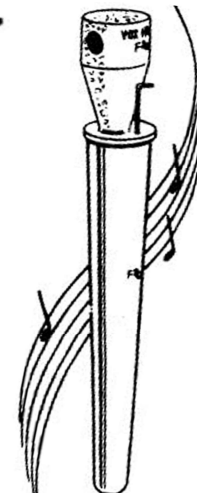




# VOX CATOE

## July-August 2011

P.O. Box 667 Lyons, Illinois 60534 / Online [www.catoe.org](http://www.catoe.org)



### The Newsletter Voice of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

#### July 23rd Social at the Pickwick

Join your fellow CATOE members (along with our friends from the Joliet & Dairyland chapters) on **Saturday, July 23rd at 10am** for a fun filled morning at the famous **Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge Illinois**. Organist **John Bryant** will perform on the Pickwick's original 1928 Wurlitzer, 3/11 Style 225 pipe organ.

Since CATOE has extended an invitation to members of our neighboring chapters in Joliet and Wisconsin, and we need your help to insure that the snack table is **overflowing** for this social. **Please bring plenty of treats/snacks to this social to welcome our guests.**

The Pickwick is located at **5 S. Prospect Ave, Park Ridge, IL 60068**, and is just a few feet from the Park Ridge Metra station on the Union Pacific Northwest line. Street parking is available in the area and there are several city owned parking lots nearby. The theatre is surrounded by many unique stores and restaurants. Consider spending the day in Park Ridge!

The Pickwick organ looked very different when the theatre opened in 1928. The console was decorated to match the 'art deco' theme of the auditorium. Many years later the console lost this decoration and is now painted solid white. The organ has been maintained through the years by CATOE and at present is receiving TLC from crew chief Marc Hansen. The organ was vandalized before CATOE began maintaining the organ. The missing Kinura was replaced and the missing Orchestral Oboe was replaced by a Posthorn.



#### About the Artist: John Bryant

John Bryant is a recital and free lance church organist who works for the Bradford Organ Company, Chicago as a tuner and technician. Although usually a player of the organ "classics" and orchestral transcriptions, John has been studying the playing and arrangements of the Theater Organ masters of the past and has been incorporating that great music into his repertory.

At the Pickwick John will play music from the Opera including the "Carmen Fantasy" as well as Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and other selections. He has played recitals at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral and Fourth Presbyterian Church, The Murphy Auditorium of the Driehouse Foundation Museum, Evanston's St. Luke Church, and is a performer at the First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights "Organfest".

John has also played three programs for CATOE at the Mundelein Auditorium at the invitation of his buddy John Peters. John's degree in Organ Performance was achieved at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL.



## Mundelein Wurlitzer Update

David Rhodes updates us on the work that has taken place in Mundelein during the past few weeks. The console has been dismantled and just received several fresh coats of black paint from the USML staff painter. The large portions of the console were taken by truck to the seminary workshop and then sprayed in the low-dust (and well-ventilated) paint booth. On stage, smaller console pieces were hand painted. The stop rails received brand new 'Cardinal Red' felt.



## 2011-2012 Board of Directors

The following members were elected to the CATOE Board of Directors during the June 11th, meeting held at the Arcada Theatre:

**President = David Rhodes**  
**Secretary Scott May**  
**VOX CATOE Editor = Michael Garay**  
**Director = Steven Eaklor**

They will join the already seated board members:

**Vice President = Tim Charlton**  
**Treasurer = Jim Shaffer**  
**Membership Director = Robert Vorel**  
**Director = Jon C. Habermaas**

The position of 'Director', held by Scott May has been vacated due to his election to the Secretary position. The CATOE Bylaws dictate that the open seat must be filled by appointment of the Board of Directors at the next board meeting. Once that appointment has been made, we will announce the Director's name.

## Bozo Show Organ Restored

As noted in the April-May edition of the VOX CATOE, a recent auction of an unknown Conn organ said to be used for the WGN-TV "Bozo's Circus" show was acquired by David Plier, a board member of the Museum of Broadcast Communications. Plier, has donated it to the museum for it's Bozo Show collection.

Chicago area organ experts Lee Maloney and Scott May were contacted to see if it was possible to bring the organ back to life. The results were demonstrated during a museum open house held on June 24th at the museum in downtown Chicago. David Rhodes snapped a few candid shots of the activity that night which had Lee Maloney playing music and the original theme from the Bozo Show on the organ.



Lee Maloney sits on the edge of his seat as the guests start to arrive for the Museum of Broadcast Communications open house in June. The Conn organ (model 705), was displayed along with many other artifacts from WGN-TV's "Bozo's Circus" show.



Another famous Chicago television star, **Svengoolie (AKA Rich Koz)** jokes with CATOE Secretary **Scott May** (right) about playing a song on the Bozo Show organ. **CATOE's Bob Vorel** (left) watches as Sven (center) asks about playing his favorite tune, "Chicken on the Keys". Thanks to David Rhodes for the photos!