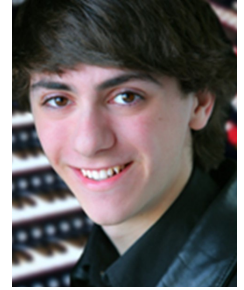




***Bucky's Birthday Bash with
Donna Parker & Nathan Avakian
August 22nd—3:00 pm
at the Bucky Reddish Residence***



Bucky Reddish invites you to help celebrate his birthday at our August meeting in his home with a great program featuring Donna Parker and her student Nathan Avakian, who was winner of the 2010 ATOS Young Theatre Artist competition.

About the artists...

Donna Parker, a native of Los Angeles, California, began her organ studies at the age of 7. Four years later she was introduced to the theatre organ and, at thirteen, began her classical organ instruction with Richard Purvis, Organist and Master of Choristers Emeritus and Honorary Canon of San Francisco's famed Grace Cathedral.

Donna quickly established a name for herself on the concert circuit as a very capable performer for one so young. She made her first recording at 15, was appointed the first Official Organist for the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team, and toured Southern California in concert as a product specialist for Conn Organ Company.

Through arrangements made by George Wright, Donna began studying harmony and arranging with Gordon Kibbee while also studying theatre organ stylings with Lyn Larsen. While in high school, she appeared at Universal Studios in Southern California.

Donna attended California Polytechnic State University at Pomona, California, majoring in organ.

Subsequently, she moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where she performed at Organ Stop Pizza. This

***Directions to Bucky's
on Page 2.***

began an association that would last for many years with restaurants centered around entertainment on large theatre pipe organs, including The Roaring 20s in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, Indiana, The Organ Grinder in Portland, Oregon, Uncle Milt's in Vancouver, Washington, and Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix and Mesa, Arizona.

Donna was elected to serve on the national board of directors of the American Theatre Organ Society for six years, where she headed the scholarship committee that assisted students studying theatre organ. After a hiatus, she is once again serving on the board as Public Relations chair, Mentor Program chair, and member/instructor of the committee which produced the first Summer Youth Camp. In 1996 she was honored by being named Organist of the Year by the ATOS.

Donna served as marketing manager for Rodgers Instrument Corporation of Hillsboro, Oregon for almost eight years until the latter part of 1997. Subsequently she worked in institutional sales representing Allen Organ Company and Steinway & Sons.

Besides an active solo concert schedule, Donna is a member of Trio con Brio with colleagues Jonas Nordwall and Martin Ellis--the very first organ trio, performing in

special venues across the U.S. that can accommodate three instruments for each performance. Donna currently serves as the Associate Organist at First United Methodist Church in Portland and also manages a limited teaching and coaching schedule as well.

International appearances include performing in Vienna, Austria, the national convention of the Theatre Organ Society, South Australia Division, in Adelaide, and touring Japan in concert where she had the distinction of performing the first organ concert at Tokyo's famed Casals Concert Hall. Donna returned to Australia and New Zealand in the fall of 2007 for a month-long concert tour.

Nathan Avakian is an eighteen-year-old theatre organist from Portland, Oregon. He is the 2009 overall winner of the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition. Nathan's fascination with the theatre organ began at age four, with a visit to the Portland Organ Grinder Restaurant. He began formal organ studies with Donna Parker at age eleven and is also frequently coached by Jonas Nordwall. Nathan enjoys arranging, composing, and transcribing music.

He has given concerts in Oregon and Washington for organizations including the Columbia River Theatre Organ Society (CRTOS), Puget Sound Theatre Organ Society (PSTOS), Mount Baker Theatre Organ Society, and the Portland Rose Festival Association. Nathan

(Continued on page 2)

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
770-948-8424

www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/

*AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under
Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

Chapter President - *Bucky Reddish*
Vice President - *Phillip Allen*
Treasurer - *Mandy Allen*
Secretary - *Larry Davis*
Newsletter Editor - *Elbert Fields*
Associate Editor - *Wanda Carey Fields*
Chapter Correspondent - *Rick McGee*

*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
elfields@yahoo.com*

Directions to Bucky's, Mableton, GA
5370 Vinings Lake View Dr. SW — 770-948-8424

From I-285 take Exit 12, US-78/US-278, Hollowell Pkwy (formerly Bankhead Hwy). Go West (outside the Perimeter toward Austell) for about 4.5 miles. Turn Right on Cooper Lake Road, which is the 2nd light past Lindley Middle School. Travel about 1/2 mile to The Retreat at Old Vinings Lake Estates entrance on the right. Follow the main road and the house is at the corner on the left. **Please respect the neighbors and park on one side of the street only. Please do not park on the main street into the subdivision. Carpool if possible.** Additional parking is available at the clubhouse by the tennis courts, located to your right when you reach Bucky's street, then down the hill on the left.

