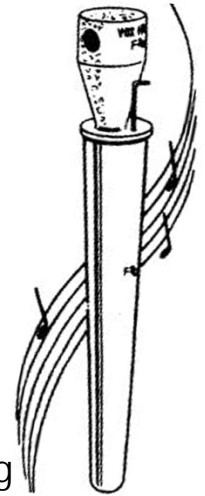


# CATOE



## March 2008

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

#### CATOE Spring Social Schedule

A lot of scheduling has been going on and CATOE is proud to announce these upcoming social activities. Please mark these dates on your calendar and join us for some great events and entertainment!

Be sure to check page 2 of this issue and future newsletters for more details about these events!

♫ **March 29th, 10AM** - March Social. **Glen Tallar** plays the Beggar's Pizza Barton organ in Lansing.

♫ **April 13th, 2PM** - April Social and Business Meeting. **Les Knoll** plays the Downers Grove North H.S. Wurlitzer. Nominating will be held for CATOE board positions.

♫ **May 25th, 2PM** - May Social and Business Meeting. **Mark Herman** plays the Charles Meter Memorial Wurlitzer theatre organ at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein. Elections for nominated positions on the CATOE board will be held.

#### TO101: Lessons in Love Songs

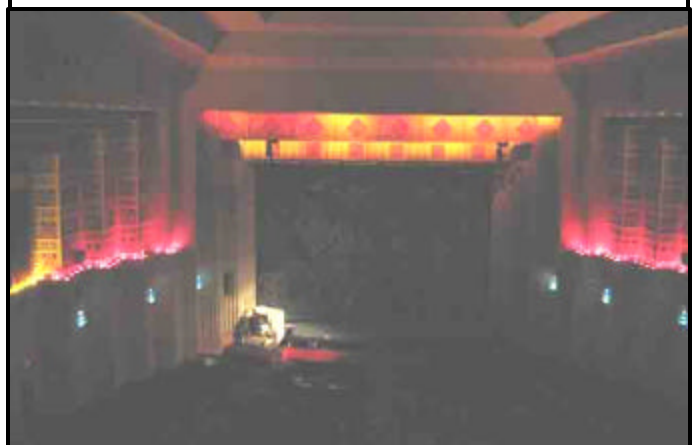
Theatre Organ 101 classes are back on a new night. The class will be held on **Thursday, February 28, 2008 at 7:00 PM** and this month features tips on playing "Love Songs & Ballads".

Note that the address is still the same even though the name has changed. This free class is sponsored by and held at the Organ Gallery of "Steinway Chicago" 1205A Butterfield Rd. Downers Grove, IL 60515. For info call Lee Maloney (630) 512-8828.

#### Pickwick in Pictures/Feb. Social



Organist and ATOS President, Ken Double, takes a moment during the social to comment on the future of ATOS. Youth involvement and actions being taken by the ATOS board towards fundraising were a part of his message.



A bird's-eye view from the Pickwick's projection booth taken just before the showing of the Leon Barry short film.

## A 'Pipes and Pizza' Style Social

On Saturday, March 29th at 10am, Beggar's Pizza in Lansing, will be reserved just for CATOE members to enjoy the sounds of the 3/17 Barton and the musical talents of house organist **Glenn Tallar**.

Glenn started playing piano and organ at the age of five and has studied with several local teachers, and currently perfecting his craft with Jelani Edgington. Mr. Tallar has been playing at Beggar's Pizza for nearly three years and over that time (with the help of his organ crew) has made a lot of needed repairs to the organ. He is at the console every Tuesday and Saturday from 6pm to 9pm. Glenn is currently a Sophomore in college and has been awarded two 'ATOS Young Organist' scholarships.



Afterwards, the restaurant will be open for lunch, and CATOE members will be able to perform at the open console. With the smell of fresh pizza filling the air you will definitely feel like a world famous pizza parlor organist.

One request from Glenn is that you bring along younger guests. Your children and grandchildren are going to enjoy the many musical selections Glenn will be performing. The pizza parlor format with it's exposed traps and percussions is the ideal place to introduce kids to the magic of the theatre organ.

Beggars is located at **3526 Ridge Road, Lansing IL** and is reached by exiting south at Torrence Ave. from the 80/94 expressway. Take Torrence 1 mile (south) to Ridge Road. Turn left and go 1.5 miles into "downtown" Lansing. Turn left at William street (ACE Hardware is on the right at this intersection.) Beggar's parking is accessible from William Street. Entrance will be through the doors closest to the lot.  
**Ph:708-418-3500 Web: www.beggarspizza.com**

## All About the Beggar's Barton

The Barton pipe organ at Beggar's Pizza was built in 1927 by the Barton Organ Company of Oshkosh, WI. Their organs have been described as "Grande" and "golden voiced". The six manual organ at the Chicago Stadium (once considered to be the world's largest unit pipe organ) was also built by Barton.

