

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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March/April 2008

Our next social will take place at the Rialto Theatre on Sunday, March 9, 2008 and will feature Dean Rosko. Doors will open at 2:00pm and the program will begin at 2:30pm. Please note the later starting time and do not arrive early!

Join us on Sunday, April 6, 2008 as we welcome back young organist Mark Herman to the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL! Doors will open at 1:30pm and the program will begin at 2:00pm.



President's Message from Jim Patak

It seemed that we just had Extravaganza 11 and now I'm already getting ticket requests for number 12. That's great. If you have not reserved your theatre seats, by all means call me. (Jim Patak-708-562-8538) We have a great line-up of artists, with an exciting weekend coming up.

JATOE and the Rialto Square should be proud that the ATOS will be producing shows patterned after ours all around the country. The first is in September in North Tonawanda, NY, at the Riviera Theatre. North Tonawanda is the birthplace of the Wurlitzer Organs. Some of you may not know that these Extravaganzas were suggested by Sam Driggs (a former manager of the Rialto) and produced by our friend Lee Maloney. This all started in 1996.

The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) is having a serious decline in membership. They claim that most chapters do not require that members belong to the parent organization. Some chapters do require this. JATOE suggests that you belong to ATOS also, however, we do not require it. It would help the Theatre Organ art form, if all of us did belong to ATOS.

The second annual Summer Camp will again be held in the Chicago Area (Van Der Molen's – Rialto Square Theatre – and the Victorian Palace) on July 23-26, 2008. The first was a success with 22 students from around the US participating. We can thank our Board Member – Mike Cierski for the idea and the implementation of this event. If you know of anyone that might be interested in attending, let me know. We want this Summer Camp to be an even larger success.

I hope you are all well and enduring this winter season. Spring will be along sooner than you think.

Jim Patak

Miscellaneous News Items

Free: Technics Spinet Organ, model U9 with dark wood cabinet. Owner is moving. Contact Vera Senna, 815-609-6319. Located in Plainfield, IL area.

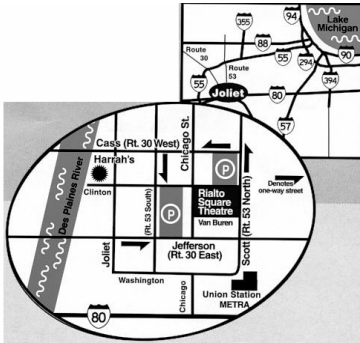
Free: White console Wurlitzer console organ with two 61 note keyboard and third synthesizer keyboard. Owner in poor health. Contact Betty Glassman, 630-446-1798, Glen Ellyn, IL area.

From the JATOE Board of directors: To all members and guests that record artists at JATOE socials: Any recordings made at socials are for your enjoyment only! Out of respect to the artist, you are not to share, copy, or sell recordings made for your private use. This use includes video footage taken. Any such footage is not to be distributed, sold or shared on public video sharing websites such as You Tube without consent of the artist. Thank you for your cooperation.

For those of you who have not paid your dues for 2008, please send a check for \$25.00 or more to Don Borre, 8205 Mango, Morton Grove, IL 60053. Any questions? Contact Don by phone at 847-966-8473. Thank you for your continue support of JATOE and the Barton!

Dean Rosko returns to the Rialto!

Dean Rosko, 23, began playing piano as soon as he could reach the keys! When he entered First Grade at St. Sebastian's Elementary in Sturtevant, Wisconsin, he began piano lessons, coupled with three years of accordion. Shortly after that, a trip to the Organ Piper Music Palace piqued his interest in the organ, theatre organ in particular. After subsequent trips to hear Walt Strony at Milwaukee's Riverside Theatre, and an opportunity to attend the final hockey game ever played at Chicago Stadium (home of the largest theatre organ ever built), the deal was sealed. In 1994, he began classical organ and theory lessons with Marilyn Stulken in Racine, WI, which lasted for 6 years. At the age of 13, Dean began regular duties playing for skating sessions at Rollaero Skate Center in Cudahy, Wisconsin, and in the summer of 2001, he played for his first USA Roller Sports Great Lakes Regional Championships, and has been doing it ever since, also playing for many local competitions. The summer he graduated from High School, he was hired by the Milwaukee Brewers as the Official Organist of Miller Park, and the following winter, was offered a position as Associate Organist at Milwaukee's Organ Piper Music Palace. This was the very place that had sparked Dean's interest in the instrument, so it has been a real thrill to be able to perform there. Dean had the honor of being invited to furnish the music for all dance events at the 2007 St. Patrick's Day Valley Skating Invitational, the largest invitational roller skating contest in the country. Also, Dean currently serves as Organist and Music Director at Saint Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Antioch, IL. In addition to his duties at the roller skating rink, which unfortunately came to an end in late 2005, at Miller Park, and at the Organ Piper, he has had the honor of performing several times for the Land Of Lincoln Theatre Organ Society at Rockford's Coronado Theatre, for the Chicagoland Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (CATOE) at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, Illinois, and for the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (JATOE) at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, and also provides occasional intermission music on the fabulous Kimball organ at Milwaukee's Oriental Theatre. From about 1994, until the time theatre closed in 2000, Dean provided intermission music on the 3/27 Wurlitzer in Milwaukee's Avalon Theatre. Dean also serves as President of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society (DTOS), a chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS), and also on the Board of Directors of CATOE. Dean is part of the crew that works to maintain many of the theatre organs in the Chicago area, including the Wurlitzer's in the Pickwick Theatre, the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, Downers Grove North High School, and the magnificent Wurlitzer organ in the George Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium at the University Of St. Mary Of The Lake, in Mundelein.



Doors to the Rialto Theatre will open at 2:00pm, and the program begins at 2:30pm. Please enter at the rear of the theatre, stage door entrance on Scott Street. Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Dean's performance.

**Rialto Square Theatre
102 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432**



Young Concert Artist Mark Herman makes rare Chicagoland appearance!

Mark Herman was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on August 25, 1987, and currently lives in Chicago, Illinois. He has been studying the piano since he was seven years old and began classical organ lessons at the age of 12. His first encounter with a theatre organ was at age 10 at the Embassy Theatre in downtown Fort Wayne. This was made possible by the late Robert Goldstine and the local American Guild of Organists chapter's "Room on the Organ Bench" program. In 2001, he began theatre organ studies with John Ferguson of Indianapolis, who is recognized worldwide for his skills as a teacher.

In the summer of 2003, Mark was given the opportunity to play a cameo performance at the American Theatre Organ Society's (ATOS) annual convention in Oakland, California. The following year, he won the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition in Milwaukee at the Riverside Theatre. That enabled him to perform a successful concert for the ATOS 50th Anniversary Convention in Pasadena, which took place the following July. During the summer of 2006, he toured for six weeks in Australia and New Zealand, setting records in CD sales at many of the venues in which he appeared. Over the past two years, he has played numerous solo concerts in theatres and venues from coast to coast. He is a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, and is currently a second year student at The Theatre School, DePaul University in Chicago where he is majoring in Theatre Arts with a focus in Theatre Management. In addition to playing the organ, Mark has also been known to perform on the piano, as well as play several original compositions. He feels special gratitude towards his wonderful parents, Ron and Andrea, as well as all of his family and friends who have supported him from the beginning.

Doors to the Rialto Theatre will open at 1:30pm, and the program begins at 2:00pm. Please enter at the rear of the theatre, stage door entrance on Scott Street. Please bring refreshments. Open console will follow Mark's performance.

