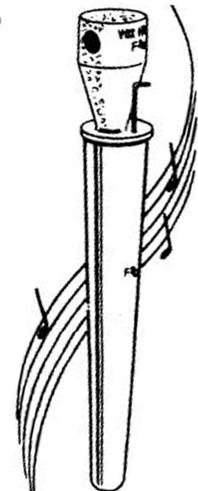


VOX CATOE

Jan/Feb 2012

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



The Newsletter Voice of the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

March 31st Social at the Tivoli

Join your fellow CATOE members on **Saturday, March, 31st** for a program of Theatre organ and vocals with **Carl DeSanti** and **Kenned MacIver** at CATOE's 3/10 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. Doors open at 9:45am and the program begins at 10am.

Carl is house organist at the Orbit Skate Center in Palatine, Illinois and substitute organist at the Aurora Skate Center in Aurora, Illinois.



Musicians Kenned MacIver can be seen performing in major theatrical productions in the Chicago area and at Santa Lucia parish in Chicago where Kenned is soloist and Carl is the organist and music director.

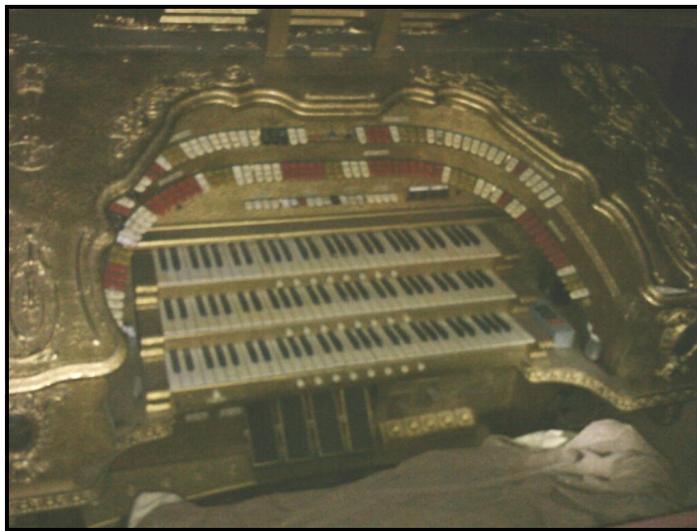
They are excited to present a most unique and fun-filled concert of beautiful music for CATOE!

The concession stand will be open for snacks and beverages; members are asked to bring snacks to share.

The Patio Theatre Barton Organ

CATOE President, David Rhodes was recently invited to participate in a 'fact finding mission' to the Patio Theatre in Chicago, to determine the status of the theatre's original (1927) Barton 3/17 pipe organ.

He snapped a few photos along the way and reports that the chambers of the organ are in "good" condition, thanks to protective measures taken years ago to prevent damage from water and falling plaster.



The instrument however does not currently play as there is significant damage to the relay and possible deterioration of the cables from the console. David also reports that the console has also suffered from a lack of heat and maintenance over the past decade.

"The blower is good, but the console is weird. Most of the stops don't want to stay down." David also noted, "The lift goes 'nrrrrrrn' when you push the button, no go." *(Continued with more photos on Page 2.)*

About the Artists: Kenned & Carl

Musicians Kenned Maclver and Carl DeSanti have performed in a variety of venues in the Chicagoland area including Chicago's Grant Park as featured performers in AIDS Walk '92 sponsored by WNUA Radio, The Park West, Fitzgerald's, the old Philander's in Oak Park, Hev'n on Walton, the Roxy on Fullerton, and for various corporate and private events.

Carl DeSanti has been a music and theatrical professional for thirty-five plus years, playing the organ since he was seven years old. Carl has performed as organist for various special events at Orchestra Hall, The Chicago Theater, Medina Temple and the Coronado Theater in Rockford. Carl is locally known in the Western Suburbs of Chicago for his live organ playing at roller skating rinks, is house organist at the Orbit Skate Center in Palatine, and substitute organist at the Aurora Skate Center, in Aurora. Carl's organ music has also been heard on Midwest Ballroom on WDCB radio.

