

River City Theatre Organ Society

The Posthorn

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DECEMBER 2024

**The next RCTOS Chapter Meeting is
Sunday, December 8, 2024- 3PM
MARKWORTH RESIDENCE
13535 N 73RD Plaza - Omaha**

**RCTOS WILLPRESENT TALENTED ORGANIST
JUSTIN LA VOIE AT THE DECEMBER 8
CHAPTER MEETING**

**This is RCTOS Chapter
Annual Christmas Party Pot Luck
Guest Artist: Justin LaVoie**



**Bob will furnish the main dish (chili) and
beverages, members and guests are
requested to bring their favorite dishes, or
salads and desserts.**

**After the business meeting, an entertaining
pipe organ program will be presented by
talented organist Justin LaVoie**

**Guests are welcome to attend this event
and may participate in the pot luck if they
so desire. Bring a friend in an effort to
promote membership in our Chapter. A
goodwill donation is appropriate for this
event.**

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
10-22 Gail Hennings
10-10 Myrna Esluer
10-15 Bob Craig**

*Rest in Peace - Jerry Golmanavich
10/17/1948
10/11/2024*



Bob Markworth - President - 402-573-9071 (kimballorgan 1@msn.com) Board Members - Greg Johnson, Bob Arsenault, Jonathan Hoke
Jeanne Sabatka - Vice President
Henry Pawlak - Secretary/Treasurer - 402-421-1356 (jerpawlak@Windstream.net)



JUSTIN knows theater pipe organs inside and out. "When I'm not playing the organ, I'm working on one," said LaVoie to know what the instrument is intended to do to maintain it properly."

LaVoie knows a thing or two about that. The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) named him the Young Theatre Organ Artist of the Year for 2013. He received scholarships from the organization to attend its summer camps from 2008-2012 and played for ATOS national conventions in Los Angeles, Calif., and Atlanta, Ga.

Over the past year he gave theater organ concerts in Ohio, Massachusetts, and Delaware, in addition to Detroit, on the Senate Theatre's Wurlitzer.

LaVoie, son of Theresa and Vince LaVoie, was "instantly hooked" on theater pipe organ at age 6 after listening to a CD set of historic theater organ music. .

"I remember it having so much more color, more vivid and lively sound and now I know that's because theater organs were intended to have a more orchestral sound than a church organ."

The following year he began visiting the Redford Theatre, where he would listen to organists play before movie screenings.

"The people at the theater were very gracious. They let me come in on Saturday mornings and fool around with it. I didn't progress much until I was 13 and my parents found out about a summer camp for young people. They took me and it helped intensify my interest."

LaVoie, who was home schooled, also met an instructor at the camp. At age 15 he began taking lessons every other month in Wisconsin, where his teacher was based. He also started playing at film screenings at the Redford that same year. When I do concerts for organ groups, but especially the public, I present as wide a variety of music as possible. No one should walk away feeling they haven't had something they like played in the program."

He enjoys playing the music of Cole Porter and George Gershwin, but also rocks out with works by Billy Joel and Queen.

Theater organ isn't his only passion. LaVoi also collects old Kodak cameras and likes to experiment with "different flavors" in the kitchen.

He's looking forward to the day when he can unpack his own theater organ — the Wurlitzer from the Punch and Judy, a Grosse Pointe Farms theater that closed in the late 1980s. It's in storage until that day comes.