



**Saturday March 26th at 7 pm
Inaugural Concert, 1926 Barton Theatre
Organ, Grand Theatre Fitzgerald, GA
by Jelani Eddington**



Our March event will be the inaugural concert on the newly-restored and installed 1926 Barton Theatre Organ at the Grand Theatre, 119 South Main Street, Fitzgerald, GA on March 26 at 7 pm.

The Grand Theatre is a restored 1936 Art Deco facility capable of showing historic and first-run 35-mm film in addition to full live concert and dramatic capabilities. The auditorium seats 920 patrons including areas reserved for patrons in wheelchairs and their companions. Large dressing rooms backstage accommodate many performers. A loading ramp allows shows to load directly on stage without use of an elevator or stairs. The facility is available for booking your events.

The Instrument is an historic 1926 3-manual/18-rank Barton Theatre Organ donated by the Near family.

Dr. John Near saved the organ from the Galesburg Orpheum Theatre in 1964. Over three years he lovingly cleaned, repaired and installed in his parent's home outside Galesburg, IL. After studying organ and completing his degrees, he became a music professor and organist at Principia College in Illinois.

With the passing of their parents, John and his brother Bruce needed to sell the family home, necessitating disposal of the organ. They tried to give it back to the Orpheum Theatre but they did not want it. So they offered it to a Not-for-Profit organization that would restore the instrument and use it as they had dreamed. They were excited about the future of the organ in Fitzgerald.

Dr. Near has given two more stops since December 2009. They are an 8-foot Orchestral Oboe and an 8-foot Trumpet. Two additional stops have been added to round out the pedal division, 16-foot Tuba and 16-foot Diaphone.



**1930's Restored Art Deco Movie
Theatre — The Fitzgerald Grand**

The organ has been restored and installed by *A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company* of Lithonia, GA with Atlanta Chapter members John Tanner and Rick McGee actively participating in the project.

The Artist for this inaugural program is internationally-known Jelani Eddington who has recorded several CD's on various historic theatre organs around the country.

Jelani was contacted to draw up the new specification for the organ as part of the restoration project in addition to being selected as organist for this program.

Shortly after beginning piano instruction at the age of four, Jelani began studying classical piano under the direction of his grandmother. At the age of eight, a trip to hear the 4-manual 42-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in the Indianapolis, Indiana restaurant, the Paramount Music Palace, introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ. Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John

Ferguson, whose skills as a theatre organ instructor have been highly acclaimed internationally.

At the age of 13, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition, prevailing over competitors ages 13-21 from the United States, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Jelani remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title. Jelani went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in 1996, and later received a Juris Doctor degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, after which he was admitted to practice law in New York State.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, and has toured extensively throughout the world, including numerous concert appearances in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. The American Theatre Organ Society honored Jelani's extensive career as a concert and recording organist by naming him the 2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year. Jelani retains the distinction of being the youngest-ever recipient of this prestigious honor.

**See Page 2 for information on
bus trip to this program.**

Tickets

Adults \$10 Children \$5

**Don't wait.. contact the Grand Theatre
and get your tickets now.**

Phone: 229-426-5090

E-Mail: grandtheatre@mchsi.com

Manager: Jon Durkovic

**NO seat reservations, seating is open
seating, they will hold tickets for
people to pay for when they call for
them, but prefer a check in advance
and they will mail tickets to you.**

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
770-948-8424

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

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

Chapter President - Randy Hendry
Vice President - Bob McKoon
Treasurer - Rick McGee
Secretary - Tim Stephens
Newsletter Editor - Elbert Fields
Associate Editor - Wanda Carey Fields
Chapter Correspondent - Rick McGee

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

Welcome New Members

Tim & Melodee Stewart
1309 Barrington Manor Drive
Loganville, GA 30052-2960

David Bell
4325 Plantation Trace Drive
Duluth, GA 30096-6328

Organ Lessons

Larry-Douglas Embury (Atlanta Fox Organist in Residence) is now available to be your organ teacher, which might possibly include some lessons on *Mighty Mo* at the Atlanta Fox. If you are interested contact him at 404-808-7136 or email: LarryD@DuoArts.com.

Thanks for the Donations

Randy & Betty Anderson
Denson Buttrey
Fred Heine
Pam Hudson
John McCall
Bob McKoon
Maria Nodora
Bucky Reddish
Svetlana Satterlee
Misha Stefanuk
Emily Wickham
Brent Wood

Svetlana Moving to Australia

Long-time Atlanta Chapter member Svetlana Satterlee is moving to Australia soon in order to be closer to her family in New Zealand.

She said she would like to tell the members how much she has enjoyed her time with the chapter. She said "Everyone is real nice & friendly & I have enjoyed the music. Will miss you all. I am looking forward to a new beginning & being closer to my family."

Bucky says Thanks to Allison and Mike Hutcherson, Svetlana Satterlee, James Thrower, Betty and Randy Anderson, Tom Cannon, David Bell, Mike Knight, Bob Fountain and Lee Lanier... and a very special thanks to Dan Angerstein for all their help with the February program.

