



# ATOS ATLANTA

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



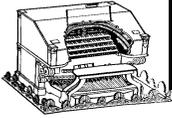
## August Chapter Meeting Sunday, August 21 — 3:00pm Mark Renwick at the Grande Page Stephenson High School



Please renew your ATOS Chapter membership if you haven't done so.



Level	Base	Cap
Student	\$17.50	
Basic	\$35.00	
Donor	\$36.00	\$99.00
Contributor	\$100.00	\$199.00
Sponsor	\$200.00	\$299.00
Patron	\$300.00	And up



## A Letter from your President



### LAUTER WOWS 'EM; RENWICK UP NEXT

It's already August as you read this; students are already back in school at Stephenson H.S. and points beyond; but despite the speeding calendar, the Atlanta Chapter members have great music happening all over.

John Lauter traveled from Detroit to entertain on the Allen GW 4 at RiverCenter in Columbus, GA, and thrilled an audience of near-60 attendees who heard a wonderful selection of music presented by this talented artist. There is a full review of the event later in the newsletter, but thank you, John!!

And a big thanks to Norm Easterbrook, our congenial host and Executive Director of RiverCenter who continues to program the instrument there. Many in Columbus are getting introduced to what the folks down there have dubbed "The Wave." Norm wanted a marketing "handle" and it is appropriate as the glorious acoustics of the Bill Heard Theatre allow that instrument's sound to "wash over the listeners" like a wave of lush music.

What is happening there is important. An audience for our distinctive sound must be introduced to the music; then cultivated; then offered opportunities to hear it in its different forms. Thus, we had an opening full concert event with a guest concert pianist; a Christmas holiday program; a full-length silent film; now this chapter event with John Lauter. All this in addition to Dr. Joseph Golden, director of the organ department at Columbus State University, performing for groups there as well.

To generate interest; to generate new members; to get people unfamiliar with the theatre to the point where they start asking, "Is the organ going to play tonight?" we must be our own personal bull horns. Norm Easterbrook is, and that is fantastic. And we all must be, as well.

A challenge, as we brought in two new chapter members courtesy of Lauter's great concert: can each of us bring in one new member by the end of the year? Imagine if we grew from our current 85 members (approximately) all the way to 170!!

It's ONLY one person that you bring to the fold. Between the exposure we enjoy via the Fox and Mighty Mo; the Plaza and the LLQ 324; and the Strand and the GW 4; people do get to hear the music. We need to simply introduce them to the next step. Join ACATOS!

To be realistic, we should surely be able to hit the century mark and reach 100 members by year's end. Let's get to work!!

And let's be at Stephenson High School on Sunday, August 21 at 3:00p.m. to hear our good friend Mark Renwick share his fabulous musical skills with us on the Grande Page pipe organ. It will be great fun and some marvelous sounds from one of ATOS' truly hidden talents. See you then!

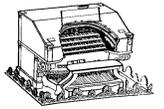
Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society  
P.O. Box 426  
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426  
404-790-5400  
[www.atosatanta.org](http://www.atosatanta.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta](http://www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta)

ACATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Chapter President - Ken Double  
Vice President - Ron Carter  
Treasurer - Paul Beavin  
Secretary - Larry Davis  
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless  
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis  
Membership Director - Janis Beavin  
Board members:

John Tanner  
Eddie Hulsey, Jr.  
Larry Davis  
Randy Hendry  
Lee Lanier  
Rick McGee  
David Yackman

Strand Project – Ron Carter  
Page Project – Jack Sandow



## Laudable Lauter: John Lauter Plays RiverCenter

By John Clark McCall, Jr.

When I was honored to introduce John Lauter at our magnificent GW-4 organ: *The Wave* at RiverCenter, Columbus, Saturday, July 23, I told the audience:

“You see all the multi-colored stop tablets on this organ? Well, they represent the versatility of our artist today. John has opened for some of the greatest entertainers at theatres including the Detroit Fox where he did pre-shows for Frank, Liza, Dean, Andy, Mel, Sammy... and the list goes on.”

A spirited “Tonight” from *West Side Story* started the proceedings. I believe composer Leonard Bernstein would have been pleased with both the artist and the Allen—making their way to a theatrical climax with the GW-4 at almost full-throttle. Even the castanets were chattering onward to the climax. OK—it wasn’t night time; it was a hot Saturday afternoon but an audience of over sixty cooled its heels to some *hot* playing. While our toes were in the “tap” position, Lauter followed with the Jules Styne and Stephen Sondheim classic, “Some People” from *Gypsy*. And to honor our lately departed impresario of the Broadway stage, Sondheim’s “Take Me to the World” followed. This haunting piece was part of a 1966 CBS television production, *Evening Primrose*--a somewhat forgotten fragment of the prodigious output of composer Sondheim. Many concertgoers are still recalling the melody line on the Friday following!



