

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 3:00 P.M.
DONNIE RANKIN AT THE REDDISH RESIDENCE**

Continuing a recent trend, the Cobb County Voicing Authority, Atlanta Chapter ATOS, and Walker Technical will present last year's winner of the ATOS Young Artist of the Year competition — Donnie Rankin. All of the chapter members attending the National Convention in Indianapolis this past summer were very impressed with the "Winners Concert" he gave on the Manual High School Wurlitzer (the organ that was at the Excelsior Mill here in Atlanta).

About the Artist... When he was three, a trip to the Akron Civic Theatre introduced him to the sounds of the mighty theatre organ. He would often try playing music on his great grandfather's home organ and around 2000, his own instrument was purchased and lessons began. Donnie took two years of home organ lessons and was told classical piano training would be a good idea, so classical piano lessons began in 2005. The two years that Donnie has studied piano have helped him



win several organ competitions including the title of 'The American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist of the Year' in 2007. He presented a program at Manual High School as a part of the 2008 ATOS convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. He began studying theatre organ with Jelani Eddington in September 2007. Donnie has performed in Sarasota, Florida, Allen, Texas, Foxburg, Pennsylvania, Mundelein, Joliet and Belleville Illinois, Indianapolis, Indiana, Middletown, New York, Cleveland, Warren, Mansfield and Lorain, Ohio.

Donnie was also very active with the high school band receiving the Melissa Strasser First Chair award in 2005 and 2006 and the John Phillip Sousa

award in 2007. He held the position of drum line captain, and was Senior Lieutenant in the high school band council. He played lead pan and drum set for three years in Ravenna High School's steel band and played the drum set four years in the Jazz band. During high school, Donnie took 6 solo and ensemble events on instruments including piano, xylophone and steel drum receiving superior ratings each time.

When he has free time, he enjoys: boating, bowling, cinematography, cycling, archery, marksmanship, and assorted backyard sports. Some more productive hands-on activities he's been involved with include re-soldering PC boards for home organs, and restoring antique tractors, his latest a 1966 John Deere.

About the Instrument... The Cobb County Voicing Authority is never satisfied, so the Walker RTO-335 has been tweaked again. Come hear the difference.

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, which will be on the right. Follow the main road and the house will be 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 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.**

**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 - Larry Davis
Treasurer - Wanda Carey Fields
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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*

**STRAND ORGAN
PROJECT PROGRESS
REPORT**

Your Strand organ crew continues working several days a week on the restoration of the Lucas Wurlitzer and the Capitol Robert Morton. All four sets of swell shades (32 blades) have been restored to include replacement and greasing of all shade bearings, minor woodworking repair, and painting. One set of shade motors is nearing completion with the replacement of all primary and secondary pneumatics. The Robert Morton trumpet chest has been stripped of all old leather valves, sanded and new replacement valves glued. The chest was tested this week and passed with flying colors. The Robert Morton tibia chest has been stripped of all old leather valves and sanded awaiting new leather valves. The Wurlitzer console has been completely gutted and numerous structural repairs made. This required gluing and setting and much woodworking by Rick McGee. The console finish has been completed stripped and sanded getting ready for its black stain. Individual ranks of pipes are now being uncrated, cleaned, and repairs made as necessary. Several traps are in the process of

restoration. The glockenspiel, xylophone, chimes, and harp have been restored, received a fresh coat of shellac and are ready for installation in the chambers. The Spencer Blower is scheduled to be tested on Saturday November 21st when James Thrower will connect its motor to the available three-phase current at our shop. Four thousand dollars worth (224 Syndyne stop action magnets) have been ordered and should arrive mid-December. All of the parts necessary for the console keyboards rebuild has been ordered and received. One extra glock and marimba harp have been sold netting the project \$790.00.

