

ATOS Atlanta

Official Newsletter of The Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



April Chapter Meeting Sunday, April 28, 3:00 PM Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta 3321 Chamblee Dunwoody Road Atlanta, GA 30341

Entertainers for the April meeting are our President and Veep! That's Ken Double and Randy Elkins entertaining with standard and not-so-standard theatre organ repertoire.

We'll hear an Allen 311 Theatre Organ and various classical organs. You'll also get to see how Randy and Ken work together to make a classical organ talk theatre organ language! (create sounds using the organ's available *classical* stop list and MIDI *theatrical* voices!)

Your host is chapter member and president of *Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta*, Jeff Ayers, and his amazing staff. This is one you won't want to miss. There's plenty of close-to-the entrance parking.

Interesting Web Links Page 4

Tedde Gibson interview

"The Life and Death of Pizza and Pipes"



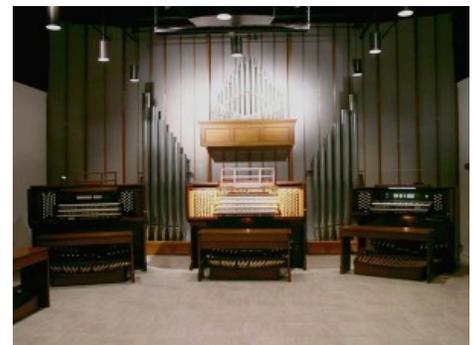
Randy Elkins is *Chapel Organist* at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and *Director of Music* at Virginia-

Highland Church (UCC) both in Atlanta, GA. He is the Vice-President of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society and often performs on the *theatre* organ at Atlanta's historic *Plaza Theatre*. He also plays regularly at the *Strand Theatre* on the square in Marietta, GA.

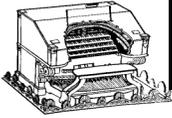
Randy holds BMus and MMus degrees in organ performance and church music from the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. His organ research, performance and preservation projects center around the symphonic, gospel (Hammond) and theatre organs.

Elkins' work with students

focuses on the life-long value of learning, practicing and performing music, whether professionally or as an amateur. He teaches music as a tool for good health - helping cope with arthritis and warding off dementia - by exercising the brain and the fingers.



Atlanta Allen Organ
Studio



A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Hamm-O-Rama A Hit!

Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society
P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
404-725-1155

www.atosatlanta.org
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta
ACATOS is recognized as a tax-
exempt organization under Section
501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue
Code.

- Chapter President - Ken Double
- Vice President - Randy Elkins
- Treasurer - Rick McGee
- Secretary - Bill Thompson
- Newsletter Editor - Ted Barnett
- Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
- Board members:
 - John Alford
 - John Tanner
 - Eddie Hulsey, Jr.
 - Larry Davis
 - Randy Hendry



The March meeting featuring the jazzy sounds of the Hammond organ was most certainly well received by members and guests in attendance at Emory University. And thanks to Matthew Kaminski and guests, and organizer Randy Elkins, for providing an entertaining Saturday afternoon. To quote a baseball phrase – something the Braves’ organist can relate to – Matthew hit a Grand Slam!

This month, we will visit the Allen Organ studios where Jeff Ayers will open the doors to our chapter for an entertaining visit. Details are in this newsletter.

Also at that meeting, members will have their first opportunity to peruse the new recording featuring our Grande Page pipe organ, yours truly, and the vocal talents of Daniel Mata. Those who attended the November concert at Stephenson H.S. heard the vocal skills of this talented young singer. The recording is in both CD form, and available as a thumb drive (for those with newer cars that no longer are equipped with CD players. Who knew the CD would wind up like the cassette and the Dodo bird?)

There are silent films at the Plaza; organs presented in performance at the Atlanta Fox; the Strand in Marietta; the Tivoli in Chattanooga; and of course, Big Bertha in Birmingham. Our players like Ron Carter, John McCall, Larry Davis, Rick McGee (and me), are in demand all across the South. And all of those musicians like Jay Mitchell, Misha Stefanuk, and others make wonderful music for us to enjoy.

Is there a better, busier and more exciting time to be a member of the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS? I can’t imagine when!

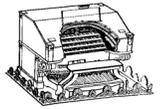
The Page crew is back at it as we continue to add to and upgrade our wonderful pipe organ.

We will be back there soon to enjoy the great sounds of that great instrument.

Thanks all!

Ken Double





Another Successful Hamm-O-Rama

The Chamber Mouse reflects on the fact that he has been in chambers in theatres, various kinds of chambers in various residences. Some chambers contain pipes, some speakers, but the Hammond that is the subject of the review this month has no chambers, just a Leslie speaker sitting on the floor. Fortunately, there was a Holtkamp across the room with a Swell Box which served very well, and from there the Chamber Mouse files his report:

No one can say that the Atlanta Chapter has not been creative in planning interesting programs and locations and current Vice President Randy Elkins continued the tradition by scheduling a baseball and jazz program in the Cannon Chapel of the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Well, baseball is a religion for some people so maybe it wasn't out of place after all.