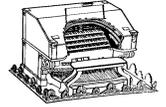
Each selection the artist crafted showed yet another side of our grand instrument with selections including March King Sousa’s “Liberty Bell March,” appropriately, “**Wave**” and the “One Note Samba,” both by Antonio Carlos Jobim; Don Fagen’s “Walk Between the Raindrops” (from the 1982 album, *Night Flight*); “Moonlight in Vermont,” “The Japanese Sandman,” and Robert Farnon’s tone poem, “How Beautiful Is Night.” Mr. Lauter reminded the audience that the latter piece’s lovely tranquility might transfix us, thus the cue for applause might hide in a mist of tibia

and strings. The organist added he would use an old trick of Virgil Fox’s—majestically raising both hands above the keyboard. We applauded on cue!

At the 2009 ATOS Convention in Cleveland, John Lauter was featured in concert at the gang-busting Gray’s Armory Wurlitzer. It was a morning program that became a legendary affair for audience and artist alike. One of the most memorable of that ion-filled concert was Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” Michael had died a few weeks before (June, 2009). Lauter reimagined this *tour de force* for RiverCenter and ended with a final chorus, sans tremulants, demonstrating the *mightiness* that was once claimed only by folks like Wurlitzer. Whoa!

(continued on next page)

## ATOS Atlanta



(continued)

To close, John honored perhaps our greatest Georgia lyricist, the American Songbook's Johnny Mercer in an ingenious set which included a snippet of "Georgia on my Mind," and on to full symphonic developments of "Goody-Goody," "I Remember You," "Early Autumn," "I Thought About You," "Dream," and a romping-stomping closer, "Day In – Day Out."

Of course, the organist was brought back to the voluminous stage for John Williams' equally grand "Overture to *Raiders of the Lost Ark*." But that didn't end our time in the 2,200-seat Bill Heard Theatre. In the true spirit of chapter programs, our open console artists included Brady Born, Jay Mitchell and Eddie Hulsey. They certainly did credit to this marvelous instrument.

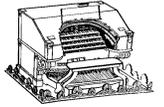
Looking back, John Lauter was notable a decade earlier at our then-fledgling Page at Stephenson High School. His energetic, tasteful playing has only become even more *laudable* in the ensuing years. If you missed it, I remind you of a quotation of classical organist E. Power Biggs (upon hearing Ray Shelley at the Detroit Fox Wurlitzer): "...you deserve to roast for it."



After party with the artist:  
Mitch Parker, John Lauter, Eddie Hulsey, Julianna Sunrich,  
John McCall, Corky Meyers, Brady Born and Jay Mitchell.



Open console: Jay Mitchell



**Ron Carter  
Strand Events  
Scheduled for 2022**

Friday August 12th 7:30pm organ preshow for live stage show **Jukebox Giants**, organist Ron Carter  
Saturday August 13th 7:30pm organ preshow for live stage show **Jukebox Giants**, organist John McCall  
Sunday August 14th 2:30pm organ preshow for live stage show **Jukebox Giants**, organist TBA  
Friday August 19th 7:30pm organ preshow for live stage show **Jukebox Giants**, organist TBA  
Saturday August 20th 2:30pm organ preshow for live stage show **Jukebox Giants**, organist Misha Stefanuk  
Saturday August 20th 7:30pm organ preshow for live stage show **Jukebox Giants**, organist Eddie Hulsey  
Sunday August 21st 2:30pm organ preshow for live stage show **Jukebox Giants organist**, Misha Stefanuk

I hope our chapter members will support this high energy production with a dozen singers and dancers on the stage and a great Motown type pit band!! If you loved that great music from the 50s and 60s this is it!!

August 26th Friday 8:00pm **Mama Mia** - John McCall organ pre-show at 7:30pm.  
August 27th Saturday 3:00pm **Mama Mia** - Misha Stefanuk organ pre-show at 2:30pm.  
August 27th Saturday 8:00pm **Mama Mia** - John McCall organ pre-show at 7:30pm.

Sept 29<sup>th</sup> National Silent Film Day. Silent films by various organists beginning at 1:00pm concluding with **Safety Last** by Ron Carter at 7:30pm. Films and times TBA.

September 30th Friday 8:00pm **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** organ pre-show at 7:30pm TBA.

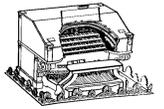
October 28th Friday 11:30pm **Rocky Horror Picture Show** organ pre-show at 7:30pm TBA.

