



# RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA

THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

[WWW.JATOE.ORG](http://WWW.JATOE.ORG) DON WALKER, NEWSLETTER EDITOR: [JATOE.BARTON@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JATOE.BARTON@GMAIL.COM)



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Nov/Dec 2020



## upcoming EVENTS

We are sorry that we can't gather as we usually do to bring you the music and sounds you love. As soon as state guidelines allow gatherings again, we will. In the meantime please enjoy the 3 upcoming virtual Christmas Concerts.

On Dec 4th, 11th and 18th at 6pm, tune in to our JATOE Facebook page or the Rialto's website. We will be live streaming from the Rialto one hour Christmas concerts on the Barton Grande Theater Pipe Organ

**Dec 4th-David Rhodes**  
**Dec 11th- Frank Pellico**  
**Dec 18th- Carl DeSanti**

happy holidays

## THE BARTON GETS NEW SHOES!



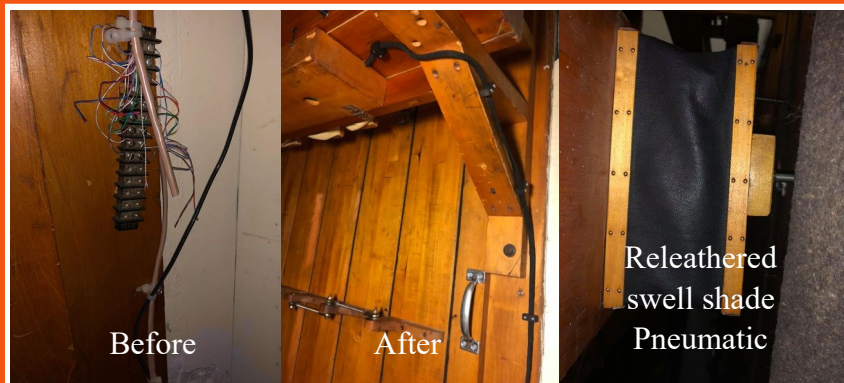
Before



After

Thanks to Jim & Dolores Patak for their very generous gift, and to David Rhodes for installing them at no cost to JATOE, the new swell shoes. The new shoes have slider pots in them. The old ones had rotary pots that would continue to jump the gear. This is turn would affect the swell shades. ( Some have lead feet I guess! :)) In fact, ALL the shades are working properly now.

Pneumatics were re-leathered, lower mains were rewired, lower solo had wiring repaired and wind leaks fixed. Swell Shades - 100% functional! You're going to be surprised the next time you hear the Barton! I swear it's louder.



Before and after pictures of the swell shade wiring. Myself (Joel) and Dennis did the rewiring and soldering. David did the wrapping. Dennis Nawracaj and Rick Steinke re-leathered the swell shade pneumatic. They did a really good job! Thanks to David for teaching them what needed to be done. Only 8 more to go!



# upcoming EVENTS



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



We are still at it  
folks. We have  
been taking  
advantage of this  
pandemic to fix  
the many things  
that needed to be  
fixed. I have said  
in the past we

want to get everything that is in the chambers working, even the  
sound effects. We have worked on the Barton every week for the  
last 3 + months. We now have the gong roll back. David found that  
it was never wired correctly. He repaired that and now it works.  
David also rebuilt the main gong mallet. The train whistle, car  
horn and siren were put back in and moved to the lower solo  
chamber outside of the swell shades. The horse hoofs now work as  
they should. They were missing a reiteration contact that was  
replaced. The Lobby organ now has a tremulant as it originally  
had. The chimes now ring as they should and the upper solo  
chamber is being reconfigured for the toy counter, glockenspiel  
and xylophone for better sound egress.



## Letter from the editor

By Don Walker

Greetings dear members and friends! As of this writing, the  
Barton organ is undergoing a complete 'going through' by David  
Rhodes. Every component will be working and regulated as  
intended. It is fair to say that this will likely be the first time in  
many years that the Barton will be functioning as new with no  
dead notes or mechanical issues. David Rhodes and the work  
crew have done an outstanding job focusing their time and talent  
on every detail and system. When we do meet again, how  
exciting it will be to premiere to 'new and improved' Barton  
Grande! it has been a very depressing time for the arts and  
especially theatre organ concert/social events. With COVID  
cases on the rise, one wonders what the future might hold for  
large gatherings? I encourage everyone to follow healthy habits.  
All the best!