Carl is currently organist and music director for Santa Lucia parish in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois and part-time organist at St. Gabriel's parish in Chicago's Canaryville neighborhood. Prior liturgical work included organist at St. Mary's Parish in Riverside and music director at Unity Church of Oak Park.

Carl was also a professional actor for many years in Chicago. Carl performed at the Goodman Theatre, Chicago, Illinois in the Joseph Jefferson Award winning production of Red Noses. He was an accompanist for Forbidden Broadway, a hilarious spoof of the current Broadway productions in New York City. Although the theatre is now a Wal-Mart, Carl was a regular in productions at The Drury Lane Theatre in Evergreen Park. Locally, Carl was seen for many years in 'Johnsonville Brats' TV commercials.

Kenned Maclver appeared professionally at most of the major theatres in the Chicago area and was nominated for a Joseph Jefferson Award for her Ensemble Performance in The Importance of Being Earnest at Wisdom Bridge Theatre with Tony and Academy Award winner Frank Galati. Other Chicago performances included Hay Fever, Kiss Me, Katel, Fiddler on the Roof, and Harvey at the Marriott Lincolnshire Theatre; Ladies in Waiting, Strider, and Spoke Song at the Woodstock Opera House; Antigone at the Court Theatre; and Getting My Act Together and Taking It On the Road at the Drury Lane Water Tower Theater.

Later in her career Kenned made New York her home where she appeared in several soap operas (Penelope Dale in One Life to Live; Pepper in Guiding Light) and regional theatrical productions in New York and at the McCarter Theatre in Princeton, New Jersey. Kenned left New York after several years and headed back to Chicago to pursue a singing career. She met Carl soon after that move and they have been performing together ever since. Kenned also appeared in over 10 productions at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Visit kennedandcarlmusic.com for more information on their collaborative performances and to purchase CD recordings.

The Patio Theatre Barton Organ

(Continued from Page 1.) The assessment determined that the instrument can be restored but it will take a lot of time and money to repair the damage. While there are no immediate plans to repair the organ, good news can be found in knowing that there was no noticeable damage to the organ chambers, chests, and pipe work. Additionally, the theatre is currently operating and the organ is considered 'safe'.



Hopefully a plan can be put together to restore the instrument to operating condition, and we'll be able to hear this wonderful Barton organ play once again.



About the Patio Theatre's original 3 manual 18 rank pipe organ... This "Golden Voiced" Barton was installed as a 3/17 at a cost of \$25,000 in time for the theatres opening in 1927. The first staff organist was John Devine, but like most theatre pipe organs, the instrument fell silent after talking pictures eliminated their need.

Restoration began in 1966. The first public show was presented on April 6, 1967 featuring a silent movie and sing-a-long with popular theatre organist Hal Pearl. The audience packed the theatre to 'standing room only' availability. The organ was maintained and remained playable until the theatre closed in August of 2001.

Kay McAbee 1930-2012

In January, we learned of the passing of Chicago area legend, Kay McAbee. This obituary (printed in-part below), was posted on the "Kay McAbee Fans" page on Facebook by Walt Strony and was forwarded to VOX CATOE by member Richard Sklenar.

KAY ARTHUR was born in Joliet, Illinois on November 17, 1930 and passed away January 8th after a month-long illness. He had been a resident of Albuquerque since 1986. Kay started his professional career as staff organist for the W.W. Kimball Company in 1952. After completing his musical education at the Chicago Musical College and the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago, he went on to become a featured soloist in at least five national conventions for the American Theater Organ Society (ATOS), and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1985. He was a pioneer in the theater organ world and well remembered for the series of concerts he performed at the Rialto Theater in Joliet, Illinois and the Aurora Paramount in Aurora, Illinois, and more recently at the Phil Maloof Roxy Organ at the Albuquerque Ramada Classic, Fred Hermes residence organ in Racine, Wisconsin and concert series for the St. Louis Theater Organ Society. Kay taught up to fifty students per week in Joliet for years at the World of Music. Kay was a member of the American Guild of Organists for 50 years, choir master and organist at St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Frankfort, Illinois for 23 years and most recently, organist for Covenant United Methodist Church. Survived by his adopted family friend, Tony Horvat; niece Ellen Schroll; nephew Ted Dimmick; and brother-in-law, Charles Dimmick. Preceded in death by his parents, George S. McAbee and Edith Barbee McAbee and sister, Rosamary Dimmick. Thanks to his church family at Covenant United Methodist Church for all their continued support during his illness, and to all of his friends at Milton's Restaurant, where Kay was often the life of the party.

