



RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA

THEATRE ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS WWW.JATOE.ORG

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May/June 2021

upcoming EVENTS

Sunday, May 2, 2021

**Rialto Square Theatre,
Joliet**

Doors open at 1:30 pm

Program at 2:00 pm

Guest Artist:

David Rhodes

Sunday, June 6, 2021

**Rialto Square Theatre,
Joliet**

Doors open at 1:30 pm

Program at 2:00 pm

Guest Artist:

Dean Rosko

See pages 3 and 4

Nominations for the JATOE Board will take place at the June 6th Social. This is your official notice!



See Page 2 Welcome Back!

upcoming EVENTS



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



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please Welcome
Parker Maas to JATOE,
Parker is from Decatur, IN
Also welcome Bob Vorel,
Bob is from Plainfield, IL

Membership Meeting and Elections

We will be holding a short business meeting at the June 6th social. We will also be holding nominations for the JATOE Board. Please plan on attending this important meeting.

WELCOME BACK!!!!!!

By Joel Martis

Welcome back. I Welcome you back, and the entire JATOE Board welcomes you back. After a year of nothing, I know its been hard, We looking forward to seeing you all. I hope you will join us on May 2nd. So much work has been done to the organ and we can't wait for you to hear it. David has worked hard to bring the organ back to 100%. As we take baby steps going back to normal, like many businesses have, the following rules will be followed for everyone's safety.

Only members will be allowed in at this time, NO Guests.

Membership will be checked at the door. You can renew or join at this time if you haven't done so already. Jim will be happy to take care of you.

Masks are required to enter. Once seated you can remove them. We will check temperature's at the door. We will have someone seat you so we can maintain social distancing while in the theater.

Please, Please DO NOT bring food. We will provide a lite refreshment afterwards. **NO tables will be set up on the stage at this time.** We will provide hand sanitizer. Attendance is restricted to the main auditorium. The rotunda and balcony will not be open at this time. We will have open console **if** you wipe down the entire horseshoe, meaning all stops, pistons and keyboards when finished for the next person. We will provide the wipes.

I know this is not what you are use to but we need to take baby steps back to normal and we will eventually get back to the socials you are used to. Thank you for sticking with us!

Please remember the following people in your prayers
Bill Reynolds, Don Young, Bernice Walker, Jack
Moelmann and Stan Zimmerman



LIVE ON THE NEW AND IMPROVED
4/27 BARTON GRANDE THEATRE PIPE ORGAN
SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021

DAVID RHODES



David Rhodes is a native of Lisle, Illinois and showed interest in music and the pipe organ from a very young age. After initial piano instruction, he began classical organ lessons at age 10 under the tutelage of Fr. Palmer, C.S.V. at Benedictine University, Lisle, with later studies under Dr. Wentz at Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois. David is Organist at Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church in Lockport, Illinois, as well as House Organist at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, Illinois, George Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium, Mundelein, Illinois and now at the Rialto Square Theater in Joliet. First getting involved with CATOE (Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts) at the age of 14, David soon became interested in the mechanics of the

pipe organ. Once he could drive, he joined the volunteer maintenance crew at Mundelein Seminary which met every Saturday. The Crew Chief on the Mundelein project was a professional organ builder working for the Bradford Organ Co., and was happy to pass on his knowledge of organ building and maintenance.

As President of CATOE since 2011, David also leads volunteers who maintain 7 theatre organs in the Chicagoland area. Over the years he has subcontracted for several organ firms including A. J. Buttler & Associates of New York, Allen Organs of Chicago, Bradford Organ Co. of Chicago, Century Pipe Organs of Minneapolis, and Quimby Pipe Organs of Warrensburg, Missouri. Jobs performed include tuning and maintenance assistance for 8 years on the former 4/126 Aeolian-Skinner organ at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, as well as being on the crew for the organ's removal and the installation of the new 5/142 Quimby pipe organ. He also assists in the tuning and maintenance of the 1901 3/50 Lyon & Healy at St. Vincent DePaul Parish, Chicago.

Restoration projects of note include leading the volunteer rebuilding of the historic 1921 four-manual Wurlitzer theatre organ console located in the George Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium, Mundelein Seminary. This console was the original console for the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer and contains over 800 pneumatics.

Other past projects include the restoration of the large pneumatic relay, combination action relay and Choir division of the 4/50 1929 Wiener pipe organ located in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit, Techy, Illinois.