*Please remember the following people in your prayers*  
Rhonda Wickerham, Bill Reynolds, Tom Wisvader, and  
Stan Zimmerman



# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Yes, its that time of the year again. Monies collected from dues and donations go towards the maintenance of the Barton Grande Theatre Pipe Organ and pay fees to social artists and supplies. You may think - well there were only three socials this year and with this virus, we don't know when we will have another. This is true. It is up to the governor to open up the theatres again. I want to assure you that much work has been going on with the Barton - much needed work. This kind of opportunity, to be able to work every week on the organ has been a blessing. You will see a big difference when you hear it again, and you will! After all, this is why JATOE was formed and this is what you, our members invest in. We have carried on this legacy for 49 years. We keep this magnificent instrument playing in the best condition we can in the most beautiful theatre around. Please **Fill out the form below and include your \$30.00, or \$15.00 if you are a student and send it to:**

**Jim Patak**

**1406 Mandel Av**

**Westchester, IL 60154**

Affix your address sticker if you like and just fill out the rest and mail. (Attached your gift certificate if you have one.)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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(Please print your email address)

REMITTANCE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an ATOS Member? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill out the survey on the back. Thank You!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS UNIQUE ART FORM.





Before



After

Before and after pictures of the main gong mallet.



Introduced in Senate  
(07/22/2020)  
**Save our Stages Act or the SOS Act**

This bill authorizes the Small Business Administration (SBA) to make grants to eligible live venue operators, producers, promoters, or talent representatives to address the economic effects of the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) pandemic on certain live venues.

Specifically, the SBA may make (1) an initial grant of up to \$12 million dollars to an eligible operator, promoter, producer, or talent representative; and (2) a supplemental grant that is equal to 50% of the initial grant. An initial grant must be used for costs incurred between March 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, but a supplemental grant may be used for expenses incurred through June 30, 2021.

Such grants shall be used for specified expenses such as payroll costs, rent, utilities, and personal protective equipment.

This so important as our theaters struggle during this pandemic. Some won't make it and depending how long this shut down of the theaters last, many more may not reopen. Call, write, email, your representatives and tell them to pass this bill.

[Find out more about it here.](#)



Please take a few moments to fill out this short survey. Your opinion matters and will help us plan future events in 2021.

We all know that the theatre organ community and the entire entertainment industry has taken a big hit because of the virus. I am curious to know if you would feel safe attending a live JATOE event at the Rialto Theater under the following conditions:

1. Masks are required for entry and hand sanitizer will be available.
2. You are escorted to seats at the theater that maintain the 6ft social distancing.
3. There are no refreshments afterwards, but you can bring something for yourself.
4. There is no open console afterwards.
5. Events are for Members Only - No guest can attend at this time.

\_\_\_YES

\_\_\_NO

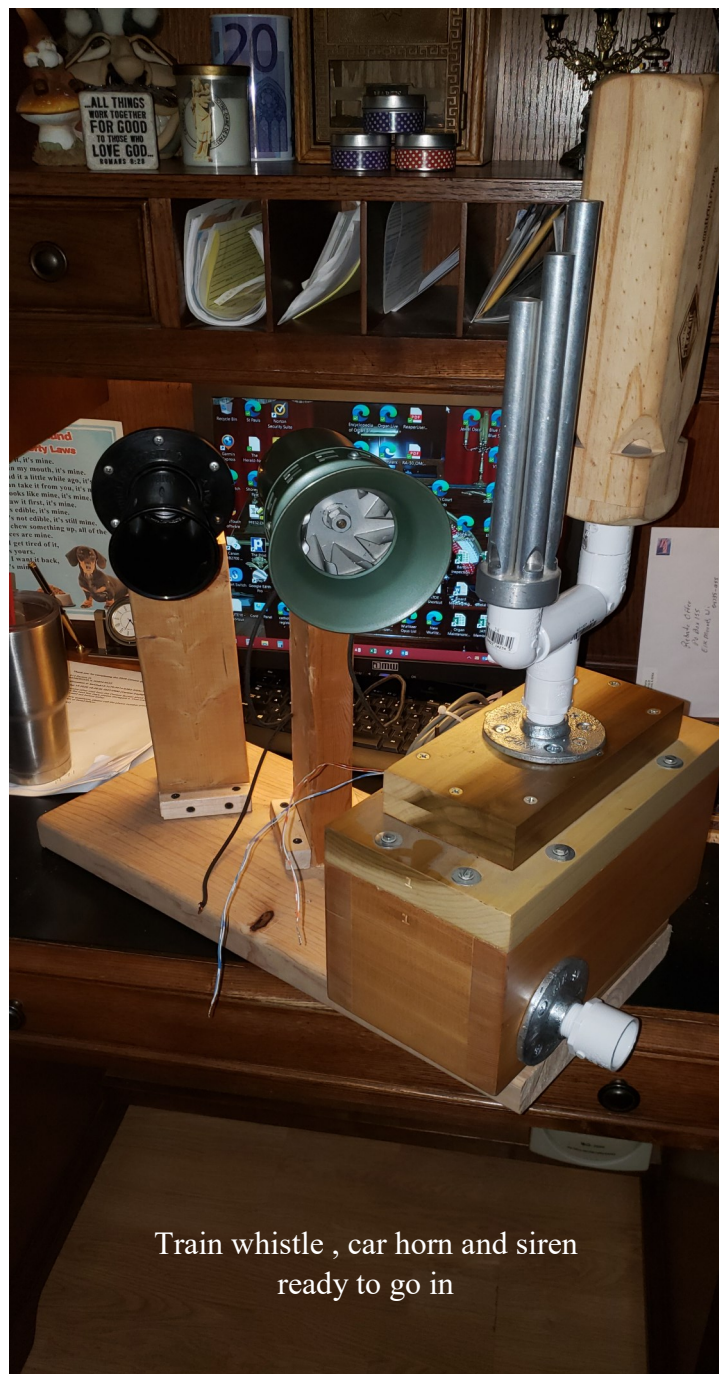
1.  
Thank You!



