

# Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



WWW.JATOE.org

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September/October 2004

**Next social, Sunday, September 12, 2:00 PM, Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL. Back by popular demand, Warren York at the console! See page two for details.**

**Jelani Eddington to conduct lecture and concert at South Suburban College, South Holland, IL. The event is free! Don't miss this event scheduled for Wednesday, September 15! Events begin at 12 Noon, and culminate with a concert at 7:30 pm. See page two for complete details. Thanks to board member and ATOS Youth Representative Mike Cierski for organizing this event.**

**Mark Herman social review! See article at right...**



## President's Message

I'm sitting here in my summer home kitchen on Lake Wisconsin waiting for the predicted rain to come in and watching the Chickadees and Hummingbirds feeding from our deck. I'm trying to think of something to fill this column.

I hope that those of you that came to the Wheaton Fox to hear one of the upcoming stars of the Theatre Organ world were as amazed as I was. We had heard Mark Herman at the ATOS Convention in Milwaukee. We were impressed then and were very happy that Don Walker was able to get him for one of our socials. I cannot wait to hear him on the Rialto Barton. He will be doing a cameo appearance at the April 30, 2005 Extravaganza.

I hope that you put on your calendars the following two dates: April 30, 2005 at the Rialto Theatre and May 1, 2005 at the Victorian Palace. JATOE is hoping to be even more successful than we were in 2004.

The Extravaganza 8 recording is well on its way and we hope to have it available sometime in September/October. We will also have some tracks from Wheaton Fox and the Victorian Palace. Jerry LeCompte is the recording engineer and Steve Lamanna, Dennis Scott and John Mueller are working on the inserts. This should be a wonderful project. We will certainly let you all know when it is ready.

JATOE has also received a quote for the restoration of the upper main chamber. As you know, we bought a 16' Diaphone from the Portland Organ Grinder to replace ours. JATOE bought this in 1999. We may finally get it in. Rearranging this chamber will also make for easier maintenance. The Board will make the decision on this proposal at the next meeting.

JATOE is also going to help Mike Cierski with his theatre organ project. He has worked very hard on this. There is a description of the project in this newsletter. I hope that many of you can attend this event.

The next JATOE Social is on September 12, 2004 at the Rialto Theatre. Information is included in the newsletter. **Jim Patak**

Members and guests of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (JATOE) had the great pleasure of hearing sixteen-year-old Mark Herman perform at the VanDerMolen residence Robert Morton theatre organ in Wheaton, Illinois for our August 1st social.

I can't say enough about this young man's ability at the console. His up tempo selections have a crispness that allows even fast measures to articulate with clarity. His ballads are presented with sensitivity, feeling and phrasing many years beyond his age. His registrations are always appropriate and never beyond what the music speaks to. Yes, this is another success story of teacher John Ferguson's ability to mold and shape musical gifts, and express them in a stunning package that only improves with age. Not only does this young man excel at his musical abilities, but he is also articulate, knowledgeable and expressive in his vocal presentation at the console. A bit nervous at the start of the program, he quickly gained comfort and confidence. I hate comparisons, but can we say another Jelani in a few short years? That wouldn't be such a bad comparison!

After his closing selection, a well-deserved standing ovation followed. His arrangement of Ray Noble's, "Cherokee" was offered as an encore, and by the end of this number, another standing ovation ensued. We didn't want him to stop!

I know I speak for many others when I say that we look forward to following Mark's progress, accomplishments and a future recording. If you have an opportunity to hear him, don't miss out!  
**Don Walker**

## Jelani Eddington to conduct lecture and concert, September 15!

South Suburban College's Music and Theatre Departments Invite You to the GRAND REOPENING of the Newly Renovated Kindig Performing Arts Center

featuring recording artist and award-winning theatre organist  
**JELANI EDDINGTON**

Sponsored by *The Beautiful Sound, The American Theatre Organ Society & The Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts.*

*Produced by Michael R. Cierski, Albert Jackson & Ellie Shunko*

Performing on an Allen Renaissance 311 theatre organ, Jelani will showcase popular pieces by well-known composers from all generations and demonstrate the characteristic melodies used by silent movie accompanists of an era long ago.

As part of the Noon lecture-demonstration, Jelani will accompany a silent movie that was popular for its time. Following the lecture, fellow organists will be invited to the stage for an "open console" session.

**Wednesday, September 15, 2004 at 12 Noon**  
**Lecture, Demonstration, Open Console, Silent Movie**  
**7:30 pm: Concert**

**NO CHARGE FOR ADMISSION-CALL 708-210-5741 FOR RESERVATIONS!**  
**SOUTH SUBURBAN COLLEGE**  
**KINDIG PERFORMING ARTS CENTER**  
**15800 SOUTH STATE STREET, SOUTH HOLLAND, IL**

## Next social, September 12, Warren York at the Rialto Barton!

Join us on Sunday, September 12 at the Rialto Theatre to hear JATOE member and crowd-pleaser, Warren York for a fun-filled program of music and surprises. Warren is truly a gifted artist, and has the ability to listen to any arrangement and recreate it on the keyboard without music! Warren has been a member of JATOE and many other organ clubs within Illinois and Indiana for many years, and is always willing to share his musical talent with us. He logs many miles from his home in Urbana, IL to hear and play his beloved theatre organ. Don't miss out! **Mark your calendars now for Sunday, September 12 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL**

The doors to this event will open at 1:30 pm, and the program will begin at 2:00 pm. Please bring a refreshment of your choice. Open console will follow Warren's performance.

Because of scheduling conflicts, the Rialto management was unable to secure a social date for us in October. As a result, there will be no October social. Details of our next social will be communicated to you as soon as we have a firm date. Thank you for your understanding.

