

*January Meeting featuring Mark Herman at the Ken Double
Residence on Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 3 pm*

Our January 2013 meeting will be a bit later in the month than usual, Sunday, January 27th 3:00 pm at Ken Double's townhouse, 1615 Defoors Walk NW, Atlanta. The artist will be Mark Herman, who will be in town to do voicing work on Ken's Allen GW-IV.

About the artist... Mark Herman was born in August of 1987 and currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has been studying the piano since he was seven years old and began classical organ lessons at the age of twelve. His first introduction to the theatre organ was when he was in fourth grade and was at the Embassy Theatre in downtown Fort Wayne. In 2004, Mark won the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition in



Milwaukee at the Riverside Theatre. He toured for six weeks in Australia and New Zealand, setting records in CD sales at many of the venues in which he appeared. Mark was named Theatre Organist of the Year at the 2012 ATOS Convention.

About the organ... Ken's organ is our most recently installed Allen GW-IV (July 2012). It sounded great at our

September program, but will exhibit new life as a result of Mark's voicing efforts.

Directions to Ken's townhouse on Page 2.

Sharps (and Flats) in Sharpsburg!

Sunday, December 16th, 2012, at 3:00 pm, the local ATOS chapter and friends, and new friends, invaded the tranquil privacy of the Burud residence. They will never be the same! The event: The December chapter meeting and annual business meeting.

Mr. David Burud, our host, welcomed us all and then introduced President Randy Hendry. Randy called the meeting to order, and after a brief chapter business session, told us the recipient of the **Elizabeth "Liz" Fields Award** for significant contributions by a new member was Tim Stephens. (If only he knew what was coming, he would have stolen quietly away, before it was too late!)

The slate of officers listed in the December newsletter was announced, and after a vote, accepted for the 2013 calendar year (see list on page 2).



Outgoing President Randy Hendry presented the "President's Pipe" to new President, Tim Stephens, and then promptly put him to work as emcee of the afternoon's events.

Tim then introduced our guest artist for the afternoon, our own Mr. Larry Davis –

featured at the Allen Renaissance GW-IV.

Larry opened with a spirited seasonal selection, "The Most Wonderful Night of the Year."

Next, a medley of home-themed Christmas favorites to get us in the warm-fuzzy Christmas mood: "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays."

A favorite of most of the world, "The Christmas Song" aka "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" was next, and

visions of Christmas were flowing in the room. Where were the marshmallows and chestnuts?

A couple of selections let us hear "Silver Bells," and then instructed us to "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas," and we know we will!

Now for the real reason of Christmas, the "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" (African-American) and "Beautiful Star of Bethlehem" (Mountain/Appalachian) selections gave us the true spirit of the season.

Then, we were taken abroad for a French Carols medley: "What is That Lovely Fragrance?" "Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella," and "Angels We Have Heard on High."

"Mary's Little Baby Boy" in calypso rhythmic styling, no less, had several about to leave their seats and begin the Christmas Dance!

To wrap up the formal portion of the program, we were shown a "Winter Wonderland" and offered the wished-for event of a "White Christmas."

Thanks Larry, for a well-rounded and musical afternoon. A great Christmas gift to the chapter, indeed!

Open console followed with several of the usual suspects: John McCall, Bob Fountain (Lori said he would not be able to leave until he played . . .), Rick McGee, Ken Double and a special surprise – our host, David Burud. David, you have been holding out on us – VP, get him on the program lineup!

Wonderful food and treats were provided by our Hostess Deluxe – Lori Burud. From the remains (almost none!), the goodies were greatly liked and eagerly consumed! Thanks for the treats and the hard work, Lori!

Offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the walls / chambers and kitchen all have ears!



**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

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Chapter President - *Tim Stephens*
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Secretary - *Kathy Lanegger*
Newsletter Editor - *Elbert Fields*
Associate Editor - *Wanda Carey Fields*
Chapter Correspondent - *Larry Davis*

*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
elfields@yahoo.com*

Thanks for the Donation

Mrs. Debbie Abernathy -
Strand Theatre GW-IV Fund in
honor of Ron Carter

Bud Blubaugh and Ken Seiders
Ken Double
Wanda and Elbert Fields
Jon and Carol Fuller
Paul and Kathy Lanegger
John and Nancy Moore
Brad and Alice Sorano
John Tanner

Welcome New Members

Jon and Carol Fuller
2434 Alexander Lake Drive SW
Marietta, GA 30064

Address Change

Mr. William Bahruth
171 Forest Ave. Unit 114
Franklin, NC 28734-3021

Come support the Earl Smith Strand Theatre as it features the Atlanta Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 770-293-0080 or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org.

