

Relay Chatter

The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts



WWW.JATOE.org

Don Walker, Newsletter Editor: kinura8@sbcglobal.net

August/September 2014

Please join us at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet on Sunday, August 17 at 2:00 pm as we feature young theatre organist from Indianapolis, IN, Justin Stahl. Justin made his convention debut at the American Theatre Organ Society national convention this past July. We are pleased to welcome him back to the Barton for his second JATOE appearance. The doors will open at 1:30 pm and Justin's program begins at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments to share. Open console will follow Justin's performance.

Please join us at the Rialto Theatre, Joliet on Sunday, September 14 at 2:00 pm as we welcome back to the console, David Rhodes, President of sister chapter, CA-TOE. David just returned from a theatre organ experience in the UK. The doors will open at 1:30 pm and David's program begins at 2:00 pm. David is organist at Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church in Lockport, IL, where JATOE members Faye/Judy Matarelli Wheeler attend.

President's Message from Jim Patak

I hope all of you can take the heat that this summer is coming up with. I just talked to my sister, who lives in Green Valley, AZ. She told me that they have to do there outside chores very early in the morning and stay in the house from about 11am on. At 106 degrees, I'd say that in air-conditioning would be the place to be.

Judy Matarelli did a superb job at our last social. I was happy with the turnout especially on Father's Day. Thank you all for coming out and thanks to the helpers that take care of our fabulous refreshment table.

JATOE was not having a social in July only because there were too many other events and the theatre is booked on all Sundays. The American Theatre Organ Society had their national convention in Indianapolis that started July 4. Frank Pellico performed at his church on July 12. Hopeful Heart had their concerts at the Sanfilippo Mansion on July 12/13. Keep the dates of August 17 and September 14 available for our next socials.

We are still working on our latest CD. The problem is that the individual artists must (ok) there portion before we can produce the finished product. We also received the files from the recording artist at Sanfilippo's rather late. That is why we are behind schedule. We had hoped to have it done by the ATOS Convention.

At our last Board Meeting, we decided to give \$200 to the Rialto Volunteers. They help us greatly at the Extravaganza's by manning the CD table. This takes a load off JATOE.

We are also discussing the possibility of getting a grant from the ATOS for installing the small xylophone in the Solo Chamber. We have one in the basement that would be used. This would be behind the swell shades and thereby having expression, not like the other side of the theatre where the large xylophone resides. Robert Ridgeway, our recording artist stated to me that the Barton is the best he has ever heard it. Thanks go to Glenn Talar for taking care it.

I hope all of you are happy and healthy. Stay cool!!

Jim Patak

It is with extreme sadness we announce the passing of Ruth Ratajczak on April 4, 2014, age 89. We all have enjoyed this sweet and lovely lady, always a twinkle in her eyes and a big smile on her lips. We have great memories with Ruth and Ray at the many organ socials, concerts, and conventions. Unfortunately, she spent the last several years in a nursing home due to Alzheimer's. Ruth and Ray were married 70 years and had 3 children -- John, David, and the late Donna, 6 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren. We send our deepest sympathy to Ray and their family. 900 Hollystone Lane, Buffalo Grove, IL 60089-1635 (submitted by Jan Challenger)

ATOS Convention concert artist, Justin Stahl return to the Barton!

Justin Stahl is a native of Beech Grove, Indiana. Beginning at age five with the encouragement of his great-grandfather, Justin was mostly self-taught in piano and organ. His passion for music has reached many venues that have included accompanying for several choral departments, contributing as his church's music director, playing for community theatre, and serving for over twelve years in the Indiana Army National Guard Band.

Justin has most recently entertained thousands of patrons of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra in the last three productions of their annual Yuletide Celebration, playing the 3/24 Wurlitzer installed at the Hilbert Circle Theatre. Theatre organ has always been an "advanced hobby" of Justin's and it has taken him to performance venues in Birmingham, Detroit, Boston, Joliet, and Erie. Most recently, Justin was a featured artist at the 59th ATOS Convention held in Indianapolis.

A graduate of Marian University with a Bachelor's degree in piano performance, Justin teaches at the Charles A. Tindley Accelerated School, where he serves as a choral director. His approach and philosophy includes the continued promotion of the theatre organ by using a wide base of musical genres.



The stage door to the Rialto Theatre will open at 1:30 pm and Justin's program begins at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments to share. Open console will follow the program.



CATOE President David Rhodes featured in September!

David Rhodes began taking piano lessons at the age of 7 and classical organ training at 12. His organ instructor for 8 years was Fr. John Palmer C.S.V., a professor at Benedictine University and director for the Roy-al Conservatory of Music. Having heard the theatre organ interludes at the Tivoli Theatre at the age of 14, he was hooked. David has played for various types of programs and special events at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles, Rialto Theatre in Joliet, Coronado Theatre in Rockford and the York

Theatre in Elmhurst. David premiered the 2/7 Wurlitzer at St. John Cantius Church in Chicago. He is currently one of the staff organists at the Tivoli a position that he has held for the past 9 years and also plays pre-program music at Downers Grove North High School on their 3/10 Wurlitzer. In addition, David is involved in the res-restoration of the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ in the George Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake and the many other CATOE sponsored instruments.

The stage door to the Rialto Theatre will open at 1:30 pm and David's program begins at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments to share.

Open console will follow the program.



JAN'S JOLIET JOTTINGS

We are pleased to feature reviews of our past socials and shows as presented by member, Jan Challender.

