

December 4th, 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert
Ken Double on the 5-manual, 42-rank Allen TO5
Dr.'s Petway and Lacefield residence

See Page 4 for
Directions to
the Petway/
Lacefield
Residence

Our December meeting will take place at the Petway/Lacefield residence in Sandy Springs on December 4th at 3:00 pm featuring ATOS President and CEO Ken Double on the Allen TO5 Quantum organ.

About the artist... We've known about Ken Double through his broadcasting and theatre organ concert career, but we don't know a lot about Ken Double and his personal background. So, here are some things perhaps you did NOT know about our artist.

Ken grew up in Chicago (the city, NOT the suburbs) the last of six boys. His father was a sales manager covering the Midwest territory for a New York-based firm. This places his mother firmly in the category of "Saint" having raised six sons aged just ten years apart with a husband who was on the road a lot.

Ken likes to tell the story of how he got interested in sports broadcasting. "My earliest childhood memories, even before kindergarten, involve me sitting on the couch in the den" says Double, "and my mother doing the ironing while enjoying her ONE bottle of Meister Brau beer, and watching Cubs baseball on TV."

Cubs' announcer Jack Brickhouse became Ken's idol and the impressionable kid determined at a very early age that sportscasting was the way to go.

Mom and Dad introduced music to all the boys. Older brother Terry is a classically-trained outstanding guitarist who performs and teaches near Durango, CO. The organ lessons began for Ken at age



8, and he was introduced to the theatre organ as a high school sophomore, playing the 3/11 Wurlitzer at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge, IL.

While people like John Ferguson ("It was taking lessons without taking lessons," says Ken. "I was subbing at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis, and John would say 'Try this' or 'Don't do that' and I learned the magic of the stoprail from John."), Jack Olander (the Maine East H.S. teacher who took Ken to the Pickwick), and Chicago Stadium organist and teacher Al Melgard who helped shape Ken's talent, perhaps his interest in music was well-grounded closer to home.

Ruth Burge, or "Aunt Ruth" was Ken's Dad's oldest sister. She played a mean stride-style piano, and at the twice-yearly family gatherings (there were 7 Double's on Dad's side), after dinner and a cocktail or two, invariably the family would gather 'round the piano, Aunt Ruth would play the great old songs, and everyone would sing. More often than not, Ken ended up sitting on the bench next to Aunt Ruth. Which explains a lot about how Ken can play *That Old Gang of Mine* better than music from *Les Miserables*.

About the instrument... The TO5 Quantum is the largest Theatre organ made by the Allen Organ Company. It is a 25-channel instrument of 55 digital ranks, various tuned percussions and special effects. This instrument was voiced by none other than Walt Strony and sounds magnificent in the Petway-Lacefield residence.

Mike and Billy purchased this home in May 2004 after losing their Alpharetta home in a fire which also destroyed their Allen GW4 theatre organ. The home is exquisitely decorated and the organ speaks into a large two-story music room from three divisions.

The Quantum series of instruments also features the latest in sound disbursement technology with Allen's patented Acoustic Portrait digital reverb and delay and Real Expression which duplicates the expression of real pipe organ swell shades opening and closing.

**Organ Pre-shows will be
featured at the
Earl Smith Strand Theatre**

- **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** on Wednesday afternoon December 21st at 3 pm with an organ pre-show and Christmas carol sing-a-long at 2:30 pm with Larry Davis at the console.
- **It's a Wonderful Life** on Wednesday evening December 21st at 8:00 pm with an organ pre-show and Christmas carol sing-a-long at 7:30 pm with Ron Carter at the console.

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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Thanks for the Donation

Jim & Priscilla Buttram

Dear all in ACATOS,

On behalf of Skip Stine and Cassie Costoulas, we all want to say "Thanks" for helping make November 12th a memorable night for everyone involved. It was special in every way, from seeing so many "all dressed up," to the spectacular pre-show party, to the opportunity to honor all of you who gave to make theatre organ at the Strand a reality, to the chance to say "Thank you" to the Hamiltons for their wonderful donation.

Now, it's time to practice some Christmas stuff for our visit to Dr. Petway's. Might do WINTER STORMS once more!!!

From my seat on the bench, it was simply a WONDERFUL night at the Strand. Let's hope we might do it again.

Ken Double

The Strand Mighty Allen Theatre Organ Dedication was a resounding success with over 300 in attendance. I want to thank everyone who helped on this project, who attended the reception and concert, who sponsored/purchased an ad for the printed program, who helped move the console back into the pit at the last minute and who promoted the program, sold tickets and encouraged others to attend. To say we did it right is an understatement. I have gotten numerous e-mails and phone calls since the program commending ATOS and the Strand for producing such a great show.

