

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

Jan/Feb/Mar 2007

Our next social will take place on Sunday, February 18, 2007 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL. Join us for the dedication of the Barton Grande's new Peterson relay system with guest artist Don Springer. Program begins at 2:00 PM. See page two for complete details.

March 18, 2007 will take us once again to the Beautiful Rialto Square Theatre in downtown, Joliet, IL. Our guest artist will be Dennis Scott. Doors will open at 1:30PM, and the program will begin at 2:00PM. See page two for details. Dennis is always a crowd pleaser, so don't miss this social!

President's Message from Jim Patak

I hope you all had a great Holiday Season and I wish you well through 2007.

We are sorry that we were not able to get a venue for a social in January. As you know the Barton is undergoing a major relay change at this time. This is no small undertaking for everything must be rewired. The way the relay was left previously was a disaster in the wiring scheme. We are surprised that it had played for so long with the condition it was in. Every bit of wiring will be done neatly and out of the way of possible disaster. We picked the Peterson ICS 4000 system since the company is located here in the Chicago Area. Peterson EMP is a 58 year old company and very well respected in the organ industry.

All of you received a copy of the ad that was in the ATOS Journal. This is about the 3 day organ presentation we always provide for the organ world. We are happy to have the new Trio Con Brio (Donna Parker, Jonas Nordwall and Martin Ellis who has replaced Tom Hazleton) with us along with our old friend Jelani Eddington and also featuring Clark Wilson. This should be a great weekend. I am already selling tickets for these events. I have heard about some of the show stopper music to be presented and it should be musically spectacular.

JATOE will be back on the road (so to speak) with a social on February 18 at the Rialto Theatre. Details later in this newsletter. This will probably be a dedication of the new relay system.

Our February meeting will also be a Membership Meeting. Think of items you might want to bring to our attention.

The Extravaganza 10 CD is available for \$30. (2 CD Set). I believe that this recording is the finest we have produced to this date.

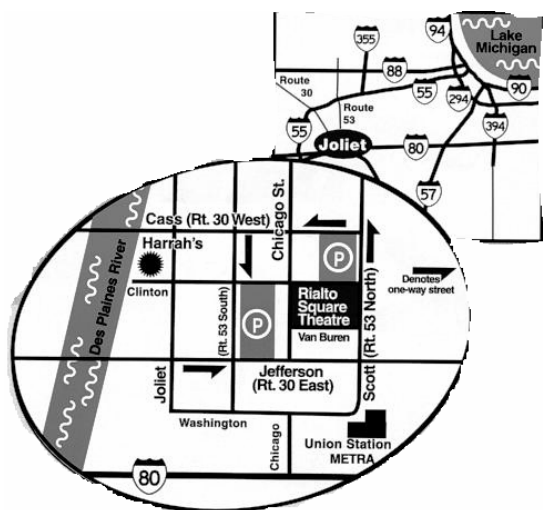
Vice President's Message

Greetings to all JATOE members and friends. It's been some time since we've been able to meet at our 'clubhouse,' the Rialto Theatre, so I look forward to seeing all of you for the dedication of our new Peterson relay system on February 18.

It's not too late to pay your dues for 2007. If you did not receive your membership renewal form or have misplaced it, you may send your check to Don Borre' at 8205 Mango, Morton Grove, IL 60053 or call Don for more information at 847-966-8473. Don't forget Pipe Organ Extravaganza #11 on Saturday, April 28. Contact Jim Patak now for the best seats available, 708-562-8538.

ATOS Board Member, Mike Cierski and his committee (which includes myself) have put together an exciting camp for all young theater organ enthusiasts. Please see page four of this newsletter for details. If you know of any young theatre organist/enthusiast, please encourage them to attend this camp. We want to demonstrate to ATOS that there is a need for this type of experience for young enthusiasts!

MAP OF RIALTO AREA



Don Springer Dedicates New Peterson Relay at the Rialto!

Don Springer, who grew up in Whiting Indiana, began his musical studies at the young age of nine. Only four short years later after the Hoosier Theatre re-opened with the installation of a Wurlitzer pipe organ, Don became a regular feature creating spectacular music at the mighty theatre pipe organ. It was during high school that Don met the great Al Melgard, who was the staff organist at the Chicago Stadium for over four decades. Don studied with Al for several years during which Al not only imparted invaluable information about playing the organ, but also gave Don the pipe organ expertise, and showmanship that a great musician must have. Then it was on to DePaul University for classical organ studies under Mr. Herman Pedtke who headed the organ faculty. Don had an opportunity to return publicly to the theatre pipe organ at the unique north side venue, Sally's Stage which featured a Barton Pipe Organ. With roller skating waiters, musical revues and amateur gong shows Don had an opportunity to provide comedy routines in addition to his playing. One of his favorite routines was finding a sweet young lady to ride the organ lift with him. Don recorded an album while employed there called "Don Springer Live from 'Sally's Stage' on the Barton Theatre Pipe Organ. Much later Don provided organ interludes at the Kimball-Wurlitzer hybrid organ in the Hinsdale Theatre up until the closing of the theatre. During this time Don recorded a new album on the Hinsdale organ called "Intermission Interlude."