This organ's first home was the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee, WI. During the 1950s it was moved to a skating rink in Milan, IL. In the 1970s it was an attraction at "Cicero's, a Musical Eatery" restaurant near Minneapolis, MN. In 1980 it was restored by a private party and placed in a large home near Minneapolis.

In early 1983 the organ was completely rebuilt by skilled technicians. The size of the organ was increased from 15 to 17 ranks of pipes and the console was prepared for 3 future ranks. The organ is controlled by a Z-tronics solid-state computerized relay system that replaced the original mechanical-action relays.

The console has a Peterson solid-state capture-action system with 60 pistons, 20 under each keyboard. The three manual keyboards are: Solo (top), Great (middle), and Accompaniment (bottom). The pipes are located in two 24-foot high chambers at one end of the restaurant with a 7-1/2 horsepower blower located in the basement under the chambers.

The design of the console is quite rare, being only one of four ever built. The original lift mechanism has been preserved for the console. The console features a sustenuto touch on the Great manual and "second touch" control applies to a number of stops.

The organ includes an Aeolian grand piano playable from the organ console. Tuned percussions include: Cathedral Chimes, Chrysoglott and Chrysoglott-Celeste, Glockenspiel, Marimba, Tuned Sleigh Bells, and Xylophone. Traps include: Drums, Cymbals, Castanets, Wood Block, Tom-Tom, Triangle, Tambourine, & Sleigh Bells. Sound effects include: steamboat whistle, ah ooga horn, fire gong, horses hoofs, police whistle, siren and bird whistles I & II.

**Editor's Note:** The above description was created from information originally printed in a 1984 Pipes & Pizza menu.

## A Request for Al Melgard Info

Here is another response to the question published in the January, 2008 Vox about Al Melgard and "Happy Days are Here Again". This undated article was written by Jim Bowman and published with the accompanying photo in a major Chicago newspaper.

It was provided to CATOE by member Wesley Eaton. Wesley adds that there is more biographical information about Melgard as well as a photo of the stadium console on the back of Melgard's "Audio Fidelity" record album.

Thanks to Mr. Eaton for submitting this historic article.

### The 9-fingered organist who kept Stadium crowds tapping their toes

**A**l Melgard played the Chicago Stadium organ from 1930 to 1974, when he retired at the age of 85. During a boxing match in his first year, Melgard is said to have stopped a riot by pulling out all 883 stops on the gigantic organ and cowering the rioters with the power of his music.

At his first political conventions in 1932, Melgard played "Happy Days Are Here Again" for the newly nominated Franklin D. Roosevelt and "The Stein Song" for the Republicans as they debated their Prohibition-repeal plank.

He is credited with being the first to play "Three Blind Mice" to greet hockey referees as they skated onto the ice. He met repeated challenges from fans who wanted him to produce accompaniment for various bizarre incidents. When a fan tossed a rabbit onto the Stadium ice, he played "Run, Rabbit, Run."

He played the Stadium organ with nine fingers, having lost the index finger on his left hand in a carpentry accident shortly before taking the Stadium job. Up to that time he had played at silent-movie theaters and on the radio. Fired from his radio job because of the accident, he taught himself how to play with nine fingers.

Born in Denmark and raised in Chicago from the age of six months, Melgard attended Hyde Park High School and the American Conservatory of Music. He was a composer as well as an organist.

At the Stadium, he sat in a loft under the first gallery on the east end at a U-shaped instrument panel with nine tiers of stops on either side and six keyboards in front. The instrument, with its 40,000 pipes, some 30 inches round and 32 feet high, could crack the Stadium walls at a certain pitch, Melgard claimed.

Melgard was as popular as he was adept. When he needed blood after an operation in 1944, 253 people, including 127 Andy Frain ushers, made donations.

Tall, bald, and thin, Melgard claimed he could play "a couple of thousand songs" from memory. Timing was everything. When the visiting team's coach argued with a referee's decision, Melgard played "Don't Cry, Joe." When a befuddled wrestler couldn't find his corner after having his head bumped, it was "Did You Ever See a Dream Walking?" When two boxers sat exhausted waiting for the next round to begin, he played "Give Me Five Minutes More"—all to the sporting crowd's delight.

