

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

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Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

November/December 2013

Join us on **Sunday, November 16, 2013** at **Downer's Grove North High School, 4436 Main St., Downers Grove, IL** as we join our sister chapter **CATOE** for a performance by young organist **Donnie Rankin**. **Doors open at 9:45am, and Donnie's concert begins at 10:15am. Plenty of free parking is available directly across the street from the school auditorium. Please bring a dessert to share after the concert. Many thanks to CATOE for allowing us to join them for this special event!**

Please join us on Sunday, December 22, 2013 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet as we welcome back to the console **Bill Tandy from Kokomo, Indiana**. **Bill loves our Barton organ and is very excited to be back once again. Doors open at 1:30pm, and the concert begins at 2:00pm. Please bring refreshments to share. Open console will follow Bill's performance.**

President's Message from Jim Patak

It seems to be that fall is here and we had better get our snow blowers and shovels ready for use. The problem is that I love snow and I am a cold freak. I'm looking forward to the cool weather.

If you were here for our last social, you heard a great performance by Zach Frame. He is a great talent for such a young man. If you can, be sure to see him at the Piper Music Palace in Greenfield, WI.

We are sorry that we could not get a date for November. The theatre is extremely busy during the month. During the Thanksgiving week, the Rialto is having the Festival Of Trees, ending on Sunday-Dec 1, with the Von Heidecke Nutcracker. This is a great show to see.

1. The Joliet American Legion Band will again perform on December 8.
2. It's A Wonderful Life – Live Radio Broadcast – December 13
3. A Christmas Carol—December 19
4. Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra-Music Of Disney—December 20

Be sure to read Don Walker's column to the left about upcoming socials.

JATOE has received some donations in memory of Leroy Petry. If you still wish to donate in his memory, you may do so by sending to (JATOE-PO Box 212-Joliet, IL 60434.)

JATOE still has many CD's from previous Extravaganza's along with Barton caps. Let me know if you are interested.

You all received an email/postcard about the special social at the Lowery Organ Showroom in Elmhurst, IL. October 27 at 2 pm. Hope to see you there.

Well I've run out of thoughts, so stay healthy and happy this holiday season!

Jim Patak

Remembering Leroy Petry

That little impish grin, the happy heckler—always in the front row, we shall miss Mr. LAAROY! He fought kidney failure a long eight months and lost the battle on August 28th. Barb and LeRoy belonged to five organ clubs so he will be sorely missed by many fellow enthusiasts. As the JATOE Crew Chief he spent many hours working with Jim Patak at the Rialto Square Theatre. I will miss him kissing my hand and playing "My Old Kentucky Home" on the Rialto's Barton. The Petry's would have celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary this New Year's Eve 2013. Barb's new address is: 199 West North Ave., Unit 106, West Chicago, IL 60185.

Submitted by Jan Challender...

Upcoming Concert Events this holiday season featuring JATOE members

Saturday, December 14: Christmas Concert—Savior Divine Lutheran Church, Palos Hills, IL. Our friend and JATOE member, Frank Pellico released the date for his annual Christmas concert/fundraiser for Savior Divine Lutheran Church. Doors open at 3pm and the concert begins at 4pm, followed by coffee and desserts. \$20.00/person. Please make checks out to: Frank Pellico, 9045 Del Prado Dr, Palos Hills, IL 60465. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope for return tickets and directions to the church. Savior Divine church is located at: 10040 S 88th Ave Palos Hills, IL 60465 (708) 598-0700. The program will consist not only of Christmas music but other sacred and popular tunes as well and includes a choir, soloist, instrumentalists and much more.

Sunday, November 24: Sacred/Inspirational Music concert. Our JATOE member/Board Member Carl De Santi is going to present the following: The date of our concert is fast approaching! As mentioned in a previous notice, Kenned and I will be performing a concert of sacred/inspirational music at my church in the sanctuary, Santa Lucia on Sunday, November 24 at 2:00 p.m. Santa Lucia (St. Lucy's) is located in the Bridgeport neighborhood at 3022 S. Wells (31st and Wells), Chicago. It is the Sunday before Thanksgiving and is a fund raiser for the church. We will be using both the organ in the loft and our sound system and arrangements on our keyboards. The suggested donation is \$10 taken at the door. We're so looking forward to giving you all the gift of a beautiful and uplifting musical experience (and helping out the church, too!)

Jan's Joliet Jottings...past social reviews

Frank Pellico—The word got out! Frank Pellico was coming to the beautiful Rialto Square Theatre to play a program on their wonderful Barton Grande Theatre Pipe Organ. More than 200 people filled the theatre and were more than delighted with the more than delightful program. Frank was having a ball playing his favorite tunes and our favorites, too. It was one great JATOE social! Now, if Frank Pellico was included on a RialtoFest Extravaganza (and given a minimum of thirty minutes), and just one story was placed in one Chicago newspaper or Frank gave a pitch on one popular radio station, I'll be we could have a 'sell out' at the Rialto Square Theatre.

Jelani Eddington-A sunny day, a sprawling estate, a superb pipe organ, a sensational artist, a super program, scrumptious snacks, and two sweet hosts...Jim Gallops and Dick Dissell were so warm and welcoming. Generous, too, in that they have already invited JATOE to come back next year for a third social in Ottawa. Jelani, one of the finest organists in the world, is the George Wright of his era! He played flawlessly using the 100 ranks and stop tabs that each contain three voices. Piloting a 747 I'm sure is much easier. The program began with a seldom heard Gershwin's (my favorite) "Things Are Looking Up." Then, "This is My Beloved," the march written for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth, a Fred and Ginger medley from the movie, "Swingtime," "Rondo in G," and Leonard Bernstein's "Waltz." After a brief toweeling of his brow, Jelani concluded with Billy Joel's, "Root Beer Rag." After a much deserved standing ovation, his encore "Get Happy" expressed a crowd that was more than "Happy!" Ask Judy Matarelli about Jelani's glissando over the pistons. Member certainly enjoyed open console while the rest of us partied in their huge kitchen. Many thanks Jim and Dick for opening your home and sharing your treasure with us. A big THANK YOU also to a JATOE angel, Dennis Fugh, for paying Jelani's artist fee! WOW! What a social!

In Memoriam

JATOE member Faye Wheeler reports the death of Eric H. Oberg at age 60 on Saturday, September 28, 2013. Eric is survived by his loving family, siblings, George Oberg, Daniel Oberg and Peggy (Gary) Steffins. Eric was preceded in death by his parents, Grant and Louise Oberg (Sellards.) Eric was a lifelong member of the First United Methodist Church of Lockport and played the organ at the church for over 30 years. Eric was a guest of JATOE and had attended socials at the Rialto Theatre in Joliet.