

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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October-December 2009

Join us at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL on Sunday, October 18. We welcome a new artist to JATOE audiences, Zach Frame! Zach is a young organist from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Doors open at 1:30 pm for this social event.

Join us for our annual Christmas Potluck social on Sunday, Dec. 20 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL. The artist for this event will be announced at the event. You can be assured that you will not want to miss this social!



President's Message from Jim Patak

It was a sad day for JATOE as we lost Bob Wheeler to a heart attack.. He and Faye were in Wisconsin when he passed away. Our best to the family and I know everything will work out well.

Those who have wondered whether the 14th Extravaganza will be produced put your fears to rest. It will be as usual on the last Saturday in April 2010. I believe Steve Lammanna has already planned the program.

We were very upset by the review of our latest CD. It was in the latest ATOS Journal. It didn't seem to deter purchasers as some were bought after the review was published. Needless to say, we will not have any new CD's reviewed by the present reviewer. Our CD's sell very well at the tours I do.

The Technical Director of the theatre (Tina Salamone) is leaving the end of September to become the Executive Director of the Palace Theatre in Marion, OH. We will miss her dedication to the Rialto and wish here well in her new position.

Classes provided by the University of St. Francis have already started for the fall semester. They are teaching photography, graphic arts and related subjects on the 3rd and 4th floors of the Rialto building. The next phase will use the second floor also. This works out very well for the WCMEAA for the University has a 20-year lease.

The summer has gone very well at the Rialto with all the weddings and tours that were on the schedule. The elevator shaft is already in and work on the mechanics is also under way. This will be a benefit to those who need assistance.

Try to attend the Festival Of Trees (Nov 23-29). The entire lobby is filled with beautiful Christmas Trees. Check the Rialto website (rialtosquare.com) for details.

Please support the Rialto Theatre for they have been very generous to JATOE.

Jim Patak

December 20 social information

For our December 20th social potluck social, JATOE will provide the meat entrees from Mrs. Gourmet catering. Members are asked to supplement the meat dishes according to the following recommendations:

- Last names beginning with A-M are asked to bring desserts
- Last names beginning with N-Z are asked to bring vegetable, potato or salad dishes

Doors will open at 1:30pm and the social begins at 2:00pm.

Thank you for your cooperation!

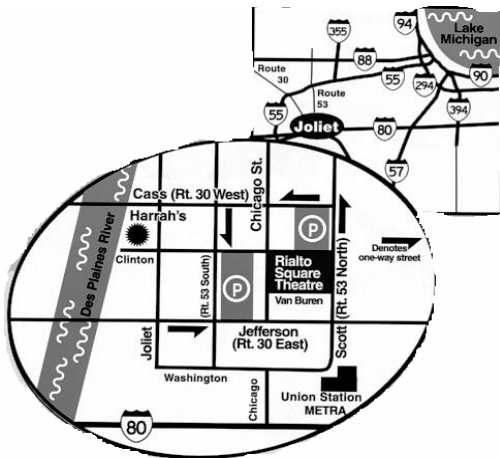
Famous classical organist Diane Bish will be performing in a recital at Rockefeller Chapel on the campus of the University of Chicago. The date is Sunday, November 8, and the concert begins at 5:00pm. Ms. Bish will be performing on the largest church organ in Chicago, the 4 manual, 110 rank Skinner organ. The University of Chicago is located at 5850 Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago. General admission is \$10.00.

Zach Frame performs at the Rialto on Sunday, October 18!

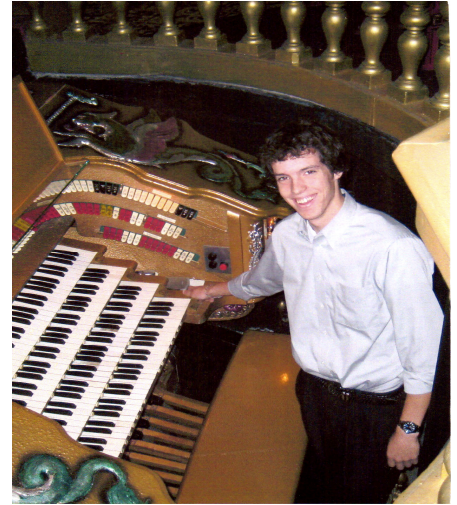
Born and raised in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Zach has an Associates Degree of Applied Science in Recording Technology from McNally Smith College of Music in St. Paul, Minnesota. He discovered the theatre pipe organ when he was 5, and in 2003, Zach was the first recipient of the George Wright Fellowship from the American Theatre Organ Society. This allowed him to attend the annual convention of ATOS in San Diego, California.

Equally at home behind the console as in front of it, Zach enjoys the technical side of the theatre pipe organ as well, and is helping assemble a large theatre organ in Wisconsin. Aside from the organ, Zach also plays the drums and saxophone and is in several jazz groups in Wisconsin and Illinois. As a recording engineer, Zach currently has several albums in progress with well-known organists across the country. In May of this year, Zach became one of the staff organists at Organ Piper Pizza in Greenfield, Wisconsin. He is 22 years old.

Editors note: You don't want to miss Zach's program. He is in a class of young organists that epitomizes musicianship, and his program is sure to please all ages and tastes.



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 Zach's performance.



Tribute to Robert Wheeler

Long-time JATOE member and friend of theatre organ Robert (Bob) Wheeler passed away suddenly, September 18, 2009. Bob had just attended his daughter Judy Matarelli's social program at the Steinway Piano Gallery on Sunday, September 13 and he was so proud of Judy's program and accomplishments. Many of us spoke with Bob that Sunday. The Wheeler family entertained famous organists over the years to perform on their Wicks theatre organ which they purchased from Oral Robert's University in Tulsa, OK. Two recordings were made on the Wick's organ, recorded by long-time friend, Kay McAbee and the late Tom Gnaster.

Several JATOE members and some from other organ clubs attended a beautiful memorial service at Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church in Lockport, IL on September 26. Personal remembrances of Bob were offered by Bob's grandson, Paul Matarelli and other friends and co-workers of Bob. A luncheon followed at Al's Steak House in Joliet.

I have fond memories of Bob's humor, friendship and appreciation for good food and great organ music. He will be missed by many of us. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Faye, Judy and their family.

L-R

Faye and Bob Wheeler, Judy Wheeler-Matarelli at the Wick Organ Factory, Highland, IL, April 21, 2006

