



RELAY CHATTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE JOLIET AREA THEATER ORGAN ENTHUSIASTS

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May / June 2024

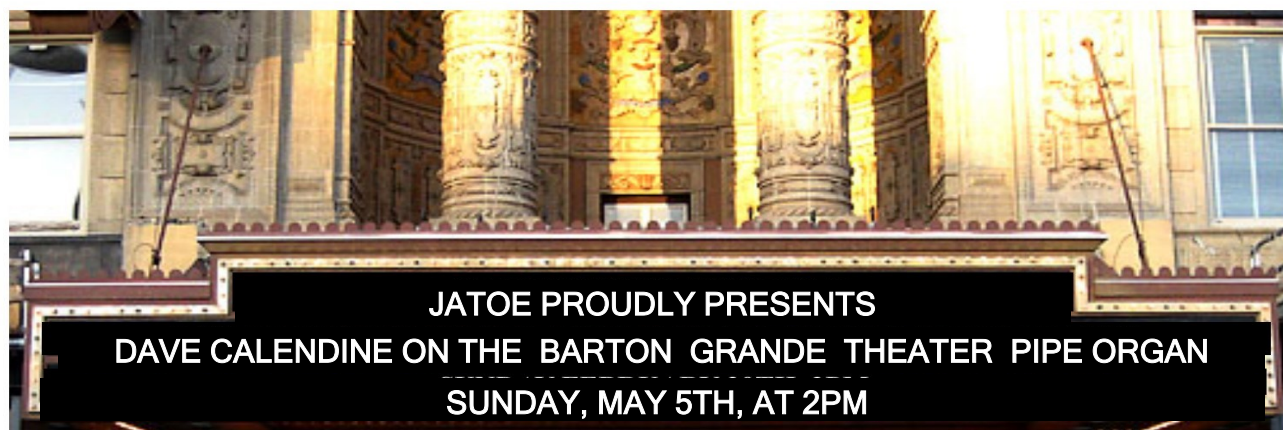
A Special Tribute to a Special Lady!

Sunday, May 5th



In Loving Memory of Dolores Patak
1931-2023

Join JATOE as we honor the memory of Dolores Patak. Dolores was JATOE's past treasurer for over 20+ years. An avid supporter of the theater organ. She loved to sing, especially at her church. She took care of the refreshment table at socials for us. She did so much behind the scenes for JATOE that many don't know. She will be dearly missed. JATOE will be catering the meat for this event. Members A-M please bring a side dish or salad, members N-Z please bring a dessert as we celebrate the life of this wonderful lady.



DAVE CALENDINE



By day, he works in the operations department of Olympia Entertainment in downtown Detroit. By night (and, well, sometimes during the day too), he's the resident organist and organ curator for Detroit's 5,100-seat Fox Theater, the organist for the Detroit Red Wings, an occasional accompanist for the Radio City Rockettes, and a solo concert performer.

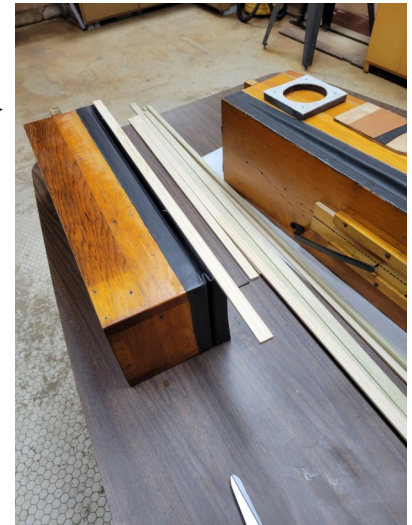
Calendine got his start in music at the age of 3, when his parents got a player piano from his uncle, who restored player pianos, nickelodeons and band organs. By 5, he was taking piano lessons, which tapered off for him around 9 years old as he continued to learn and play by ear. By the time he was 15, he'd noticed the organ at his church and was fascinated by the myriad sounds it could make. He started taking lessons from church organist Dorothy Reynolds, who was an honors graduate of the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y., and it was all about the organ from that point on. More specifically, the theater organ. "The theater organ, or cinema organ, is so much more versatile than a regular pipe organ," Calendine said. Specially developed to provide music and sound effects to accompany silent films during the early 20th century, the theater organ adds in percussion and a wider range of sounds to the usual range of keyboard notes.

