



RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA

THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS WWW.JATOE.ORG

DON WALKER, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: JATOE.BARTON@GMAIL.COM



Find us on
Facebook



JAN/FEB 2021

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY TO ALL OF OUR MEMBERS!

JATOE celebrates 50 years of taking care of the Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ this year. In February of 1971 a group of organ enthusiasts joined forces with the mission to take care of the organ in the Rialto Square Theater. JATOE became the 43rd chapter of the American Theater Organ Society on January 4, 1972. Many, many people have supported JATOE over the 50 years by becoming a member, donating their service, or remembering JATOE in their estates. An organization is only as good as its members. JATOE certainly has had 50 years of faithful, dedicated members that have allowed us to keep the Barton Grande playing in the best

*Happy
Anniversary
50
Years together*

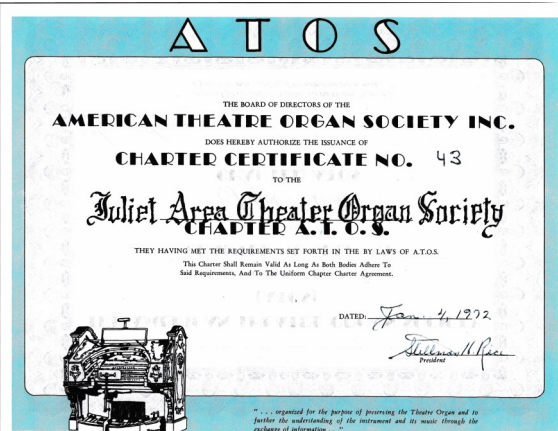
condition possible for many future generations to enjoy. Many improvements have been made over the past fifty years. The organ was expanded to 27 ranks from 21. The old air operated relay was replaced with a solid state relay. What a difference that made! Now I am very, very excited to tell you we have almost accomplished our mission! The organ is 98% playing. **Everything** in the chambers work. We have four coupler stops that still need to be programmed, but all the buttons and toe studs on the console work. With the help of David Rhodes of City Organ Works, we have accomplished this over the last 6 months. I can not wait for all of you to hear the Barton now! We are planning a 50th anniversary celebration this year (hopefully.) Of course that all depends on the status of the virus. We will have a grand celebration, we just don't know when. 2020 has been a very challenging year for everyone and I am sure 2021 is going to be just as challenging. Many organizations across the nation have been doing the virtual

organ concerts. The Rialto is no exception. Val try's to keep the theater in the publics eye during these trying times by doing virtual organ concerts. Many businesses in Joliet have sponsored these concerts and we hope it will continue until we can be back in the theater. *Happy 50th Anniversary to each and everyone of you and Thank You for your*

continued support!

Joel Martis

Joel Martis



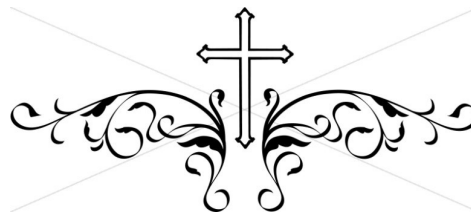
upcoming EVENTS



Click on the icon to go directly to our sister chapters web site for their latest news and events.



We remember JATOE member, John Owen who passed away from the Covid-19 virus. His partner, Lee Rajala was crew chief of the Barton for many years. Visitation and funeral services are pending as of this writing.



Letter from the editor

By Don Walker

Hi Everyone! I'd like to feature a website that is all about theatre organ. The link will be included in my letter below. If any of you have a theatre organ that you wish to buy or sell, this is a great resource to use. I personally sold my previous Allen theatre organ using this resource to a man from Texas.

<http://theatreorgans.com/index.html>

As Joel mentioned previously, we are all very excited about the progress of the Barton Grande. I was able to try it out briefly a few weeks ago, and I was amazed at the quietness of the chambers and swell shades. There was absolutely no wind noise or clanking swell shades! I can't remember a time that these sounds were not noticeable.

