



# ATOS ATLANTA

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

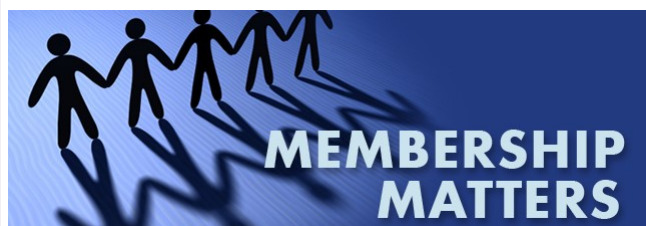


**AUGUST CHAPTER MEETING  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 - 3:00PM**

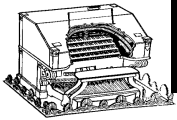
**KEN DOUBLE IN CONCERT  
STEPHENSON HIGH SCHOOL**



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



Level	Base	Cap
Student	\$17.50	
Basic	\$35.00	
Donor	\$75.00	\$149.00
Contributor	\$150.00	\$249.00
Sponsor	\$250.00	\$499.00
Patron	\$500.00	And up



## A Letter from your President



Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society  
P.O. Box 426  
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426  
404-790-5400  
[www.atosatlanta.org](http://www.atosatlanta.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta](https://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 - David Yackman  
Treasurer - Paul Beavin  
Secretary - Larry Davis  
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless  
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis  
Membership Director - Janis Beavin  
Board members:

Kerry Bunn  
Ron Carter  
Rick Clear  
Randy Hendry  
Eddie Hulsey, Jr.  
Lee Lanier

Strand Project – Ron Carter  
Page Project – Jack Sandow

### A CHANGE OF PLANS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 13<sup>th</sup> A “PRESIDENTIAL” PAGE TRIFECTA

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we have been forced to change the venue for our August 13<sup>th</sup> chapter meeting. The bad news here is that the Fox Theatre and Mighty Mo are not going to be available to us, and so, yours truly will simply transfer the bench to the Grande Page, making it three visits in a row to enjoy our fabulous Page theatre pipe organ. Under normal circumstances, the LAST thing I would want to do is park myself on the bench to follow the last two programs we just heard, but such is life in the world of the theatre organ.

I cannot recall a time that our chapter enjoyed back-to-back meetings in which we enjoyed so much spectacular music by two young artists with so much talent. Ben Forsthoffer in June was brilliant, only to nearly be outdone by his friend Brett Miller last month.

Both of these delightful young men, who grew up miles apart in Bucks County, PA (what was in the water there??!!), are sparkling musicians with amazing talents for making the theatre pipe organ sound glorious. You will read the review of Brett’s performance later in this missive.

Meanwhile, the coming months are filled with opportunities to hear theatre organ music, with a host of performers doing pre-shows at the Strand; a brief weekend of movies for the Coca Cola Summer Film Series at the Fox the last weekend of August; our chapter trip to Birmingham to hear Big Bertha in September, and the typically busy month of October and all kinds of silent film fun.

### CALLING ALL HELPERS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 12<sup>th</sup> AT 9:30 AT STEPHENSON HIGH SCHOOL!

Our plans for a Grande Page Cleanup Day were shifted to August 12<sup>th</sup>, and we are looking for 5 or 6 folks (in addition to our regulars and a couple of board members!) to assist us as we do a little updating, re-arranging, dumping and cleaning of a lot of extraneous “stuff” at the school.

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This should not be horribly strenuous, and with John Tanner, David Yackman and Randy Hendry having done some preliminary planning, it should go smoothly. We'll provide lunch, and save time for a little music on the Page. The firm Hunks Who Haul Junk will be bringing a truck to rid us of the trash, and clean up our living spaces at Stephenson High School. Come join us! We will make it a fun day, and just in time for the next day's chapter meeting!

Let's hope we see each other BOTH Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup> and again on Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>.