Tom Hamilton and his family were absolutely overwhelmed. I spoke with Tom after he had returned home and he said he was still on cloud nine and to please convey his most humble appreciation to the Chapter and everyone involved. He said it was quite frankly the highlight of his 83 years!!!!

Lastly, I want to give a HUGE thank you to Ken Double. There is no way to measure the amount of time and effort that Ken spent on promoting, working and practicing for this event. To do all of this and then to step up to the console Saturday night, November 12 and play an absolutely STUNNING concert and not charging a fee for any of this!! Thank you Ken from the bottom of my heart!

Ron Carter

Christmas at Callanwolde

Anyone interested in playing at CAC this year please e-mail Ron Carter at ronhcarter@msn.com. We need organists each morning at 11 am and each evening at 4 pm beginning December 5 thru December 18th except on the two Sundays December 11th and 18th when the morning session is at 10 am. Each organist receives two tickets to Callanwolde, two drink tickets and parks in the rear lot not having to take the shuttle. These slots are filling up fast.

***Larry, Carols and Mo
A Free Annual Holiday Event at the Fox Theatre!
Monday, December 12th, 7 pm***

The evening's festivities include: An organ concert and sing-along with the Fox Theatre's organist in residence, Larry-Douglas Embury playing the Mighty Mo organ and featuring emcee Tom Sullivan, the Peachtree Road Methodist Church Bell Choir, the Georgia Regional Girls Choir, and the Fox Theatre Rising Stars.

Featuring the movie: The Muppet Christmas Carol, Snow on Peachtree Street and inside the Fox! Photos with Santa.

The Fox will be accepting donations for Toys for Tots and the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

Tickets became available Monday, November 14th at the Fox Theatre box office and online at <http://foxth.co/tlrM9Y>

.Note: Tickets obtained through Ticketmaster will incur their service fee.

Apologies

For some reason the printer omitted four persons who had contributed to the Strand Organ Fund from the Organ Dedication printed program. When I reviewed and approved the proof they were listed but when I picked up the programs they had been removed. Don't know why. My apologies to Ken Fields; John and Judy Bergey; James, Myra and Jamie McElvaney, and J. Michael Watson. Your names are on the plaque that will be on permanent display at the Strand!

Ron Carter

Closing Chord

Bradley Hale, generous donor to the Rylander and to our Strand Organ Project, passed away on November 14th.

That's Entertainment

By Larry Davis



Cassi Costoulas



Ken Double

Skip Stine

The November formal dedication of the organ at the Strand Theatre was a success even before the doors opened. Not only because of the projected attendance and the expected high level of entertainment; the event had been covered by extended front page articles in the entertainment sections of both the local Marietta Daily Journal and the regional Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which, it was once said, "Covers Dixie Like the Dew." So the publicity and exposure for the theatre organ was beyond measure.

Then the red carpet was laid down, the marquee lights flashed, the doors opened and an unforgettable evening began. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hamilton, our special guests, arrived by limousine, courtesy of Bob Fountain, and with them came the over three hundred and fifty people who had come to enjoy the music and honor the donors that made the music possible.

The evening began with a catered reception – food and drinks and conversations and fun – that filled all the conference rooms in the theatre. By the stroke of eight, everyone had moved into the auditorium, the lights went down, Ron Carter, the impresario of the evening, welcomed everyone, and announced the first artist Ken Double.

At that, the curtain went up and the strains of Richard Strauss's theme that was used for the film *2001* filled the theatre – from the movie sound speakers – and a video introduction appeared on the screen. The music sounded good, but as the video and the music faded on the screen the grand sound of the organ took up the theme as the magnificent sound of the Allen GW4 filled the room. The "straight" organ sound gave way to tremors and the grand sound of the theatre organ as Ken Double rose on the lift with *That's Entertainment*. In quick succession, Ken followed with *Is It True What They Say About Dixie?* and the question was answered with *All Right, OK, You Win*. After a foray in to country music with *Crazy*, the organ descended to picture level and Harold Lloyd's silent film *Billy Blazes* provided an opportunity to show what the theatre organ was designed to do.

When the organ rose at the end of the film, the spotlight was on Cassi Costoulas, a marvelously talented

vocalist (and the Strand's Director of Development and Marketing) sitting atop the organ singing *What a Little Moonlight Can Do*. She then glided onto the stage for *It Had To Be You*. That's Entertainment!

Ken introduced trumpeter Skip Stine in a Salute to Harry James, for whom Mr. Stine used to play. *You Made Me Love You* – and that was exactly what Skip did, made us love him – *I Had the Craziest Dream*, *And the Angels Sing A Day in the Life of a Fool*: and those in the audience went out for the intermission in amazement and enjoyment at the magnificent musicality of Ken on the organ and Skip on the trumpet.

Ken said later, "I always hope I don't oversell him." The crowd would no doubt reply to Ken that you have nothing to be concerned about.