October 30th Sunday 3:00pm **Phantom the Opera (silent)** - Jay Mitchell organ pre-show at 2:30pm. Movie accompanied by Ron Carter.

November 27th Sunday 3:00pm **Sound of Music Sing-along** Larry Davis organ pre-show at 2:30pm.

December 15th Thursday 8:00pm **Elf!** Debbie Chambless organ pre-show at 7:30pm.

Friday December 30th 8:00pm **Sleepless in Seattle** - organ pre-show at 7:30pm TBA



## Chapter Programs - 2022

Sunday August 21st 3:00pm Stephenson High School, Mark Renwick playing the Chapter's Grande Page Theatre Pipe Organ.

Sunday September 18th 3:00pm Carter Performing Arts Center with Ron Carter at the console of his and Donna's Allen GW4. A musical Tribute to Rogers and Hammerstein. Selections from 5 of their most famous shows!

Sunday October 23rd 3:00pm The Plaza Theatre on PDL in Atlanta featuring the world class artist, Hector Olivera, in dedication of the Chapter's Allen LLQ324 theatre organ.

Saturday November 12th 2:00pm (CST) Pisgah Alabama at the mountain top complex of Debbie and Daryl Chambless with Stuart Thompson, organist at the Alabama Theatre, playing the newly installed custom Allen Theatre Three Deluxe in the beautiful Meeting Hall at Gorham's Bluff. (note this concert will be in the Meeting House, a beautiful venue with vaulted ceilings and excellent acoustics). The chapter is considering renting a small bus or van for this trip. If you are interested, please contact Ron Carter at 678-905-5944. In the past these organ trips have been extremely fun, especially being together on the trip up and back and with the cost of gas, this is the way to GO!!

December: date and program TBA.

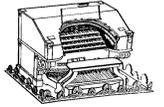
## RiverCenter Programs

Saturday, October 29th 7:30pm Ron Carter accompanies the 1925 Classic **Phantom of the Opera**, on the Mighty Allen Theatre Organ THE WAVE! Costume contest!

Saturday, December 3rd time TBA—Christmas on the Wave and Gingerbread houses display. Chapter organists will entertain in the huge lobby of the RiverCenter on the Chapter's GWIV!

## Other Programs of Interest

September 22nd 7:30pm Sacred Heart Cultural Arts Center, Augusta Ga. Ron Carter accompanies the Harold Lloyd classic silent film "The Freshman" on a beautifully installed Allen Classic Organ. The stained glass in this building is worth making the trip! This will be Ron's 19th year accompanying silent films at this venue!



## **August Chapter Meeting Sunday, August 21 - 3:00pm Mark Renwick at the Page Console Stephenson High School**

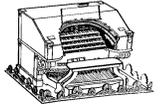
Mark Renwick was born into a musical family--both of his grandfathers were professional musicians, and his parents perpetuated their forefathers' love of music. From an early age, Mark was exposed to various musical styles.



Mark began playing the organ at age 6. In addition to a few key coaches along the way, his principal musical instruction came through careful listening to many different types of music, with particular fondness for American popular music from before the 1900s through the 1950s, as well as opera and orchestral classical music. He is a great fan of cornetist Bix Beiderbecke and jazz pianists Thomas "Fats" Waller and Art Tatum, as well as symphonic band conductor Frederick Fennell and concert organist Thomas Murray. As a theatre organist, his style has been influenced by George Wright and the "poet of the organ" Jesse Crawford, among others.

While growing up, Mark was an active member of the Eastern Massachusetts Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (EMCATOS). Thanks to the EMCATOS, he enjoyed frequent access to a number of authentic theatre pipe organs in homes and auditoriums. Mark points out the vital role ATOS plays in encouraging new artists and audiences to discover and enjoy these wonderful instruments.

Mark moved to Jacksonville, Florida, in 1982 to assume a position in the banking industry. After over 30 years in Jacksonville, Mark and his wife, Carrie, relocated to Tallahassee, Florida. Without an active local chapter in either Jacksonville or Tallahassee, Mark calls the Atlanta Chapter his ATOS "home."



**Welcome New Member!**

Dennis James

**Chapter Name Tags**

If anyone is interested in obtaining a chapter name tag, please contact Tim Stephens and we will get the information to you on cost. Email [tcstephens@gmail.com](mailto:tcstephens@gmail.com) for more information.

**CHAPTER CHALLENGE - 100 MEMBERS BY DECEMBER 31st!**

5 Chapter Meetings remain in 2022. Let's all invite our friends to the Chapter events and each bring in one member by the end of the year. What a great way to kick off 2023 with 100+ members!