As we enter the Christmas season, it appears as though the 'no gathering' suggestion will remain in place. This will be the first time in many years that families will not gather together for Christmas dinner and fellowship. A thought came to me that the annual Joliet American Legion Band concert, an annual tradition at the Rialto Theatre will not take place. I wish all of you and your families a blessed Christmas and happy and healthy new year!

Please remember the following people in your prayers
Bill Reynolds, Tom Wisvader, and Stan Zimmerman



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Yes, it's that time of the year again. The dues and donations are how we maintain the Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ and it is also how we are able to have our socials. Some may think, well there were only three socials this year and with this virus, we don't know when we will have another. This is true. It is up to the governor to open up the theaters again. I want to assure you much work has been going on with the Barton. Much needed work. This kind of opportunity, to be able to work every week on the organ is good. You will see a big difference when you hear it again, and you will - after all - this is why JATOE was formed - this is what you, our members invest in. This is what we have done for 49 years. We keep this magnificent instrument playing in the best condition we can in the most beautiful theater around.

Please Fill out the form below with your \$30.00, or \$15.00 if you are a student and send it to:

Jim Patak

1406 Mandel Av

Westchester, IL 60154

Affix your address sticker if you like and just fill out the rest and mail.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

(Please print your email address)

REMITTANCE \$ _____

Are you an ATOS Member? Yes _____ No _____

Please fill out the survey on the back. Thank You!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS UNIQUE ART FORM.

ANNUAL ATOS MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The virtual ATOS membership meeting was held October 24, 2020. Rick Steinke and Judy Matarelli were JATOE's representatives. It was reported ATOS has 1722 members. Forty eight were present at the virtual meeting. This just demonstrates how bad this virus has hit. It's affecting every chapter. JATOE has gone from 171 to 154 members. The people ATOS honored for 2020 are:

Bob Dillworth,
Ken Chrome,
Bill Tandy, and
Charlie Balough.
Justin LaVoie was
named Organist of the
year!



COURT NO LONGER HELD AT THE RIALTO

On November 2, 2020 the Rialto once again became empty and dark. Traffic court which was held in the rotunda moved to the new court house in downtown Joliet. The income from the court is gone. On November 2nd, Bob Filotto and Valerie Devine the Rialto's Executive Director appeared before the Joliet city council to explain the hardship the theater is suffering because of the pandemic. Bob asked for over \$600,000 for 2021 for the Rialto to survive. All of the Rialto's primary income from shows, rentals and fundraising efforts didn't happen in 2020 because of the pandemic. You can watch the city council meeting starting on 3:20. It's quite interesting. Here is the link. <https://www.facebook.com/622573387926876/videos/356868975386545>

Please take a few moments to fill out the survey. Your opinion matters.

We all know that the theater organ community and the entire entertainment industry has taken a big hit because of the virus. I am curious to know if you would feel safe attending a live JATOE event at the Rialto Theater if:

1. Masks are required for entry
2. You are escorted to seats at the theater that maintain the 6ft social distancing
3. There are no refreshments afterwards
4. There is no open console afterwards

___ YES ___ NO

Any other comments _____

Thank You for filling out the survey!

Stay Safe by wearing masks, washing your hands and practice social distancing.

*A Special
Thank
You!*

JOLIET
ELECTRIC MOTORS

1 Doris Av Joliet IL 60433

A Very Special Thank You goes out to Joliet Electric Motors of Joliet.

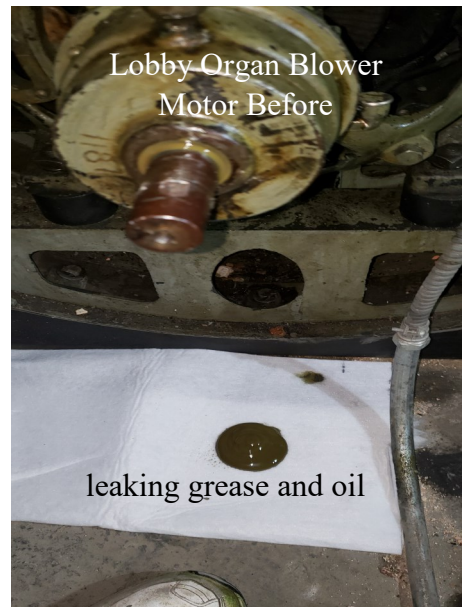
We contacted Joliet Electric Motors to come out and access the condition of the Lobby Organ blower motor last October. We had just changed the oil and greased the bearings. Checking on it later, after it had been running a while, there was a huge plie of green grease on the floor. (The grease was blue). Chad came out and figured it would be

