



ATOS ATLANTA

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



Mark Your Calendars Now for this Double Header Event!!
February 17 - Metropolis with Clark Wilson
February 18 - Celebrate the Wave with Ken Double

**Join RiverCenter for a
Weekend with THE WAVE!**

METROPOLIS SILENT FILM
with **CLARK WILSON**

FEBRUARY 17 | 7:30 PM

Celebrate
The **WAVE**
THEATRE ORGAN
with **KEN DOUBLE**

FEBRUARY 18 | 2:30 PM

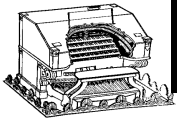
RiverCenter FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
706.256.3612
RIVERCENTER.ORG
900 BROADWAY

Some of you might be planning to drive to Columbus and spend a "Weekend with the Wave." For reservations at the Marriott, one can go on line and search "Marriott Downtown Columbus, GA" or dial 706-324-1800, and ask for THE RIVERCENTER RATE.

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



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

Chapter President - Eddie Hulsey
Vice President - David Yackman
Treasurer - Lee Lanier
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
Membership Director - Lee Lanier
Board members:

Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Ken Double
Randy Hendry

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful start to the year! After a grand opportunity to build a relationship with the Columbus AGO at our January meeting, we are set to return to RiverCenter on February 17-18 for a weekend of great fun and great music!

This wonderful opportunity is directly courtesy of Norman Easterbrook-one of the best friends of the theatre organ in our state. In his capacity as Director of RiverCenter, he has secured the chance to enjoy the Wave in a dual role. At the gifted hands of Clark Wilson, the Fritz Lang classic "Metropolis" will come alive through organ accompaniment. The next day, the Wave will also be showcased as a concert instrument in a way only our own Ken Double can do! Make plans to come and be a part of a weekend to remember!

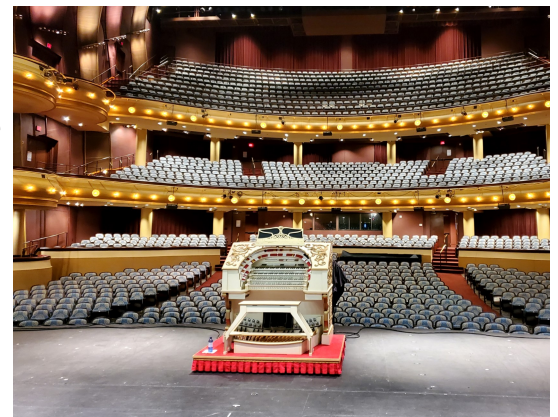
Just a reminder-if you have not paid your Chapter dues, please visit the website for information on how to remain a vital part of our Chapter. In addition to some wonderful upcoming opportunities to hear outstanding artists performing on our Chapter instruments, we can help keep the theatre organ in front of audiences at the Plaza, Strand, and other venues throughout the state. In so doing, new faces and new friends can experience the "wow" moment we all did upon hearing and feeling a Unit Orchestra for the first time!

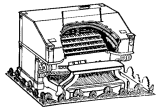
In addition to the musical aspect, the social benefits are huge. We want to renew the social aspects of our meetings, and have a chance for true friendships, and camaraderie, to grow. Be a part of our future, and invite a friend to one of our upcoming programs.

I am excited about some opportunities we will have in the future. One such meeting will be a visit to the shop of A.E. Schlueter. There is more information on this event later in the news ! Just know that the future is going to be fun, music filled, and will have programs not to be missed!

See you in Columbus!

Eddie Hulsey





A Day With The Wave

On Saturday, January 27, a historic event happened in Columbus. At the invitation of Norman Easterbrook, Director of RiverCenter, the Atlanta Chapter of the ATOS convened with the Columbus Chapter of the AGO for an unprecedented joint meeting. About thirty five people braved the elements to participate in a delightful and successful program.

After enjoying a lunch on RiverCenter's stage, Mr. Easterbrook, who is one of the greatest friends ATOS has, welcomed the assembled group. Unlike the customary Chapter Meeting, there was not a formal program. Mr. Easterbrook shared that it was to be an opportunity for the local organists to have an up close and personal encounter with the Wave. He shared his history with the Atlanta Chapter and his enduring love for the instrument and its art-form. His expressed hope was for area musicians to have time to play the organ, and participate in showcasing it throughout the year as opportunities present themselves at RiverCenter.

After sharing information about the upcoming screening of Metropolis and Ken Double's concert, he turned the floor over to the Chapter President, Eddie Hulsey, who thanked the group for attending and Mr. Easterbrook for his support and hospitality. Ken Double, the best ambassador for our cause, then provided a brief history and helpful information on playing the Unit Orchestra.

With his encouragement, a few members of the AGO sat down to play the Wave for the first time. Each person brought something new and distinct to the theatre organ. Chapter members Larry Davis and Eddie Hulsey played a few selections to show the variety of music suited to the instrument, from country music to hymns. Ken Double then took the group on a tour of the organ's voices, and treated the group to a varied demonstration of the nuances of their use in several musical stylings.