(Continued from page 1)

is extremely grateful for scholarships from ATOS, CRTOS, and PSTOS, which have helped to fund his lessons and trips to organ workshops in Colorado, Illinois and Phoenix, as well as the 2009 ATOS Convention.

Nathan is a high school senior at the Arts and Communication Magnet Academy (ACMA), where he is a member of the National Honor Society, the ACMA Theatre Ensemble and the ACMA Advanced Vocal Ensemble. He is a dedicated actor and has trained with Westside Dance Academy since he was five

years old in various styles of dance including tap, jazz, and ballet. In addition to acting, singing, and dancing, Nathan has technical theatre interest and experience in lighting design. As a musician, Nathan's mission is to showcase the versatility of the theatre organ by playing music from a diverse variety of eras and styles. Nathan hopes to promote interest in the theatre organ among people of all ages to ensure that the instrument is preserved and kept alive for future generations.

About the organ...

Bucky's fantastic Walker RTO-335 Opus I is one of the two

featured at Walker's exhibit in the Georgian Terrace Hotel during our 2004 Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend. This is a unique installation with six speaker systems on each of two opposing walls with 12 additional speakers on the balcony and in a closet area on the main floor. Subsequently, this installation was modified to add a custom 2nd pedal cabinet on the catwalk and a real blower and tremolo in a closet to give a realistic pipe-organ effect. With the 21-foot high reflective wall and hardwood floors the organ voices truly blossom and the sound is unbelievable

ATOS Board Votes to Trade the Allen MDS317-EX Theatre Organ

By Ron Carter

The Atlanta Chapter recently received an offer and donation they could not refuse. Mr. Tom Hamilton, theatre organ enthusiast who lives in Columbus, Ohio, has offered to do an even trade of his four-manual George Wright Allen Theatre organ for the chapter's MDS317-EX that is currently playing to enthusiastic audiences in the Earl Smith Strand Theatre. Mr. Hamilton is downsizing and will not have room for the GW4 in his new residence but can handle the smaller MDS317-EX. The GW4 is 10 years newer, has much later technology, 16 audio channels compared to 6 and of course has four manuals instead of three. It has received all of the latest software upgrades to include sostenuto and pizzicato. Appraisals of both instruments have been performed which indicate a difference in value of over \$50,000 in favor of the Chapter! We are indeed indebted to Tom Hamilton for his generosity and we will be having a premier concert on the GW4 to honor Mr. Hamilton in the near future. However, please remember we still owe \$13,800 to John McCall for the original 317EX purchase. His security interest will be transferred to the GW4. So, **WE STILL NEED YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!** We are currently paying Mr. McCall \$300 per month and have a little less than four years left on the note! Make your checks payable to: ***"Atlanta Chapter, ATOS"***. Enter "Allen Organ" on the memo line and mail to:

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426.

Crazy Afternoon with Charlie Chaplin at the Strand

By J. Frump, III



Phillip Allen, Larry Davis, Ron Carter, Andrew Crigler
as Charlie Chaplin, James Thrower, Rick McGee

What happens when you mix four Charlie Chaplin short comedies with four different theatre organists?

Well it was a wild concoction of fun at the Strand in Marietta. The July program gave four of our chapter members a chance to accompany one of the greatest comic actors of all time.

These early Chaplin comedies were made between 1915 and 1917. The films show a little courser Chaplin, rather than the more sophisticated Chaplin, in his later films. These films were considered “shorts” so the story lines sometimes are a little disjointed, which can make it a real challenge for the organist to follow what ever plot there may be.

To get the show going, James Thrower popped up out of the Pit on the Allen and regaled us with those tunes that James does so well. Shortly after James had slowly descended back into the depths of the pit, it was time for Charlie Chaplin to hit the screen.