Social Date: February 18, 2007

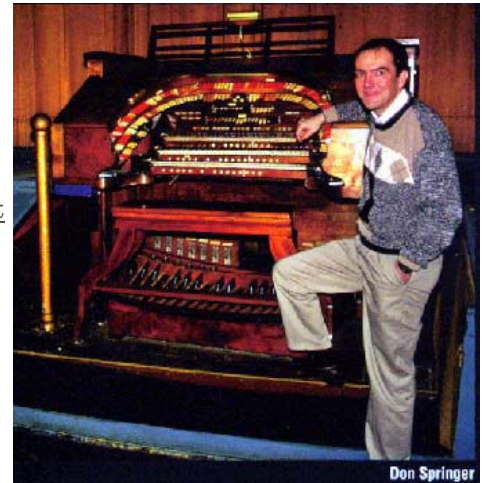
Doors to the Rialto will open at 1:30 PM, and the program will begin promptly at 2:00 PM. Please bring refreshments, and enter via the stage door at the rear of the theatre (Scott Street). Open console will follow Don's program.

Rialto Square Theatre

102 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432

Phone: (815) 726-7171

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Dennis Scott Returns to the Rialto Barton!

Dennis Scott has worn many musical hats since his days at the University of Tulsa where he majored in journalism -- not music.. He worked in public relations in Chicago for a number of years before becoming a full-time musician. During the late 1970s, he traveled as a concert artist for an electronic organ company before getting involved in the pizza organ circuit, working in San Francisco and Detroit. He claims that was like playing for Vaudeville every night!. During those "pizza years" he also began accompanying short silent movies (20 minute two-reelers) as part of his evening's entertainment schedule. Working from a large library of two-reelers he played most of those films "cold" and quickly developed his improvisational skills while watching those films for the first time with the audience! This is much the same way it happened for the silent movie organists of the 1920s.

In recent years with a renewed interest in classic silent films, Dennis has been in increasing demand. Since his return to Chicago in 1992, he has played many solo organ programs around the Great Lakes, but he is by his own admission, most at home playing silent film presentations. He played intermissions for more than six years at the Music Box Theatre in Chicago. He is President of the Chicagoland Theatre Organ Society and a founder and President of the Silent Film Society of Chicago.

Dennis is a full time Graphic Artist for the Classic Cinemas movie theatre chain. He creates all the newspaper ads and lobby displays for 12 theatres across Northern Illinois. He has created the graphics for the last two Pipe Organ Extravaganza CDs and for the last four West End Jazz Band CDs.

He plays at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, performing on the John Muri Memorial 3/10 Wurlitzer and accompanies many childrens' theatre productions there, presented by Our Town Productions, adapted from the classics and directed by the Rialto's Stage Manager, Tina Salamone.

The Rialto stage door will open at 1:30PM and the program will begin at 2:00PM. Open console will follow Dennis' program. Please bring refreshments. Social date: March 18, 2007

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Photos of the Rialto Theatre Barton Relay Project



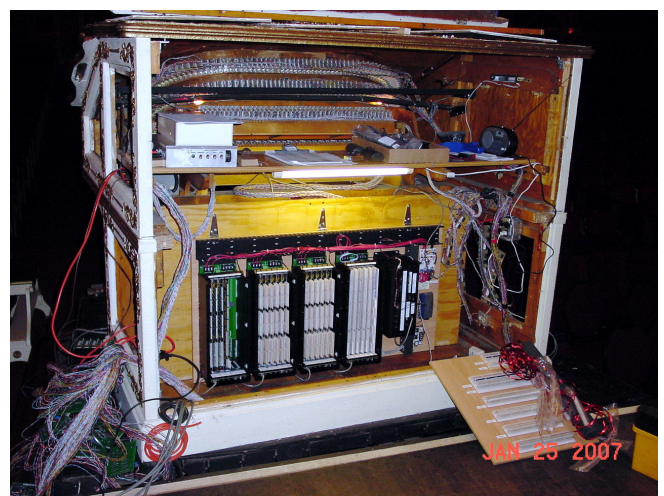
Lower solo chamber cage seen from inside the chamber door.



Back of console with old Artisan system removed.



Front of console during removal of old relay system.



Rear of console with new Peterson CPU and cage.