The day ended with new friends, new interest, and a hopeful future of other such opportunities. It was a great day to cruise to Columbus and to ride the Wave!

Musically Yours,
Ken Yura



AGO Members



Eddie Hulsey at the Console



Larry Davis with John Manseau, Organist at Callaway Gardens Chapel and Long-time Friend of Debbie Chambless



Finishing the Drill – The Bucky Reddish Era

In the life of many organizations, a person comes along who changes that organization forever. Bucky Reddish was such a person, even if he didn't intend it. For those who lived in the high days of what might be called the "Bucky Reddish years," just hearing his name brings up a host of feelings and memories— all good ones.

Bucky first joined the chapter back in the late 1970's and was a member for several years, but after a while, personal and employment demands pulled him away. Several years after he departed, he was searching for relief from the burdens of life and work that were pressing him down and he began to ask himself, "When in my life was I the happiest?" The answer came to him that it was during his association with the theatre organ world.

He contacted James Thrower and Ron Carter – there's that name again – and returned to the chapter. At the time he had a Rodgers organ, then acquired an Allen. But he had a dream and he and James Thrower began to lobby Bob Walker of the Walker Organ Company for something special. The result was the Walker RTO – Residence Theatre Organ that Bob said was really the "Reddish-Thrower Organ." Opus 1 of that series of instruments arrived in Atlanta in time for the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend and became the sensation of the display rooms, featuring Dave Wickerham in a mini-concert.



After the convention, the organ was moved to Bucky's new home in South Cobb, which soon became a center of chapter activity. Prior to that time, the chapter might entertain a major artist once or twice a year, maybe at the Allen Organ studios or at the Carter's home, the rest of the time, we hosted regional artists maybe once a year and relied on local players and open console for most meetings – and we did have plenty of capable local musicians. But with the coming of Bucky and the RTO, major artists began to flow into Atlanta on a regular basis for two day – or more – events on the Walker, sponsored by Bucky. Among them were Richard Hills, Lew Williams, David Wickerham, Ken Double, who was not from Atlanta at that time, and a handful of youngsters in their teens: Mark Herman, Donnie Rankin, Nathan Avakian, Justin Stahl, and David Gray. Those, and more, and a list of regional

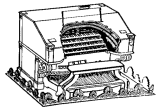
and chapter artists performed on that bench, with many an open console and before-party.

Those events led to the now-legendary, yearly "Bucky's Birthday Bash," events that brought several great artists at the same time to Atlanta for two days of jam sessions and concerts and many great memories. Probably the most memorable was the last, with Jelani Eddington, Mark Herman, Donnie Rankin, David Wickerham, Ken Double, and the return of David Gray to the U.S. after several years absence.

A decline in health forced Buck to return to live near family in his childhood hometown of Butler, GA, where he installed the Walker and hosted a last Birthday Bash with Ken Double and young Justin La-voie. Not long thereafter, Bucky passed away unexpectedly at his home.

Bucky was the ultimate enthusiast, known and loved nationwide. He was a good friend, and a great host. He changed the chapter and our meetings. Last year, when we hosted Tedde Gibson, and young artists Ben Forsthoffer and Brett Miller, that calendar of artists reflects the change that came from the influence of Bucky Reddish.

Larry Davis



AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR OUR COLUMBUS WEEKEND FEBRUARY 17TH AND 18TH

Some of you might be planning to drive to Columbus and spend a “Weekend with the Wave.” Clark Wilson accompanies METROPOLIS Saturday night, February 17th at 7:30 p.m. Ken Double performs in concert Sunday afternoon, February 18th at 2:30 p.m.

The Marriott hotel is right across the street from RiverCenter, and is offering our chapter members and attendees a discounted rate of \$149.00 for the night. It’s a lovely property; parking is free; and it is steps away from the theatre. When making a reservation, specifically request **THE RIVERCENTER RATE** to get the discounted rate.

This is the most convenient hotel to RiverCenter, and could make for a great weekend. Note: there is a \$10 ticket charge for the silent film on Saturday night. Admission is free for members for the Ken Double concert, as that is, technically, our chapter meeting for February. Hope to see you there.

For reservations at the Marriott, one can go on line and search “Marriott Downtown Columbus, GA” or dial 706-324-1800, and again ask for **THE RIVERCENTER RATE**.

Lon Chaney Meets Kerry Bunn

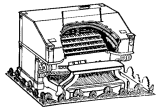
On January 27, our own Kerry Bunn accompanied a screening of the legendary silent film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. An almost full auditorium watched the great film, listening to Kerry orchestrate the action on the historic Aeolian-Skinner Organ, with its gorgeous Flutes, wonderfully-tremmed Strings, and the magnificent Trumpet that Kerry used to announce the main theme. The thunderous applause and standing ovation demonstrated the delight of the audience at the end. And, in a remarkable circumstance, the granddaughter of Patsy Ruth Miller, Esmeralda in the film, was present for the screening, the first time she had seen it on a big screen.

