

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10TH, 3 PM
CHRISTMAS PARTY/MEETING/PROGRAM
RICK MCGEE RESIDENCE

**ACATOS CLOSSES OUT
THE YEAR AT RICK'S**

The Atlanta Chapter December meeting will be at the home of Rick McGee with an opportunity to see, hear and play his glorious Allen TO-5, the five-manual colossus in his music room.

The program will feature what might be termed "The Best of the Best" as it will be an open console affair with a chance for all who wish to play this magnificent instrument.



So, shine up your organ shoes, dust off some old favorite Christmas hymns and holiday favorites, and plan to be part of the show. Our chapter boasts a whole array of outstanding musicians and those attending will be in for a

potpourri of musical excellence.

There will be one major piece of business as it will be election time for officers and board members. If there is a member who wishes to place their name in nomination for a post on the board, contact Chapter President Larry Davis. (More on Page 3)

Directions to Rick's home
on Page 3.

**A FUN NIGHT AT MCKINNON'S;
A FITTING TRIBUTE**

By Ken Double

Bob Fountain would have been thrilled. A full crowd. All of his musical friends, be they singers who have followed his Pied Piper-like magical music or his theatre organ friends, were there en masse. And just as he wished – no maudlin speeches, just music, memories, laughs and a GREAT time had by all.

The memorial event to celebrate Bob Fountain's life was held Monday night, November 20th at McKinnon's Louisiane restaurant off Peachtree and Maple in Buckhead. And a word about that. The wonderful Aziz Merham and his great staff provided Bob Fountain a home for his music and his singing friends for years. The Wednesday night staple would not have been possible if not for the wonderful man who owns that restaurant. Aziz deserves great thanks for helping to provide a home for something we will never experience quite the same way ever again.

June Dunaphant was at the piano, playing brilliantly and holding court, inviting each of the individual singers to come up and tell some stories, and then sing a favorite song that Bob particularly liked, or perhaps a song that Bob introduced to the singer as a suggestion for performance.

And while on that topic, one would not have necessarily tagged the moniker "Matchmaker" on Bob, but it was amazing to hear several singers talk about how

they had met their "other half" at one of the Wednesday night songfests.

A highlight of the evening – actually two highlights – was the appearance of the great Tommie Macon, who sang *I Love Being Here With You*. Tommie brought along pianist Andrew Fazackerley and reed player Charles Edwards, part of the *Gentlemen of Jazz* group that accompanies her. What great music they make!

And then we heard from Alvira Williams, a fabulous veteran vocalist who showed us how the greats handle the Great American Songbook with ease and style.

June, displaying a level of stamina only a real trooper can have, played almost the entire night. Ken Double and Rick McGee did their best to coax sounds out of the ancient Thomas organ, (they too were troopers, but to a joking degree failed miserably because only Bob truly knew where all that magic was hidden in that instrument.) And thanks to all those wonderful songbirds who week after week, Wednesday after Wednesday, enjoyed the fun and the music as only Bob Fountain could provide. Indeed, we had a ball!

From about 6:30 and well into the night, it was precisely the party Bob had envisioned it should be. Lots of smiles and laughs. Lots of wonderful memories shared. And a lot of good music. Thanks, Bob, for insisting on one last hurrah. We had a great time with you, as always.

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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*AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under
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Chapter President - *Larry Davis*
Vice President - *Ken Double*
Treasurer - *Rick McGee*
Secretary - *Randy Cobb*
Newsletter Editor - *Elbert Fields*
Chapter Correspondent - *Larry Davis*

*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
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***President's
Message...***

Let me start off this message by reminding you that it's that time of the year again –

time to renew your membership in our Chapter. It is you – it is all of us – who make this chapter successful and fun by our memberships and by our friendships and our participation. You will read elsewhere in this newsletter about the recently nominated officers and board of directors for 2018. As I previously announced, my term(s) as president are ending and I thank all of you for the support that you offer in so many ways. In particular, I appreciate the board of directors for their ongoing efforts that have made my job so much easier.

This month, I want to evaluate our successes and our opportunities as we fulfil our multi-part mission. Why are we here? We exist to preserve the great theatre pipe organs wherever we can. We exist to preserve the art of playing these great instruments (and

their digital substitutes) and, along with that, to preserve the great music of the past that is best suited to them. We exist to preserve and promote the art of accompanying silent film. And we exist to present all these things to people who are not part of our organization or our musical world. In addition, this year, I will add that we exist to lay the groundwork for a stable future for both our instruments and our art. So how are we doing?

