

***Premiere Concert on Restored 1927 Page Theatre Pipe Organ
at Stephenson High School featuring Jelani Eddington
Thursday, April 3rd at 8 pm***



The Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS), in conjunction with DeKalb County Schools and Stephenson High School, is hosting the premiere concert of a 1927 vintage Page Theatre Pipe Organ on Thursday night, April 3rd at 7:30 pm.

This premiere concert is the culmination of a 12-year effort of volunteers working Saturday after Saturday to restore the complex theatre organ that boasts nearly 1700 pipes, plus glockenspiels, xylophones, marimbas, drums, cymbals, castanets and other orchestral percussion instruments that make the theatre organ unique.

The artist will be internationally renowned organist **Jelani Eddington** from Racine, WI. Mr. Eddington has toured the world in concert, been featured with symphony orchestras, has dozens of recordings to his credit

(including a two-CD set of the complete works of LeRoy Anderson, all transcribed for theatre organ) and, is truly one of the greatest practitioners of the art. That he does this, teaches several students and practices law makes him a Renaissance Man of to be sure.

He will be joined by the Stephenson High School Wind Ensemble and Jazz Orchestra under the direction of Quentin Goins and the Stephenson Chorale Singers under the direction of Dr. Vada Coleman.

Atlantan Ken Double, President of the American Theatre Organ Society, said "This is a momentous occasion. Our organization is all about preserving and presenting these great pipe organs, and to have not only saved this singular instrument, but found it this wonderful home, is truly remarkable." Of particular note, this is now the second theatre pipe organ that can be heard in the greater Atlanta area. The other, of course, is *Mighty Mo* at the Atlanta Fox Theatre.

Members of the local Atlanta Chapter of ATOS, a hearty group of more than two dozen, spent almost every Saturday for years painstakingly restoring every tiny part of this com-



plex musical marvel. Jack Sandow had connections with DeKalb County school officials back when Stephenson High School was still on the drawing boards and it was Mr. Sandow, now 92 and still very active on the organ crew, who was able to help generate a contract for creation of the space that allowed for installation of the organ.

This effort received great assistance from A. E. Schleuter Pipe Organs of Lithonia, and the George Miller and Associates pipe organ company, along with assistance from volunteers of the Alabama Chapter of ATOS.

This is not the first time the instrument has been heard. The school band and chorus programs have featured the organ – then still incomplete – in several programs. And in July of 2013, the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS played

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***March Program at The Earl Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta
Sunday, March 30th at 3 pm with John McCall on the Allen GW-IV***



Our March program will be at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre on the Square in Marietta at 3 pm on March

30th and will feature our own John McCall at the console of our Allen GW-IV.

John is a well-know Atlanta Chapter member who played an excellent program for us last October at Gary Mull's home. This time the surroundings will be quite different, a theatre instead of a residence, but John is at home in both.

His theatre organ training has been self-taught. He got his first taste of theatre organ through the Hi-Fi



record "George Wright Encores at the Mighty Wurlitzer". John played for his

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**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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Vice President - Ken Double
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Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis

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March Program ... (Continued from page 1)
first real audience in 1986. His second appearance in a theatre was not until June 2000, when he played for a screening of "Singing In the Rain" at the Rylander Theatre in Americus. In addition, he has performed for chapter meetings in several member's homes.

What's the Use of Wandering?

By Larry Davis

Well, that's not exactly the title of the song but it's close enough to articulate the question that people probably often ask behind my back. Well, here's a couple of answers to the advantages of getting in a car and driving for a while.

On February 16, I headed west to Jackson, Mississippi for a meeting of the Magnolia Chapter, held this time at the home of Bob and Tippy Garner. There is an addition on the back of the house that is the home to the Robert Morton Theatre Organ from the Baton Rouge Paramount Theatre, expanded from two to three manuals and from six to thirteen ranks and with the addition of a reproducing grand piano playable from the console. At the keyboards was

an Atlanta favorite, Dolton McAlpin, who used to play this instrument when it was in the theatre and he was in college. Afterwards, there was an open console and what fun to explore this instrument.

Bob assures me that his home is open for visitors and that with a little notice, members of the Atlanta Chapter are welcome to gather in a carload and head that way for an afternoon of music. Let's do it sometime, people.



