

# Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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April/May/June 2017

**Sunday, April 9, 2017,**

**1:30 pm doors, 2:00**

**pm social. Our artist**

**will be Donnie Rankin.**

**The social will be held**

**at the Rialto Theatre,**

**Joliet, IL. Donnie is**

**one of the most excit-**

**ing young organists in**

**the U.S.**

**Sunday, June 18, 2017.**

**Doors, 1:30 pm, social**

**2:00 pm, Rialto Thea-**

**tre, Joliet, IL. Our art-**

**ist will be silent film**

**organist Jay Warren**

**from Chicago, IL. Jay**

**is one of the busiest**

**organists in the coun-**

**try and has introduced**

**theatre organ to thou-**

**sands through his silent**

**film presentations.**

**An important re-**

**minder to all**

**members that we**

**will have a short**

**business meeting**

**for the purpose**

**of nominating of-**

**ficers during the**

**April 9 social.**

## President's Message

It appears that the Rialto Theatre is making a comeback. I have met the new lady General Manager (Val), who will take over April 3. She is very nice and I hope she is able to do well. She will be the 5th manager since I have been at the theatre.

JATOE is still having to pay to set up the stage for our socials. I'm hoping that when all things get settled that we will go back to the way it was.

The fact is that many of you have not as yet paid your 2017 dues. Our By-Laws state that if dues are not paid by March 15, your membership will be dropped. I don't want this to happen. We have not pressed this issue previously, but our expenses are going up. Artists are asking for more money and as you know we are still paying for our stage setup.

I hope you that attended the Social at the Allen Studio enjoyed Tim Duckworth's concert. I hope you also enjoy the March 19 social at the Arcada Theatre in St. Charles. CATOE has been restoring the organ at the Arcada and I understand it sounds wonderful already.

On March 20 Sarah Randolph (music teacher in Lockport) is bringing some of her organ/piano students to the Rialto to play the Barton. JATOE has done this for a few years. It gives young people a chance to see the theatre and also the opportunity to play the Barton Grande

JATOE again will host the ATOS Youth group at the theatre in July. These are young organists from all parts of the country that will visit organ installations in the Chicago Area. They will be taught by, Jonas Nordwall, Jelani Eddington, Donna Parker, Chris Elliott and Martin Ellis.

Stay well,

Jim Patak

**ADDED BONUS SOCIAL: INTERNATIONAL THEATRE ORGANIST, DAVID GRAY FROM GLASGOW, SCOTLAND! DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM, AND DAVID'S CONCERT BEGINS AT 7:00 PM! LOCATION: ALLEN ORGAN STUDIO, BOLINGBROOK, IL. WEDNESDAY EVENING, APRIL 12, 2017.**

Many thanks to our sister chapter, CTOS and Lee Maloney for allowing us to participate in this very special event!

Directions to Allen Organs of Chicago:

From Rt. 55 take Rt. 53 south to the second traffic light which is Crossroads Pkwy. Turn right to the FIRST drive on the left and follow around the building to the front (faces Rt. 53)

From Rt. 53 drive north to the second traffic light which is

Crossroads Pkwy. Turn left to the FIRST drive on the left and follow around the building to the front (faces Rt. 53)

Address: 181 W. Crossroads Pkwy, SUITE D, Bolingbrook

Phone: 630-428-9701

## Donnie Rankin at the Rialto, Sunday April 9, 2017

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 around the world. 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.



**Doors open at 1:30 pm and Donnie's programs begins at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments to share.**

**Social location: Rialto Theatre, 102 N. Chicago St., Joliet IL 60432**

## Silent Film organist Jay Warren returns to the Rialto, Sunday, June 18, 2017

Jay Warren - Chicago's foremost photoplay organist - brings all the color, excitement, and glamour of the silent film era back to life with his original scores for the silver screen. As a regularly featured photoplay organist for the Silent Film Society of Chicago, he has accompanied most of the great silent films throughout his forty year career in his famous rousing style. He has been featured annually for the society's highly regarded *Silent Summer Film Festival* since its inception in 2000. For twelve consecutive years he held forth playing the huge E.M. Skinner pipe organ for silent films at the University of Chicago's famed Rockefeller Memorial Chapel. He also performs film accompaniment on the beautiful Letourneau pipe organ in the Crimi Auditorium of Aurora University. Jay has also made several silent film photoplay appearances on the incredible 5 manual Wurlitzer located at the Sanfilippo Foundation's Place de la Musique in Barrington, Illinois.

**Doors open at 1:30 pm, and the program begins at 2:00 pm. Please bring refreshments to share. Rialto Theatre, 102 N. Chicago St. Joliet, IL**

