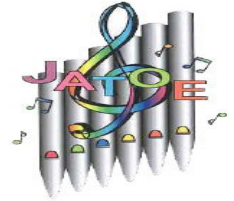


Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



WWW.JATOEO.org

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May 2004

Next Social - Sunday, May 30, 2004 at 12:30PM at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet, IL. See page two for details!

Mark you calendars now, Sunday, August 1. Mark Hermann at the VanDerMolen Residence Robert Morton Organ, Wheaton, IL!

On a Sad Note:

Long-Time JATOEO member Hal Pritchard passed away in early April. Hal was a great supporter of theatre organ and will be missed by all.

Jim Koller has been hospitalized recently for an ongoing medical condition. Please remember him in your thoughts and prayers, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

Past member Sam (June) Levy of Sun City West, Arizona passed away recently.

Milton George is recovering at home after surgery. Please remember him in your prayers, and we wish him a speedy recovery.

President's Message

Those of you that did not attend the Organ Extravaganza or the concerts at the Sanfilippo Mansion really missed a great event. The show at the Rialto was spectacular with about 1300 in attendance. We sold 250 tickets for the Victorian Palace, however, with the guests we probably had about 300. The comments that I have been receiving by e-mail and phone have been that this was the best show so far. The sad part is that we are going to have to raise the bar and do something better next year. I might add that we had organ enthusiasts from 13 states and also as far away as Vancouver, BC in attendance. This is very gratifying to JATOEO. The Barton performed without a flaw. We have been repairing many of the mistakes (broken wires, bad pouches, computer problems, etc) and this showed at the performance.

On another note, we have gotten the organ pipes back. They were taken from the theatre without proper authority. We were held hostage for the storage fees but we paid half of what was wanted (\$833.00) and some of these pipes will be installed in the organ shortly, where they should have been in 2002. We had hoped to get them in for the show, but didn't have the time.

The JATOEO Board has just one more hurdle to jump. The previous officers cashed the pre-sale checks for the POE 7 CD. It was later published in a letter that the CD would not be produced. This problem will also be solved. We have recorded the show and production of this CD is already taking place. We will let everyone know when it is ready.

Next year's Extravaganza will be held on April 30, 2005 and we are already putting the show together. Steve LaManna, our producer, is to be congratulated on the great show he put together this year.

JATOEO thanks all of those that helped with the show, especially Eileen Sheridan for her stage decorating, Leroy Petry for his organ work, Barbara Petry and Dolores Patak for painting on the console. We also thank Bob Walker for bringing in the 5 manual Walker Organ. This was a feat in itself. We were very fortunate that the Rialto Volunteers helped us by selling all the CD's. Previously, we had to man the sales counter ourselves. We thank them greatly.

Thank you! **Jim Patak**

Calendar of Events

This is a listing of organ related events sponsored by other organizations in the area.

- Saturday, June 26 and Sunday, June 27 from 1-5 PM. Lyn Larsen performs with special guests at the annual Hopeful Heart, Inc., "Concert for Life," held at the magnificent SanFilippo estate in Barrington, IL. Inquire for tickets at their website, www.hopefulheart.com, or write to: Hopeful Heart, Inc., P. O. Box 16786, Phoenix, Arizona 85011.
- Friday July 2, through Tuesday, July 6, ATOS (American Theatre Organ Society) Annual Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. For more information, see you ATOS *Theatre Organ* Journal, or visit the ATOS website at www.atos.org
- Pipe Organ Extravaganza #9 will be held on Saturday, April 30, 2005. Mark your calendars now!

John Lauter to perform on May 30!

Join us at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet on Sunday, May 30. Doors will open at 12:30PM, and the program will begin promptly at 1:00PM. Please note that the Rialto has a wedding reception booked in the late afternoon, so we must exit the theatre by 5:00PM. Please limit your open console selections to two numbers. Thank you for your cooperation! Please bring refreshments.



Detroit area theatre organist John Lauter began lessons at age 14, after hearing veteran theatre organist Lee Erwin in concert at the Royal Oak theatre. Lessons with area teachers followed, notably Betty Mason and Gary Reseigh. John made his public debut at the Redford theatre at age 16. Since those early days John has presented concerts in Chicago, namely at the Oriental theatre, VanDerMolen residence, Krughoff residence, the 19th hole restaurant and the St. Mary of the lake seminary auditorium in Mundelein. Lauter has been featured in programs at the Paramount theatre in Denver, the Castro theatre in San Francisco, the Richard Knight auditorium of Babson college in Boston, the Organ stop Pizza restraint in Phoenix, and the Ohio theatre in Columbus. John spent three years playing at “theatre organ pizza and pipes” in Pontiac, Michigan. At home in Detroit, John has presented 6 concerts at the Detroit theatre organ society, and many concerts and silent film programs at the Redford theatre.

The Michigan theatre in Ann Arbor Michigan featured John as staff organist for 17 years, during which John accompanied such silent film classics as “Metropolis”, “the birth of a nation”, “The phantom of the Opera”, “It”, “Robin Hood”, “Greed”, “The Cabinet of Dr. Calgari”, “Nosferatu” “The gold rush” and many others. The Detroit Fox theatre’s 1988 grand re-opening found John playing before “The ultimate event”, Liza Minelli, Sammy Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra. Lauter has played at the Fox ever since, for film and live shows.

In preparation of the opening of their new IMAX theatre, the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn contracted John to compose and record a silent film accompaniment to a silent film collage featured in a specially produced IMAX short subject shown before each feature there.

