

***JOINT ATOS AND AGO MEETING AT THE EARL SMITH STRAND  
THEATRE ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON AUGUST 21 AT 3 PM***

Come meet members of our sister chapters restaurants. Free parking at the county parking at the Strand on Sunday afternoon, August 21st deck just across the street from the Strand. In at 3pm. Enjoy a couple of silent short comedies, fact go to the 2nd level, walk across the bridge and listen to ATOS and AGO organists tickle the and you will exit right at the crosswalk to the ivories of the Atlanta ATOS Chapter's Allen Strand.

GWIV. We had a similar program several years ago at the Strand which was a tremendous success. We may even have a guest soloist sing!!

The purpose of this program is to introduce NEW people of all ages to the organ with **an emphasis toward our youth!** So this is a free public program open to all! Invite friends, fellow co-workers, family members, neighbors and lets introduce them to the KING OF INSTRUMENTS! The Strand's concession stand will be open for some hot popcorn, and other goodies and drinks of all kinds! Come early and eat on the square or stay after the program for dinner. The north block of the square has been completely redone with wider sidewalks and new

After the films and formal part of the program we will have open console where anyone can try out the GW-IV and even ride the lift from the pit. Strand associate organists will be available to help you out with registrations!!

The Earl Smith Strand Theatre is located at 117 North Park Square in Marietta.

See [www.earlsmithstrand.org](http://www.earlsmithstrand.org) for directions or call 770-293-0080.

***SPECIAL REQUEST TO AGO AND ATOS Organists***

If you would like to play in this program (and I hope you will) just contact me at [ronhcarter@msn.com](mailto:ronhcarter@msn.com). I will have both theatre organ and classical organ registrations set up on general pistons for you!!! I hope we will have several different folks play! We want this to be a fun event!! Don't be bashful!!

Hope to see all of our AGO friends and ATOS members there!!!

Ron Carter  
House Organist  
Secretary to the Strand Board of Trustees



## President's Message...

I often write about what our goals and priorities are as a preservation organization, so I won't repeat them here. But one of them is to present the art of the theatre organ to people who are new to it; people who are not part of our organization or our efforts. Hopefully, from among those who hear and enjoy, we can gain new members, but if we are able to entertain people and they can have an enjoyable and memorable experience as we open for a film, conduct a sing-a-long, accompany a silent film, even a (horrors!!) concert, then we have advanced our art and our cause. If I think of memorable events, I can't help but think of the times that I've been in Augusta for Ron Carter's September silent films at the Sacred Heart Cultural Center and the young boy who, after seeing one, announced, "This is better than the Regal!" referring to the newly-opened multiplex theatre in Augusta. Or the other 8-year old who wanted to know, "When will there be more organ movies?" Or the people standing outside of a sold-out Sacred Heart seeing if any seats opened up.

In my own experiences, at the Capitol Theatre in Macon when I used to have children crowd around the console that was on the floor just left of the proscenium and I'd have them sitting on either side of me on

the bench pushing pistons and pressing stoptabs. "Dad, we need to GET one of these." Or the Sci-Fi audiences at the Strand for *Rocky Horror* or at the Alabama for *Star Trek* who just go crazy at all the Sci-Fi music on the theatre organ. Or my country music audiences in Chattanooga every March.

Rick McGee has many stories of his special interactions with audiences and the music he uses. As do many others.

In July and August, we have an are partnering with the classical boys (as I call them), the esteemed American Guild of Organists, hosting their youth experience students at the Page, and then in a joint program in August, both of which give these young people an experience of a different kind of organ, music and entertainment. What a great opportunity and a great privilege.

And coming up – you first hear it here – by the time you read this, we may have nailed down Clark Wilson to accompany *Metropolis* at the Strand. Those of you who were at the Fox for that unforgettable, magnificent evening in May of 2004 have an inkling of what we're in for but the current film is only 6 minutes short of the complete film and ads 20% more footage than you saw the last time – discovered in Argentina and digitally restored in the interim. So something new and something guaranteed to attract people who would never come to "an organ concert" is in the works.

### Atlanta Chapter, American Theatre Organ Society

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

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*Ads or announcements for this  
newsletter:*

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This month, I want to thank the writers who faithfully review our programs every month: our stalwart Biz.E.Body (the principal reviewer) the Foxy Vox, the Chamber Mouse, and their substitutes - sometimes we get the eloquent Mr. McCall in his own name - who take the time and use their creativity to write enjoyable comments. Some of you know who these folks are – keep the secret, please – but they stepped up after the passing of our unforgettable "The Listener," Liz Fields. We appreciate and enjoy their work. Their anonymity allows them to say just about anything – and they do. Nothing stuffy there. Or anywhere in our chapter. Thank goodness!

Stay in touch.

*Larry Davis*

***“The console comes up?  
Oh, wow!”***  
***The AGO’s POE students visit  
the Grande Page***

By Larry Davis

Across the country, local chapters of the American Guild of Organists sponsor events called the “Pipe Organ Experience,” (POE) where they bring young organ students together for a week-long educational event, including the opportunity to visit and play various classical pipe organs around a region. The Atlanta Chapter of the AGO ([www.agoatlanta.org](http://www.agoatlanta.org)) began to plan such an event some months ago and when I heard of it, I immediately contacted the Dean of the chapter, Keith Williamson, and offered the students a chance to visit Stephenson High, to play the Grande Page, and tour the pipe chambers. Keith and the program director, Dr. Nicole Marane, agreed that this would be a unique experience for the young people and together, we made the arrangements.