*Sea*

### **Finishing the Drill – Those Who Came Before**

This series of articles principally covers events that have occurred during the past quarter century during the time that I have been a member. But our chapter was founded in the early 1960's and there have been many activities and many contributors since that time. Rick McGee is doubtless the most knowledgeable person regarding what went on in those early years. There were certain individuals who were a major part of our history, responsible for fulfilling our mission, and who should be acknowledged. The first ones who come to mind are Edd (Doc) and Norma Simmons, who in the 1960's, installed a 2m/7r Kimball in their home south of Atlanta where they hosted chapter meetings. Doc Simmons also rescued and stored the Wurlitzer from the Lucas Theatre in Savannah, which has now been renovated and re-installed in the theatre. There was the delightful Charles Walker, who had a Robert Morton installed in his business on 10<sup>th</sup> Street in Atlanta. Gordon and Linda Johnson rescued a 2m/7r Wurlitzer from the Imperial Theatre in Augusta and installed it in their home in East Marietta. That organ has now been rescued once again and is back home in the theatre, awaiting funding for reinstallation. Finally, in the home of Donna and Ron Carter, there were, at different times, two different Wurlitzers, first a 2m/7r, then a 3m/16r, followed by the Allen GW4. Ron has been one of the most significant figures in the history of the chapter and we will hear more about his ongoing contributions in articles to come. Dick and Audrey Weber opened the pizza and pipes restaurant in Marietta and brought the Grande Page to Atlanta, a story you can read in detail on our website. There was a Kimball installed in a church in the Grant Park area by chapter members. Our chapter has a storied history – there is much more than I've written here – and it was our founders and those who followed who kept the cause alive through the decades.

Next month: The Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend

Larry Davis

If you would like to send a get well card to Rick McGee:

Rick McGee  
Sandy Springs Center for Nursing and Health  
1500 S. Johnson Ferry Road, NE  
Sandy Springs, GA 30319  
Room 225-B





**August Chapter Meeting  
Sunday, August 13 - 3:00pm  
Stephenson High School  
Ken Double in Concert**

A former radio and television sportscaster who started taking organ lessons as an 8-year-old in Chicago, **KEN DOUBLE** has enjoyed a second career focused on his love of the music of the theatre pipe organ.

As a sportscaster, Ken broadcast NBA and major college basketball, NHL, IHL and AHL hockey, the worldwide broadcast of the Indy 500, and more. He was seen on the nightly news delivering the sports headlines of the day in Lafayette and Indianapolis, IN. Ken was the first “Voice of the Atlanta Knights” hockey team, and first lived in Atlanta from 1992-94.

But since retiring from broadcasting in 2008, Ken has performed concerts on the great theatre pipe organs around the world. He also helped establish the Long Center Theatre Organ Society in Lafayette, Indiana; spent ten years as the President of the American Theatre Organ Society; advised the Historic Organ Restoration Committee on fundraising, as they restore the largest pipe organ in the world at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City; and since 2016, performs on *Mighty Mo*, the iconic 4/42 Möller pipe organ at the Atlanta Fox Theatre.

Ken is also proud to have recently performed the first public concerts on the GW 4 at River-Center in Columbus; and the Lucas Theatre’s Mighty Wurlitzer in Savannah.

Ken Double performed his first concert in 1978; has more than 20 recordings to his credit; has toured Australia and New Zealand 8 times; MC’d more than 20 ATOS convention events; and in November, will celebrate his 41st annual concert at Long Center in Lafayette, IN, on the Wurlitzer organ he helped create and install.

Concert and recording artist, administrator, promoter and fundraiser, broadcaster and entertainer, **Ken Double** has enjoyed, as he says, “getting paid to have fun.”





## A GENTLE REMINDER FROM KEN DOUBLE

To all of our chapter members:

For the past two years, I have talked about how the chapter is best served when many serve. We have capable people throughout the organization, and I urge you to ask a simple question: "How can I help?" Looking ahead, we will be asking folks to "step up," including at least two specific positions on the board.

Paul Beavin, who has served us so very well as our Treasurer, has indicated he wishes to relinquish the post and will not serve after the term ends December 31. Paul has placed the chapter on very good footing, paving the way for a smooth transition for a new Treasurer.

And after 4 (maybe it's 5???) years as President, I am absolutely, positively, and without question stepping down from the position. It is absolutely essential we have good people doing good things for the betterment of our chapter, and that includes the leadership post.

I have no intention of going away. I am truly invested in all of our work, and will gladly continue on the Board to work for us all. But fresh ideas and different perspectives help us all, and it is time for new leadership at the top of ACATOS.

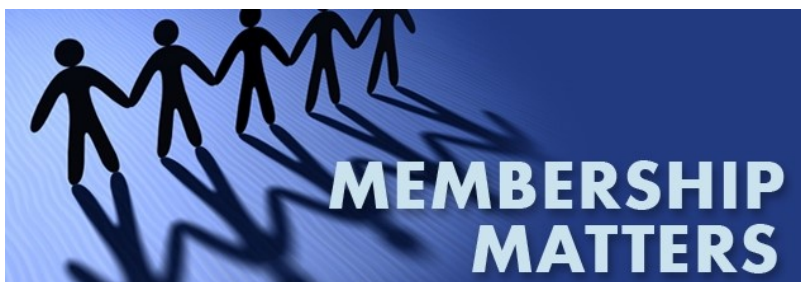
Is some work involved? Of course. Are there LOTS of good folks helping with this work? Absolutely. If you balance your check book well, you can be Treasurer. If you have some good ideas, you can be President. With lots of support from many. We need you now!