John is the organist for the Unity Church of Lake Orion, and is also in demand as a pianist at local Detroit restaurants. John lives in Farmington Hills, Michigan with his wife Amy, and Son Benjamin and daughter Maryanna.

For directions to the Rialto Theatre, see the map/directions below:

FROM CHICAGO: STEVENSON EXPRESSWAY (I-55)

Take I-55 south to Joliet Road, Exit #269. Joliet Road becomes Illinois 53. Follow IL 53 south to Ruby Street and turn left. As you cross over the Des Plaines River, Ruby Street will become Chicago Street. The theatre is located at 102 N. Chicago Street.

FROM THE WESTERN SUBURBS: (I-355)

Proceed south on I-355 to the I-55 South to St. Louis exit. Exit onto Joliet Road. Joliet Road becomes Illinois 53. Follow IL 53 south to Ruby Street and turn left. As you cross over the Des Plaines River, Ruby Street will become Chicago Street. The theatre is located at 102 N. Chicago Street.

FROM THE SOUTH:

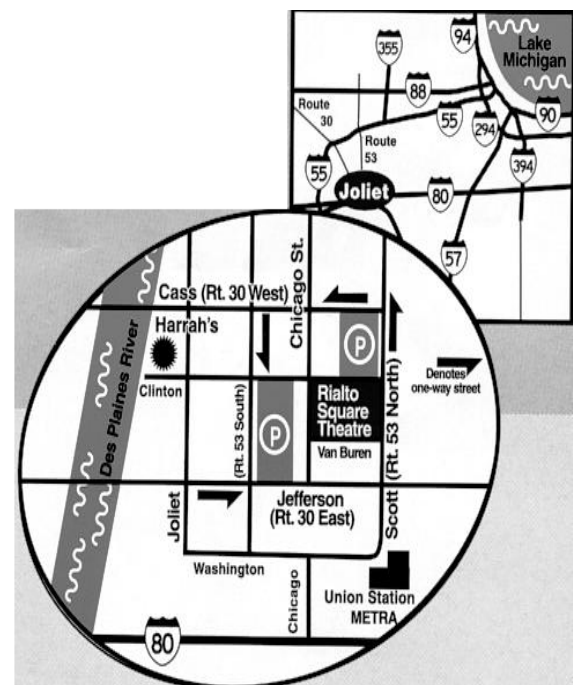
Proceed North on Illinois 53. Once you drive under a viaduct you will come to a stop sign. Turn right and follow the curve. The street will become Scott Street. Go straight to Van Buren Street. Turn left, one block to Chicago Street. The theatre is located at 102 N. Chicago Street about one mile north of the I-80 interchange.

FROM THE EAST: (I-80)

Proceed west on I-80 to Chicago Street exit #132. At the traffic signal at the end of the Chicago Street ramp, turn left (north) onto Chicago Street. Once you drive under a viaduct you will come to a stop sign. Turn right and follow the curve. The street will become Scott Street. Go straight to Van Buren Street. Turn left, one block to Chicago Street. The theatre is located at 102 N. Chicago Street about one mile north of the I-80 interchange.

FROM THE WEST: (I-80)

Proceed east on I-80 to Chicago Street North exit (Illinois 53 #132B) Proceed



Pipe Organ Extravaganza #8 - Wow!

By Don Walker

The weekend of April 24 was certainly a time to remember! The 8th annual Pipe Organ Extravaganza was another huge success. From the quality of the music, musicians, instruments and venues, enthusiasts of the theatre pipe organ were in musical heaven from the first strains at the Rialto, to the final note at Jasper Sanfilippo's in Barrington.

The Barton organ performed flawlessly, and most notable in the overall sound of the Barton was the newly regulated main tibia. Member Leroy Petry spent much time adjusting the wind pressure on this unit, with the result being the sweetest sounding tibia this reviewer has ever heard emanating from the chamber.

Of special note was the dual piano/organ performance by Jelani Eddington and Ron Rhode of the concert arrangement of "**Deep Purple**," as well as Jelani and Dave Wickerham pairing up for the complete arrangement of Gershwin's, "**Rhapsody in Blue**." This performance earned the pair a well-deserved standing ovation and cheers of "Bravo!"

In addition to the Rialto's Barton organ, Bob Walker of the Walker Organ Company supplied the latest state-of-the-art digital theatre pipe organ. This five manual, 100+ rank equivalent black ebony console was a sight to behold. Artist Rob Richards owns the instrument, and shared its musical delights with the audience. The other artists also tried their hand at this giant to spectacular results. Many thanks to Bob Walker, and Rob Richards for sharing this outstanding new organ.

On Sunday, we were treated to the spectacular visual and musical surroundings of the Jasper Sanfilippo estate in Barrington, IL. Those who have ever attended an event here know that the amenities are beyond description, so if you haven't attended a program there, do it soon! Both Dave Wickerham and Ron Rhode presented solo performances that displayed all sides of the 5-80 WurliTzer monster. Ron's program displayed the quieter voices of the organ, while Dave leaned toward the more rambunctious side of his personality and the organs. After their performance, we walked to the magnificent carousel building, home to a restored and working turn-of-the-century



Ron Rhode poses after his performance on Saturday night at the Rialto.



Bill Brown from Phoenix, Arizona (left) and Rob Richards in the Rialto lobby after the performance. We thank Bill Brown for his generous donation to the Barton Organ Fund.



Rhonda and Dave Wickerham after Dave's performance. They appear in the carousel building at the San-Filippo estate.