



VOX CATOE

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P.O. Box 667 Lyons, Illinois 60534 / Online www.catoe.org



The Newsletter Voice of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

January Warm Up at Pickwick

Step out of the house and into the cold Chicago air for a "Winter Warm Up" on **January, 24th at 10am** at the historic **Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge** as **Glenn Tallar** takes on theatre's original 3/11 (Style 225) Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe Organ.

Glenn started playing piano and organ at the age of five and has been playing at Beggar's Pizza in Lansing, IL for nearly four years. He is at the console every Tuesday and Friday from 6pm to 9pm. Glenn is currently a Junior in college and has been awarded two 'ATOS Young Organist' scholarships. Since his last appearance for CATOE last March, Glenn was awarded the 2008 George Wright Fellowship Award from the ATOS.

The George Wright Memorial Fellowship was created by ATOS in 2001 to enable young theatre organ enthusiasts to attend their very first convention. ATOS funded Glenn's registration, travel, hotel, and other related expenses so he could attend the 2008 convention held in Indianapolis last summer.



Glenn is also an accomplished saxophone player and might perform a duet on sax (with Dave Rhodes at the Wurlitzer.)

There will be time after the Glenn's performance for open console and a trip to the CATOE Concession Stand... (err folding table) in the lobby.

The Pickwick Theatre celebrated it's 80th birthday in November 2008. Designed by architects Roscoe Harold Zook and William F. McCaughey, it is one of the earliest examples of Art Deco. Park Ridge artist Alfonso Ianelli, was hired for the interior design work including the ceiling and fire curtain murals, as well as the original organ decoration.

The Pickwick is located at: 5 S Prospect Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068. There is plenty of street parking and nearby city lots are also available. The theatre is just a few feet from the METRA Union Pacific Northwest Line, Park Ridge Station.

Thanks to **Dino Vlahakis** for opening his theatre to host this month's social and to **Mark Hanson** & crew for getting the organ ready for this special event.

PLEASE BRING TREATS AND SNACKS TO SHARE!!

We 3 Kings of Wurlitzer are...



(L to R): David Rhodes, Chuck Hinderliter, & Timmy Charlton, pose at the console of the Mundelein Wurlitzer, following their debut performance at the CATOE December, 2008 social.

Honoring Harold (Hal) Pearl

Editor's Note: We ran out of space in the November-December issue of the Vox, but felt that this article was just too good to pass up!

Thanks to **Richard Sklenar**, Executive Director of the **Theatre Historical Society of America** for this blast from the past from the 'Motion Picture Almanac', 1930, "Music and Talent Section" (at right).



The original document, along with hundreds of other historical theatre items, can be found in the THSA archives, in Elmhurst, IL.



Editor's Note: Hal Pearl, a mainstay at the famous Aragon Ballroom for many years, passed away on Thursday, November 23rd, 2000 at the age of 92.

The last time Hal performed on a theatre organ publicly was at the Patio Theatre in September of 1999, when he accompanied Rudolph Valentino's silent movie, "Blood and Sand." The above images are from the CATOE archive and show Hal seated at Aragon Ballroom's Wurlitzer theatre organ console for his "Memories of the Aragon Ballroom" album and again many years later when he performed at the Aragon organ for a CATOE function.

HAROLD PEARL



Chicago's Youngest Organist

FOX

**Sheridan Theatre
Chicago**

Adjoining text from the Hal Pearl feature: Harold Pearl, born Chicago, Ill, Nov. 13, 1908; 5 feet 9 inches, brown hair, blue eyes, weight 150 pounds; parents Sally and Emil Pearl; educated Waller High School, Chicago and University of Illinois, which he is at present attending; not married; hobbies: swimming, golf, tennis; No stage or screen experience. Is novelty collegiate organist and is now playing at the Virginia Theatre at Champaign, Ill.

March Social Just Announced STOP THE PRESSES!!! - THIS JUST IN!!!

Reserve the afternoon of **March 7th** on your calendar for a "**Road trip to Racine**" and **Jim Kozak** at the Hermes Basement Bijou 5 Manual Wurlitzer theatre organ. Jim takes to the stage at **1pm** for a joint social with our Dairyland Theatre Organ Society friends. More information in the next Vox.

Barbara Sellers Leaves Town

Just because she has moved away doesn't mean that her friends can't call or write... Barbara wants all of her CATOE friends back in Chicago to know that she is doing well in her new location and hopes that many of you will update your address books and take some time to call and write. She can be reached at:

Barbara Sellers Matranga
141 W River Road Apt 209
Waterville, Maine 04901
Phone Number: (207) 660-1930

JATOE's "Rialtofest" Weekend

The Joliet Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts have announced their annual Rialtofest weekend of concerts and activities for 2009. The events include:

Friday, April 24 – (\$30 per person) The Van Der Molen Wonder Morton with Jelani Eddington & Donna Parker.

