



May 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

Join us on **Sunday, May 25th, 2PM** for our May Social and Business Meeting. **Mark Herman** will play the Charles Meter Memorial Wurlitzer Theatre Organ at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein. You may recall that Mark performed (briefly) for us on this organ at our social in May, 2007 - this event will allow Mark and the organ to be properly showcased.

Elections for nominated positions to the board will be held before the social so please arrive a few minutes 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. Please bring along treats or a beverage to share. Open console will be available after the meeting. *(More about Mark on page 2.)*

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.)

CATOE April Business Meeting

Downers Grove North High School played host to CATOE's April social and it was wonderful to see many familiar faces in the crowd. The event began with a business meeting and updates to the membership about several topics.

CATOE is continuing to search for a home for the 'Colonial Kimball' organ. An attempt to place the organ in Chicago's famed Auditorium Theatre ended with the discovery of air conditioning equipment installed in the auditorium's organ chambers.

President John Peters has been advising Ray Shepardson and Clark Wilson as they search for a properly sized instrument for the Wheaton Grand Theatre. While the Colonial organ is available, it's immense size was deemed prohibitive for installation in the Wheaton Grand.

Vice President Bob Boin has been in contact with Chicago architect Dan Coffey to seek his assistance in requesting funds from the city of Chicago, for the re-installation of the Oriental Theatre Wurlitzer.

Treasurer Jim Shaffer noted that a full audit of the clubs recent financial records is set for this summer.

Nominations for open positions on the 2008-2009 board of directors were accepted. Elections will be held before the May 25th social.

Following the meeting, artist Les Knoll performed. *(More about his performance is on page 2.)*

About the Artist: Mark Herman

Mark Herman has been studying the piano since he was seven years old, and began taking classical organ lessons five years later. Mark's first introduction



to the theatre organ was in fourth grade and at the Embassy Theatre in downtown Fort Wayne. This was made possible by the late Robert Goldstine and the local American Guild of Organists chapter's "Room on the Organ Bench" program. In 2001, he began theatre

organ studies with John Ferguson of Indianapolis, who is recognized worldwide for his skills as a teacher.

In the summer of 2003, Mark was given the opportunity to play a cameo performance at the American Theatre Organ Society's (ATOS) annual convention in Oakland, California. The following year, he won the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition in Milwaukee at the Riverside Theatre. That enabled him to perform a successful concert for the ATOS 50th Anniversary Convention in Pasadena, which took place the following July. During the summer of 2006, he toured for six weeks in Australia and New Zealand, setting records in CD sales at many of the venues in which he appeared. Over the past two years, he has played numerous solo concerts in theatres and venues from coast to coast.

A graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, Mark is currently a second year student at The Theatre School, DePaul University in Chicago where he is majoring in Theatre Arts with a focus in Theatre Management. In addition to playing the organ, Mark also performs on the piano, and can be found writing and playing original compositions. Mark will celebrate his 21st birthday on August 25th.

He feels special gratitude towards his wonderful parents, Ron and Andrea, as well as all of his family and friends who have supported him from the beginning. Visit www.markhermanproductions.com for information on his music, concerts, & his debut CD *'Premiere'*.

CATOE April Social in Review

Artist Les Knoll performed for CATOE on the Wurlitzer theatre organ. His performance occurred exactly 5 years to the day after his CATOE debut at the Arcada theatre in 2003. Rather than playing the "The Standards" -- Les treated the audience to some "Motown" and "Rock and Roll" hits including: 'It's in His Kiss' (AKA *The Shoop-Shoop Song*) 'Runaround Sue' Vs. 'Runaway', and a "Santana Trifecta" with ('Oye Como Va' / 'Black Magic Woman' / 'Evil Ways').

Les dedicated Roy Orbison's 'Pretty Woman', to his wife Ruth and gave the pedals a "two-foot workout". With the popularity of "The Jersey Boys", there was no way he could pass up music by the Four Seasons: 'Sherry', 'Walk Like a Man', 'Stay' and 'Can't Take My Eyes Off You'. Rounding out the afternoon we heard a few lesser known tunes; 'The Cat' (a tribute to Jazz Organist Jimmy Smith and a definite first for the theater pipe organ), and 'Blacksmith Blues' a tribute to Leon Berry, Knoll's first keyboard inspiration.

The encore "Bohemian Rhapsody", was a rock hit for Queen in the 1970's and had renewed attention in the 1990's movie "Wayne's World". Afterwards, Les remarked, "Judging from the applause, the request for an encore, and the fact that no one threw tomatoes at me, they must have liked it." If you missed it, a few of these songs (as performed on his studio organ) are posted online at: www.youtube.com/user/steamrocks.



Les Knoll welcomes the crowd to the April social in Downers Grove.