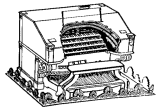
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Thank you to following members for their generous donations to the Chapter!

Carroll and Kay Eddleman  
Jim Grier

Don't forget to renew your membership. We need you!  
Renew at [atosatlanta.org](http://atosatlanta.org)





## REVIEW OF BRETT MILLER CONCERT

Over 50 chapter members and guests were treated to a stunning display of theatre organ artistry by our young guest performer, Brett Miller, for the July chapter program at Stephenson High School. This Eastman School of Music Senior student plays as a true professional. After only having a few hours of rehearsal that morning, Brett had a complete command of our large 22 rank Grande Page Pipe Organ. His musical selections were of the VERY DIFFICULT variety, from a John Seng type arrangement of Beyond the Blue Horizon to a 15 minute complete rendition of Victory at Sea! This reviewer literally sat on the edge of his seat hearing sounds from the Grande Page he had never heard before.



Brett continued with selections such as Pick Yourself Up, Libertango, a complete suite from My Fair Lady, a feet tapping, America, from West Side Story, Die Fledermaus Overture, Powerhouse and the King Kong March as the encore. Two standing ovations and "bravos" from the audience indicate the level of playing that this artist exhibited.

Brett hopes to continue at Eastman with a Master's Degree in orchestral conducting and in fact has conducted the Eastman Student Orchestra as they accompanied a silent film! Having just returned from the National ATOS Convention, I heard some great artists on some great organs. And then to hear Brett at our own Grande Page play at the same

level or, even at some concerts I attended, HIGHER than those seasoned artists, left me with the feeling that the future of the theatre organ is in good hands!! And as a side note- The Grande Page sounded stupendous!!!!

Ron Carter

## Coca-Cola Summer Film Festival Fox Theatre

Sat, August 26 **Frozen Sing-Along** - 2:00pm

Pre-show at 1:30 by Ken Double

Sat, August 26 **Twilight** - 7:30pm

Pre-show at 7:00 by Ken Double

Sun, August 27 **The Sandlot** - 1:00pm

Pre-show at 7:00 by Ken Double

Sun, August 27 **The Wiz** - 6:30pm

Pre-show at 6:00 by Ken Double

Thu, August 31 **Star Wars: Return of the Jedi** - 7:30pm

Pre-show at 7:00 by Ken Double

**Upcoming Chapter Events**

- August Chapter Meeting      Sunday, August 13 - 3:00pm  
Stephenson High School  
Ken Double at the Grande Page
- September Chapter Meeting      Sunday, September 10 - 2:00pm (CST)  
Alabama Theatre (Birmingham)  
Donnie Rankin at Big Bertha

**Ron Carter  
Strand Theatre Events  
Pre-Shows by Strand Organists**

- Fri, August 11      JukeBox Review - 8:00pm - Organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Misha Stefanuk
- Sat, August 12      JukeBox Review - 3:00pm - Organ pre-show at 2:30pm by Misha Stefanuk  
JukeBox Review - 8:00pm - Organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Misha Stefanuk
- Sun, August 13      JukeBox Review - 3:00pm - Organ pre-show at 2:30pm by Misha Stefanuk
- Fri, August 18      JukeBox Review - 8:00pm - Organ pre-show at 7:30pm TBA
- Sat, August 19      JukeBox Review - 3:00pm - Organ pre-show at 2:30pm by Eddie Hulsey  
JukeBox Review - 8:00pm - Organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Ken Double
- Sun, August 20      JukeBox Review - 3:00pm - Organ pre-show at 2:30pm TBA
- Fri, August 25      Singing in the Rain - 8:00pm - Organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Larry Davis
- Fri, September 29      Mary Poppins - 8:00pm - Organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Larry Davis
- Sun, October 1      National Silent Film Day - 2:00pm (Note: earlier time)  
Preshow Comedy Shorts  
Putting the Pants on Phillip (Laurel and Hardy) - Organist - Eddie Hulsey  
The Wallpaper Hanger (Charlie Chaplin) - Organist - John McCall
- Feature film The Man Who Laughs accompanied by Ron Carter -  
Organ pre-show - Jay Mitchell
- Fri, October 27      Rocky Horror Picture Show - 11:59pm - Organ pre-show at 11:30pm TBA
- Sun, October 30      Phantom of the Opera - 3:00pm accompanied by Ron Carter  
Organ pre-show at 2:30pm by Jay Mitchell