

**Richard Hills RETURNS After Rave Reviews
Concert at Stephenson High School
Grande Page Theatre Pipe Organ
Saturday, June 23rd at 4 p.m.**



The term “back by popular demand” is at times a hackneyed cliché, but in this case, it speaks volumes. The incredible and entertaining RICHARD HILLS is returning to the Grande Page Theatre Pipe Organ at Stephenson High School for another concert of great music, Saturday June 23rd at 4 p.m.

The London native is recognized as one of the world’s greatest organists who have bridged the gap between both popular and classical music. His repertoire is endless; his arrangements exciting; and he presents his concerts with a sense of both class and humor that create entertainment at its finest in any venue.

This will be his fourth visit to Atlanta, including two concerts on Mighty Mo, and now his second concert on the Page. Electrifying dexterity; rich and emotional music; that inimitable British charm and wit; and at least one finger-busting, rip-roaring jazzy arrangement that will leave the audience breathless; there is no one in the theatre organ world quite like Richard Hills.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, or \$18 at the door. Students always \$10. Advance tickets are available online at www.atosatlanta.org.

The concert is scheduled for 4 p.m. Saturday, June 23rd. Stephenson High School is located at 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA.

...from the Cinema Organ Society website at <http://www.cinema-organs.org.uk/>

Richard Hills is one of the very few musicians truly to have bridged and mastered the divide between the world of the classical organ and that of the theatre organ. Having commenced classical organ studies under William Whitehead at Rochester Cathedral, he became Organ Scholar at Exeter College Oxford, studying with David Sanger. Further organ scholarships followed at Portsmouth Cathedral, where he studied with Rosemary Field and at Westminster Abbey.

He now pursues a freelance career and is Organist at St Mary's, Bourne Street, London. His career in the theatre organ world has been equally prestigious. He has numerous prizes and awards to his credit, both in this country and in the USA, where he was named by 'Organist of the Year' in 2010 by the American Theatre Organ Society. He has appeared many times on national and international TV and Radio, including solo appearances on programmes as diverse as Radio 3 Choral Evensong and Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night', and has several recording credits. His most recent solo recording was made on the magnificent dual-purpose Compton organ of Southampton's Guildhall.

When not on the bench Richard serves as Musical Advisor to the Cinema Organ Society and maintains a practical interest in organ building.

President's Message



Richard Hills; ATOS Convention; SYA Means We're Busy!

We've got a wonderfully busy time ahead, and we are going to ask a lot of you in the next several weeks, with rewards obvious!

The Richard Hills Concert on our Grande Page is Saturday, June 23rd at 4 p.m. at Stephenson High School. If you heard him in 2016, you KNOW how fabulous his performances are. If you missed his last performance, please do NOT let that happen again!

More than that, I hope you will do all you can to convince some friends, family and others to join us for this fantastic artist. Wouldn't it be wonderful to continue an upward trend in growing our attendance for these concerts. Order your tickets on line or buy them at the door. Online is easy at www.atosatlanta.org and you can save. Online \$15. At the door, \$18. Students, \$10. Don't just buy one or two. Buy several and bring a group. This is as good as it gets!!

Meanwhile, Richard will head north for the annual Chattanooga Music Club's Patriotic Concert on Tuesday, June 26th at the Memorial Auditorium. He will play the historic Austin Organ there. Attendance is free to the public and there is always a huge crowd. Hope many of you can drive up for the program.

June 30th marks the start of the ATOS convention in LA. It's not too late for a last-minute sign up if you wish to attend. And July 15-20 are the dates for the ATOS Summer Youth Adventure, coming here to Atlanta. Some 15 young keyboard musicians will be studying with Jonas Nordwall, Jelani Eddington, Chris Elliott, Donna Parker and Martin Ellis. On Friday, July 20, the event's closing night concert with each student preparing a piece, is open to chapter members. It's set for 7 pm at Stephenson High School, and we are all invited to attend and hear our future stars perform.

See you on the 23rd for Richard Hills!

Ken Double

President's Award

Dr. Vada Coleman, the long-time Director of Choral Music at Stephenson High School, home to our Grande Page organ, is retiring at the end of this school year after a long and distinguished career. Many of you will remember the stellar performance by her choruses at the dedication of the Page, during which Jelani Eddington accompanied them on the organ for some of their selections. From that appearance, they received an invitation to sing at the Fox Theatre as part of the Christmas celebration that year.

On May 11, Dr. Coleman directed her final choral performance at Stephenson, once again using the organ both to play the house in and to accompany the chorus.

At the beginning of the program, Dr. Coleman was presented with ATOS Atlanta Chapter's President's Award, which is often presented to individuals outside of the organization who have made significant contribution to our mission.

The award read, "American Theatre Organ Society, Atlanta Chapter President's Award presented to Dr. Vada Coleman, Stephenson High School, Stone Mountain GA in recognition of your many years of support for the Grande Page Theatre Pipe Organ of Stephenson High School, May 2018, Ken Double President."

