

No July Program

It has not been the custom of the chapter to hold a July meeting due to the ATOS convention being held the same month. There have been some exceptions in the past few years and we had hoped to be able to hold a meeting in July at Stephenson High School. Fortunately, before this newsletter went to press, we were told that some maintenance work will be done in the high school that week and will prevent us from having access at the planned time. We are planning to reschedule the **Stephenson High School meeting in August** and have applied to the school for use of the auditorium on either August 17 or August 24. We will announce the meeting

as soon as we know and full information will be available in the August newsletter. Plan to come and play the Grand Page organ. There are organists all over the world who would love to play a theatre pipe organ but don't have that opportunity. We (and you!) have the privilege right here in Atlanta, so come and enjoy!

Anyone who would like to host a chapter meeting or to arrange for us to meet at a favorite location, please contact Larry Davis. Some of the remainder of the year is being planned – and 2009 will be here sooner than we think.

Ron Rhode at Bucky's

What new words can I offer about one of the best in the business? His musicianship, combined with the majesty and tonal resources of the Reddish Walker brought a Sunday afternoon magic that is one for the memory books.

I have often tried — like many in our audience — to analyze what makes a Ron Rhode concert such a special occasion. I count him as a special friend, but even before that bond, I realized that Ron had unique and special talents. When I heard him live the first time, it was at the national ATOS convention in Atlanta, June of 1978, where he proved that the Fox Möller was not, in any way, going to intimidate him. It is truly amazing to reference that recording and to realize that his playing, three decades ago almost to the day, was still at the very top!

Yes, there is a more reflective and richer dimension in his ballads now, but his toe-tappers — as only Ron Rhode can do — still put you squarely



in a dance hall, a vaudeville house, or a movie palace. I would dare to say that of all the theatre organists on the “top tier”, Ron Rhode is the all-time curator of period American popular music from the 'teens through the forties of our last century. But Ron has kept pace, and when newer music warrants a go at the console, he has given it to us without ever once mimicking any other organist's style. This is one thing, for sure, that sets Ron apart from all others.

The music that supported my observations included a spectacular, *Music, Music, Music*, a three-faceted version of *I'm Confessin'* reflecting the approaches by Paul Whiteman, Ruth Etting, and our poet of the organ, Jesse Crawford. Quite

frankly, Crawford never gave this ballad the liveliness and dynamic qualities that Conductor Rhode fashioned on the Walker. I do not use the term “conductor” lightly, as I have never witnessed more careful registrations work or more superlative results than those under his “baton”.

Other selections included a rousing *Boston Pops March* by Gold, Cole Porter's immortal *I Love You, Walkin' My Baby Back Home, Flapperette, When That Midnight Choo-Choo Leaves for Alabam'* (move over, Ethel Merman), *Caprice Viennois*, and the stirring transcription of *The March and Procession of Bacchus*.

We in the Atlanta Chapter are a spoiled lot. With great personal financial resources made available to us — as in the case of Bucky Reddish — we continue to have all the best there is in the theatre organ world — from our own talented membership and from the concert circuit. Permit me to put Mr. Rhode at the very top of the list.

John Clark McCall, Jr.

**Atlanta Chapter,
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www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/

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**Robert Morton
Moved to Marietta**

The weekend from #%&!!!

by Ron Carter - Photos by Rick McGee

On Saturday and Sunday June 7th and 8th a brave group of theatre organ lovers braved the hottest days of the year to load and unload several tons of theatre organ parts, components and pipes! After our unsuccessful efforts to have a professional tractor driver move the 40-foot trailer from Griffin to Marietta the weekend before, it was decided to rent two large Budget trucks (one 24-ft and one 26-ft) with hydraulic lifts to accomplish the move. Ron Carter and James Thrower picked up the trucks early on Saturday morning and headed from Marietta to Griffin.