Movie Magic and Birthday Bashes

The Earl Smith Strand Theatre invites you to its 4th birthday celebration on Saturday, January 5th beginning at 7 pm with the cocktail hour: 7:30 organ pre-show with singers Catherine Rhodes and Joe Arnotti (the two soloists at the Ron Carter and Friends November ATOS program); 8 pm with a live stage show featuring songs from the movies—"Cheek to Cheek" from Top Hat to "My Heart Will Go On" from Titanic; Kids on Broadway musical review; then take a trolley ride to the home of former Governor and Mrs. Roy Barnes for drinks and desserts. Each guest will also receive a Marietta Square gift bag valued at \$100. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Ron Carter at 770-428-4809 or at ronhcarter@msn.com. Tickets are \$100 and are tax deductible. Black Tie Requested!

Strand January Classic Movies

with organ pops pre-show and sing-a-long organists

- GONE WITH THE WIND, Friday, January 11th, 8 pm, organ pre-show at 7:30 pm by John McCall
- CASABLANCA, Saturday, January 12th, 8 pm, organ pre-show at 7:30 pm by Larry Davis.

Directions to Ken Double's townhouse
Address: 1615 Defoors Walk NW, Atlanta, GA 30318,
Phone: 404-790-5400

- From Downtown headed north, or off 400 South to 85 to 75 north... I-75 to Howell Mill exit, then turn right onto Howell Mill
- From the north/Marietta area, I-75 South, Exit Howell Mill and turn left...
- At first stoplight, Collier (see McDonald's), turn left
- Travel 1.2 miles to stoplight at Defoors Rd (see Patrick's BBQ), turn left
- Travel 1/2 mile to the town home property on the right- DEFOORS WALK (your landmark is on the left – a one-story white cinder block building at the corner of Rhomboid St and Defoors. Turn right into the driveway
- From Buckhead... Peachtree Road south to Collier (see the Texaco gas station – you can only turn right).
- Follow Collier approximately 3 miles...past Howell Mill (McDonald's)...then follow as above...

Carpool if possible — Parking is limited.

Park on Rhomboid Street or park on the OUTSIDE curbs on either side of the complex. 1615 Defoors Walk is in the first inner courtyard, far side to the right. At the Defoors Walk town homes, there are only 5 specifically assigned parking spots which may or may not be available. On the outside perimeter on either side of the complex, there are spaces for 7-8 cars on the OUTSIDE EDGE/CURB - not the inside edge. Thus, 14-16 vehicles can park on the property. Cars can also park on RHOMBOID STREET, just across from the entrance to Defoors Walk town homes.

Closing Chord

Our sympathy to Chris Hornsby and his family for the loss of his wife Cindy on December 12, 2012. Her funeral was held at Forest Hills United Methodist Church in Macon on December 15th where Chris was once organist.

Wurlitzer Christmas Days at the Tivoli

By Bert Allee

The week after Thanksgiving was the occasion for Wurlitzer Christmas Days at the Tivoli Theatre in Chattanooga. Chattanooga organist Grant Wolf began the days of celebration by opening for the Grace Academy Christmas program, while Larry Davis and Ron Carter opened for the Chattanooga Boys Choir 50th Anniversary programs. As always, these guys do a great job, receiving many compliments from the folks producing the shows.

Grant's program on Tuesday went well and generated a good bit of interest in the music and organ, including one gentleman who came down and talked to Grant while he was playing. Grant carried on a conversation with him and never missed a beat. I don't see how you can do that, but he does it well. For Grant's show, the console was on the auditorium floor on the left side of the orchestra pit and spotlighted. The main curtain was closed and, as Larry Donaldson has said, that makes a significant difference in the amount of sound getting into the auditorium.



For the Friday and Saturday Boy Choir performances, the console was spotlighted on stage at stage right. For the very first time in the history of the Boy Choir, the Wurlitzer was used to open for their programs: two one-hour shows for local school kids on Friday and two two-

hour shows on Saturday open to the general public.

Larry opened for the two "highlight" shows for local schools on Friday. I can see why Larry likes playing for the kids, particularly the young ones. Once you catch their attention, they are uninhibited in showing their enthusiasm for what is going on. They were spontaneously clapping, bouncing, and singing along with Rudolf, Jingle Bells, and any other song they knew and having lots of fun.



Ron played the two Saturday shows for which he both opened and played intermission. Ron said he had numerous folks stop him in the lobby and tell him how much they had enjoyed his performance and the organ.

