

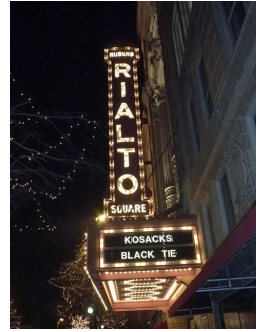


The Relay Chatter

Official Newsletter of the Joliet Area Theater Organ Enthusiasts

www.jatoe.org

September / October 2025



It's Coming Home

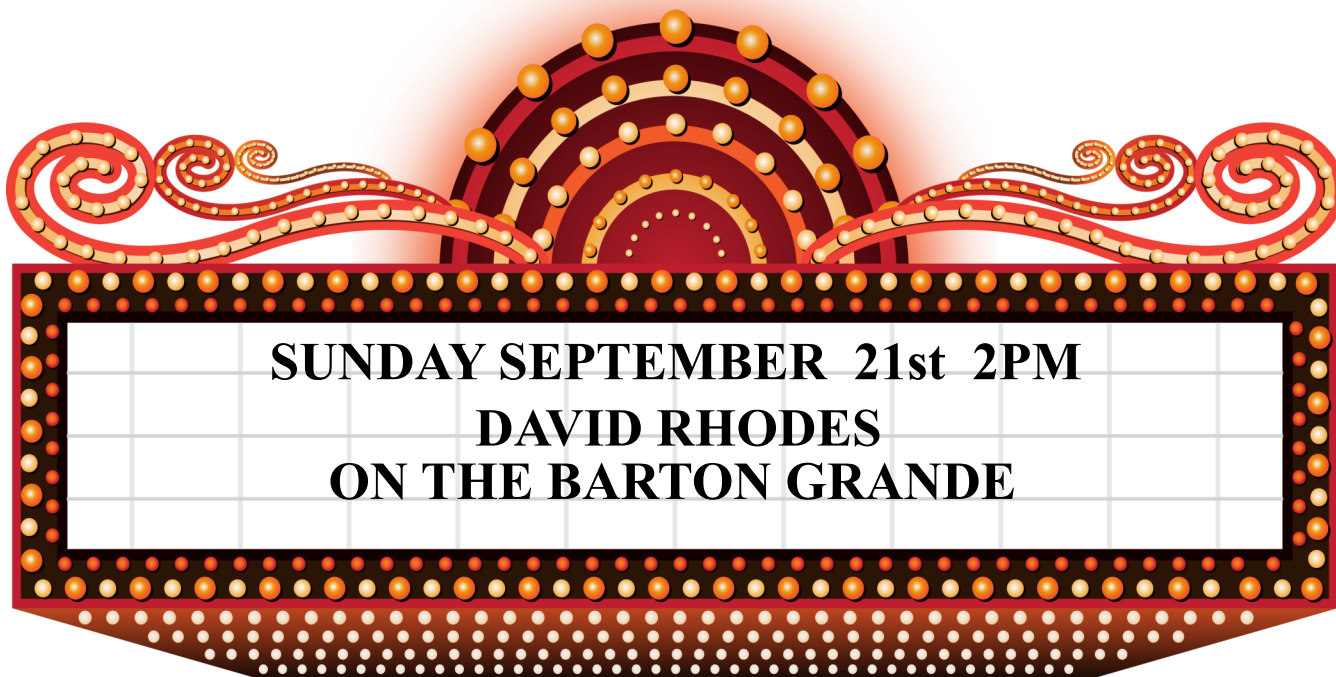
The beautiful candelabra clock that once adorned the lobby of the Rialto is coming back home. Back in the 1970's when the theater closed, the last of the Ruben brothers took the clock with him. The Rubens family has graciously donated this historic piece that was imported from France, back to the Rialto. How wonderful to have a piece of history come back to the theater. I remember this very well as a kid when I went to go see movies.



The grand lobby just before the theater closed in the 70's. You can see the candelabra clock to the right along with the huge chairs that lined the walls. Notice the drapery in the arch between the staircases. While the Rialto looks really good now, I wish they would bring more of these small details back to bring it to its full grandeur.



Please Welcome our new members Scott and Christine May. Scott and Christine are from Oswego.



David Rhodes is a native of Lisle, Illinois and showed interest in music and the pipe organ from a very young age. After initial piano instruction, he began classical organ lessons at age 10 under the tutelage of Fr. Palmer, C.S.V. at Benedictine University, Lisle, with later studies under Dr. Wentz at Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois.

David is Organist at Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church in Lockport, Illinois, as well as House Organist at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, Illinois and the George Cardinal Mundelein Auditorium, Mundelein, Illinois.

First getting involved with CATOE (Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts) at the age of 14, David soon became interested in the mechanics of the pipe organ. Once he could drive, he joined the volunteer maintenance crew at Mundelein Seminary which met every Saturday. The Crew Chief on the Mundelein project was a professional organ builder working for the Bradford Organ Co., and was happy to pass on his knowledge of organ building and maintenance.

As President of CATOE since 2011, David also leads volunteers who maintain 7 theatre organs in the Chicagoland area.

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