Saturday April 25 – (\$30 per person) The Krughoff Wurlitzer, featuring Jonas Nordwall & Martin Ellis.

Sunday April 26 – (\$60 per person) The famous Sanfilippo 5/80 Wurlitzer, with Rob Richards & Alex Zsolt.

For information on these events phone JATOE at **708-562-8538** or visit: www.jatoe.org

Saturday April 25th at 7pm – (\$38 per person) Rialto Square Theatre, presents the "Rialto Keyboard Pops Concert" featuring the theatre's Grand Barton Pipe Organ with artists Jelani Eddington, Jonas Nordwell, Donna Parker, Martin Ellis, Rob Richards, Alex Zsolt and The Joliet American Legion Band.

For more information call the box office at: **815-725-6600**, email: information@rialtosquare.com or visit: www.rialtosquare.com/shows/Keyboard-pops-concert.htm

The Most Wonderful Time...

It's that time of year again... no not the snow and sleet and slush of winter in the "Second City", but time to renew your CATOE Membership!

Understanding the pressures of the holidays and the tough economy we are facing, CATOE has delayed the mailing and deadline of 2009 membership dues to allow our members to "catch up" on their holiday bills and gift returns.

Check your mailbox! Paul Van der Molen, Membership Director, will be sending renewal notices soon.

Tim Rickman - Uniflex

CATOE has learned of the passing of **Tim Rickman**. Tim was a skilled Technician with Uniflex and was involved in many of their installations. A press release on December 31, 2008 on the Uniflex website (uniflex.com) announced the news.

"It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that we learned of the recent passing of Timothy Rickman, who died peacefully a few days ago at his home in Reno, Nevada. Tim is survived by his mother, father, and sister."

"Many people in the organ world know Tim through his invaluable and tireless work promoting and installing the Uniflex Pipe Organ Control System. For many years, Tim has worked closely with Dick Wilcox—the creator of the Uniflex system—and noted organist and technician Chris Gorsuch to bring this pipe organ control system to literally hundreds of clients worldwide. Tim was the owner of Rickman Control Systems, the distributor for Uniflex Relay Systems."

The release directed all clients with questions regarding the status of their control systems to contact **Chris Gorsuch** at **858-560-4831**.

Tim Rickman helped install the Chicago Stadium Barton Console at the Phil Maloof residence in Las Vegas, Nevada. The installation replaced the original console controls with 745 Syndine stop tabs, 131 combination pistons, and a Uniflex system.

Editor's Note: Photos of that installation and a brief narration written by Tim can be seen online at: www.theatreorgans.com/barton/

Christmas at the Music Box

WBBM-TV (Channel 2) once again found the newsworthiness in a story about one of our very own CATOE members. **Mark Noller** was featured in a Christmas eve story about the 25th annual holiday sing-along and double feature holiday movie presentation at Chicago's **Music box Theatre**.

For those of you who missed the coverage on the CBS2 News, check out the story and video online:

www.cbs2chicago.com/local/music.box.theatre.2.894663.html

(If you do not have access to the Internet, here is the transcribed story and a few images from the report.)

25th Anniversary: Theater's Holiday Double Feature -- by Dana Kozlov --

So what did some excited kids and happy parents do Wednesday to pass the time before Santa's big arrival tonight? A few hundred headed out to Chicago's Music Box Theatre for a wonderful tradition that helps capture the true spirit of this holiday.

CBS 2's Dana Kozlov reports that Santa's cheer, Christmas carols and the strains of an old-fashioned organ filled Chicago's Music Box Theatre this Christmas Eve day.

"When people want to sing and they just want to sing out of joy, it makes my job a whole lot of fun," said Music Box organist Mark Noller.



Mark Noller, 'As Seen on TV' during the CBS2 News feature about Christmas at the Music Box Theatre.



And joy was in the air as more than 200 people sat, sang and watched movie classics 'White Christmas' and 'It's A Wonderful Life' at this historic theater - built right before the Stock Market Crash of 1929.

"It was to spend time together and then also just to kind of take time away from all the crazy hustle and bustle the day before Christmas, and relax and enjoy each other's company," said audience member Shannon O'Rourke.

This is the 25th year that Music Box has been putting on its Christmas show. But this year, the movies' themes of financial uncertainty and returning from war really resonated behind these doors.

"We're in a kind of a bad time overall, but it is uplifting in the end and it's happy and everyone comes together to help each other out, and that's really what it's all about," said audience member Joe Cetta.

And that's why these folks are here - to be uplifted, to be with people they love and to be grateful for what they have.

"I guess it's about remembering what's important to you - family, the people around you more than money or presents," said audience member Sarah Rusakiewicz.

"That's why these places were built originally, all the great movie palaces were built so you could come in and forget your troubles," Noller said.

Happy holidays.