Following the intermission, Ron Carter ascended to the stage to honor the contributors to the project: Jeff Ayers and the Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta, Earl Reese of the Strand, and Jim and Sarah Ingram, who were honored with Lifetime Honorary Memberships in the Chapter for their many years of contributions and their major gift to the Strand project. A plate was unveiled on the organ lift and a plaque presented to Steve Imler for his donation of the lift. Finally, Tom and Ann



Hamilton, whose donation of the GW4 to the chapter made the installation possible, were recognized with a plate affixed to the organ and duplicated in a plaque presented to them.

Then it was back to the music and *Off to the Strand* with Ken Double providing the vocals and accompanying himself on the organ by virtue of the recorder. He followed with an example of the organ being used for an orchestral transcription with *Winter Storms* (Josef Fucik), followed that with *Be My Love*, then a most enjoyable medley from *The Jersey Boys* had toes tapping all through the auditorium.

Ken then welcomed Skip Stine back to the stage where together they performed *Pennies from Heaven*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, Gershwin's *S'Wonderful*. The wonderful and ever-popular *Georgia on My Mind* brought the evening to a close.

No!! shouted the audience and More!! brought Ken and Skip back to the stage for to thunder out *Granada*, and though we may have heard the composition before,

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we never heard it like this.

Lee Lanier later remarked, "You could have made a few changes and presented that show, just as it was, as a television special." Ken started with by declaring "That's Entertainment," and by the end of the night, everyone in the auditorium enthusiastically agreed.



I will be disposing of a **1973 Hammond Regent 3000 Theatre Organ** in the next few weeks. It plays sporadically, needs a loving owner ready for a bit of a fixer-upper project. Might even be simple for the right person? A repair manual for it is in the bench. It is one of the few 2-manual Hammonds made with stops, instead of the usual drawbars. It has 25 foot pedals, built-in Leslie, bench, OK cabinet and so on. Will be glad to give it for free to someone interested and willing to pick it up.

Dave Bice, Cell 770-317-4167, david_bice@comcast.net

T-524-A Hammond Organ... Comes equipped with Authentic Tone-Wheel Generator, 13 Bass Pedals, 2 Reverbs, Reiteration, Percussion, Upper and Lower Drawbars, Leslie Chorus, Leslie Tremolo, Vibrato Upper and Lower, Vibrato Small and Vibrato Celeste, Upper Presets include Drawbars and Percussion, String 8, Full Tibias 16 and Theater Brass 16. Lower Presets include Drawbars, Ensemble 8 Brilliance and Volume Soft. Good Condition **\$600**

Harold McWhorter, 770-294-0488, mcwh8943@yahoo.com



Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- **December 4 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Ken Double on the 5-manual, 42-rank Allen TO5 at Dr.'s Petway and Lacefield residence. (See Page 1)**
- December 12 (Monday), 7 pm, Larry, Carols and Mo— A FREE Annual Holiday Event at the Fox Theatre! (See Page 2)
- December 18 (Sunday), 3 pm, Masterworks Chorale and Organ at The Centre for Performing & Visual Arts of Coweta County, 1523 Lower Fayetteville Road, Newnan, Georgia 30265, \$15. For more information see www.thecentreonline.net/masterworks.html.
- **January Chapter Meeting — To be announced**
- **February 19 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Tom Alderman at Roswell United Methodist Church**
- **March 4 (Sunday), 3 pm, Concert by Mark Herman at the Reddish Residence**
- **March 25 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Silent Film *Pandora's Box* accompanied by Ron Carter at Callanwolde**
- **April 15 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Danny McCollum at the McKoon residence**
- **May, Chapter Meeting & Concert at the Blubaugh Residence**
- **June 10 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Lance Luce at Allen Organ Studios**

Directions to Petway-Lacefield residence, 120 Trowbridge Rd., Sandy Springs (770-394-2577)

1. Go north on Roswell Road from its intersection with Abernathy Road. Trowbridge Road is the intersection at the third traffic light north of Abernathy. There is a Walgreen's on the far left corner of this intersection. Turn left at Trowbridge Road traffic light and pass Walgreen's on your right. You are entering Princeton Falls subdivision. 120 is the third house on the left.
2. The driveway is past the house. Pass this driveway and go a few feet to the next one on your left. This is the tennis court/pool parking lot. Park here until full, then street parking after that.
3. Coming via interstate/freeway take I-285 to GA 400 North and exit 5B Sandy Springs which will put you on Abernathy going west. Go Abernathy to Roswell Road, turn right on Roswell Road and proceed with Step 1 above.
4. From Roswell/Alpharetta or north, take Georgia 400 South to Abernathy exit. Go right (west) on Abernathy to Roswell Road and turn right. Now proceed with Step 1 above. BON VOYAGE!!!