Then on March 4, I had the inestimable pleasure of opening for a sold-out Heartstrings for Hope, presented by Chattanooga's WUSY-FM, US101, the powerhouse country music station in the region. Each year they sponsor this event to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital and for the past four years, I've played the house in with an hour of classic country music on the theatre

Note from the Secretary:

If you made a donation (beyond the annual dues) to the Chapter during 2013, have not received a letter attesting to that donation for tax purposes and have an eminent need for one, please let me know and I will create one for you pronto! (Email me with specifics at john.alford@yahoo.com or phone 317-439-7735)

The records as they were handed to me as the new secretary are very thorough in general, but are somewhat less than conclusive in terms of which - if any - donation letters were sent throughout 2013. As I work through the list to get them all out, it could come to pass that you might inadvertently receive a duplicate letter. What you do with that duplicate is between you, your accountant and the IRS!!

All the best, *John*

The Earl Smith Strand Theatre is located at 117 North Park Square in Marietta.
See www.earlsmithstrand.org for directions or call 770-293-0080

About the instrument... The Allen 4-manual GW-IV presently installed is the second digital instrument the Atlanta Chapter has placed in the Strand. The first was an 1989 Allen 3-manual MDS-317EX digital organ which was purchased from John McCall and been in place since the theatre

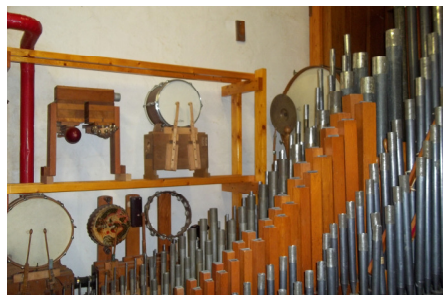
reopened in December 2008. The currently-installed GW-IV was the result of a generous exchange in 2010 by Tom Hamilton of Columbus, OH when he moved into a retirement-center apartment where the GW-IV would not fit through the door.

organ. The program features some of country music's most recognized names, this year Kelley Lovelace, Jarrod Niemann, Randy Houser, Tyler Farr, and special guest: nine-time Grammy Award recipient Sheryl Crow.



The artists all think the organ is very special and Sheryl spent a lot of time asking questions about it and made the point of coming out during the pre-show to hear it. Most importantly, the evening and the previous call-a-thon raised almost \$600,000 for the children, and the theatre organ had a part in the success of the event. WUSY posted a picture of the stage with all the artists and there on this country music FM Facebook page was a Wurlitzer Theatre Organ.

So that's the use of wanderin', the opportunity for fun theatre organ experiences.



"Embury on the Hudson"

Sunday, February 9th, 2014, at 3:00 P.M., the formerly peaceful home of Pam and Billy Hudson never saw it coming. From the North, South, East and West they came!!



This was our first chance to be at the Hudson home since the remodel was completed – they done good !!

The meeting began with Tim Stephens greeting us and covering some chapter business, then Ron Carter gave us updates on events coming to the Strand. Tim then introduced our guest artist – I mean ARTIST – of the day, none other than the Organist-in-Residence at Atlanta's Fabulous FOX Theatre – Mr. Larry-Douglas Embury!!

The opening came via Larry-Douglas at the piano with a birthday tribute to our own W. C. Fields – Mrs.



Wanda Carey Fields!! Happy Birthday to you!!

Larry-Douglas then let us hear the intro to his new CD with a tribute to the Atlanta Chapter of the A.T.O.S.

Then the music began:

First, at the Allen Organ – "You Make Me Feel So Young" offered as a tribute to chapter member Bob Fountain. Next, showcasing some of the MIDI voices of the Allen, Gershwin's "Summertime" from "Porgy & Bess." Larry-Douglas moved back to the piano for a very smooth version of "Don't Blame Me." Still at the piano, we were treated to "Embraceable You" complete with back-up accompaniment from the FOX Theatre Möller – via Larry-Douglas' new CD and the operational assistance from Ted Barnet for the new player.

Larry-Douglas returned to the organ and explained how to "Look for the Silver Lining," dedicating this to Bob Fountain – this was Bob's dad's

favorite song!!

Remaining at the organ, Larry-Douglas told us "I Want to Be Around to Pick Up the Pieces" complete with Hammond-style chorus, and followed this with a Sunday tribute – the Shaker hymn tune "Simple Gifts," showcasing the classical side of this versatile instrument.

Larry-Douglas, back at the piano, continued his duo performance with "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing," again accompanied by the FOX Möller. Just a note – Larry-Douglas – this is a favorite of Wanda!!

The only way to close - Larry-Douglas at the piano (live) and on the FOX Möller (via CD) with a full-out version of "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

A great and varied program, a versatile artist and entertainer-deluxe, an organ and piano up to the tasks presented, and a setting that made for a fine afternoon of music. Thanks to our artist, hostess Pam, host Billy Hudson !!