We have continued to make progress on the Grande Page, and by the time you read this, we may have the Krumet back in our possession. With the exception of the Kinura, we will have almost the entire original Page organ back together (except for the duplicate 8' Post Horn built by the same maker as the original - the 16' Post Horn offset is original to the organ). We have additions, yes, but we also have the original. Elsewhere, we are supporting efforts to find a home for the Lucas Wurlitzer in Savannah and supporting the efforts to reinstall the Imperial Wurlitzer in Augusta. And we provide part of the crew that maintains the Wurlitzer in the Tivoli in Chattanooga. John Tanner, through A.E. Schlueter Organ Company, maintains the organs at the Rylander Theatre (Americus) and the Grand Theatre (Fitzgerald).

With respect to performance, we have artists in our chapter who play locally (and for our chapter meetings), and a handful who travel and provide music to people across the South and the nation. Members of our chapter are house organists and associates at the Fox, the Strand, the Tivoli, and the Rylander Theatres and our artists are among those who perform each year at Christmas at Callanwolde. Ron Carter is our foremost exponent of silent film, playing at the Strand and all over

Georgia and the South and inspiring others to do the same. An exciting aspect of the silent film culture is to see institutions like the Strand, the Rylander, Sacred Heart Cultural Center, and others who institute their own silent film programs because they have seen the enjoyment that people derive from the art and the success such events can bring.

We have hosted the AGO Pipe Organ Experience for young people the past two summers and next summer, we will host the ATOS Summer Youth Experience, which promises to be a very special opportunity indeed for young theatre organists. We hope to sponsor a student or two from Stephenson High School to attend this event.

Looking ahead, we have secured an additional 20-year extension of our lease agreement with Stephenson High School which has been approved by the school board and signed by Superintendent Green. We're secure until 2037 – can you imagine? So we now need to have a plan to keep this organ in good shape through the decades.

If that's not enough, there are always other possibilities waiting in the wings that we are keeping in mind, far more than we can discuss here – but ask and we'll tell you. So we are, I think, doing well, but always with the potential of doing more. What do we need? We need your help, your advice, your participation as audience members, technical crew (you don't have to know anything because I sure didn't when I started), and staff for our public events. Be a part, be a participant, and we will experience continued success and enjoyment.

Larry Davis

Do parts of this publication look familiar? They should, because some portions were simply copied from last year's December (2016) Atlanta Chapter newsletter. See if you can find them.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AT THE STRAND !!!

A great song and dance Christmas review with a live pit orchestra! High-energy stage production with great singers and dancers on the Strand stage under the direction of Catherine Moulton. Organ Preshow and Christmas sing-a-long begins 30 minutes before show time. House organist Ron Carter at the console! Tickets are only \$30 and may be purchased by calling 770-293-0080, or in person at the box office M-F from 11 am to 6 pm and on Saturdays from 9 to noon, or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.orgn

Friday December 15th 8 pm
 Saturday December 16th 8 pm
 Sunday December 17 th 3 pm and 8 pm
 Friday December 22 th 3 pm and 8 pm
 Saturday December 23 rd 3 pm and 8 pm

ITS A WONDERFUL LIFE MARATHON

Again the Strand presents this wonderful holiday film. Organ preshow and sing-a-long 30 minutes before show time by organists Larry Davis, Ron Carter and Misha Stefanuk. All screenings On Sunday Dec 24th. 1 pm organist Ron Carter 2 pm organist Larry Davis 7 pm organist Misha Stefanuk. Hope to see you there!!

**DIRECTIONS TO THE MCGEE RESIDENCE IN VININGS AT
 3600 TANGLEWOOD DR. NW, ATLANTA, GA 30339-4226, 770-289-5942**

From Cobb Parkway (US41) just north of the Chattahoochee River, go west on Paces Mill Road

From Atlanta Road, go east on Paces Ferry Road SW

From I-285 Exit 18, go east on Paces Ferry Road SW

Turn south on New Paces Ferry Road SW in “downtown Vinings” east of the railroad track

If you come up Paces Mill, you will pass the Methodist church and the Paces Pavilion / Vinings Inn buildings. You will come to a traffic light. Go straight through and you are now on Paces Ferry. At the second traffic light, turn left and you will be on New Paces Ferry. If you reach the railroad tracks, you have gone too far.

If you come from Atlanta Road or I-285, once on Paces Ferry – at the bottom of the hill you will pass a QuikTrip, cross over the railroad tracks, and turn right at the first traffic light and you will be on New Paces Ferry.