Phillip Allen then zoomed into view to accompany the film *A Night at the Show*. The story takes place in a music hall around the turn of the century (that’s the 20th century by the way) and could have been reminiscent of the Columbia or the Eldorado theatres here in Atlanta at that time. Then, the audience usually ended up doing as much entertainment as the performers. Chaplin plays two characters in this film, one, the rich gentleman that sits around all over downstairs and the poor tramp up in the balcony that can’t make up his mind if his seat is on the stairs or somewhere in mid air in front of the balcony rail. During the course of the film disorder soon turns to chaos. I could see that this film would be a real challenge to any organist trying to accompany the action. So the best thing to do is just follow the action and hang on for dear life. By the time both Chaplin characters had

succeeded in romping through the show, Phillip was right in there romping along on the Allen. By the time the show was over everybody was totally exhausted.

After a brief rest, Larry Davis soared back into view to accompany the film, *The Count*. In this film, Chaplin plays a tailors assistant, who tries to pass himself off as a real “Count” seeking the hand of a rich “money bags” socialite. Things really get going when the real Count shows up to the party. Larry decided to accompany the film in a manner as to let the music be just more or less background music and not to interfere with the acting that was on the screen. Because of this, we were able to focus a little more on what Chaplin was actually doing on the screen.

Next, was a “stand up and stretch” time followed by the Sing-A-Long directed by Phillip Allen at the console.

After the Marietta Square Choral Society had finished singing, Rick McGee shot out of the pit to accompany *The Fireman*. In this film Chaplin is the last person you would ever want as a fireman. When the fire alarm goes off Chaplin is still snoozing in bed. However, he does redeem himself when he turns the tables on a corrupt fire chief and home owner. Chaplin saves the daughter of the home owner from their torched home. All the while another poor sap’s house burns to the ground. This film allows the organist to use all the bells and sirens and other sound effects the organ has to offer and Rick certainly made use of them.

Last, Ron Carter was thrust up out of the pit to accompany the film *Work*. In this film we have several different stories going on. Chaplin is to help hang wall paper. The lady of the house is playing around with another man. Her husband isn’t about to go to work until he has had his hot breakfast, but he can’t have that because the stove will not stay lighted. Finally, the wife’s boy friend shows up. Confused? Well with all this going on, things are bound to get out of hand and explosive. With the action on the screen out of control, Ron somehow managed to remained in control, although I thought I heard Clara and Buddy in the wings during the film.

With Chaplin and five organists popping up out of the pit like pop tarts out of a toaster all afternoon, I can only say it was a wild afternoon of fun at the Strand and that a good time was had by all.

Editor’s Note:

Approximately 275 attendees at this program



Upcoming Events at The Earl Smith Strand Where The Newly- Installed GW4 Will Be Used

(Please support the Strand and the use of the Theatre organ by your attendance!)

Aug 29th **WINGS**: Silent film accompaniment by Ron Carter
 Sept 11th **PATTON**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Oct 8th **SIDEWAYS**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Oct 15th **CASABLANCA**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Oct 24th **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**: Silent film accompaniment by Ron Carter

Oct 30th **ROCKY HORROR MIDNIGHT SCREENING**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Oct 31st **REAR WINDOW**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Nov 19th **MAMA-MIA SING ALONG**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Nov 26th **SOUND OF MUSIC SING ALONG**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Nov 27th **AVATAR**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Dec 21st **HOW THE GRINCH STOLE XMAS**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)
 Dec 21st **WHITE CHRISTMAS**: Organ preshow (Strand staff organist TBA)

For more information, check the Strand website at:
www.earlsmithstrand.org

Welcome New Member

Mr. James B. Alby
 239-354-2135
 2274 Grove Drive
 Naples, FL 34120-7496
 Horsenut62@yahoo.com



Atlanta Chapter members Bob Fountain, Tim Stephens, Rick McGee, Dalton Ward, Ron & Donna Carter, Bucky Reddish and Mike Knight enjoying themselves at a meal during the ATOS convention in Seattle last month.

