

Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



WWW.JATOE.org

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March/April/May 2010

Join us at the Chicago Piano Superstore on Sunday, March 28. We welcome Donnie Rankin performing on the Allen GWIV. We also welcome our CTOS friends for this special joint social. Doors open at 2pm, with a 2:30pm program.

Join us on Sunday, May 16 at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL as we feature Don Young at the Barton! Don is a former student of Kay McAbee. Doors will open at 1:30pm and the program begins at 2:00pm.



President's Message from Jim Patak

It looks like spring is on its way and the snow is almost gone. Hopefully our economy is also on its way back and wouldn't it be nice if we could have the health care protection like our senators have. That's as political as I will get. (Ha-ha!)

Our Extravaganza 14 is moving along slowly, however, the shows will be wonderful again. Those of you that have not been to the Van Der Molen Wheaton Fox should make an effort to hear this magnificent instrument before the house is sold. The Sanfilippo Mansion is also a must see for those that have not experienced this spectacular palace. Dolores and I have been there many times and my mouth still drops to the floor every time I walk in. Bring your grand-kids and expose them to some good music.

The national ATOS Annual Convention will be taking place in Seattle, WA this year. The dates are June 29-July 3. You can get the information by going to the ATOS Website (atos.org) The lineup of artists include Simon Gledhill, Richard Hills, Walt Strony, Chris Gorsuch, Donna Parker, Jim Riggs, , Dave Wickerham, Jelani Eddington and others. This is quite a lineup. Every member of ATOS should attend at least one convention. They are a lot of fun. Dolores and I will be driving out there and then visiting my sister in Portland, OR.

The JATOE By-Laws state that anyone that hasn't paid their dues by the middle of March is to be dropped as a member and upon paying the dues they would have to be reinstated. If you have not paid your dues, please do so before we send the dues police after you. (Just joking!!)

The Barton is playing very well as you have heard and we are at present looking for a quieter xylophone to be placed on the solo side. We are also considering a rebuild of the chrsyglott. Other than that the organ is in good shape.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE EXTRAVAGANZA AND THE RIALTO THEATRE

Jim Patak

Upcoming Events...Don't miss them!

THE ST. LOUIS THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY PRESENTS
2010 PARTY ON THE PIPES
APRIL 9th-12th
FOUR DAYS OF FOOD, FUN, AND ORGAN.
\$279.00
PLUS LODGING PER PERSON
OUR HOTEL WILL AGAIN BE "OUR LADY OF THE SNOWS". THE ROOM RATE IS \$63.63 single
CONTACT US AT WWW.SLTOS.ORG OR 314.416.0146 fax and voice

Donna Parker, Kay McAbee, Jack Doll, and Mark Gifford
The weekend includes nine concerts including the Fabulous Fox and Lincoln theatres, the City Museum and the homes of the Ryan's, Masching's, and Jack Moelmann. Noon and evening meals included.
Pre-Glow Thursday April 8th \$25
Includes Wicks factory tour Scottish Rite and Ammann's home and meal

14th Annual Pipe Organ Extravaganza

JELANI EDDINGTON CHRIS ELLIOT
CHRIS GORSUCH CLARK WILSON

Friday, April 23, 2010, Wheaton Fox Studio
Saturday, April 24, 2010, Rialto Square Theatre
Sunday, April 25, 2010, SanFillippo Victorian Palace

Young Organist Donnie Rankin to perform!

Donnie Rankin first took an interest in the theatre organ at the tender age of three when he first heard the sounds of the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Civic Theatre in Akron, Ohio. Following that initial introduction to the King of Instruments, he frequently played on his great-grandfather's home organ. In 2000 Donnie acquired an instrument and began taking formal lessons. Classical piano training followed in 2005, and his budding talent quickly blossomed into first rate musicianship.

Since then, Donnie has won several organ competitions and awards, including being named the Overall Winner of the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition in 2007. Donnie began studying with noted organist Jelani Eddington in September 2007.

Since that time, Donnie has performed for theatre organ audiences in California, Florida, Texas, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New York, and Ohio. He resides in Ravenna, Ohio, and is a staff organist at the Civic Theatre in nearby Akron - the very same organ Donnie first heard when he was three years old.

The Chicago Piano Superstore is located at 1205A Butterfield Rd. in Downers Grove, IL. 60515. (Frontage Rd. just south of Butterfield Rd./ west of Highland Ave. Enter off of Highland, just south of Butterfield or off of Butterfield, just west of Highland). Phone # 630-512-9200. Web address: <http://www.chicagopianosuperstore.com>

Please bring refreshments for this social event. Enter the store at the side door by the organ studio, not the front entrance. Parking is available on the east side of the store.

Doors will open at 2:00pm, and the program begins at 2:30pm.

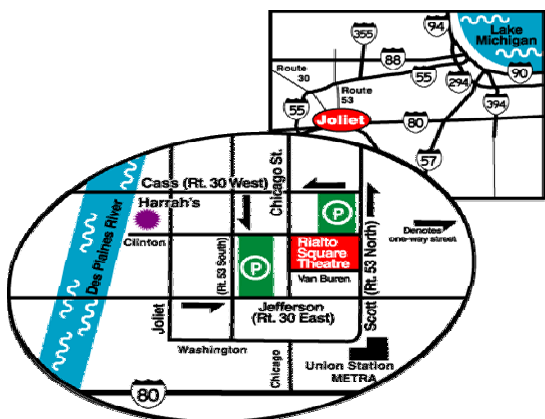


Don Young to Make Rialto Debut on May 16!

Don began his musical journey at the age of 5 when he started taking accordion lessons. When he was 9 years old, he switched to organ learning to play using the "Pointer System." When he was a freshman in high school, his parents submitted a tape of his playing to Lawrence Welk. Mr. Welk, in turn, invited Don out to California and he appeared on his show, "Top Tunes and New Talent." For many years, Don has played throughout the Chicagoland area in supper clubs and lounges and for weddings and special occasions.

When he was taking organ lessons from Kay McAbee, Don was introduced to the sound of theater pipe organs. At the time, Kay and his crew were working on the Paramount Theater organ in Aurora. What a thrill it was when Kay and crew worked on the Mighty Barton here at the Rialto and Don was able to play it for the first time!

Now, as a member of JATOE, Don has been able to renew a passion for playing the theater pipe organ! And, what better way than by being at the console of the Mighty Barton!



Doors to the Rialto will open at 1:30pm, and Don's program begins at 2:00pm. Please bring refreshments and enter the stage door off Scott Street. The Rialto is located at 102 N. Chicago Street, Joliet IL 60432.

