

Relay Chatter



The Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

WWW.JATOE.org

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February/March 2017

President's Message

Social date:

Sunday, February 19, 2017. 1:30 pm doors, 2:00 pm social. Our artist will be Tim Duckworth. The social will be held at the Allen Organ Studio in Bolingbrook, IL. Many thanks to our sister chapter, CATOE for allowing us to join them.

Social date: Sunday, March 19, 2017. Doors, 1:30 pm, social 2:00 pm. We are pleased to welcome back once again Donnie Rankin and the Southlake Children's Choir directed by Michael Cierski. You won't want to miss this social. The children are very excited to perform once again on the Rialto stage.

We had a very successful after Holiday get together. We had a few over 100 attendees. Nicholas did a great job although some of the members wished that he would have played longer. The food catered by (Bob and SIS) of Joliet was very well accepted and the pass along dishes from the members was outstanding. I thank you all.

The Theatre is apparently receiving some of the \$500,000 from the City of Joliet with some stipulations. 1. The WCMEAA Board (known and the Rialto Board) was to resign, which they did. The Governor and Mayor of Joliet will appoint new members to the Board. 2. The theatre is to book 30 shows before the remainder of the money comes forward. I hope this happens for it would be a shame to shut the Rialto doors. I feel bad for the Rialto Staff for they are on half time at present.

I have set up two dates for JATOE Socials, so be sure to read Don's sidebars for the details of these events.

We have heard that Jan Challender is at Alden Estates in Shorewood with unbearable pain after falling. Her address is: 710 W. Black Rd, Shorewood, IL 60404, Phone: 815-230-8700. I'm sure she would enjoy an encouraging card. We hope the best for Jan.

Some of us attended the surprise 60th birthday of Joel Martis held at the Allen Studio in Bollingbrook on Sunday the 15th. Joel's daughter Nicole put on the party. It was very well done.

Those of you that have not send in your dues, please do so. Remember to send to: Jim Patak-1406 Mandel Ave-Westchester, IL 60154. Also, be sure to update your email address. We would like to send as many newsletters by email so that we can save on postage.

Even with the theatre not booking shows for now, we are definitely keeping the organ in the best shape. Glenn will be doing some repairs this week on a few items that decided to malfunction. This happens to pipe organs sometimes daily. We are fortunate to have Glenn as our Crew Chief.

ENJOY THE COOL WEATHER AND STAY WARM.

Jim Patak

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

Tim Duckworth to perform at the five manual Allen!

I have been playing music for most of my life. I began learning piano around age six. For a number of years, I took piano lessons on and off, but never regularly. I began to pick up organ about three and a half years ago, when I first played a theatre organ. I have been using a virtual organ running Hauptwerk and the Mas-terworks 3/31 sample set to practice on. I have been entirely self-taught on theatre organ, and have had no sort of lessons. I don't really plan to do much with the organ, though. It is a hobby to me, and there isn't much of a demand for theatre organists anymore. So far I have played the Hedback Theatre's 2/11 hybrid, the Warren Performing Arts Center 3/18 Barton, Manual High School 3/26 Wurlitzer all in Indianapolis, the St. Louis Fox Theatre's 4/36 Wurlitzer, St. Louis City Museum 3/18 hybrid, and Stephen Brittain's 3/25 Wurlitzer in Florida. I have posted some of my theatre organ work on my Facebook page. I look forward to performing for all of you!

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

Allen Organ Showroom

181 W. Crossroads Parkway, Suite D

Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Phone: 630-428-9701



Donnie Rankin and Southlake Children's Choir return to the Rialto!

When he was three, a trip to the Akron Civic Theatre introduced him to the sounds of the mighty theatre organ. He would often try playing music on his great grandfathers home organ and around 2000, his own instrument was purchased and lessons began. Donnie took two years of home organ lessons and was told classical piano training would be a good idea, so classical piano lessons began in 2005. The two years that Donnie has studied piano have helped him win several organ competitions including the title of 'The American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist of the Year' in 2007. He began studying with Jelani Eddington in September 2007. Donnie has performed on the theatre organ in Sarasota, Florida, Allen, Texas, Foxburg, Pennsylvania, Mundelein, Illinois, Cleveland, Warren, Mansfield and Lorain, Ohio.

Donnie was also very active with the high school band receiving the Melissa Strasser First Chair award in 2005 and 2006 and the John Phillip Sousa award in 2007. He held the position of drum line captain, and was Senior Lieutenant in the high school band council. He played lead pan and drum set for three years in Ravenna High School's steel band and played the drum set four years in the Jazz band. During high school, Donnie took 6 solo and ensemble events on instruments including piano, xylophone and steel drum receiving superior ratings each time.

The Southlake Children's Choir promises to provide a premier choral experience for children and audiences throughout Northwest Indiana. We will live up to this promise by performing quality literature with excellence, providing age appropriate voice training for treble singers, helping children build confidence and poise through performance, and inspiring a lifetime of musical involvement. The choir director is JATOE's own Mike Cierski. We welcome Mike and his choir back for the second year in a row to the Rialto!

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