A memorial service was held in January at the Steinway Piano Gallery, in Naperville. Memorial donations in Kay's honor can be made to the organ fund of the **Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church** in Lockport, IL.



Walt also posted this picture of Kay taken in 1957 by Peter Wenk (with credit to Dennis Scott & the John Shanahan collection) to the [www.Facebook.com 'Kay McAbee Fans'](http://www.Facebook.com/KayMcabeeFans) page.

Renew Your CATOE Membership

Another year has come and gone, and it's already feeling like Spring in Chicagoland. Hopefully we have given you enough time after paying off all of those holiday bills to renew your CATOE commitment for the 2012 season.

Even though gas prices and the cost of postage have gone up once again, CATOE membership dues are still only \$30 (base membership level). Additional membership levels are available and are detailed in the renewal form, enclosed with this issue of the VOX.

Please take the time now to renew your commitment to CATOE and our mission to preserve, present and educate. Your dues help to offset the costs of our social gatherings and pay for maintenance to the instruments we are preserving for future generations.

If you have already renewed, we thank you for your continued membership and ask that you mention CATOE to your friends and neighbors. Remember, our social events are always open to everyone interested in playing on, listening to, and learning about the majesty of our beloved theatre pipe organs.

Membership renewal forms should be addressed to:

CATOE C/O Michael Garay P.O. Box 667 Lyons, IL 60534
Please make all payments (check/money order) to: CATOE

Directions to the Tivoli Theatre

Our next social will be held March, 31st at the Tivoli Theatre located at: **5021 Highland Ave. Downers Grove, IL 60515 Phone: 630-968-0219**. It is one block east of Main Street on Highland Avenue.

Main street is Lemont Road when coming from the south suburbs, and is easily reached from I-55 (Stevenson) on the south, Ogden Avenue on the north, and east of Route 53 and the I-355 North/South Toll.

The theatre is adjacent to the Downers Grove stop on the Metra BN line. Street & lot parking is available.

Please invite all of your neighbors, friends, and family members to attend, and don't forget to bring a treat to share with your fellow members and guests.

Thanks to Willis and Shirley Johnson, Classic Cinemas, and all of the Tivoli Theatre staff members who give their time and energy to make our events successful!

ABC 7 Features 2 Area Organs

Janet Davies' lifestyle and entertainment program, **190 North**, which airs weekly on **WLS-TV/ABC 7 Chicago**, recently featured 2 of our area's great theatre pipe organ installations, the Patio Theatre in Chicago and the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove. While both features highlighted the businesses, but each segment visually featured the pipe organs in a unique way.



Eva Saha featured the Patio Theatre as their "190 Big Deal" in a 3 minute segment that included a collage of images of the Golden Voiced Barton theatre pipe organ console and theatre owner/manager Demetri Kouvalis giving a brief narration on the theatre's history and recent renovations. It was chosen as a "Big Deal" because of the theatre's discount concessions and nominal \$5 ticket charge for all showings.



The Patio Theatre video be seen online at:
<http://190north.com/video?id=8507284>



Just a few weeks later, Classic Cinemas flagship Tivoli Theatre was featured as part of a segment on historic "Entertainment Diversions" in Chicagoland. Again, host Eve Saha highlights the theatre's historic assets and features CATOE President, David Rhodes performing on our Wurlitzer pipe organ installed there.



Also seen walking through the lobby are Willis & Shirley Johnson (long time CATOE supporters) and owners of Classic Cinemas. While Willis gets a few seconds to describe the theatre's 1928 Christmas Day opening, it's a shame there isn't any more detail given about the theatre in this much too short feature.



The Tivoli Theatre video be seen online at:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF-KB6iCTcQ>

Our next Social will be held at the Tivoli Theatre on **Saturday, March 31st at 10am**. Consider coming out to experience this 'Classic Cinemas' gem for yourself!