An energetic crew was waiting to begin loading the Robert Morton



console, tuned percussions, Conn Pipes, spare blower and other miscellaneous components that had been acquired by the Chapter three years ago from Ohio into the 24-ft truck. A separate crew began transferring the Robert Morton from the 40-ft trailer onto the 26-ft rental truck. Then we found a BIG PROBLEM! The old relay had fallen over toward the back of the truck pinning in the swell shades. Ron Carter, Danny Brooke and Jeff Harbin had to climb over the swell shades and relay and begin handing Robert Morton chests over the top of the relay while not having a place to stand! The heat was unbearable in that trailer. After over 2 hours of just moving stuff around we were finally able to move the relay out of the way, stand things back up and begin the movement of chests, percussions and other organ parts to the rental truck. By 7 P.M. that night the only brave souls left in Griffin were Ron Carter, James Thrower and Rick McGee. They worked another two hours but just couldn't do anymore and by 9 P.M. with both trucks full, decided to head back to Marietta.

It should be noted that two other very dedicated chapter members stayed until 7 P.M. A big thanks to Ted Barnett and Don Eckles! Also, other members of the Saturday work crew were David Tuck, Jim and Melanie Grier.

Sunday afternoon began the big job of unloading both trucks and placing everything in the Marietta warehouse. Another group of volunteers showed up and some from the Saturday crew came back for more torture!!! A big thanks to our Sunday crew that was made up of



Ron Carter, James Thrower, Rick McGee, Don Eckles, Ted Barnett, John Tanner, John and Julie Carter, Randy Hendry and his two sons, Danny and Lori Brooke with their two sons, and Elbert Fields.



By 7 P.M. the trucks were unloaded and placement and organizing of the organ components took another two hours. Everything went well this day EXCEPT for a serious fall by Rick McGee, who dislocated his shoulder and scraped his elbow and leg. Rick was a real trooper and even hurting badly stayed to the bitter end. When James Thrower went to take the last truck back to the rental facility IT WOULD NOT CRANK, so he and Ron stood by for another two hours until a wrecker arrived. Then, wouldn't you know the truck cranked right up! Ron and James didn't get home until after midnight!

Prologue: We still have 8 pipe trays and the 15-hp blower to move sometime in early July — so please answer the phone when we call?

Welcome New Member

Breck H. Camp
P.O. Box 48088
Atlanta, GA 30362-1088

**SEPTEMBER SPECTACULAR
AUGUSTA ORGAN CRAWL
SEPTEMBER 18-21**

by Larry Davis

Our September program will take us to Augusta for four days of very special events. The Augusta Arts Council is presenting the first-ever Westobou Arts Festival, patterned after the famous Spoleto Festival. The Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society has joined these efforts and we will have both public and private events during the first few days of Westobou. (www.westoboufestival.com)

PRE-GLOW

Thursday, September 18 – 8 P.M.
“The Three Faces of Eve”
The Imperial Theatre
745 Broad Street

The success of last year’s 50th Anniversary presentation of “The Three Faces of Eve” has led to many requests for the event to be held again this year. The film will be screened and Chris Sizemore, “Eve,” will be on hand, as well as Emily Remington, the organist for the 1957 World Premiere of the film. There will be a rare opportunity to tour the now-closed Miller Theatre from 2-6 P.M. The Imperial’s doors will open at 7 P.M., and the program will begin at 8 P.M. Admission is \$15. VIP admission is \$50.

75% of the proceeds of this event will be set aside for the restoration and reinstallation of the Imperial Mighty Wurlitzer.

Friday, September 19 – 7 P.M.
“Pandora’s Box”
Silent Film with Ron Carter at the Organ
Sacred Heart Community Center
1301 Green Street

The chapter is hoping to be able to reserve some tables for this event. Sign up early!

Saturday, September 20 – 4 P.M.
Keith Shafer in Concert
Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church
605 Reynolds Street

The Atlanta Chapter is sponsoring this program as part of the Westobou Festival programming. It is free and open to the public. Keith Shafer, long-time organist at Saint Paul’s will present a program on the great Casavant organ, the premier classical instrument in Augusta.

Sunday, September 21 – 2 P.M.
Dolton McAlpin in Concert on the Allen GW4
Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Polglase
3696 Inverness Way
Augusta, GA 30907

Bob and Amanda Polglase have graciously invited the chapter to visit their home once again for a wonderful afternoon of music. Dolton McAlpin will entertain us in concert on the magnificent Allen Renaissance GW4 Theatre Organ.

AFTERGLOW

Sunday, September 21
Residence of Randy and Kim Magnuson
Sylvania, GA

For those who wish to make a side trip, there will be an informal late afternoon gathering at the home of Randy and Kim Magnuson and an opportunity to hear and play Randy’s beautiful home installation hybrid pipe/digital theatre organ with its striking Möller console.