The after-event banquet was great – so many wonderful choices – and all enticing and forcing you to eat more !!

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

Premiere Concert... (Continued from page 1) host to the international annual convention of ATOS. The organ was played for that group in a private concert.

However, Thursday April 3rd will mark the public unveiling of this exciting instrument that truly fills the 560-seat auditorium with its thrilling sounds. This Page Organ was one of the largest that company every built. It was originally installed in a Chicago radio station. It was later removed and installed in a theatre in Michigan. After several private owners had the instrument, it was purchased by Atlanta businessman Walt Winn. Winn installed it in his studios and hosted Saturday night gatherings where the organ was the focal point.

Winn was in the sound and audio business. Imagine the surprise when the late Fox Theatre organist Bob Van Camp was on hand and in walked legendary singer Ella Fitzgerald. She was in town for a concert and was testing some new microphones that Winn had. That was one unforgettable

night with the Page organ acting as the backup band for Ms. Fitzgerald!

In technical terms, the organ is a 4/22 Page. That means four keyboards (plus pedals), and 22 sets of pipes, each set making a distinctive sound imitative of the orchestra. Thus, there are strings, flutes, clarinets, tubas, oboes, etc. Back in 1927, digital sound didn't exist. So in creating the theatre pipe organ, the manufacturers who wanted orchestral sounds like piano, xylophone, glockenspiel, marimba and all sorts of drums simply found a way to make those real instruments play through the keyboard. This is still true of the traditional theatre pipe organ today.

Mr. Eddington's concert will feature music of all varieties since the theatre organ is, in essence, an orchestra of sound. From light classics, to movie themes, ballads and jazz – to the partnership with the Wind Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra and Choir, the program will be a wonderful sample of several different styles of music.

The concert is set for 7:30 pm Thursday night, April 3rd at Stephenson High School, Mr. Michael Jones, Principal, located at 701 Stephenson Road Stone Mountain, GA 30087. General admission tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, all students are \$10. For more information, contact Stephenson High School, go on line to www.atosatlanta.org/events or call Ken Double at 404-790-5400. Members who are coming to the March 30th chapter meeting to hear John McCall at the Strand Theatre can purchase in advance there. Purchasing in advance saves on the cost of each ticket. Order your tickets early as we anticipate a large response from the parents of band and chorale members at Stephenson High School.

**Directions to
Stephenson HS on Page 4**

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- **March 30, 3 pm, Strand Theatre featuring John McCall**
- April 3, 7:30 pm, Dedication of the Page Organ at Stephenson High School, Jelani Eddington (See Page 1)
- April 27, 2 pm CST, Donna Parker for a Spring 2014 show at the Alabama Theatre



SYMPHONY ON THE SQUARE: Come hear Cobb/Marietta's newest symphony orchestra - over 45 players - under the direction of Dr. Paul Hill, as they present a "POPS" concert of theme music from the movies, on Thursday evening, May 8 at 7 pm. Ron Carter, house organist, will present an organ pops pre-show beginning at 6:15 pm and Phillip Allen, Organist for the symphony, will play the GW4 with the symphony on several pieces. **THIS CONCERT IS FREE TO THE PUBLIC** but you must have a ticket for admission. This is the first concert since the Symphony was formed 4 years ago, where they have actually played on THE SQUARE at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre! This will be a "sell out" with standing room only! Non ticket holders will be allowed into the auditorium at 6:45 if there are any seats available! For tickets contact www.symphonyonthesquare.org

MOTHER, JUGGS AND SPEED: This 1970s comedy which has reached cult status, stars Raquel Welch and Bill Cosby which celebrates the lives of EMT's working for a Los Angeles ambulance company and other public safety personnel, will kick off EMT week on Sunday May 18th at 3 pm. Chapter member Larry Davis will perform an organ pops pre-show beginning at 2:30 pm. Come support our public safety officers and Larry Davis in this "first time" event! Tickets may be purchased at www.earlsmithstrand.org, or by calling the box office at 770-293-0080 or in person 2 hrs before show time or Monday M-F from 9 to 12 and 1 to 4.

