

April 15 (Sunday), 2:30 pm (Note time change), Chapter Meeting & Concert by Danny McCollum at the McKoon residence

Our April program will feature Danny McCollum, a 22-year-old student of our own Susan Cole. The meeting will be hosted at the McKoon residence in Newnan, Georgia, beginning at 2:30 pm rather than our usual 3 pm start time to accommodate Danny's return to school for classes early Monday. For the same reason, the business meeting will be held following the concert.

Danny is a Sumterville, Florida, resident majoring in music at Lake Sumter Community College in Leesburg, Florida, since 2009. He has been receiving private theatre organ



instruction from Susan for seven years. He is also involved in acting, directing, stagecraft and other theatre-related activities. Danny is a member of ATOS, attending the Summer Theatre Camp, 2007-2010 and the American Theatre Organ Technical Experience, 2011. He

has symphonic band experience and is also a Bagpiper.

Danny has four years of concert-performing experience, was awarded the George Wright Memorial Scholarship (2006), named Theatre Organ Student of the Year (2007) and in 2010 was chosen as one of three International Finalists for the Young Theatre Organist of the Year competition.

Come hear him in person!

Directions to the McKoon residence on Page 4

May 6 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Tom Hoehn at the Residence of Bud Blubaugh & Ken Seiders



Our May meeting is scheduled very early in the month, 1st Sunday instead of 3rd, so mark your calendar now and don't miss the May 6th meeting and concert by Tom Hoehn at the Blubaugh and Seiders residence in Stone Mountain. Watch for more information and directions in the May newsletter.

***A McGee
and A Barton***

Rick McGee returned to the Grand Theatre in Fitzgerald, GA, where he had spent time helping to ready the Barton for its premiere appearance, having constructed the stoprails for the instrument. The February visit was not a technical one, but full of technique – performance technique – as he appeared in

concert on the organ that he helped to build.

Rick opened with his favorite "Great Day" after Lyn Larsen, then Vera Lynn put in an appearance through "Be Like the Kettle and Sing." "Shangri-La" was his tribute to Bob Van Camp, and then it was the music of Cole Porter, Rachmaninoff, Robert Flack, Leonard Bernstein (West Side Story) - could there be a more diverse program than

this? He then offered a tribute to Star-Crossed Lovers and after a nod to Jesse with "I'm Confessin'," he concluded with Hector Olivera's "Suzette."

The well-received program concluded the Grand's first season of organ presentations with music by one of the people who helped start it at the renovation phase. We look forward to next season!

--- *Larry Davis*

Heartstrings for Hope 2012

By Larry Davis

Normally, most of those of us who play don't write about ourselves, but this event was such a success – and not because of me – that I think it deserves reporting.

As most of you know, a group of members from our chapter keep Chattanooga's Tivoli Theatre Wurlitzer playing, led by Larry Donaldson of Alabama and Bert Allee of Manchester, TN.

Last year, I approached Brian Stewart from US101 (WUSY), Chattanooga's powerhouse country music station, about opening their annual country music concert with classic country music on the theatre organ. The concert is an event that is a highly successful fundraiser for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Brian and his associates agreed and so last year, the organ was used for the first time to "play in the house," and I wrote about it at the time.

In January, Brian contacted all the stakeholders to inquire if they wanted to use the organ again this year and they unanimously and enthusiastically expressed their desire to have us back, so on March 6, Bert and Ann Allee and I arrived at the theatre and set up the organ. This year, the organ was considerably upstage from where it was positioned last year – they wanted it to show up better in the photos. Brian told me that the theatre opened at 6 pm and the show started at 7 pm and said, "Do you have an hour of music in you?" Ha!

So for that hour I used music from as far back as the Carter Family and Merle Travis up to Tammy Wynette and including Johnny Cash, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Patsy Cline, Roy Acuff and many others. The organ was well-received by the sold-out crowd and I was greeted in the lobby by those who recognized me and suggested more songs for next year.

After the program, Brian told me, "As long as I'm here, you have a part in our program, and thanks," and the folks from St. Jude's expressed their thanks to the Atlanta Chapter, American Theatre Organ Society to the crowd.

And all this for children. It doesn't get any better.

Strand ATOS Greeters

By Ron Carter

Everyone, I think we are really missing an opportunity to publicize our chapter at Strand events where the chapter's GW-IV is going to be used. For example, we had over 1500 persons to attend the Las Vegas Show where the organ was used prominently in all three shows. Then we have all of our pre-show organ programs before movies, the silent film series and other special events. At most of these events the Strand gift counter is available to us to sell our FFOW CDs (of which we still have many!!), give out literature about our Chapter and ATOS National, answer questions about what the theatre organ is all about and invite folks to join. I am also putting together an ATOS display that will be featured in the Strand lobby with the framed newspaper articles that we got for the organ dedication (these did not cost the Chapter-Randy Hendry and I personally paid for these), photos of our Strand ATOS organists etc. We have several events coming up in April that are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

If you could volunteer a couple of hours of your time to do this please email me at ronhcarter@msn.com or call 770-428-4809.

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Mark Herman at Bucky's

The Chamber Mouse, having survived the investigations of Susie and Charlie, the errant canines, sends this report from the Reddish residence:

On March 4, Mark Herman made a return visit to the residence of Bucky Reddish and to the bench of the Walker, after

having dazzled us all with his talent during the Birthday Bash last summer. Instead of a cameo appearance and a jam session, this was a full concert and what a concert it was! Mark opened with "Cherokee," one of his signature pieces and the excitement it generated in the room foreshadowed the entire afternoon. During the following two hours, he featured the grand music of Broadway that he and Bucky both love. The first medley consisted of musical works of Rodgers and Hart and included a memorable performance of "Manhattan." In addition, there was a medley of tunes by Julie Styne, another by George Gershwin, and songs by

Jerome Kern. Those and other tunes caused our hearts to swell and got our toes a-tappin'. We were able to hear our favorite "Atlanta, GA," and in honor of Sunday, Mark ended with "When the Saints Go Marchin' In." Called back to the console for an encore, Mark gave us his rendition of "Mr. Sandman." But after that program, no one was ready to sleep. We were ready to greet Mark, have some refreshments, and to talk about the wonderful musical extravaganza we had all just experienced.