Our current Strand Organ fund balance is \$13,125. We are in need of raising an additional \$50,000 to complete this as a chapter project doing all of the labor ourselves. If you have NOT contributed please don't wait any longer. We will soon need to order the digital relay and combination action electronics Wurlitzer engraved stops, new pedal board, and locate 11 ranks of Wurlitzer chests for Wurlitzer pipe work. We plan on rebuilding the Robert Morton chests ourselves for the Robert Morton pipe work. There is much to be done but with your financial support we can have the Strand organ playing by early summer. Remember that for a contribution of at least \$250.00 you can honor or memorialize someone on a plaque that will be on public display at the theatre. Please mail your contribution or pledge now to "Atlanta Chapter, ATOS" P.O. Box 426, Marietta, Ga. 30061-0426. Specify "Strand Organ Project" on the memo line.

Ron Carter

**Thanks for the
Strand Theatre
Organ Project Donations**

**BRONZE CIRCLE (\$1000 to
\$2499)**

David Tuck

LISTENER (\$100 to \$249)

Ted Barnett

FRIENDS (up to \$99)

Anonymous

*Additional Sponsorship Levels
Available*

PATRON (\$250 to \$499)

VIP (\$500 to \$999)

SILVER CIRCLE (\$2500 to \$4499)

GOLD CIRCLE (\$5000 to \$9999)

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ORGAN-NAMING RIGHTS AND

WORLD CLASS CONTRIBUTOR

(\$100,000 +)

*Total given & pledged to date:
\$13,125 (5.25% of Goal)*

**DECEMBER IS
ELECTION TIME**

Our December meeting will include election of Atlanta Chapter officers for 2009. The slate proposed is:

President
Bucky Reddish

Vice President
Phillip Allen

Secretary
Larry Davis

Treasurer
Wanda Carey Fields

Closing Chord by Larry Davis

Sadie McClure, a long-time member of the Alabama Chapter and the ATOS, supporter of theatre organ endeavors, and a friend to many in the Atlanta Chapter, passed on November 20. Certainly all of us who ever played at the Alabama will remember how encouraging she was. Sadie had an effervescent personality and an enthusiasm that was contagious.

OWEN DOESN'T OWE !!

Our November program featured Greg Owen at Ron and Donna Carter's residence and the Allen Renaissance GW-4 Theatre Organ.



Greg Owen

Greg is not a stranger to the Atlanta Chapter, having performed on several earlier occasions – at the Johnson “Naughty Marietta” Wurlitzer and the Marr & Colton in the Whitmire’s store in Gainesville, Georgia.

After a short business meeting, the artist was introduced to the sizeable audience and the musical adventure began.

The opener was *Wake Up and Live*, a great number for the theatre organ and showcased the full house sound of the installation.

After this, the song *Going Home* (actually the Largo movement from the New World Symphony by Anton Dvorak), showed off the orchestral qualities of the instrument and the artist as conductor.

Next, *A Kiss to Build a Dream On* with shades of Louis Armstrong playing along set the stage for an original composition by Greg, featuring the Carter’s digital grand piano – *Beautiful*. And last, but certainly not least – *Taking a Chance on Love* rounded out this grouping of songs.

Opera selections work very well on the theatre organ, and this selection, *One Fine Day* (Un Bel Dei – Madam Butterfly – Puccini) had the emotional content to evoke the action of this critical point in the opera. Well done !



Abby Carter

A special guest artist arrived next – Miss Abby Carter, granddaughter of Ron and Donna, performed three selections on the piano. First, *Vivace*, followed by *Lunar Eclipse* and then a rousing *Cossak Ride*. Variety and clean performance shows this to be a person destined for future performances and greater things.

Greg returned to the Allen with a complete medley from the musical *West Side Story*, featuring arrangements of these selections to please the listener and bring memories of the show to life again.

A little more love in the house brought us, continuing in the love mode, a very atmospheric setting of *Where Do I Begin?*, the theme from the film *Love Story*. And love without moonlight would be just wrong, so we were treated to *Moonlight Reminds Me of You* as featured by Jesse Crawford – an honest sample of the Crawford magic.

A change of style demonstrated the Sunday voices of this instrument with an improvisation on *Easter Song*.

Thoughts of an opera legend were brought fully home in a heart-felt presentation of *Nesun Dorma* from *Turandot* by Puccini – a tribute to the voice that claimed this as a personal theme song, *Luciano Pavaroti*.