All of us who have had a chance to work with Dr. Coleman over the many years are indeed grateful for her long support and we wish her a very happy retirement.

A Sharpshooter from Sharpsburg !!



Saturday, May 19th, 2018, at 3:00 P.M, it was NOT raining! This is of significance since our destination was the Burud residence in Sharpsburg, Georgia – and it was a first – not raining on our visit!!!! Members of the Atlanta Chapter, A.T.O.S., friends and neighbors of our hosts Lori & David Burud, and anyone else who happened along gathered for a memorable afternoon of music, fun, and oh yes, FOOD !!

As the weather went straight from Winter to Summer, to give us a cool-down, David opened with “We Need a Little Christmas” from the musical ‘Mame.’ Then, Mr. Bond came for a visit and made sure we knew “Nobody Does It Better” from his film ‘The Spy Who Loved Me.’

Then the ‘Cabaret’ was opened for the afternoon and we were treated to a couple of selections: “Wilkommen” (that’s “Welcome” y’all) and the theme “Cabaret.”

Next, a challenge – name the singers. First up “My Heart Goes On” from ‘Titanic’, then “Being Green” from the Muppet camp. Did you guess? Celine Dion and Kermit THE Frog – what a pair. If Celine kisses Kermit !!

Now David wanted to make sure we knew we were in the South, by way of Appalachia. A medley of tunes gave us a GPS fix: “Dixie” and “Tara’s Theme” confirmed that we had “Georgia On My Mind,” and that our home was “Atlanta, G A.” Just to bring us back to reality, that banjo-guitar duet “Dueling Banjos” from ‘Deliverance’ (makes the pigs squeal every time) closed out the set.

A group contest was held. This was done on our last visit and David wanted to see if we were any better now. Fourteen song snippets were played. We had to list them. The winner was roasted for dinner. It came down to a tie and the Brady Bunch decided the victor.

A song of dedication to Lori Burud and her becoming a Southerner was presented by David. “Far from the Home I Love” from ‘Fiddler On the Roof’ was in thanks for learning to love a new home town!

David closed with “Consider Yourself” from ‘Oliver’ and we all knew we were family forever.

Open console followed and the great food our hostess, Lori, provided made for a complete and satisfying afternoon.

Thanks, David, for a truly entertaining afternoon – great music, instrument, venue, and really good socks !! Thanks to Lori for being such a wonderful hostess, and a really good cook!! You will never get us out of the house!! When is round 3 ??

MORE GOOD NEWS

Just thought I would post a brief note about WINGS at the Strand this past Sunday. We had a great crowd of 164 paid patrons and with comps over 170 in attendance. Jay Mitchell did a great pre-show and got applause as he walked up the isle after his part of the program! I had the largest receiving line ever and did not get out of the theatre until after 6pm! So many new faces and folks who just were amazed at the impact a silent film has with live theatre organ accompaniment.

I had ATOS magazines, our plaques and membership applications in the lobby.

Ron Carter

Jay Mitchell writes "I am so happy, getting back to my music making! I'm learning new pieces that I've always wanted to learn, yet never had the time to do it before.....one of the great rewards of retirement!"

Jay also relates this story about his friend Lynn Shell. "Lynn was a contralto jazz singer who had the gift of writing humorous parodies for popular music of the day. A couple that I remember dealt with traffic jams on Atlanta express ways, and a "gooney bird" airplane that took off from Atlanta airport, with 20 miles of power pole wire wrapped around the landing gear. Just funny stuff that never offended anybody.. I had those parodies made into film, by the projectionist at the Fox, and he mounted them into old Brenograph glass slides, which I used from time to time.."

Jay wants to do a similar sing-a-long at the Strand theatre and is asking for any members who have a similar gift to get in touch with him.

Jay Mitchell

Closing Chord – James Buttram

Chapter member James Buttram, musician, pilot, editor, author, passed away on May 10. James lived in Marietta for many years and we saw him frequently until his move to Nashville and his remarriage after the passing of his first wife. His sister and brother-in-law, Pam and Billy Hudson, are chapter members. Jim had a long and storied career in the aviation industry beginning when he joined the Air Force in 1949, establishing himself as a standout specialist in airplane and engine mechanics. His work in the Air Force led to a long career with Lockheed Aircraft as an instructor, test pilot and pilot, flying the giant Lockheed planes all over the world. A long-time member of the Civil Air Patrol, he was the central and heroic figure in a rescue, when, under very adverse weather conditions, he located an aircraft missing for several days and was able to direct rescue crews to the site. Upon his retirement from Lockheed, he worked at the Hercules Flight Training Center supervising the education of new pilots, and he became the editor of the Lockheed Service News. He wrote several western novels.

In the musical arena, he played clarinet, guitar, banjo, piano, and of course, the organ. It was that musical interest that brought him to the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS. It was especially fitting and moving that his sister Pam played the organ for Jim's memorial service in Marietta. Jim will be remembered by those who knew him as a kind and friendly gentleman, always speaking a word of encouragement, with a wonderful smile and a twinkle in his eye.

