

Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



WWW.JATOE.org

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July/August 2006

Our next two socials will take place on Sunday, July 16 and Sunday, August 20, 2006. Performing will be international concert artist Jelani Eddington and Milwaukee Brewer's organist Dean Rosko respectively at the Rialto Barton! See page two for details.

Jelani Eddington



President's Message

We are in the doldrums of summer, but please read this letter for some important news of upcoming socials. We are excited about the artists we have for the next few socials. We were not able to get the theatre for May or June because of the dance recitals and weddings going on there.

Seventeen of our JATOE members were in attendance at the 2006 ATOS Convention in Tampa, Florida. Only one other Chapter beat our attendance with 22 members attending. All of us had a great time listening to the likes of Jelani Eddington, Richard Hills, Russell Holmes (who is the piano entertainer on the Queen Mary cruise ship), David Gray (the 15 year old phenomenon from Glasgow, Scotland), Lew Williams, Donna Parker, Walt Strony, Bill Vlasak, Jonas Nordwall, and the great Rosa Rio who is at the very young age of 96.

The banquet was very special to Dolores and me, for we received the Ron Musselman Member Of The Year Award for our work at the ATOS Archives. Without Dolores, I could not have done this alone.

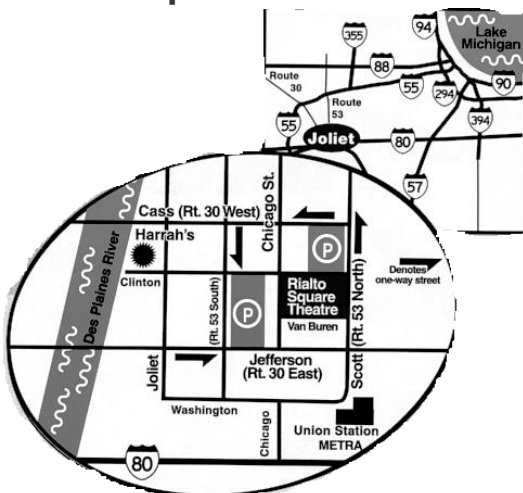
The wonderful highlight of the trip was touring the Milhaus Museum in Boca Raton, where Dave Wickerham is the curator. He did a wonderful job playing the 80 rank Walker and the Rudolph Wurlitzer organ housed there. He was very happy to see so many of us from the Chicago Area.

Those of you that have not been to a convention should someday get to one. You meet so many people that have interest in the theatre organ. Many from all parts of the world. It may be expensive, but the experience is unforgettable. Upcoming conventions are: 2007- New York City, NY, where the convention hotel is in Times Square. 2008 will be in Indianapolis, IN. Save your pennies.

The new relay is on schedule with the contracts at the theatre. We hope this will be installed in the near future. The theatre is busy with many bus tours. We have people coming from the East Coast very frequently. If you have a group that is looking for something to do, call the theatre and set up a tour. We have lots of fun.

Jim Patak

Map to the Rialto



Member's Corner

- Mike Cierski has a Lowrey TOS25 theatre organ that is offered free for the hauling. It has two manuals, 61 notes, and 25 note pedalboard. It needs amplifier work. Please contact Mike at (708) 785-4985 for more information.
- JATOE member Dennis Scott will be performing at the historic Blue Lantern Dance Hall in Hudson Lake, Indiana, Sunday, October 15, 2006. Mark your calendars now! The trip includes chartered train cars on the South Shore Electric Line, all-you-can-eat buffet, Dennis in concert at the organ while you dine and dance, and 20's and 30's music performed by the West End Jazz Band. Tickets are only \$65.00 for the complete package or \$35.00 less the train ride. Contact Mike at (708) 788-5460 for more information, or visit the West End Jazz Band's website at: www.westendjazzband.com

International Concert/Recording Artist Jelani Eddington at the Rialto!

During the years that Jelani Eddington has given concerts, he has easily established himself as one of the most prominent and sought-after artists on the concert circuit. Jelani has performed in most of the major concert venues throughout the United States, has toured extensively abroad, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including his selection as the *2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year*.

Jelani Eddington was born in 1974 in Muncie, Indiana to Louise Eddington and the late Robert Eddington and grew up in a very musical family. Between the interests of his mother, a professional music teacher of many years, and those of his grandmother, Florence Arnold, a well-respected piano instructor, it was no surprise when Jelani demonstrated an inclination toward music at a very early age.

Shortly after beginning piano instruction at the age of four, Jelani began studying classical piano under the direction of his grandmother. At the age of eight, a trip to hear the 4-manual 42-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in the Indianapolis, Indiana restaurant, the Paramount Music Palace, introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ. Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John Ferguson, whose skills as a theatre organ instructor have been highly acclaimed internationally.

In the spring of 1988 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 State.

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, including numerous concert appearances in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England, Wales, Holland, France, and Germany. Jelani has also distinguished himself as a recording artist and has produced numerous theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country.

In August 2001, the American Theatre Organ Society honored Jelani's extensive career as a concert and recording organist by naming him the *2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year*. Having received the award at the age of 27, Jelani retains the distinction of being the youngest-ever recipient of this prestigious honor.

The stage door will open at 1:30 pm, and the program begins promptly at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments for this special event. Open console will follow Jelani's program.

Milwaukee Brewer's Organist Dean Rosko to perform at the Barton!

Here is Dean's autobiography...I started playing piano at age 5, organ about 2 years later. I studied classical organ and theory with Marilyn Stulken in Racine for 6 years. At age 13 I started playing at Rollaero Skate Center in Cudahy, WI, and continued there until earlier this year. I was one of the house organists in intermission organists in rotation at the Avalon Theatre in Milwaukee from 1995 until the theatre closed in 1999. I have been the Official Organist of the USA Roller Sports Great Lakes Regional Championships since the summer of 2001, and will have completed my 6th Championships later this June. I have recorded and released 6 CD's of roller skating dance music, with a 7th soon to be released. Also a competitive skater, I have 5 National medals to my credit. Since the summer of 2003, I have been the Official Organist of the Milwaukee Brewers baseball club in Milwaukee, WI, now in my 4th season with the club. I have been one of the associate organists at Organ Piper Music Palace in Greenfield since November of 2004, playing the 3/27 Wurlitzer/Kimball theatre organ, and since the Spring of this year, one of the volunteer "house" organists at the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, entertaining audiences on the beautiful 3/40 Kimball before the 7:00 show on Sunday evenings. I have played programs for the Land of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society at the Coronado Theatre in Rockford, IL, for a joint social between the Packerland and Dairyland chapters at Gary Bieck's 3/18 Wurlitzer in Elkhart Lake, WI, and most recently for CATOE at the Pickwick Theatre 3/11 Wurlitzer in Chicago. I'm thrilled with the opportunity to play for JATOE on the wonderful Barton in the Rialto Theatre, and hope everyone enjoys the program as much as I will enjoy playing!

Doors to the Rialto will open at 1:30 pm, and the program begins promptly at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments for this social. See page one for directions to the Rialto Theatre. Open console will follow Dean's program. The Rialto Theatre is located in the heart of downtown Joliet at Chicago and VanBuren Streets. Visit their website at www.rialtosquare.com for further information or call them at (815) 726-7171. The box office can be contacted at (815) 726-6600.