Wings at the Strand

Ron Carter to accompany the first Academy Award winning motion picture *Wings* at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre, Sunday afternoon, August 29th at 3 pm. Special ticket prices for ATOS and AGO members of only \$5. Come hear the newly installed Allen Four-Manual George Wright Digital Theatre Organ. This is the same model that is in Ron and Donna's home in Marietta. A fantastic 16-channel, 32-digital rank instrument with Allen subwoofers and all speakers placed strategically in Strand's four pipe chambers. This is a sound you will not believe! *Wings* was the first film ever to win an Academy Award for Best Picture 1927-1928. It is the story of two men who have gone to war and the girl they both leave behind. Starring: Richard Arlen, Buddy Rogers, the IT girl Clara Bow and in his first picture, Gary Cooper. What is so unique about this film is the thousands of extras used in the battle scenes, the photography of the flying scenes where the actors flew their own planes. No special effects here, everything you see is real. Invite and bring your entire family, friends, neighbors and support the Strand theatre, silent film presentations and the theatre organ!!

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

Do you own an organ? _____ If so, description _____

Annual membership dues \$35 (Student \$17.50). Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**.

Note "Dues" or "Membership" on the memo line and mail to:

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426

Organs In Theatres Update

By John Tanner

From time to time in my series of articles on organs in theatres around Georgia I will take a pause to update some of the information in some of the past articles. Also I can take this opportunity to add additional information on subjects that would not require a full length article. So this month here is a little of both.

Update from the October 2007 article on the Alcazar Theatre in Atlanta: As stated the Alcazar opened in April of 1909, with one of its features being a \$5,000 pipe organ. If this had been true then the Alcazar would have held the prize as the first theatre in Atlanta with a pipe organ.

As it turns out, what was installed in the Alcazar was a large Mason & Hamlin Reed organ according to an interview by George Hamrick about the early organs and organists in the Atlanta theatre. So it looks like the Vaudette Theatre retains its title of the first theatre in Atlanta to have a real pipe organ. However: George Perfect, the organist at the Alcazar can hold on to his title as the first organist in an Atlanta theatre.

From the June 2010 article on the early Rylander Theatre organs, I need to add the following:

Grace Pittman On the Organ to Make You Sing

“Miss Pittman at the organ is lauded. Theatre goers yesterday sang their approval of Miss Grace Pittman, talented young Wesleyan music student of Americus, and her program when she inaugurated a daily series of audience singing performances at the Rylander.

“Manager Joel Gortatowsky was gratified at the response. He said “We want the public to be a part of the program and have put the organ into use in an effort to bring this about.”

“In the first two performances yesterday afternoon and night which she opened with an organ solo, Miss Pittman needed to do little coaxing before the entire audience apparently was matching the organ’s peels in volume.

Slides containing the words of the songs are flashed on the screen as the organist plays. A happy selection of popular favorites that everybody knows greatly helps the program.” The Americus Times Recorder August 18, 1931

Organ lifts

It seems that one of the most associated memories and thrills of a theatre organ is when that spotlight shines down into the depths of the

orchestra pit and the first sounds of the organ peel out into the theatre. Then slowly the console and organist rise up out of the pit to begin the performance.

I have been asked many times how many theatre organ consoles were on a lift. Well, in Georgia an organ console rising up out of the pit was the exception, not the rule. Of all the theatres in Georgia that had organs, only two had lifts.

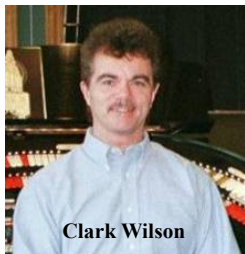
One that most people know is of course the Möller at the Fox Theatre in Atlanta. The other one is little known by most folks, and that was the Miller Theatre in Augusta which opened in 1939.

The builders of the Miller wanted to still provide a theatre that was deluxe in the sense of the theatres built in the 20’s so they provided an orchestra lift and a separate lift for an organ. However, they were supposedly told that theatre organs were no longer being built. Not to be deterred from having an organ, the owners placed a Hammond on the lift.

As a matter of fact, the Fox and the Miller were the only theatres in Georgia to have lifts in the orchestra pit and for the organ. In all the other theatres the organ console sat in the pit somewhere or over to the side of the pit.

