



June 2008

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

The Newsletter Voice of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

May Social & Business Meeting

Don't Forget!!! **Mark Herman** will play the Charles Meter Memorial Wurlitzer Theatre Organ at the University of St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein **THIS SUNDAY, May 25th, 2PM** for our May Social and Business Meeting. Mark has already set piston combinations and has been practicing on the Wurlitzer.

Before the social, elections for nominated positions to the board will be held. Please arrive early so you can register your vote. Only individuals with paid 2008 CATOE Memberships can vote!

Following the social, the election results will be announced and snacks will be served in the auditorium's lobby. CATOE President John Peters recommends that you bring along 'sweet summer treats' and/or a beverage to share with your friends. Open console will be available after the social.

Directions...

From the SOUTH:

To reach the seminary from Interstate 94, take the Hwy 176 exit and turn right at the foot of the ramp to head west (the ramp loops around). Go approximately 4 miles. You will see signs for the University on your right.

From the NORTH:

From Interstate 94, take the Hwy 137 exit and turn right. Go approximately 5 miles and turn left onto route 45 (Lake Street). Approximately 2 miles, at University Drive, the entrance is on the left.

Note: The seminary has one entrance on Route 45 (Lake Street) and another on Highway 176 (Maple Avenue). Upon entering the campus follow University Drive to the left. The auditorium is on the north side of the campus on Principal Avenue. (North of the offices and library.)

Glenn Tallar's Talent Pays Off

CATOE member **Glenn Tallar** has been named a recipient of the 2008 **George Wright Memorial Fellowship** by the American Theatre Organ Society. The Fellowship recognizes the late fabled organist George Wright and allows a young person age 15 to 24 to attend their first ATOS National Convention by paying their travel costs and convention expenses.



Glenn Tallar at the 'Beggar's' (Lansing) Barton Organ.

This year's ATOS event will be in Indianapolis July 5-9. Glenn is required to write an article for "Theatre Organ" on attending his first convention as part of the arrangement. He was featured at the CATOE social at **Beggar's Pizza**, Lansing, Illinois in March where he is staff organist and continues his studies with Jelani Eddington as an ATOS scholarship recipient. (Thanks to Richard Sklenar for the info.)

Some Days, Dean Rosko Plays for the Brewers and the 'Angels'

Editor's Note: The following was excerpted from the Daily Herald newspaper published on Sunday, April 27th, 2008. Written by Corrinne Hess, the complete story and a wonderful video highlighting Mr. Rosko can be viewed at their website (<http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=180508>).

As the organist for St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church in Antioch and the Milwaukee Brewers, Dean Rosko has learned to easily switch gears from "On Eagles' Wings" to the "Beer Barrel Polka."

"It's definitely a different atmosphere from one day to the next," Rosko said. "I go from 40,000 baseball fans to a church that seats about 200 people. The interaction is a lot more intimate at the church, too, although people joke that baseball is a spiritual thing."

Rosko has been accompanying the Brewers at 70 to 80 home games a season since he was 18 years old. Now, at 24, Rosko surprises people when they find him sitting behind the organ at Milwaukee's Miller Park. It's true that nowadays a church is the most likely place to find an organ. More and more ballparks are switching to recorded music for entertainment. Chicago's Cubs and Sox remain true to tradition, both still having their own longtime organists, Gary Pressy and Nancy Faust, respectively.

In Milwaukee, after longtime organist Frank Charles retired in 1986, the Brewers began using recordings of Charles's music at Milwaukee County Stadium, and later, Miller Park when it opened in 2001. But when former Brewers' president Ulice Payne held a community listening session in 2002, he discovered fans wanted an organist back at the park.

Rosko, who had graduated high school at the time, immediately sent the Brewers a resume and CD. After numerous interviews and auditions, officials in the Brewers' front office liked what they heard and Rosko became the team's first organist in 17 years. A lifelong Brewers fan, the Kenosha resident said he prefers playing at games with "a lot of real baseball fans." He calls Opening Day "amateur afternoon."

Rosko said there are plans to move him into the crowd, but the Brewers want to wait until he has a more impressive-looking organ to play on. He now plays on a Kawai electronic keyboard -- a far cry from the pipe organ that was recently installed at St. Raphael. Rosko prefers the classical sound and feel of a pipe organ. In fact, he purchased a 1928 Wurlitzer theater organ the summer he graduated from eighth grade.

"We always had a piano in the house, and I've been playing since I could reach the keys," he said. Rosko says he loves playing both the piano and organ but has consistently found work behind an organ.

In addition to playing at St. Raphael and Brewers games, Rosko also plays at the Organ Piper Pizza restaurant in Milwaukee twice a week. Rosko doesn't mind having to work three jobs to make ends meet. He says he wants to play the organ in his free time. And switching from playing baseball crowd-pleasers to church hymns isn't as hard as one might imagine.

"Once in a while I'll see a piano in a random public place and just start playing... People always ask me how I do it. The truth is, I can't imagine not being able to do it. And I never get tired of playing. I guess that comes with loving what I do."



Photo Credit: This screenshot of **Dean Rosko** is from the Daily Herald video.