Member News

We have learned that long-time Chapter member, former Board member and friend **Tom Robertson** has been diagnosed with inoperable, incurable pancreatic cancer, which has spread to his lungs. Tom began chemotherapy in mid-February.

Please keep Tom and his wife Alice in your thoughts and prayers. If you wish to send a card, the address is:

Thomas Robertson
120 Fairlawn Drive
Carrollton, GA 30117-8867

Bus Transportation for Fitzgerald Program

As many of you know, we in Georgia have an extraordinary theater organ event happening in Fitzgerald this month: the dedication concert of a newly installed Theatre Pipe Organ!

To celebrate and be a part of this historic event, we have rented a bus for the trip to Fitzgerald. The cost is only \$40 per person for the trip *and* admission to the concert.

The bus will be leaving from the Sandy Springs Marta complex adjacent to Perimeter Pointe shopping mall at 1:00 pm Saturday March 26th. We will arrive back at Sandy Springs at approximately 1:00 am. The itinerary includes a brief rest stop midway and a self-hosted group dinner before the 7:00 pm show.

Important: the bus seating is limited to the first 23 respondents. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting event, you must make a reservation through our secretary Tim Stephens as soon as possible -- first come, first reserved. Payment may be made at time of boarding. Tim Stephens may be contacted by phone at 404-725-1155 or email tcstephens@gmail.com.

Atlanta Chapter Archive Project

We are trying to get together a history of the Atlanta Chapter and we need your help. If you have copies of any old program notices, newsletters, photos, recordings, etc. of chapter events over the past 50+ years, **please let us know**. So, if you are cleaning your closets and find something, throw it our way.

If you don't want to part with any of the items in your possession, please give us the opportunity to scan/photograph them for our archives. With today's technology the physical space required is reduced greatly by the use of electronic data. Of course, the value of all donated items is tax deductible.

For more info, contact Tim Stephens at 404-725-1155
or email tcstephens@gmail.com

This could be your last newsletter - Renew Now!

Year 2011 dues are past due. 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 2010, you are considered a member for 2011. Please use the Membership Application on Page 4.

Riggs!!

Sunday, February 13th, 2011 found the chapter members in the presence of RIGGS !!

International artist, musician, great entertainer, musician, great arranger, musician . . . notice the theme?

Jim Riggs was our featured artist at the Reddish residence Walker 3/35. Jim was able to be here even though he was hospitalized shortly before. Maybe the thought of Atlanta and the (in)famous !?!? Atlanta Chapter did him in!!

Undaunted, Jim arrived with a fresh and unique program to entertain all who attended. The selections were prefaced with commentary that gave historical and personal perspective to the selections and set the mood for their presentation.

To start the day, we were told "Pop Goes Your Heart" (Jim said that due to his recent adventure, this should be the theme song for the American Cardiology Association.)

Next, Jim said "I Still Get a Thrill Thinking of You" (J. Fred Coots – 1930) – dedicated to Svetlana Satterlee who is moving to Brisbane, Australia (BOO...)

With "Stars in My Eyes" (The King Steps Out) – F. Kreisler, Jim led us to believe that "Isn't This a Lovely Day to Get Caught in the Rain" w/ verse (Berlin). While out walking in the rain, we would be "Singing in the Rain" w/Lee Lanier operating the player piano – a duet – no less!!

Then a great Duke Ellington Medley: "I Got It Bad and That Ain't Good," "Mood Indigo," "Caravan" led the way to the land of 1930s – 1950s jazz with "Lullaby of the Leaves."

Don't know "Where or When" (Babes in Arms) w/verse (R. Rodgers) –but "The Breeze, the Breeze is Bringing My Honey Back to Me" (the next two selections).

A source of music often overlooked, the music scores from the many films of Shirley Temple – were sampled in a medley: nine selections from Captain January / Poor Little Rich Girl / Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm / others, including "At the Cod Fish Ball" – Shirley danced and sang this as a duet with Buddy Ebsen (Jed Clampett) !

— INTERMISSION – all the usual stuff —



"The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing" (White Christmas) (Berlin) started the second half. This selection is rarely heard outside the film, but Jim proved that it is a great stand-alone selection.

"Say It Isn't So" Nat King Cole version (Berlin) continued the Irving Berlin songbook, and showcased the subtle sounds the Walker has to offer.

Now time for some "Black Coffee".

Then a selection, "I Concentrate on You" (Broadway Melody of 1940) for Bucky.

Being in Georgia, "Georgia on My Mind" – cool jazz – seemed the fitting choice.

Crawford must be present at a theatre organ program, and Jim offered us "A Broken Rosary" – Crawford (Jim Rosevere used to refer to this selection as "Busted Beads").

Next, a Jolson Mammy song little heard, "Mammy, I'll Sing About You" (Jolson / Harry Warren) (Go Into Your Dance) – treated us to a new selection all the players are now wanting a copy of !!