On Sunday afternoon, July 24, a group of ATOS Atlanta members gathered to welcome the students. The first to arrive was the caterer who brought BBQ since the kids were to eat at the high school, then the buses drove up, and 21 young people and about that many chaperones and teachers poured into the “commons.”



Once done with dinner and dismissed, the kids crowded into the auditorium and gathered around the front for a peek at the console sitting down in the pit.. “The console comes up? Oh, wow!” was one of the

exclamations. And, based on comments made to me by a couple of instructors, the kids were not the only ones who found that exciting.

Having been asked a dozen times by students and teachers alike some version of the question “How did this organ come to be in a high school,” the presentation began with an explanation of where the organ came from and how it came to be in that auditorium.

There is no better exponent of the theatre organ than Ken Double, so it was he who brought up the console to “There’s No Business Like Show Business.” I watched the kids carefully (and some of the instructors) and as the organ came up the boys were nudging each other and grinning. Everyone, girls, boys, instructors, watched Ken’s hands flash towards the stops making changes on the fly (!); even the instructors were looking at each other just shaking their heads.

Then Ken took everyone on a tour of the console – stops, tremors, voices – and explained the art of playing the theatre organ. He issued an invitation for the kids to come up and play and one fellow took off like a horse let out of the gate - but this young man had just finished a week at the ATOS Summer Youth Experience – and he played it as a theatre organ. Another young fellow apparently liked BIG BASS and wondered why we couldn’t have real 32’ pipes. Later he would amaze all the young people by playing a (currently) popular music piece they all recognize – I didn’t - using a lot of bass. We heard a lot of little classical pieces, one well-executed Gershwin work, and some more theatre organ by our SYA veteran. Probably 12-15 of the 21 students took the opportunity to sit at the keyboards to see what they could do, Ken overseeing and assisting them all.

Then everyone headed upstairs for what might have been the only chance some of them would have to get inside a pipe organ. There was a lot of

interest in the “mitred” pipes and in the percussions and traps.

The outcome is that several local students took my card and indicated an interest in returning and playing again in the future, and there is some discussion that we may later host a visit by the instructors. One instructor, when it was suggested that he might want to play the Page said, “Oh, no, that’s not for me.” Then he looked up at the console and added, “Well, at least not in front of the students.” When one of the other AGO members suggested that he might be able to make a later visit and play, he said finally admitted, “That would be an interesting opportunity.”

Yoda said, “If once you start down the dark path, forever will it dominate your destiny; consume you it will.”

But we are thrilled that bridges have been built and we’ll further strengthen them at our next program.

I would like to offer my thanks to those who joined me to welcome these kids, especially to John Tanner, who tuned the organ the day before and hosted the kids in the chambers; Ken Double, who presented the organ in a most spectacular and professional way and then assisted the kids; Tim Stephens, who helped set up and break down the lunchroom and the sound system; Bud Blubaugh, who showed up 2 hours in advance and made himself available to do anything I needed; those who assisted in getting the cover off and back on, and all the others who were great hosts and gracious to both the kids and the instructors.



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## Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- August 21, Sunday, 3:00 pm, Joint AGO/ATOS program at the Strand Theatre in Marietta
- Classic movie night at Marietta HS Performing Arts Center and pre-shows on the Chapters LLQ324. Times to to be announced. Of special note: there will be actors from these movies on stage to participate in the program!!!!



### Events at the Strand where the Chapter organ will be used.

Movies at the Strand: Come support the Strand and the use of the Chapters GW-IV at the below screenings of classic movies.

July 30th 7:30 pm LABYRINTH organist Ken Double

August 5 7:30 pm THE GOOD, BAD and UGLY organist Misha

August 13 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm Two screenings of WIZARD OF OZ organist Larry Davis. (please note that the times are for the start of the organ pre-show).

September 23rd To Kill a Mockingbird—Larry Davis

September 24th American Graffiti—TBA

September 25th Gone With the Wind—John McCall

### *Sacred Heart Cultural Center-Augusta Ga*

September 23rd THE MAN WHO LAUGHS- Ron Carter accompanies this fantastic German Expressionistic film in a very acoustically live environment at the Sacred Heart Cultural Center. Seeing this wonderful room and million dollars worth of stain glass is worth the price of admission! Melanie Larsen, local vocalist and conservatory of music graduate, will present a pre-show of solos from the great American songbook with Ron accompanied her on the organ at 7 pm. Film screening starts at 7:30. This even is sold out every year so get your tickets now.

### *Vintage Theater/Classic/Band Organ Recordings*

Dick Leibert, Ray Bohr, Don Baker, Leon Berry, George Wright, Fred Swann, E. Power Biggs, Carlo Curly and others. 33-1/3 rpm, all in very good condition,. Other sacred/secular choral recordings, even some rare 45 rpm Hammond organ recordings by Lenny Dee and Ethel Smith. All **FREE** to anyone in the metro Atlanta area that can give these recordings a good home. I will bring them to anyone within Atlanta. Outside Atlanta, just pay shipping. Contact: Prosciaorg@aol.com or 770-258-3388 and leave a message.

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Several years ago, someone visited our chapter and wrote later of us, "That is the friendliest bunch of people." That was what caused me to become a part thirteen years ago. It's great to see that nothing has changed.