City Organ Works, LLC was founded in 2014. Specializing in historic minded restorations, we also tune and maintain over 30 organs in the tri-state area.

Enter 121 Scott St. Stage Doors open at 1:30 pm Show starts at 2:00 pm.

LIVE ON THE 4/27 BARTON GRANDE
THEATER PIPE ORGAN
SUNDAY JUNE 6 , 2021

DEAN ROSKO

Dean Rosko 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 Gesu Church in Milwaukee, WI.

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 Vice 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. As of 2020, Dean represents the Allen Organ Company in WI and upper MI.



Dean is part of the crew that works to maintain many of the theatre organs in the Chicago area, including the Wurlitzers 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.

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In Loving Memory



Lynne Lichtenauer
February 23, 2021



The "Arts" has lost a wonderful woman.
May She Rest in Peace

Click on the picture to read
the full Obituary.



In Loving Memory



Bill Wrobel
March 4, 2021



Click on the picture to read
the full Obituary.
May He Rest in Peace



In Loving Memory



Robert J. Sadowski
February 2, 2021



Click on the picture to read
the full Obituary.
May He Rest in Peace.



In Loving Memory



Jacqueline Ward
April 5, 2021



Click on the picture to read
the full Obituary.
May She Rest in Peace.



ATOS has announced that they will host a virtual convention this year. Details are forthcoming. They have also published dates for the future conventions:

2022 in San Diego (July 3-8)

2023 in Chicago (July 3-8)

2024 in Indianapolis (August 27-September 1).



ATOS
VIRTUAL
CONVENTION

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Did you know you can renew your ATOS Membership on line? [ATOS | ATOS Membership](#)



The JATOE Board would like to thank all those members who renewed their membership for 2021. Thank You for your continued support during these uncertain times. To those who decided not to renew, I certainly understand your decision. It has been a tough year, that's for sure. Unfortunately, this will be your last newsletter and I hope you may reconsider. We hope everyone stays safe and well. As of this Newsletter



JATOE membership stands at 83, we have 74 who have not renewed for this year. As JATOE slowly opens back up I want to remind everyone that attendance will be for members ONLY for the time being. Guests will not be allowed to socials at this time. We hope you understand.

Congratulations to Mike Cierski and his wife Rose on the birth of their daughter, Marina Rose. Born March 13, 2021



Congratulations!



Come and hear the New Barton Grande Theatre Pipe Organ like never before, May 2nd.



RIALTO SLOWLY OPENING BACK UP!

Yes, yes, yes! The Rialto Square Theater is slowly opening back up! Tuesday tours were the first public events to happen in over a year. Private events like dance recitals (not open to the public) have been allowed. The first wedding is happening again. Paranormal tours are occurring. The governor has announced new rules concerning the venues that hold large audiences. I am certain it won't be long before the theater is back to full operation. I am as excited as you are with this news.

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



Letter from the editor

By Don Walker

Yes, we're back! The JATOE Board is thrilled that we have been provided the 'green light' to resume socials at our beloved Rialto Theatre. I'd like to remind all members to please follow all guidelines as outlined on page two of the newsletter while you are in the theatre. We must keep everyone safe and healthy. It will only take one careless misstep, potentially, to prevent us from meeting in the future. After a long, painful year for everyone, I'm sure you can appreciate the seriousness of following strict health and safety guidelines. To start our grand resumption of in-person socials, we are featuring our new organ technician, David Rhodes. It's only fitting after all the work he has accomplished over the past year to feature his artistry at the Barton. We know you will enjoy his program and presentation. As we look toward our June social, we are featuring another young organist, Dean Rosko. Dean is one of the few organists in the area that truly features music from all era's and styles. We know that you will enjoy his presentation and faithful recreations of selections. He is excited to be able to be back and experience the newly revised Barton theatre pipe organ. We will see you on May 2!

Tours Return to the Rialto, March 9th.

The tours will be held every Tuesday at 1:30pm. Tickets can be purchased at the time of the tour. Masks are required. Groups are limited to 25 to ensure proper distancing. The public will get the chance again to see the Rialto Square Theater. A mini concert will be played on the Historic Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ featuring Taylor Trimby.

Tickets are subject to availability, and dates are subject to change due to private events. Call the Rialto at 815-726-7171 to make your Tuesday reservation.



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ANNIVERSARY



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