PLEASE SEE THE SPECIAL GUEST UPDATE ON PAGE 5

Enter 121 Scott St. Stage Doors open at 1:30 pm Show starts at 2:00 pm. Bring Refreshments!

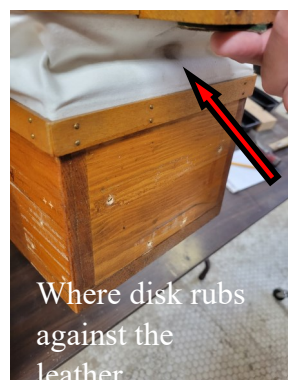
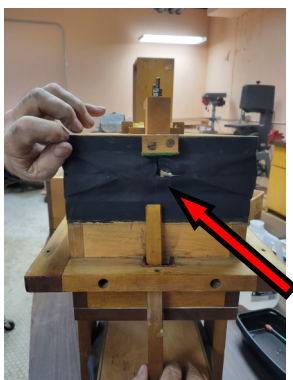


New wooden strips made for the bellow.

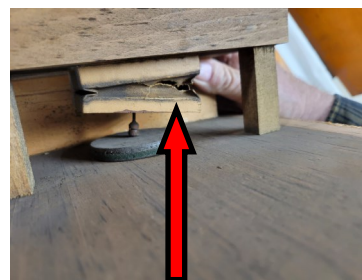


New connection point to output boards.

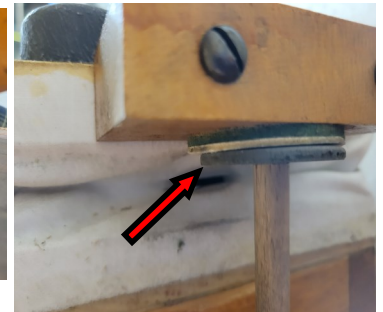
The JATOE work crew is still hard at work! To date, all the solo tremulants have been rebuilt. That's seven of them and four on the main side. We have a few more to go on the main side. The sleigh bells have come down to the work shop in the basement. They are being completely overhauled. All new leather and new reiteration contacts. New leather straps for the bells too. Our main concern when doing all this is to make it easier for who ever will do this work the next time they have to be rebuilt. Leather should last 25 to 30 years. That most likely mean none of the present work crew now will be around to do it again. Everything is being labeled too. When we take items like the tremms down for repair, we look to see where it has failed. We see that holes in the leather are all in the same place. Its where the dowel rod pushes up to shut the trem off. There is a disk on the end of that rod that would rub against the leather bellow. The constant on/off action of the trem causes a hole in the bellow from the disk rubbing against the bellow. Those disks have been removed. After the sleigh bells, the chimes will come down to be rebuilt. The front of the solo chamber, where these percussions are will be reconfigured. The plan is to bring the chimes down and put them where the sleigh bells were. The "rope" that holds the chime tubes does eventually break. The long drop could easily damage the chime tube. Putting them where the sleigh bells were eliminates the long drop.