INTERLUDES

For those who come, there will be the opportunity to visit the home of Dale and Susan Parrott for open console on his Allen Renaissance GW-319EX, and to enjoy other Westobou events at your leisure.

Thanks for the Donations

Bucky Reddish
John Tanner

In Memory of John Sheffield

John & Gina Skelton
David Tuck

In Memory of Charles Walker

Keith Vansant

***Including The Atlanta Chapter
in Your Will***

Many of us are now retired or reaching retirement age and have heard the horror stories of persons who wanted to leave something to an organization or cause they felt deeply about but just never got around to making the legal provisions to do so. If we want to perpetuate the wonderful sounds and use of the theatre pipe organ it must have a future financial commitment to keep it alive for years to come.

Donna and I are currently updating our wills to make sure those causes that we love so dearly and the people we care about receive and use the assets we worked so hard for in our lives in the manner we wish. Please consider leaving something substantial to the Atlanta Chapter and notify Wanda Carey Fields, our Chapter Treasurer, in writing of that decision so that we can have it on file.

Ron Carter

STRAND ORGAN FUND CAMPAIGN UP AND RUNNING!

By Ron Carter

Please see the below listing of the first contributors to our Strand Organ Fundraising Campaign. A special money-market account has been opened at United Community Bank and Larry Davis, our VP, will be handling all funds received for this wonderful project. He has developed a spread sheet for contributions and will be responsible for sending thank you letters containing our Fed Tax number for Income Tax deductions to all donors.

Larry will also provide periodic accounting updates to the Atlanta Chapter Board and there will be contribution update in the monthly newsletters listing everyone who has given since the last newsletter.

If you have not submitted your pledge or made a donation please consider doing this soon. We must have member support! Also, if anyone knows someone who might have the financial resources for a significant donation or a possible naming-rights gift please contact Ron Carter.

As of June 25th there have been 200 letters with our organ brochure and auditorium rendering mailed to chapter members, friends and other possible donors with more to come! Please don't wait. Mail your contribution or pledge today!

Thanks for the Strand Theatre Organ Project Donations

BRONZE CIRCLE (\$1000 to \$2499)

Ron and Donna Carter
Elbert and Wanda Fields

VIP (\$500 to \$999)

Emily Wickham

PATRON (\$250 to \$499)

Roy Bogue
Gordon & Linda Johnson
Leah Wickham

LISTENER (\$100 to \$249)

Eloise Wolfersteig

FRIENDS (\$25 to \$99)

Frank Bindt
Bill and Charlotte Jukins

Additional Sponsorship Levels Available

SILVER CIRCLE (\$2500 to \$4999)

GOLD CIRCLE (\$5000 to \$9999)

DIAMOND CIRCLE (\$10,000 +)

ORGAN-NAMING RIGHTS AND WORLD CLASS CONTRIBUTOR (\$100,000 +)

Total given to date: \$3,430 (1.4% of Goal)

Closing Chords

- **Virginia Boska** (mother of long-time member Fred Boska) died June 8th following a long illness in a Florida nursing home. She was buried on June 13th at San Lorenzo Cemetery in St. Augustine, FL.
- **Dale Baker**, former editor of *Theatre Organ*, passed away suddenly on the morning of June 23rd. His body was cremated. Cards may be sent to his widow Jody at 1319 Cecil Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219.

Our sincere condolences to these two families.

Upcoming Meetings & Events (*Mark your Calendars*)

- July 13, 3 P.M., Atlanta Chapter Board of Directors meeting at the Reddish residence
- July 17, 7:30 P.M., John McCall in Concert at the Music House Museum Wurlitzer, 7377 US 31 North, Acme, MI, 231-938-9300; www.musichouse.org
- **August Meeting in Planning, possibly Stephenson High School. More in the August newsletter.**
- **September, Augusta Organ Crawl. See Page 3 for details.**



So long, farewell, auf Wiedersehn, adieu to Lori and Danny Brook and their two boys as they move to Austin, Texas on the 21st of July. They have been faithful members of our Atlanta Chapter for several years and Danny has served as president and newsletter editor. We wish them well. Their new mailing address is: 112 Whitley Drive, Austin, TX 78738. Cell phone numbers remain unchanged; however, they will get a new home number when they move.