around a \$1000.00 to fix the bearings. Chad had asked how the theater was doing, and I told him, not good. He then asked about us and I told him about JATOE and what we were doing. He then said, "let me talk to my boss Tim and see what we can do". Thirty minutes later Chad called me back and told me that they were going to rebuild the entire motor for nothing. I was just about speechless. During this time when things have not been normal for any business, this truly was a blessing from above. It was quite a feat to get the motor down from the upper balcony and even more of a feat to get it back in place. I wrote a letter of thank you to Tim and told him how he and his company were helped bring back a part of history. Val wrote Tim a letter of donation and thanks too. The lobby organ had not worked since the 1980's. The lobby organ now has a reliable blower motor. As I firmly believe, good things comes out of the bad. We have had enough bad in 2020 that there is a whole lot of good yet to come in 2021. How fortunate the Rialto and JATOE are to have companies help us toward our goal especially during these trying times.



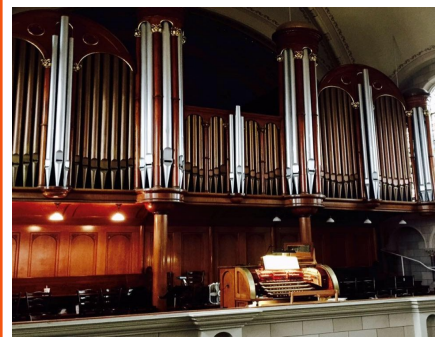
DTS MIDI SYSTEMS

Midi Encoder and Decoder Controller Cards for real and Virtual Pipe Organs operating Hauptwerk and other Systems.



City Organ Works

We provide tuning, maintenance, re-leathering & full restorations to both classical & theatre pipe organs. Historically sensitive restorations a specialty.
Call (630) 687-0380



Allen Organs

Chicago
181 W Crossroads Parkway,
Suite D
Bolingbrook, Illinois 60440

1-630-428-9701



Did you see how beautiful the Barton was at Christmas?

AVSEC PRINTING, INC

825 Plainfield Rd.

Joliet, Ill 60435

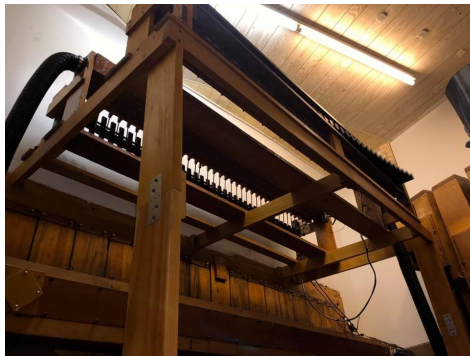
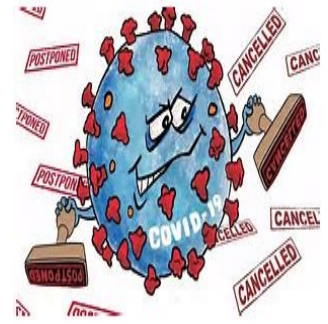
815-722-2961