Randy himself opened the program with a brief performance on the 2/22 Holtkamp Organ across the room from the Hammond, presenting the organ in its Bach-performing grandeur with a taste of the Toccata in Dmin, then demonstrating some of the pretty voices (Gemshorn and Flutes), then a wonderful sound of Bagpipes and a Fife entered the room.

Rick McGee shared a brief remembrance of Wanda Carey Fields and Elbert Fields, to whom the program was dedicated, entirely appropriately since the performance was on a Hammond.

Then Randy introduced Matthew Kaminski, artist of the day, and his partner in musical performance (on the guitar), Dave Frackenpohl. Matthew is the esteemed organist for the Atlanta Braves (on a Hammond SK-2 with pedals) and he opened his program with – what else – *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* – though the response from the chapel audience was certainly more restrained than in the ballpark. He moved straight from that tune to another, jazz arrangement that turned out to be *Fly Me to the Moon*, in the Jimmy Smith style. He followed with a demonstration of the organ's resources and a Latin Bossa Nova in the style of one Jackie Davis, a song entitled *I Want to Hold Your Hand*.

He then described how his duties as Braves organist work. Matthew is nationally known for his creative “walk-up” music for members of opposing teams. For instance, Lucas Duda gets *Camptown Races*, John McDonald gets (you guessed it) *Old MacDonald*, and Alex Rodriguez got something by Madonna when he was dating her. He explained that there is no music played that tends to demean the umpires – that can result in dismissal - but opposing managers are not off limits and when they go to the mound, he might play *Big Girls Don't Cry*, or *If I Only Had a Brain*. There are limits on what he can do and he has gotten a call from the field warning him. He said that the longest game he played was 18 innings and ended at 1:20 A.M.

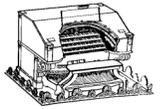
Mr. Kaminski has Bachelors and Masters degrees in jazz piano from Georgia State University, and is a Hammond/Suzuki performing artist.

Matt closed his program with a wonderful and mellow arrangement of *The Nearness of You*.

Everyone at the meeting proclaimed what a wonderful afternoon it was and how much they enjoyed this very different program, proving that “different” is part of the tradition of Atlanta Chapter programming.

The Chamber Mouse





Ron Carter's what's going on at the Strand, Plaza and Carolina

STRAND THEATRE where the Chapter's Allen Organ is featured.

Friday April 5th **DIAL M FOR MURDER** with organ preshow by Larry Davis at 7:30

Sunday April 7th 3pm The **1923** silent masterpiece **THE TEN COMMANDMENTS** with theatre organ accompaniment by Ron Carter. Come early for an organ pops pre-show by Jay Mitchell

Friday April 26th **SELENA** with organ preshow by Randy Elkins at 7:30pm

Sunday April 28th **Willy Wonka** with organ pre-show at 2:30 organist TBA

CAROLINA THEATRE Greensboro NC Tuesday April 30th 7pm SAFETY LAST accompanied by Ron Carter on the theatre's original Robert Morton Theatre Organ.

Update from John McCall

In my review of Tedde Gibson's concert in the last issue, I identified the percussionist playing with the artist as *Shaunice Brantley*, but I missed the fact that *she* was a most accomplished female! I was unable to attend the concert and I did my review based on a recording exclusively. Never, never assume! I certainly apologize for this error. In the legacy of Karen Carpenter and many others, we are lucky to have women who choose the art of percussion like Shaunice.

John Clark McCall, Jr.

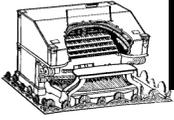
Web Links to Interesting Sites

Tedde Gibson television interview

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2G-10ltgIRE&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1n9rmF12q66auhSBA-WCA2f60Hco6eixoD640eAx0S6HJ7bOdgmh3FRZQ>

The Life and Death of Pizza and Pipes

<https://www.tastecooking.com/life-death-pizza-pipes/>



History of Plaza Theatre

The **Plaza Theatre** is an Atlanta landmark and the city's longest continuously operating movie theatre.

1939 - 2000

Designed by architect George Harwell Bond, the Plaza Theatre opened on December 23, 1939, as an art deco cinema and live theater space. It was the neighborhood cinema for the Druid Hills, Virginia Highland and Poncey-Highland neighborhoods of Atlanta. It is an anchor of the Briarcliff Plaza on Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta's first shopping center with off-street parking. The first film screened was the Joan Crawford-Norma Shearer vehicle *The Women*.^[1]

Several "big films" had second runs at the Plaza Theatre after having played their roadshow release downtown. Among them were *Around the World in 80 Days* (1956) and *King of Kings* (1961).