Gong Before



Gong After



Train whistle , car horn and siren  
ready to go in

The work crew is busy re-leathering the other 8 pneumatics on the upper solo swell shades. Preventative maintenance is what we are doing before the chamber is reconfigured for the glockenspiel, toy counter and small xylophone. New wiring will be run for the toy counter and small xylophone to the relay in the lower chamber. The snare drum has received a new head to replace the one that was torn. Many good things are happening to the Barton during the Pandemic shut down of the Rialto. While it seems as it's all little things that need fixing, it's ALL the little things that will lead to one big thing and we don't want that. We want to get to the point where every year, we go over the entire organ and preform whatever routine maintenance it needs while making any necessary repairs along the way. An inspection sheet has been created for this purpose. As I keep saying, we're getting there! When the theatre does open, the Barton will sound like never before along with it's lobby organ. None of this would be possible without our members' support! Thank you!



## Lobby Organ Plays Again!

The Rialto's Lobby Organ, fully restored and functioning waiting to greet patrons of the theater. On the left is the tibia, middle, the missing tremulant installed and right, the chrysoglott. It is an amazing effect to hear the softness of the lobby organ fade and the main organ build as you enter the main auditorium of the theater. Who knows if the Ruben brothers planned it that way or if it just worked out that way. Either way, its amazing! The Rialto is the only theater in all of Chicagoland that has a lobby organ. It is, from what I've been told, may be the only organ in the world that plays it's lobby organ from the main console. Kind of makes the Rialto even more special. Wait till you hear it!



Before



Trem Installed



Before



Original Configuration

This is how the lobby organ chamber was originally configured. (Thank You Taylor Trimby for the picture). The original Tibia started at tenor C. Notice in the before picture above, that the rest of the rank was added sometime in the 1980's so it is a complete 61 notes. This did not make a whole lot of sense to us because no organist would play that low on the keyboard. Our thought now is to have these notes play in the pedal.



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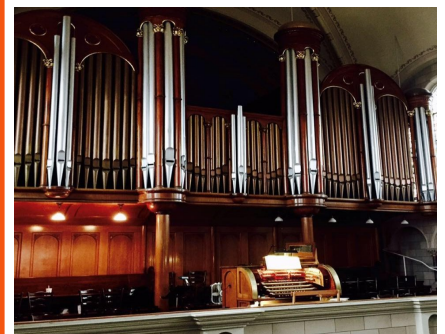
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**A Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us on the JATOE Board to all of you!**

*Joel Martis*

*Jim Patak*

*Dennis Nawracaj*

*Don Walker*

*Judy Matarelli*

*Don Young*

*Rick Steinke*



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Gift Certificates are \$30.00 and are valid for dues and has no expiration date. See a board member to purchase one.



**COVID-19's Impact on Entertainment Venues**

Congressman Bill Foster had a live program on October 13th about the entertainment industry.

Directors of the Paramount in Aurora and The Rialto, Stage hands Union, and more share their thoughts after being closed for so long and what the future may look like. [Click Here to view](#) Its 45 minutes long. Well worth watching!

Live Organ Music Dance Session with **Carl DeSanti**  
Mondays, 7:30-10:00pm

Website:

[www.SkateAurora.com](http://www.SkateAurora.com)



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*May the Peace and Joy of the Season be with you and your families.*



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