Once on New Paces Ferry, it is level for a short distance and then goes downhill to a sharp left curve. As you start downhill, look straight out your windshield – Rick’s house is directly in front of you. After the curve, Tanglewood Drive is the first right. The driveway is just to the right in the bend of the sharp curve and comes in on the back of the house.

Tanglewood runs south from New Paces Ferry Road SW — Rick’s house is at the intersection of the two. You may park on either Tanglewood or New Paces Ferry, but be careful not to block the driveways adjacent to Rick’s driveway.

Parking will be limited, and if you park in the Jubilee shopping center diagonally across from the house (in the bend of the curve), stay to the outer edges. Do not park in the parking lot where La Paz / Mellow Mushroom are – their lot is very limited, and could cause towing issues. You can come to the front or back doors – whichever is easiest. There two steps at the front, and no steps at the back.

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

Do you own an organ? _____ If so, description _____

Membership Category (check one): Patron (\$300 and up) Sponsor (\$200 - \$299)

Contributor (\$100 - \$199) Donor (\$36 - \$99) Basic (\$35) Student (\$17.50)

Send Newsletter via email: Yes No Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**
 Mail to: Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

- **December 10, 3 pm Christmas party/meeting/program at Rick McGee's home in Vinnings**
- **Christmas at Callanwolde:** Still need organists to play. Contact Ron Carter at ronhcarter@msn.com. The event runs from November 28th through December 13. The organ plays from 11 am to 4 pm each day.
- **January 22, 2017, 2 PM** - For our January meeting, we will be joining the Alabama Chapter as the present international young artist Nathan Avakian and his unique musical styling on the Mighty Wurlitzer of the Alabama Theatre. This is a ticketed event but the chapter will be covering the cost of the tickets for our members. There will be more information in the January newsletter.
- **Strand: Christmas traditions:** Chapter organists will be playing 30 minutes before each show. Come and support the Strand and the presentation of the Chapter's GWIV theatre organ. Here are the dates and times: Dec 8, 9, and 10th at 8 pm, Dec 11th at 3 pm. Dec 15th, 16th, 17th at 8 pm. Dec 18th at 3 pm. Dec 20th and 21st at 8 pm.
- **Its a Wonderful Life Marathon:** Take a break from the hectic Christmas shopping and come to one of the four screenings of this Christmas Classic December 24th at 1, 2 and 7 pm with organ pre-shows 30 minutes before each show.

PRODUCING PERFECT PAGE PERCUSSIONS! A PLEA FOR DONATIONS

As you read this, Christmas is almost here, and we will soon be meeting at Rick McGee's for the holiday gathering around the Allen TO 5.

Meanwhile, about 25 miles to the east, a LOT is happening with the Grande Page pipe organ at Stephenson High School. Three percussion voices – the vibraphone (Wurlitzer), the xylophone and the chrysoglott (Page) – have been removed from the Main chamber and are off for complete rebuilding. All are in desperate need of serious attention; the chrysoglott had NEVER been rebuilt. No wonder half of it didn't sound right! It's 80 years old!

The cost of these repairs will be high. This type of restoration work demands a lot of man-hours of intensive, intricate labor, and as it is with these theatre organs, it is expensive.

The chapter financial situation is solid. But the Page Organ Fund has approximately \$11,000 currently in that account, and this work plus the shipping expenses, will take all of those dollars and perhaps a bit more.

A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

At this time of year, for some of us, there can be a tax advantage to making donations to nonprofit organizations. If any our wonderful ACATOS members can do so, your financial support for this work would be greatly appreciated. If it is time to renew your membership, perhaps a "little extra" with your check will work.

And if you have the means to donate \$500, \$1,000 or even more, it will go toward solving one troubling issue for the Grande Page, the overall sound of the percussions. If you can be generous, we will be most grateful.

See you at Rick's!

ELECTION OF 2018 OFFICERS

In accordance with the bylaws, your board of directors submits the following in nomination for officers and members of the board at large for the year 2018:

- President – Ken Double
- Vice-President – Tim Stephens
- Secretary – Bill Thompson
- Treasurer – Rick McGee
- Strand Project – Ron Carter
- Page Project – Jack Sandow
- Newsletter Editor – Elbert Fields
- Board Member Emeritus – Bob Fountain
- Board Members at Large – John Alford, Larry Davis, Randy Hendry, Lee Lanier, John Tanner

As provided in the bylaws, if you wish to nominate yourself or another member (with his or her consent of course) for a position as officer or board member, please notify the Secretary in writing (email is sufficient) by December 7. We are extending the deadline by one week since we were still assembling the board in November. We would welcome any additional interest. The election will be held at our December meeting on December 10th at Rick McGee's home.