"One for My Baby, and One More for the Road" (Fred Astair) gave us a preparation for Jim's too-soon approaching farewell.

A knuckle-buster rendition of "Strike Me Pink" (Eddie Cantor) ended the program with an energetic go-get-'em flavor.

Then, Jim's signature console down selection "Paramount on Parade" and we were waiting for the Walker to start descending into the basement – Bucky, when did you get a basement?

An encore selection of "Always" w/verse (Berlin) told us that Jim would be back again – soon, I hope.

Then FOOD – goodies and temptations abounded and the host and crew provided a great conclusion to an afternoon of music to be remembered.

We learned that Svetlana Satterlee was abandoning us for Brisbane, Australia – NO!! We will miss you, and either come back to see us, or we will come see you!!

All comments courtesy of **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the walls, seats and blower room have ears!!

The Page Triumphant

By Larry Davis

After the unveiling of the Grande Page console playing temperature-challenged pipes at the January chapter meeting, the Page crew looked forward with some concern to the planned February 18 presentation of the organ to an audience of music students from several schools. Concerns increased when we found out that we had no access to the auditorium for the two weeks preceding that program. Through Jack Sandow's efforts, we had the opportunity to work on the organ on the Monday preceding the Friday program though since it was a weekday, only Jack, Randy Hendry and I could be there.



To our surprise, the Page sounded wonderful, even the Saxophone that some of you will remember sounded rather bleak during the chapter program. By the time the morning was over, Randy had brought online a couple of the traps sounding off accompaniment pistons, and tuned a problem note in the Vox Humana and in general made sure the organ was ready for a public performance.

Friday morning, we arrived at 8 am, turned the organ on to warm it up, opened the swell shades, showed the console to a few curious Stephenson students, and then settled down to watch the program. There are a group of

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

grammar schools whose students graduate into Stephenson Middle School and then move on to Stephenson High School. The program was a gathering of choral students from all the elementary feeder schools, the middle school, and the high school, all performing for each other. The program itself was very entertaining.

At the end of the program, Ms. Vada Coleman, who directs the high school chorus, introduced the organ by talking about "a hidden treasure," and then said, "Hidden treasure, come forth!" and up from the understage came the Grande Page to "That's Entertainment," followed by Ray Charles's standard "Georgia on My Mind." The response of the students was overwhelming: wildly enthusiastic applause and cheering. Following the music, I was able to speak briefly about the organ and then play a little more – supposedly while people left.

But they didn't leave. Instead, they crowded three and four deep around the console and at the chamber doors until the

teachers took things in hand and starting sending them up in groups, delaying the buses that were not able to leave on schedule. And the DeKalb Government TV filmed the organ and an interview with Jack and me. We were told that the video will soon appear as a video on demand at <http://www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/pds24/>

The Choral and Elementary Music Coordinator for DeKalb County Schools, Dr. Michael Meeks, later sent this note: "Although they closed out our morning, I do want to offer my heartfelt thanks for the Atlanta Theater Organ Society representatives that came along to showcase the organ. It is such a music coup to have it installed in one of our high schools and one of my goals has been to establish an annual 'field trip concert' to enable DCSS students to hear this phenomenal resource we have literally 'at our fingertips.'"

We are now scheduled to showcase the organ for two other programs, on March 15 and 17. It is an exciting time.

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- March 13, 3 pm, The Masterworks Concert at the Centre for Performing and Visual Arts in Newnan. It will feature the Chorale accompanied by organ, piano, strings, brass, and percussion instruments. \$12 per ticket and \$10 for senior citizens. For directions go to www.thecentreonline.net.
- March 13, 3 pm, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church presents the Georgia State University choirs and orchestra under the direction of Michael Palmer and Deana Joseph singing Mozart's Requiem. Admission is \$10. For information call Judy Koch at 404-240-8212.
- **March 26, 7 pm (Saturday), Inaugural Concert on the 1926 Barton Theatre Organ at the Grand Theatre in Fitzgerald, GA by Jelani Eddington.** Adults \$10 Children \$5 (See page 1.)
- **April 9, 3 pm (Saturday), Chapter Meeting & Concert featuring Ken Double at the Reddish residence.**
- **May 22, 3 pm (Sunday), Chapter Meeting & Concert by Ron Carter and Pam Hudson at the Hudson residence.**
- Larry-Douglas Embury is planning on presenting a Master Class. This is an event you will not want to miss. We're trying to figure out a time to schedule this and we will let you know well in advance. Thanks for your patience.
- **December 4, 3 pm (Sunday), Chapter Meeting & Concert by Ken Double on the 5-manual, 42-rank Allen TO5 at Dr.'s Petway and Lacefield residence.**

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application
Renew your membership for 2011 now (If you haven't paid since Oct. 1, 2010)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

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

Annual membership dues \$35 (Student \$17.50). Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS.**

Note "Dues" or "Membership" on the memo line and mail to:

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426