Where disk rubs against the leather



Primary's needed to be releathered

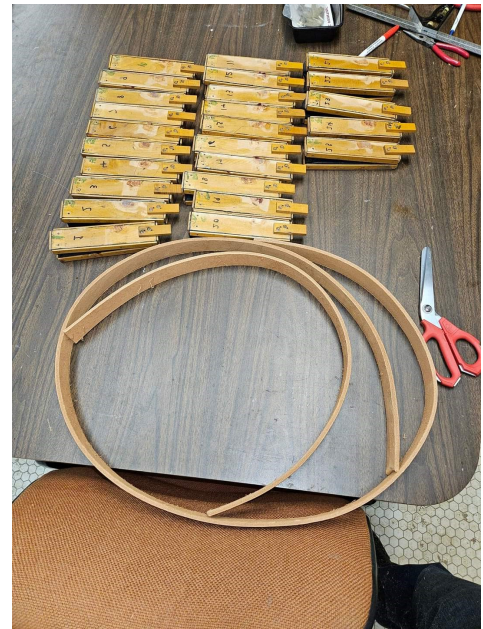


Hole caused by the rubbing disk

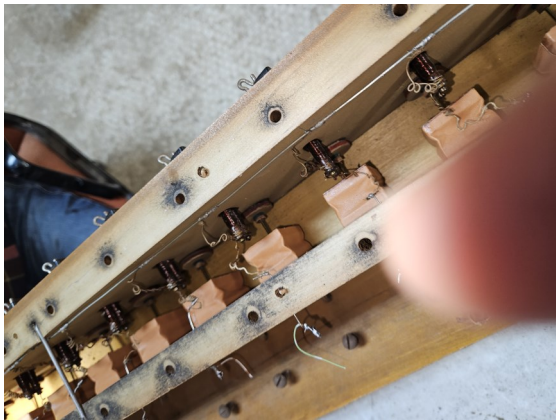


The old and new leather straps

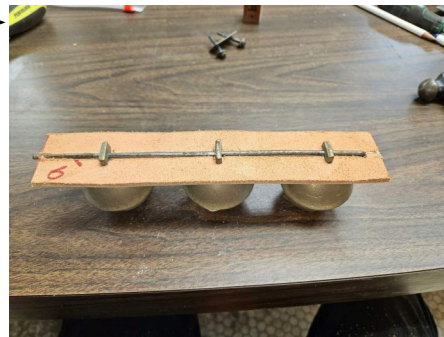
Bellows for the bells releathered



Bells reattached to leather straps



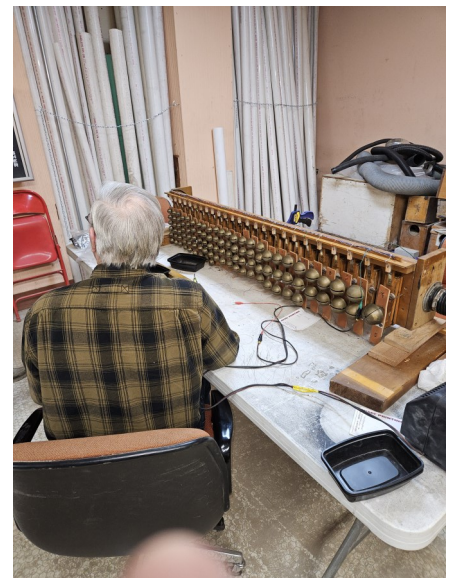
Primary valves releathered



A new punch sure made quick work of putting in the holes on the new straps

Lee testing the sleigh bells after it is put back together

All new contacts were installed too. New wiring with disconnect plugs for future servicing.



2024 Membership Update!

Total JATOE Membership	87	84%
Number of ATOS Members	43	41%
Number of Members Lost	18	17%

Welcome New Members

Br. Christopher Buck, Chicago, IL

Rev. Daniel Buck, McHenry, IL

Joe Drozd, Orland Park, IL

Paul Meier, Dekalb, IL

SPECIAL GUEST UPDATE, PLEASE READ!

The JATOE Board has decided that beginning at the May 5th social, that there will be a \$10 donation for guests 17 and over to attend this and all future socials. If you become a member at the May 5th social, the \$10 will be credited toward your membership dues.

The Board had quite a discussion about this. It is our membership that pays for the organist fee, table setup and tear down at the theater, the decorations and for the beverages and anything else JATOE requires to operate. While JATOE has always welcomed guests, due to declining membership and rising costs, this has become a necessary action to help defray the costs.

We hope that guests like what they see and hear enough to join our organization, but that has not happened. It has gotten to the point that the guest sign in sheets have more signatures than the membership sign in sheets. The Board regrets having to take this action, but it has become necessary.