As reported in the February newsletter, Bob and Elsie McKoon have contributed to music programs, particularly with organ for many decades. Please thank the McKoon family for this generous gift to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in memory of cousin Doug McKoon. The instrument, will be used as a part of the Symphonies Community Music programs. The McKoon family has been



Jeff Ayers photo



President's Note

After a grand journey of who knows how many thousands of miles, our ship has finally come in! The Chapter's newest acquisition, the Allen LL-324Q-SP theatre organ donated by Harold Clementz of Panama, is now in Atlanta. Thanks to Jeff Ayers and Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta for taking delivery and storing the instrument for us, and thanks to the volunteer crew who dropped by to shine everything up so that we can show her off in style. The conversations regarding a great home for the organ have been very positive, and we hope to share more details of those efforts very soon.

You may recall that our January program was changed around due to the delayed delivery of the new Allen. We're pleased that John McCall was able to reschedule his performance to this month with a full program at the Strand Theatre on our Mighty Allen GW-IV. To say it will be an entertaining afternoon is an understatement, and I hope you'll make your plans to join us on the Historic Marietta Square for a festive afternoon.

Once months away, our Page Organ Dedication Concert is now just around the corner. The time has finally come for us to showcase our Chapter's labor of love - the Grande Page Organ at Stephenson High School. Not only has your Page Work Crew been hard at work over the past several months, but we've also employed our friends in the

Alabama Chapter ATOS along with Miller Pipe Organ Services to help us get things ready for the occasion. Several percussions have received much needed attention, and the new relay "brains" have been installed which eliminates the latency issues we were experiencing with the old system. Couple that with the additional ranks which are now online, including some 16' offsets, and you have an incredible sound which is only getting better with each work session. Our very special thanks to John Tanner and the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company for their persistent efforts and professional assistance. April 3rd is a very important night for ATOS Atlanta, and I look forward to seeing you there.

Tim Stephens

Directions to Stephenson High School

From I-85 N - Turn South on Jimmy Carter Blvd. which changes to Mountain Industrial Blvd. and then Hairston at Memorial Dr. Go to the 3rd traffic light and turn left on Rockbridge Rd. When you cross the railroad tracks, continue two miles and turn right on Stephenson Rd. Go 1 mile. School is on the right.

From I-285 - Exit on Memorial and turn East toward Stone Mountain. Turn right on Rockbridge Rd. and continue. When you cross the railroad tracks, continue two miles and turn right on Stephenson Rd. Go 1 mile. School is on the right.

From I-20 West Side - Take Exit 74 and go north on Lithonia Industrial Blvd. Turn left on Stone Mt. Lithonia Rd. Go about a mile and turn right at the light onto S. Dishon Rd. Proceed approximately 1.25 miles (past a church on the right) and turn left on Alford which dead-ends into Stephenson Rd. Turn left. The school will be about 1/2 mile on your left.

School address is: 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087



2014 ATOS Atlanta Membership Promotion "Bring a New and Renew!"

For a limited time, the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society presents its "Bring a New and Renew!" membership promotion:

- **\$20 membership fee for New Members** (includes anyone who was not a current member in 2013)
- **\$20 renewal fee for Current Members** (if the current member helps sign up a new member)

It's as simple as that. Bring in one or many new members at the promotional \$20 membership fee and renew your own membership for only \$20. Simply use the forms below. Should you not wish to participate in the promotion, you can renew at the standard \$35 basic membership level. This promotion extends through April 30.

2014 ATOS Atlanta Membership (for New Members)

Atlanta Chapter ATOS – P.O. Box 426 – Marietta, GA 30061-0426

Please complete this portion of the form and return with your check made payable to "Atlanta Chapter ATOS" by April 30, 2014, or bring completed form and check to the next Chapter Meeting.

Membership Category: (check one)

☐ Patron (\$300 and up) ☐ Contributor (\$100 - \$199) ☐ Basic (\$20)
☐ Sponsor (\$200 - \$299) ☐ Donor (\$36 - \$99) ☐ Student (\$17.50)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Send Newsletter Via E-mail: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

2014 ATOS Atlanta Membership (for Current Members)

Atlanta Chapter ATOS – P.O. Box 426 – Marietta, GA 30061-0426

Please complete this portion of the form and return with your check made payable to "Atlanta Chapter ATOS" by April 30, 2014, or bring completed form and check to the next Chapter Meeting.

Membership Category: (check one) ☐ Basic (\$20) (when accompanied with new member application)

☐ Patron (\$300 and up) ☐ Contributor (\$100 - \$199) ☐ Basic (\$35)
☐ Sponsor (\$200 - \$299) ☐ Donor (\$36 - \$99) ☐ Student (\$17.50)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Send Newsletter Via E-mail: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

☐ Please send membership information to those listed on back. ☐ Please contact me regarding estate planning.