As promised in May's issue of the newsletter each person in the "Last Chord" listing will get their 15 minutes of fame in the newsletter. Last month we heard about Elbert's activities, and now it is Roy Davis's turn.

Roy A Davis – anecdotes

Roy's First Hammond

When Roy was in college, he spent a LOT of time at the local Hammond dealer in Nashville and would play for hours on end if allowed to do so. (He was living in the dorm at the time.) When he later moved into the house of his friend, Standiford (Tank) Gorin, having a Hammond was possible – except he had no money. When the salesman finally suggested he just buy the Hammond rather than play one in the showroom, Roy replied "I can't afford one.." The Salesman asked "How much money do you have on you?" "\$19.55", was Roy's reply. "That's fine for a down-payment", the dealer said. "Just make payments when you can." Roy handed the money over, then realized he didn't even have bus fare to get home. The salesman, eager to please shot back, "Don't worry; we'll give you a ride when we deliver it this afternoon!"

Isn't that....?

Roy had been away for the weekend and on returning to the dorm noticed a shadow moving across the window of his room. He rushed upstairs to challenge the intruder, who was a young man... playing an LP on Roy's record player – the only one in the building. The guy blurted, "I'm really sorry, but I had them let me in; I need to learn this song, as I have to sing it for an audition in the morning." Roy knew the song and convinced the guy there was a better way for him to learn it, so Roy took him to the nearest Hammond he had access to and worked with him into the wee hours. The audition obviously went well, or who knows? We might never have heard of Pat Boone.

The Hammond in Cumberland Caverns

One spinet or another was frequently lain on its back and unceremoniously transported in a Jeep into the Big Room and put on the stage. The clearance for organ and Leslie and/or tone cabinet was pretty minimal in places so the things looked like they'd been attacked with clubs. The organ would be put in place, roughly leveled and turned on – and LEFT on – until whatever event it was being used for was over, as once turned off, it wouldn't run again without being taken back outside at left to dry out in the sun for several hours.

Roy at the Atlanta Fox

There was an ATOS function at the Fox, and the "battery operated recorders only" edict was issued. Non-plussed, Roy arrived with a car battery under each arm, plus an inverter and the necessary cables/equipment to provide 120V AC – for a studio quality Ampex reel-to-reel recorder!

On the road with Roy

John Alford recalls numerous road trips with Roy in the motor home, usually with a cave guide or two along to provide the needed muscle for removing/moving organs. Roy's cooking was Legendary And no matter how much you didn't like something, it was a good idea to make sure it all got eaten, or it would come back to haunt you at a subsequent meal – like left-over "cheeseburger Hamburger Helper" that went uneaten at supper – turning up in the tomato soup at lunch the next day! John's violent aversion to peanut butter & banana sandwiches – with Bacos, no less – continues to this day!
Falconrest/Falconhurst

Mighty Mo's 32' diaphone came from Roy Davis's collection sometime in the 1980s.

Article by John Alford

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

	Time	Location	Event Description
6/3	2:00 pm CDT	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL	Alabama Chapter Meeting - Jay Mitchell, once house organist at the Alabama Theatre, reunites with "Big Bertha", the Theatre's 4/32 Mighty Wurlitzer.
6/23	4:00 PM	Stephenson High School - Stone Mountain, GA	<u>Concert - Richard Hills returns to the 4/22 Grande Page organ; tickets \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, \$10 for students; click here to purchase online</u>
6/26	7:00 PM	Chattanooga, GA	Chattanooga Music Club presents Richard Hills in concert on the historic 4/80 Austin Organ, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN. Admission is free.
6/29 - 7/3	Various	Pasadena, CA	2018 ATOS National Convention
7/4	11:30 & 2:30	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	The Sandlot, Jay Mitchell plays preshow
7/20	7:00 PM	Stephenson High School - Stone Mountain, GA	Monthly Chapter Meeting - we join the ATOS Summer Youth Adventure participants for the closing concert of their 2018 program on the 4/22 Grande Page organ
9/9	2:30 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	<u>Silent Comedy Shorts - the annual presentation of classic silent shorts, all accompanied on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ; tickets \$10, available here</u>
9/30	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Silent Film - Girl Shy - Harold Lloyd's 1924 comedy, accompanied live by Ron Carter on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ; tickets \$10, available here
10/28	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	<u>Silent Film - The Monster - the 1925 horror film, with accompaniment by Ron Carter on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ; tickets \$10, available here</u>
10/28	TBD	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL	Silent Film - <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> - the tradition continues with the Theatre's 40th showing of the 1925 classic starring Lon Chaney, accompanied by Tom Helms on the 4/32 Mighty Wurlitzer; additional details to come

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Secretary—Bill Thompson
Chapter Correspondent—Larry Davis

For all of the latest events, along with maps and detailed information, be sure to book-mark the events page of our website at www.atosatlanta.org!