The General Steams into the Fox

By Larry Davis



Clark Wilson

On August 10 at 7:30 pm, the Fox Theatre will screen *The General*, Buster Keaton’s comedic take on the Great Locomotive Chase, as part of the Coca-Cola Summer Film Festival. At the console will be Clark Wilson, in his first visit to the Fox since his acclaimed

accompaniment of *Metropolis* in 2004. Richard Hills described that event as “One of the greatest theatre

organ events I ever attended,” and there is no doubt that this event will be equally as exciting. This will be an opportunity for the public to experience the glories of the theatre organ in its silent movie accompaniment role.

The show begins at 6:30 pm with Larry-Douglas Embury opening as he does for all of the film festival (and most other) programs, demonstrating the great organ in its other roles: that of concert instrument and in the always-popular audience sing-a-long.

Movie tickets are \$8 and there are special rates for parking around the area. Check out the Fox website at www.foxtheatre.org for more information.



- We are Clarence and Sandy Burlingame and we live in the north Georgia mountains. We have a **Model F Wurlitzer pipe organ** in our house that we have intended to restore for many years. Now that we are approaching retirement, we have decided that that is not how we want to spend our time. We are writing to see if there might be someone in your chapter of ATOS that may be interested in acquiring our organ. We had originally hoped that we could sell it to recoup some of the money that we have spent on restoring it, but we are mainly interested in finding it a good home with someone who will restore it to its rightful glory. Therefore, a price is very negotiable. It is in need of total restoration, including re-leathering and rewiring. It includes the toy counter, percussion, and several ranks of extra pipes. We would be glad to send pictures if someone is interested. Please feel free to contact us at cbcpa@windstream.net or call us at 706-745-7745.
- I have a collection of old 78s, one-sided 78s, 331/3s that I need to sell. Please contact me if you are interested. Eloise Wolfersteig (rffwolfer@windstream.net)

Report from the Secretary

By Larry Davis

At our chapter meeting in December of 2009, ATOS President and CEO Ken Double proposed that the Atlanta Chapter host the 2013 ATOS Annual Convention. At our February meeting the chapter voted to authorize Phillip and Mandy Allen to acquire the ATOS

guidelines on conventions and to explore the possibility of hosting the convention. After exploration and consideration, Phillip reported back to the board his concerns with our limited resources and venues (and other issues). As a result, the Board of Directors, after considerable discussion, has voted to notify ATOS that we will not host the 2013 convention.

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- August 10, 7:30 pm — *Fox Theatre/Coca-Cola/Turner Classic Movie Event: The General* featuring national theatre organist Clark Wilson accompanying the Buster Keaton feature, with Fox Organist-In-Residence Larry-Douglas Embury performing the pre-show entertainment and sing-a-long ... both on the Mighty Mo 4/42 Möller Theatre Pipe Organ and hosted by TCM weekend daytime television personality, Ben Mankiewicz. Tickets: \$8.00 (See article on Page 5)
- August 15, Meridian. MS — Larry Davis will be playing a public program and a short silent film on the 3/8 Robert Morton in the Temple Theatre.
- **August 22, 3:00 pm, Meeting and Concert** — *Bucky's Birthday Bash* featuring Donna Parker, national theatre organ artist and Nathan Avakian, winner of the 2009 ATOS Young Organist Competition, both in concert at the Reddish residence on the Mighty Walker RTO-335. (See article on Page 1)
- August 29, 3:00 pm — *Silent Movie Event: Wings* featuring Ron Carter accompanying the very first Academy-Award Winner for Best Picture (and the only silent movie to win a Best Picture Oscar) on the new Allen GW4 Digital Theatre Organ, with Phillip Allen performing the pre-show entertainment and sing-a-long.
- **September 12, 3:00 pm, Meeting and Concert** — *A concert by Ron Carter and Friends* will be presented at the home of Ron and Donna Carter on their magnificent Allen GW4 Digital Theatre Organ. Special guest: Mr. Harper Harris from the *Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History*.
- **October 16th, 3:00 pm, Meeting and Concert** — *A Trip to the Rylander Theatre in Americus, GA* featuring *John McCall in Concert* on its restored 1928 3/11 Möller Theatre Pipe Organ complete with a newly installed and more powerful blower. The concert will be followed by a dinner break and then it's open console time back at the Möller.
- October 24, 3:00 pm, — *Silent Movie Event: Phantom of the Opera* featuring Ron Carter accompanying this Halloween classic on the new Allen GWIV Digital Theatre Organ, with Phillip Allen performing the pre-show entertainment and sing-a-long.