* Commercial

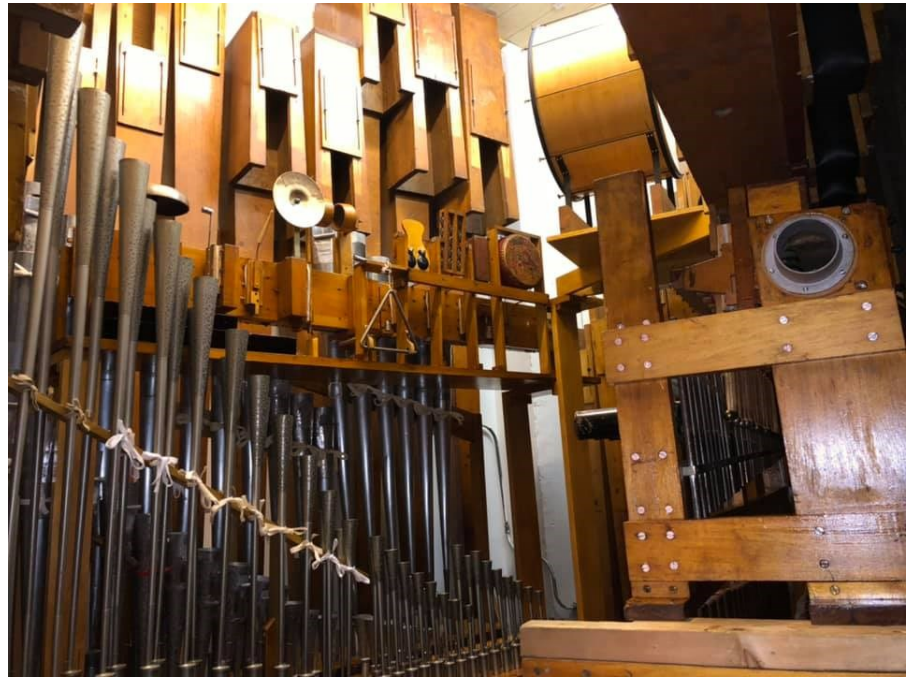
* Offset

* Color

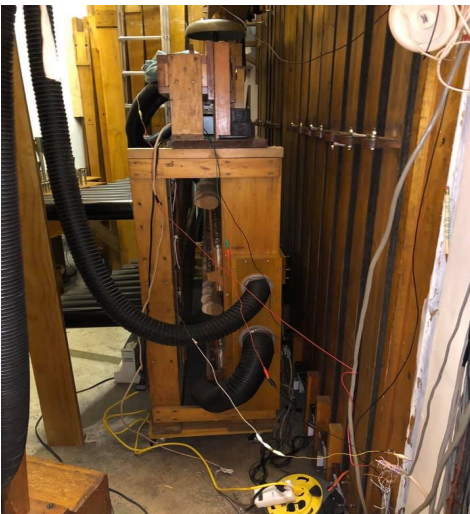
Support the businesses that support JATOE!



Upper solo chamber before



Upper solo chamber after



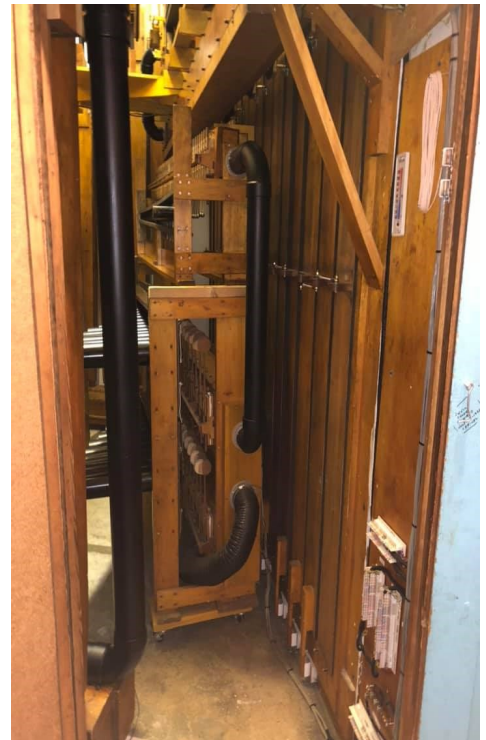
Gift Certificates are \$30.00 and are valid for dues and has no expiration date. See a board member to purchase one.



Live Organ Music Dance Session with Carl DeSanti Mondays, 7:30-10:00pm

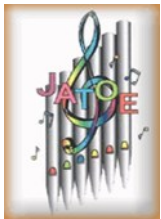
Website:

www.SkateAurora.com





Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts Celebrating 50 years 1971-2021



JATOE
15 E. Van Buren St
Joliet, IL
60432