

Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



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November/December 2004

Business meeting and social, Sunday, November 14, 2004. Special guest artist, John Gallagher of Rockford, IL! See page two for complete details.

The JATOE Board of Directors wishes to extend to all members and friends of JATOE a very happy Holiday Season!



Jelani Eddington lecture and seminar held on September 15 was a huge success! Many thank for JATOE Board Member and ATOS Youth Representative, Mike Cierski for his hard work in putting together this important event. See page two for details and pictures.

President's Message

The leaves are turning color, the air is getting cooler and if nature is on target, winter will be here soon. The good thing is the Rialto Season is heating up. Many good shows are coming and should not be missed.

Our Extravaganza 9 (April 30, 2005) is going along very well. Neil Jensen of Australia is excited about coming to play for this show. We will also have Jelani Eddington, Dave Wickham, and Clark Wilson. We will also have a cameo appearance of the young and upcoming Mark Herman. The box Office has already informed me that they have 10 bus tour groups coming so far this year. This is very impressive for this far in the future. I have 300 tickets on hold for our JATOE friends. See me about reservations. On Sunday (May 1, 2005) we will also have 2 concerts at the Sanfilippo Victorian Palace. This will be an exciting weekend.

On November 14, we will be entertained by John Gallagher of Rockford. This social will be at the Rialto Theatre. More information on this social and coming events is elsewhere in the newsletter.

We are getting closer to having the Extravaganza 8 CD available. There is always some hitch in the works, but everything is on go at present. The new CD will have 154 minutes of music on it including bonus tracks from the Victorian Palace and the Wheaton Fox. I have heard some of the tracks and I am impressed. We hope all of you are able to purchase this CD.

The Barton is sounding very well these days, however, there are still some minor problems to be addressed. Some of these should have been taken care of a few years ago. We still have a few dead notes to take care of, but these are the nature of the beast. Steve Margison recently upgraded our computer to include the record/playback section of the relay that was not previously programmed properly. We thank Steve for that expertise.

I have rambled on enough so I hope to see many of you on November 14.

Jim Patak

Calendar of Future Events

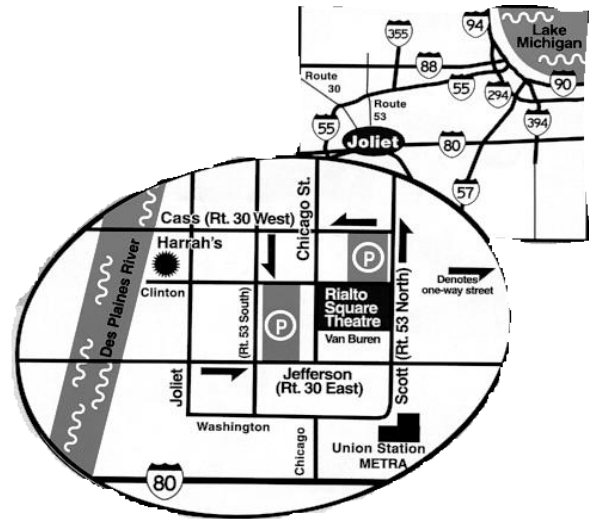
- There will be no December social due to the lack of availability of our "clubhouse," the Rialto Theatre. However, plan on receiving news of a very special "After the Holidays" social during the month of January 2005. Details will be forthcoming in the next "*Relay Chatter*."
- JATOE members are invited to attend the CTOS Annual Christmas Party at the home of Dennis Scott and Thom Day on Saturday, December 11, 2004. Their home is affectionately known as the "Fairfield Orpheum." Doors will open at 2PM and an organ program at 2:30PM will be followed by the *West End Jazz Band* playing from 4 to 8PM. There will be Theatre Organ and Christmas related Videos on the BIG screen and lots of Holiday Food. The party is located at 6448 S. Fairfield Avenue in Chicago. Please contact Dennis or Thom at (773) 863-4346 for directions to their home and event starting time.
- On Sunday, February 13, 2005, Ken Double will be performing for JATOE at the VanDerMolen residence in Wheaton, IL. Don't miss the opportunity to hear this "world class" artist performing on a "world class" instrument!

John Gallagher makes first JATOE appearance, November 14.

John Gallagher has been playing organ music most of his life. Since the age of four, John knew the organ was his instrument of choice. Realizing that his interest was sincere, his parents bought an organ and he started talking lessons at the age of seven. By the age of nine he was playing at church and continued to do so for many years to come. In high school, he branched out a bit and started playing in several of the Chicagoland Roller Rinks--specifically, the Fleetwood, Orbit and Fireside.

John has played in practically every venue "...anything from funerals to the lounge and country club scene." In recent years, John has given several concerts on the Grande Barton Theater organ at the Coronado Theater in Rockford and is on the board of directors for the Land of Lincoln Theater Organ Society and a member of the American Theater Organ Society. He is a three time winner of the Southern Illinois Division in the Yamaha Electone Festival. Recently, he made his debut with the Chicagoland Theater Organ Society at the Beautiful Sound on the Allen George Wright IV to rave reviews. *Editor's Note: Board Member, Barbara Petry had the pleasure of hearing John recently, and highly recommends him. We are pleased that he has agreed to share his music with us.*

The Rialto stage door will open at 1:30 pm. The meeting and program will begin promptly at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments.



Highlights of Jelani Eddington Lecture and Seminar

Just a short update to tell you about. A wonderful event took place at South Suburban College on September 15th. **STANDING ROOM ONLY!** The Kindig Performing Arts Center houses 409 seats and the noon lecture was sold out! Jelani talked about the history and music the theatre organ holds in American society. At the evening concert, the audience filled over half the seats. Again a wonderful turnout. A wonderful performance from Jelani on the Allen Renaissance 311 theatre organ, granted for use by The Beautiful Sound. JATOE provided the drinks and Jim Patak was wonderful helping out at the "history board". Gus Franklin and Jack Moelmann were present from ATOS and provided awards to the school and to everyone that was part of this event. A full review of the South Suburban College lecture and concert will be in the Journal at a later date. I would love to write more, but it will have to wait, because I hate to ruin a surprise! I am looking forward toward the future. This is a good start for many more things to come! *Michael Cierski, A.K.A. "Mikey"*



ATOS National President Fr. Gus Franklin, (left) and Board Member Jack Moelmann (right) congratulate event organizer Mike Cierski on a job "well done" after Jelani's afternoon lecture to a full auditorium of music students.



From left to right, ATOS Board Member Jack Moelmann, Lee Maloney of the Beautiful Sound, provider of the Allen organ, Jelani Eddington and ATOS President Gus Franklin