In the 1970s, the Plaza became an X-rated adult cinema and live burlesque theatre, screening such risqué fare as *Teeny Buns* and *Swinging Sorority*, until the entire shopping center was renovated by current owner Robert Griffith.^[1]

In 1983, movie theatre entrepreneur George LeFont bought the theatre and renovated the 1000-seat space by converting the balcony area into a second auditorium.^[2] The LeFont era witnessed an influx of independent, foreign, and art-house movies that would become the norm from 1983 to the present. The 1990s and 2000s witnessed a financial struggle for the Plaza, and the theatre was put up for sale in 2006.^[3]

2006 - 2014

In late 2006, Atlanta natives Jonathan and Gayle Rej purchased the theatre, and in early 2010, the Plaza Theatre Foundation became a nonprofit organization. Retaining the original marquee and many of the original furnishings, the Plaza Theatre became the longest continuously operating theatre in Atlanta.^[1]

Since 2000, the fan group Lips Down on Dixie has hosted Atlanta's contribution to The Rocky Horror Picture Show cult following, screening the film at midnight every Friday, with pre-show activities and a "shadow cast" live performance and audience participation simultaneous with the movie.^[8]

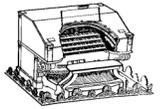
In the 2000s, the Silver Scream Spookshow was hosted at The Plaza by Atlanta horror personality "Professor Morte". The show paired live comic and burlesque performances with screenings of classic science fiction movies, including *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, *Frankenstein*, and many films in the *Godzilla* franchise. Similarly, Splatter Cinema has brought re-creations of grisly movie scenes to the Playas lobby, paired with screenings of classic horror films such as Herschell Gordon Lewis's *Blood Feast* and *Two Thousand Maniacs!*, as well as movies in the *Friday the 13th* and *A Nightmare on Elm Street* series.^[9] Also during the 2000s, The Plaza screened many other classic films, including *Easy Rider*, *Back to the Future*, *Five Easy Pieces*, as well as showcases of local independent films.

In 2010, the Plaza celebrated its 70th anniversary with screenings of 1939 films, including *The Wizard of Oz* and *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*; Robert Osborne of Turner Classic Movies co-hosted the event.^[10] The Plaza also hosted the Atlanta premiere for the film *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*; *Scott Pilgrim* stars Michael Cera and Jason Schwartzman and director Edgar Wright were present at the premiere.^[11] Similarly, the director of the emerging cult film *The Room*, Tommy Wiseau, made guest appearances at the theatre in 2010 and 2012.

In early 2013 the Plaza Theatre was sold to theatre enthusiast Michael Furlinger, has undergone extensive alterations to its original appearance, and has added a full service bar and signature cocktails including the Plaza Punch.

In late 2017, the theatre was sold to Christopher Escobar, also the Executive Director of the Atlanta Film Society.

Article Source: Wikipedia



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

Date	Time	Location	Event Description
April 5 Saturday	7:30 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Dial M for Murder. Larry Davis on the <i>Mighty Allen</i> before the movie.
April 7 Sunday	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	The Ten Commandments - 1923 silent film, Jay Mitchell, preshow, Ron Carter accompanying the movie on <i>Mighty Allen</i> .
April 14 Sunday	2:30 PM	Grace Church, Sarasota, FL	John McCall in Concert. Forker Memorail Wurlitzer Organ . Free admission
April 26 Friday	7:30 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Selena , Randy Elkins on the <i>Mighty Allen</i> before the movie.
April 28 Sunday	3:00 PM	Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta	Atlanta Chapter ATOS Monthly Meeting - Featuring Ken Double and Randy Elkins entertaining using Allen Theatre and Classical organs. Host: Jeff Ayers, chapter member and president of Allen Organs of Atlanta
April 28 Sunday	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Willy Wonka
April 29 Monday	7:30 PM	Westminster Oaks, FL	John McCall and Larry Davis, Allen Organ, Bosendorfer Piano. Free admission
April 30 Monday	7:00 PM	Carolina Theatre Greensboro, NC	Safety Last - Ron Carter accompanies the silent comedy starring Harold Lloyd. <i>Robert Morton Organ</i> .
June 16 Sunday	3:00 PM	Rick McGee's Home	Atlanta Chapter ATOS Monthly Meeting - Cookout and open console at Rick McGee's home, Ken Double at the grill, Mighty 5 Manual Allen Organ
July 9 Tuesday	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	The Big Parade
July 19 Friday	7:00 PM	Stephenson High School	Atlanta Chapter ATOS Monthly Meeting - SYA Participant Showcase, Mighty Page Organ
July 21 Sunday	5:00 PM	Plaza Theatre - Atlanta, GA	Ben Hur , Ken Double plays the <i>Mighty Allen</i> .
August 19 Sunday	3:00 PM	Location TBA	Atlanta Chapter ATOS Monthly Meeting - Tribute to Bob Fountain featuring top Atlanta area cabaret artists who were discovered by Bob.
Chapter Events	Plaza Theatre Events	Strand Theater Events	Venues Outside Atlanta