An encore selection of the favorite hymn “Sweet Hour of Prayer” featured a theme-and-variations treatment, even using the piano as a solo.

This afternoon gathering concluded with door prize giveaways, even some rare music collections for the oft’ lauded Magnus Chord Organ.



Ron Carter

Greg Owen

Donna Carter

Donna provided wonderful refreshments and a beautiful setting for this event. This gets the holiday season off to a really great start!! Thanks, Donna, the hard work made it seem effortless and appreciated. (You too, Ron!)

All comments and observations provided courtesy of **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear — remember, the walls have ears!

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- **WELCOME** •
 - **NEW MEMBERS** •
 - Linda & Robert Hamill •
 - Atlanta, GA •
 - Chris & Cindy Hornsby •
 - Macon, GA •
 - Jay Johnston •
 - North Augusta, SC •
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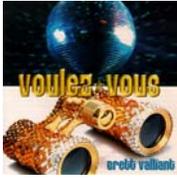
IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009

Write your check for \$35 (Student \$17.50) payable to Atlanta Chapter, ATOS and mail to:
Wanda Carey Fields
413 Concord Road SW
Smyrna, GA 30082-4509

THANKS FOR THE DONATION
Ralph Gordon



Eric Hatcher of Sylvester, Georgia has a Wurlitzer Model 20 Electrified Reed Organ and a Hallet, Davis & Co. "Virtuolo" player piano for sale. Both require some restoration. Make a reasonable offer. Call 229-206-2589 or 229-776-1077 or email: eric@harveststudio.com



Brett Valiant's newest CD *Voulez*Vous* (recorded on Bucky Reddish's Walker RTO-335) is now available from Bucky for \$20, including tax, plus \$1.50 shipping. Call 770-948-8424 or email buckyrph1@bellsouth.net; 5370 Vinings Lake View SW, Mableton, GA 30126-2563.

**Larry, Carols & Mo –
Christmas at the Fox
Tuesday, December 9, 7 P.M.**

Larry Douglas Embury hosts the third annual program at the Fox Theatre, joined by the Gwinnett Children's Choir, the Decatur Civic Chorus, and the choirs of Ebenezer Baptist Church and Zion Hill Baptist Church. The show will include a screening of *The Polar Express*. Tickets are FREE and available at



the Fox Box Office, or through Ticketmaster for a small fee. This year, seats are general admission, so you can sit anywhere you choose. As always, this program is a benefit for Toys for Tots, so remember that when you come, bring non-perishable food items for the Atlanta Community Food Bank and new, unwrapped toys for The Marines Toys For Tots. For more information, visit www.foxtheatre.org. See you there!!

Figaro Holiday Pops at the Randy and Kim Magnuson residence, 411 E. Ogeechee Street, Sylvania, GA (912-564-5956) on December 20th. Featured artists are Larry Davis, Larry Jones and Randy Magnuson. Doors open at 5:00 pm; Concert at 7:00 pm.



December is our Atlanta Chapter Family Meeting and we would like to bring back another tradition and have our family participate. In the past years the Chapter has supplied the meat, drinks and supplies and asked the chapter family to bring the veggies, breads, salads and desserts. We are expecting a large crowd so please bring plenty. To be sure we don't wind up with all salad, desserts, etc., please call or email Bucky, 770-948-8424 (leave a message) email buckyrph1@bellsouth.net or call Wanda or Elbert Fields 770-435-7340; elfields@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- December 3, 7:30 pm, *Holiday Pops* with Jonas Nordwall at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Midtown Atlanta, see November newsletter for details. Tickets \$10 adult, \$5 student/senior. See www.allsaintsatlanta.org—click on Music, then Concert Series
- December 9, 7:00 pm - Larry, Carols, and Mo, The Fox Theatre, Free (more information above) I'll also get you a little blurb to go along with this one.
- **December 14, 3:00 pm—Donnie Rankin at the Reddish Residence**
- December 20, 5:00 pm - *Figaro Holiday Pops* - The Magnuson Residence in Sylvania, GA (more information above)

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year