**Extra !!!
Pandora Escapes
From Box While at
Callanwolde !!!**



Sunday evening, March 25th, at 6:00 pm found a good number of silent film fans, theatre organ fans, and the 'just plain curious' at the Callanwolde mansion on Briarcliff Road in Atlanta, Georgia.

The event — a screening of the German silent film 'Pandora's Box.' The Artist — our own Ron Carter!

This was a ticketed event,

serving as a joint fund-raiser between the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center and the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

Managing Director Sam Goldman greeted the near hundred attendees and offered a short history of the mansion and its current mission. Then he introduced our accompanist, Ron Carter, and Ron offered us the back-story of the film and historical and trivia-related information.

This film is the story of Lulu, a young and raw seductress, dashing through the lives of suitors who fall victim "like a moth to her flame!!"

The instrument (orchestra) used for the soundtrack was the 60-rank Aeolian Grand Pipe Organ. The console is located in the Great Hall, some of the chambers above the foyer entry, some above the grand staircase,

and the Echo division in the Winter Room – truly "surround-sound!"

Self-guided tours of the mansion were allowed for any who wanted to tour the house.

A rousing applause was offered the artist for his full and stirring score to this film of great dramatic intensity – well deserved !!!

Biz E. Body was hiding in the walls and roaming the halls, and just happened to be present at this event. Better watch out – I may be coming to your location without notice !!!!



Upcoming Events at the Earl Smith Strand

- *ROCKY HORROR* picture show at the Strand on Friday, April 6th with organ pre-show at 11:30 pm by TBA. If you have never experienced attending a *Rocky Horror* picture show, the Strand is THE PLACE to see this audience interactive screening of the film!! Just watching what the audience wears to the show worth the ticket price!
- THE RE-PREMIERE OF WALT DISNEY'S *GREAT LOCOMOTIVE CHASE*: Thursday evening, April 12, 8 pm with organ pre-show of all civil war music by Ron Carter at 7 pm. A glittering event sponsored by the City of Marietta to commemorate the *Great Locomotive Chase* and the southern premier of the movie in 1956. The program for Premiere Ticket Holders (\$75) begins at 6 pm with red-carpet entrance, VIP Reception from 6 to 7:30 pm; theatre organ pre-show at 7 pm; opening remarks by Russell Bonds, author of *Stealing the General*, 8 pm Film Screening; 9:45 pm dessert and champagne. General admission tickets for the champagne/dessert reception and movie only are \$35.00
- BUSTER KEATON'S *THE GENERAL*: Friday and Saturday evenings April 13 and 14 at 8 pm with Strand Associate Organists Rick McGee performing the pre-show on Friday night and Larry Davis on Saturday night at 7:30 pm. Continuing with Marietta's celebration of the Great Locomotive Chase the Strand will screen what has been said was Buster Keaton's best silent film with Ron Carter at the console. Andrew's Raiders (those Union Spies) spent their first night in Marietta at the Kennesaw House Hotel only a block from the Strand. Buster Keaton actually came to Marietta, and Kennesaw in the early 1920's to do research for his most famous film. This is an entire family event and is loved by people of all ages! Ron uses all period music from the Civil War era (we call it the War Between the States here in the South). The last time this was screened in Marietta it was sold out!! So get your tickets early by coming by or calling the Strand Box Office at 770-293-0080 or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org. Tickets are \$8 or \$7 for students and seniors!
- *THE EAGLE*: This silent classic to be screened at the Strand on Sunday afternoon, May 20th at 3 pm with the accompaniment score being performed by Ron Carter. The Eagle was one of Rudolph Valentino's last films. Tickets are \$8 or \$7 for students and seniors. Organ pre-show at 2:30 pm by Strand Associate Organist TBA.

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- **April 15 (Sunday), 2:30 pm (note time change), Chapter Meeting & Concert by Danny McCollum at the McKoon residence (meeting will follow concert)**
- April 30 (Monday), 7 pm, "Monday Night Is Music Night" featuring chapter members John McCall and Fred Boska at the Allen 317 and grand piano, Westminster Oaks Retirement Center, MacGuire Center Auditorium, 4449 Meandering Way, Tallahassee, FL, Free Admission. Phone 229-560-7540 for further information.
- **May 6 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Tom Hoehn (change of artist) at the Blubaugh & Seiders Residence**
- **June 10 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Lance Luce at Allen Organ Studios**

Directions to the McKoon residence, 18 Sherwood Drive, Newnan, GA 30263

Phone 770-251-4284

- From Atlanta, take I-85 south.
- Take Exit 51 (GA-154) and turn right onto Sharpsburg McCollum Road (GA-154).
- Go about 0.6 mile and cross the railroad crossing.
- Turn left onto US-29/GA-14 at the traffic light.
- Go about 7.3 miles and turn right (West) onto Phillips Street, which is about 0.3 mile past the 3rd traffic light after turning left onto US-29. It is slightly hard to see on the right.
- Phillips Street becomes Sherwood Drive (about 0.2 mile) at the traffic light.
- At the fork, stay to the right.
- The street winds around and 18 Sherwood is a tan stucco house on the right.

Park anywhere before you get in front of the house. It is on a curve that is not a good place to park directly in front of the house. Driveway of the house will be open for parking for those who have trouble walking.