Fun in February.....Cletus Goens has been a pianist and organist for several years. His main objective is to have fun and make his listeners happy, too. A little belated but quite pretty was "Love" and "My Funny Valentine." Next was a bouncy "Rosetta." His bluesy style was evident on "Night Sky." Cletus is a loyal and proud supporter of the Embassy Theatre in Ft Wayne where some 3500 people have toured the Theatre and heard their Page Theatre Pipe Organ. "Our Love Affair" seemed quite appropriate. Years ago my family followed a local, blind organist named Ray Soave. I'd say, "Ray, play it real creamy," and he did. Well, Cletus brought out our lovely Barton tibias and played "Moonlight In Vermont" real creamy. I especially enjoyed his tribute to Buddy Nolan who wrote a little ditty called "Millie" but no words. My kitty in Heaven is "Millie" --I should try my hand at some words in her memory. Cletus sang Buddy's other tune, "Probably," a favorite that Don Walker often plays for me. Don, you must learn the words! Cole Porter's "Just One of Those Things" was followed by Toots Thielemans' "Bluesette." His Encore was an energetic "Who." Yes, we all had a fun time. Thanks! Cletus. *Musically yours, JAN*

"The foundation of every state is the education of it's youth" by the Greek Philosopher, Diogenes, is written in the auditorium of our gorgeous Joliet Township High School. Indiana has one terrific foundation as evident by the many talented musicians they have produced. Our March musician was Tim Duckworth, a junior in high school, a cool kid (nary a bead of perspiration!) that eeeeks talent! May he never be given any lessons! Why ruin a great talent? Tim's opener was "Theaterland" My, how we long to see that Barton rise from the pit! Irving Berlin's "The Song Is Ended" but the melody lingers on (oooh, those Barton tibias) This young man is a "natural." Love the haircut! Love the "Sox"! "Everything's Coming Up Roses" was full and lush just like Ethel Merman would have sung it, while "When Sunny Gets Blue" was slow and thought provoking. As tribute to one of the greats, Jesse Crawford, Tim played "I Love To Hear You Singing." LeRoy Anderson's "Bugler's Holiday" brought back fond memories of our winning Joliet Township High School Band. Tim played "Over The Rainbow" with the verse, Judy Garland's claim to fame. Late but lovely was "My Funny Valentine." In keeping with this crazy "season"... "Winter Wonderland" had to make you chuckle. In tribute to the late, great Kay McAbee, Tim played "Tea For Two" and "Land of The Pharaohs." I'm glad there are a few organists who keeps his memory alive. Yes, we want more! We all sang Happy Birthday to Pres. Jim Patak...83 today....who blew out all those candles in one breath. Tim gave us "Wake Up and Live," "12th Street Rag," and an Encore of "The Tiger Rag." WOW! *Musically yours, JAN*

Can you believe? the 18th Extravaganza? We say each year---WOW! The Extravaganza was awesome! How can it get any better? And, each year it is---even better. First of all, I can't say enough about the Joliet Symphony Orchestra. They were extraordinary and they will be back again next year. It was a treat to have Chris Elliot perform for he seldom travels to our area from the west coast. I often forget how well he plays. Pierre Fracalanza is a real "show" man and naturally funny, too. He was swell on the Virtual Organ. Our cameo artist was a young Donnie Rankin who also knows his way around pipe organs. What can I say about Jelani Edington? He is perfection and never disappoints. I've often told him he is the George Wright of this era. I might add---Jelani writes out all of the arrangements for the multiple musicians to play so cohesively together. Of course, the Sunday event at Sanfilippo's is always special to make a very complete and enjoyable musical weekend. We certainly owe a big THANK YOU and standing ovation for our JATOE Pres. Jim Patak and Treas. Dolores Patak for all the phone calls, ticket requests, driving, and hosting the artists. Besides selling show tickets, they pay the artists, and keep track of their CD sales. Youse guys are super and we love you! *Musically yours, JAN*

Judy Matarelli is very accomplished on organ and piano and she sings, too. She recently played her second annual pipe organ concert at the Lincoln Theatre for "Party On The Pipes," the regional convention in St. Louis. The program began with George M. Cohan's "Give My Regards To Broadway," Louis Alter's "Manhattan Serenade," and LeRoy Anderson's "Plink-Plank-Plunk." Judy's dad, Bob Wheeler, has been gone five years, so for Father's Day she played "Daddy's Little Girl" because she is---daddy's little girl. This brought a few tears from many of us! "Españi Cani," meaning Gypsy Spain, was a rousing change of pace. Judy has been taking a few lessons from Jelani which was evident on "What Now My Love?" (Gilbert Be'caud) and "Bolero" (Maurice Ravel) that were beautifully intertwined. I enjoyed Gerry Long's request of "Festival Toccata" by Percy Fletcher. Something special for the moms by Irving Berlin was "Play a Simple Melody." Next, "I'm In The Mood For Love" by Jimmy McHugh. A student of Kay McAbee, one of her favorites in memory of Kay, who played it frequently, was "On The Trail" from Ferde Grofe's "Grand Canyon-Suite." She closed with a lovely medley from "My Fair Lady" in honor of her long-time-best friend who just passed away a month ago. The standing ovation from the happy crowd brought forth an Encore of "Galloping Comedians." My mom used to say: "Pretty Is As Pretty Does!" Well, Judy was Beautiful and her program was Beautiful! Thank You Very Much! *Musically yours, JAN*