Larry Davis



Granddaughter of Patsy Ruth Miller, Esmeralda





A VERY SPECIAL MARCH MEETING A Tour of the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company Facility

We encourage all of our chapter members, friends and guests to make the trip for a great “Weekend with the Wave” in Columbus on February 17th and 18th and then, in March, get set for a special day in Lithonia.

We will be the guests of Art and Arthur Schlueter, whose pipe organ company bears their family name. The date will be Saturday, March 9th at 2:30 p.m. The program will be most interesting.

The Schlueter’s along with company V.P. John Tanner will provide a tour of this fascinating facility, which will include an up-close look at the “inner-workings” of Mighty Mo. The great organ’s B chamber (upper chamber, left side) currently sits empty as the Fox has embarked on a chamber-by-chamber re-leathering of Mighty Mo. All five chambers will be rebuilt and reinstalled as part of the many projects the Fox is undertaking as it races toward its upcoming 100th anniversary.

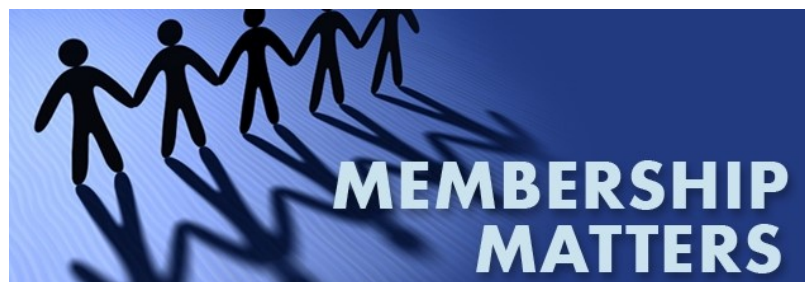


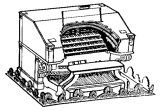
We can also gaze up close at the “Faux Mo” console, the temporary replacement keydesk that played the Möller while the original console was being restored.

Finally, we will also enjoy some music via Chapel Music, the digital organ operation within the Schlueter company. The artist will be announced in the March newsletter.

This is a very special opportunity to see the “secrets behind the brilliance” that is the creation of a great pipe organ. Mark the calendar for a somewhat earlier date, Saturday, March 9th at 2:30 p.m. Details, directions and more in the March ACATOS newsletter.

Don’t forget to renew your membership. We need you!
Renew at atosatlanta.org



**Upcoming Chapter Meetings**

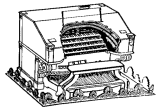
February Chapter Meeting	Sunday, February 18 - 2:30PM RiverCenter for the Performing Arts Ken Double in Concert
March Chapter Meeting	Saturday, March 9 - 2:30PM A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company Artist - TBA

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

Sunday, February 11	Safety Last (Silent Movie) - 3:00PM Accompanied by Ron Carter Pre-show organist at 2:30PM - Ken Double
Friday, February 16	Casablanca - 8:00PM Pre-show organist at 7:30PM - Larry Davis Rocky Horror Picture Show - 11:59PM Pre-show organist at 11:15PM - Misha Stefanuk
Sunday, February 18	Little Women - 3:00PM Pre-show organist at 2:30PM - Misha Stefanuk
Friday, February 23	To Kill A Mockingbird - 8:00PM Pre-show organist at 7:30PM - John McCall
Saturday, February 24	Grease Sing-a-long - 8:00PM Pre-show organist at 7:30PM - Larry Davis

Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 11	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL - 2:00PM (CST) Larry Davis in Concert for a meeting of the Alabama Chapter All are welcome!
Saturday, February 17	RiverCenter for the Performing Arts - 7:30PM Metropolis - Accompanied by Clark Wilson \$10.00 Ticket Fee



Opportunities to Hear Great Music
Mark Your Calendars!
Richard Hills in Concert

We have arranged for Richard Hills to give the official inaugural concert on the newly installed Style 260 Wurlitzer in the Oriental Theatre in Milwaukee on Tuesday evening, May 28th 2024.

Because we have to work around the Milwaukee Film schedule, Richard's program will be on the Tuesday weeknight, that gives a sufficient lead time to make as many theatre organ devotees as possible aware of the event.

We anticipate people coming from all around the country. Since the Wurlitzer was originally installed in the Howard (later Paramount) Theatre in Atlanta, there should be interest from that area. Additionally, Richard is giving the inaugural concert on the restored 2/8 Wurlitzer in the new performing arts center down state in Rushville, IL. That program is scheduled for Thursday evening May 30th.

These two concerts have to be held on week nights because of Richard's teaching schedule. It is a rare opportunity for us to experience the fabulous artistry of Richard Hills in person and two times in one week is extra special.

Robert Ridgeway