Melgard died in a Las Vegas, Nevada, nursing home in 1977 at the age of 88.



Al Melgard at the Chicago Stadium organ in 1950.

## Racine Concert Features Rosko

Dairyland Theatre Organ Society announces its first Concert of the season. A "musical trio" will be featured in a special Sunday evening event at 7:00 PM at the Racine Theatre Guild in Racine, WI. Organist Dean Rosko will be joined on stage by Dairyland favorites "Jack and Jill" for this event.

Dean Rosko is the official organist for the Milwaukee Brewers, baseball team. He can also be heard several times a week at Organ Piper Pizza. Dean is a member of the CATOE board of directors and is President of the Dairyland Theatre Organ Society.

Jack Grassel and Jill Jenkins are a married duo who have been impressing audiences since 1998. Guitar One magazine named Jack as one of the "Ten Best Guitarists in the U.S.". Jill's sultry voice won her the honor of "Favorite Female Vocalist" in The Journal Times Reader's Poll two years in a row. Visit [www.jilljensen.com](http://www.jilljensen.com) & [www.jackgrassel.com](http://www.jackgrassel.com) for info.

Tickets are \$10 in advance at the Organ Piper Restaurant or by sending a check payable to DTOS in a SASE to: DTOS 1541 Prairie Drive, Racine, WI 53406-4343. Student prices are \$7 and children 12 & under are FREE! Tickets are \$12 at the door.

More information is available at the Dairyland website [www.theatreorgans.com/dtos](http://www.theatreorgans.com/dtos) or by calling the Organ Piper Restaurant at (414) 529-1177.

**FOR SALE:** CONN ORGAN Model 650 Walnut, perfect condition. Includes external 4 channel Leslie Cabinet and 4 sets of Conn Pipes. \$1500.00 414-526-2527 [orgnpipr@aol.com](mailto:orgnpipr@aol.com)

## It's Not Too Late For 2008

We all know how busy things get around the 'Holidaze' and we all know how we sometimes forget to do some of the smaller tasks that need to be done at that time of the year. As springtime nears, and the snow finally starts to melt, it's about time for you to send in your 2008 membership dues if you have not already done so. There are several great events already planned for this spring and we want all of our members to be able to enjoy the festivities, throughout the year!

So, if you haven't already sent in your membership renewal for 2008, please take the time right now to renew your commitment to CATOE and help us to continue on our mission of preserving and presenting the magic of the theatre pipe organ. Simply complete the form below and return it to our membership director, along with your check or money order (payable to CATOE) today.

If you have already renewed, we thank you for your ongoing support of CATOE.

~ *The CATOE Board of Directors*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Application date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you belong to A.T.O.S.? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_      Are you over 18? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_  
 NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Would you be willing to work on C.A.T.O.E. Club projects? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_  
 If new member, how did you learn about C.A.T.O.E.? \_\_\_\_\_

### 2008 - CATOE DUES SCHEDULE

REGULAR MEMBERSHIP \$ 30.00	\$ 30.00
PLUS (optional support of CATOE)	
SUPPORTING ----- \$ 75.00	
SPONSORING ----- \$ 175.00	CHOOSE ONE \$ _____
SUSTAINING ----- \$ 300.00	
LIFETIME ----- \$ 1000.00	

(All money over \$30.00 regular membership on above categories is tax deductible)

(Make checks /money orders payable to CATOE) TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The purpose of C.A.T.O.E. shall be to promote interest in the Theatre Pipe Organ through educational and musical programs by:

- A. Encouraging the education and training of performers on the instrument.
- B. Presenting concerts and shows featuring pipe organ music.
- C. Preserving and expanding, through workshops, lectures and demonstrations, the skill of pipe organ playing, building, and maintenance.
- D. Restoring in theatres, where possible, the remaining specimens of the instrument.
- E. Arranging for removal, rehabilitation, and reinstallation of instruments no longer wanted.
- F. Furthering the future acquisition of a museum to preserve, study and exhibit theatre pipe organs.

**MEMBERSHIP IS LIMITED TO PERSONS INTERESTED IN FURTHERING CATOE'S PURPOSE.**

**I agree to abide by the by-laws and rules of C.A.T.O.E. and assume responsibility for all persons included in my membership.**

Return to membership director:  
 PAUL VAN DER MOLEN  
 0 NORTH 468 WILLOW RD.  
 WHEATON, IL. 60187-2934

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ (CATOE USE ONLY) APPROVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_