355 or at the frontage road entrance off of Highland Avenue, one block south of Butterfield Road.** Phone # 630-512-9200. Web address: <http://www.chicagopianosuperstore.com>. **Please enter the store from the east side parking lot near the organ showroom. Do not enter through the front doors.**

## Chris Gorsuch performs at the Van Der Molen residence!

Chris Gorsuch began formal studies on the organ at age fourteen. He was soon playing for several different churches in his home town of Springfield, Ohio. At the age of twenty, Chris moved to San Diego, California to take a staff position with Organ Power Pizza restaurants equipped with theatre pipe organs. One of the instruments that Chris played was the famed five manual Reginald Foort Travelling Moller Theatre Pipe Organ, now installed at the Pasadena Civic Center.

While playing for the restaurant, Chris became a student of Lyn Larsen. Chris gained invaluable knowledge from Lyn in the areas of registration and phrasing. Many musicians have contributed their influence to Chris's musical style. Music of the Big Band era is a particular favorite, as well as classical, jazz and the music of the 20's and 30's.

Chris also has a fascination with electronics. In 1979, he formed his own company with the purpose of designing and manufacturing electronic systems for pipe and electronic organs. The company has created many new and innovative products. Chris is also working closely with Dick Wilcox, creator of the Uniflex 2000 Organ Control System, writing software that provides editing features for song files.

Chris is also a competent pipe voicer and tonal finisher. He feels as much at home in a pipe organ chamber as he does on the bench playing the finished product. He is the tonal finisher of several major instruments in the United States.

Developing new arrangements, concertizing, recording, improving the sound of both electronic and pipe organs, and running a business make for a very interesting life. In all of this, Chris has demonstrated a remarkable capacity to strive for excellence in a demanding profession.

**Doors to the Van Der Molen residence will open at 10:00 AM. Do not enter the residence early, please. The program will begin promptly at 10:30 AM. There will be no open console at this special social event. Please bring refreshments. The Van Der Molen residence is located at: 0N 468 Willow Road, Wheaton, IL 60187**



## George Smith debuts for JATOE at the Allen GW IV Theatre Organ!

George Smith is celebrating over fifty six years in the entertainment industry. George's musical career began in Indianapolis, Indiana playing piano in the grade school orchestra. From there he entertained people everywhere. At Shortridge High School, he was in most every band and orchestra playing percussion. When he was a senior his first professional opportunity came along at the Roller Rondo Skating Rink. From there he played Hammond Organ at several large rinks, and a rare opportunity developed at Skateland Roller Palace in Alexandria, Indiana where he performed at the console of a WurliTzer 4 manual, 20 rank theatre pipe organ, and, of course a Hammond organ.

After Army duty in the late 1950's, he purchased his first Hammond organ and Leslie speaker and later George Smith's Music Center, Inc. was formed with the help of his wife Norma, who remains a faithful helper after more than fifty years along with two of their three sons. They were in the top sales leaders of the piano and organ industry in the Midwest and remain a leader with Hammond-Suzuki, Inc. U.S.A. in sales and service.

George and Norma have had the pleasure of working with or supplying instruments to such notables in the entertainment business as: Kathryn and Mary Francis Crosby, Ray Charles, Joey DeFrancesco, Tony Manaco, The Indiana State Fair, Tony Hulman and many more. George is house organist for the Paramount Theatre Centre in Anderson, Indiana and Haracre Ballroom and teaches piano, organ and keyboard. George and Norma are members of the American Theatre Organ Society.

**Doors to the Chicago Piano Superstore will open at 7:00 PM, and the program begins at 7:30 PM. JATOE would like to thank Lee Maloney, Manager of organ sales and service for allowing us to utilize their beautiful new showroom for this social event. The store is located at : 1205A Butterfield Rd. in Downers Grove, IL 60515**