The yearly Boys Choir Singing Christmas Tree production is a major undertaking. This year, in addition to the choirs, it included members of the Chattanooga Youth Symphony and Opera Youth Orchestra, Ballet Tennessee, and members of the Ooltewah High School Band. With the exception of Santa, the performers were kids ranging in age from preschool to high school. It was an excellent show – essentially musical theatre with movement of both sets and people. We treated the console just like another set and rolled it into the wings after the house play-in. The original plan was to roll the console back out for the intermission, but, because of some large set pieces that needed to be moved on stage, the producer asked if Ron could play the intermission from back stage with the

main curtain closed. We told him we'd never done that before, but Ron was willing to give it a try. It actually worked pretty well. The curtain blocked out a lot of the audience noise and, since back stage was comparatively quiet and Ron could hear the organ. It also provided another selling point in its versatility of using the Wurlitzer for productions.

Gene Wilbourn, who was the producer of the show and had been for the last 18 years, retired with this production. He asked if a medley from the Phantom of the Opera could be played between the shows for his wife and the production crew. Ron obliged, complete with Phantom costume and he was a big hit with both the Wilbourns and everyone else who was there at the time. The new producer, George Randall, was very excited about the Wurlitzer and intends to continue to use it for their Christmas production. More than that, Vincent Oakes, Music and Executive Director of the Choir, was also impressed and is considering the use of the organ to accompany one of the choir numbers or possibly in a solo spot during the production next year. George also happens to be a classically trained organist who likes theatre organ, and he gave the Wurlitzer a try while he was there.

The organ sounded "just like these things are supposed to sound," to quote John Tanner. The installation of the new Trumpet rank and the relocation of the Post Horn and Vox Humana accomplished what we had hoped in terms of the solo chamber balance. The Trumpet has a wonderful sound and is a great addition to the ensemble. Has just the right voicing to fit in between the Post Horn and the Tuba.

Thanks to Grant, Larry, and Ron for coming and playing, and to the rest of those who participate in the work sessions and other performances. Without you, there would be no Mighty Wurlitzer playing for the public again at the Tivoli.

President's Message...



As the calendar turns, we look back at another great year for ATOS Atlanta and ahead to some very exciting times! 2013 will mark our fifth year of providing pre-show and feature entertainment at Marietta's Earl Smith Strand Theatre. Our partnership with the Atlanta Fox Theatre continues as we, along with ATOS,

present Larry Douglas-Embury at "Mighty Mo." Most importantly, 2013 brings the international theatre organ community here to Atlanta for the ATOS Annual Convention – "Here with the Wind." All eyes are on Atlanta, and it's our time to shine!

If you haven't already received your membership renewal letter for 2013, you should be receiving it shortly. Your

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generous contributions through our tiered membership level campaign last year allowed us to make great progress on the Page organ installation at Stephenson High School, which we're planning to showcase at this year's Convention. However, we still have a few hurdles to cross before it's ready to debut. So while we thank you for your assistance in 2012, we humbly ask once more for you to contribute as you are able in 2013.

Lee Lanier, Ken Double, and the entire Convention Committee are all hard at work on the details of Atlanta 2013. If you're looking for information or would like to register, take a look at the January/February issue of Theatre Organ or visit our shiny new Convention website at www.atosatlanta2013.org. There are still volunteer positions available, and you can

contact Lee Lanier at l.lanier@comcast.net or 678-516-3983, or simply attend the January Chapter meeting, for more information on the opportunities to assist.

Speaking of, our sincere thanks to Mark Herman and Ken Double for hosting our next program on January 27. Mark is the recipient of the ATOS 2012 Organist of the Year award, and we're honored to have his caliber of talent perform once again for our members. We'll also have some exciting news to share on a few projects we've been diligently working on, so it will definitely be a program you'll not want to miss!

From the entire Board of Directors of your ATOS Atlanta, thank you for your continued support, and our best wishes to you in 2013!

Jim Stephens

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- January 11th (Friday) 8 pm at the Strand Theatre, GONE WITH THE WIND, organ pre-show at 7:30 pm by John McCall
- January 12th (Saturday) 8 pm, at the Strand Theatre, CASABLANCA, organ pre-show at 7:30 pm by Larry Davis
- **January 27th (Sunday) 3 pm , meeting featuring Mark Herman at the Ken Double Residence (see page 1)**

Membership Renewals Due by March 1st

Calendar-year 2013 dues of \$35 per household (Students \$17.50) are now due. Article VIII, Section 2 of our By-Laws states "Dues shall become payable on January 1st of each year and shall be paid within the first two months of the year." Although not stated in the By-Laws, we have made it a practice to consider payments made during the last quarter of the preceding year to apply toward the following calendar year; therefore, if you paid during the last quarter of 2012, you are considered a member for 2013. Don't wait — pay your 2013 dues now.

Please use the Membership Application below noting the instructions and address therein.

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