

## *Richard Hills Plays the Grande Page, Stephenson High School March 5, Saturday, 7:30 pm*

### *As The Song Goes, So What's New?*

By Ken Double

When the Stephenson High School Page Organ Crew was working feverishly to get the organ ready for the 2013 ATOS Annual Convention, they left us an organ that played 15 of the 22 ranks planned for the installation. These ranks included:

- MAIN: Concert Flute, Diapason, Main String, Main Tibia, Main Vox Humana, Clarinet, Tuba, Quintadena
- SOLO: Solo Tibia, Solo String, Kinura, Orchestral Oboe, Saxophone, French Horn, Post Horn



It was a glorious sound, but it was “rough” and tonally, had a lot of holes in it. What has been added has given the organ a lush, rich sound because most of what was added – except for the Trumpet – was lush, ensemble sounds, including:

- Main String and Solo String

celestes (a celeste is an identical set of pipes, slightly tuned sharp which gives the strings their “shimmer”).

Thus, the Page has four sets of glorious strings...plus

- Quintadena – a rather “edgy” flute sound – the pipes have been refurbished and recapped.
- Dulciana and Unda Maris – these are gorgeous, soft strings – the quietest stops
- The Solo Vox Humana
- The original Page Clarabella Flute has been returned to the organ in place of the replacement Wurlitzer Concert Flute.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### *The Return of Richard Hills*

By Larry Davis

The Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend in 2004 was the occasion of the first visit of Richard Hills to Atlanta and our first chance to hear his amazing artistry. From his delightful opening “Singing in the Bathtub” to his staggering ending, the march “Youth of Britain” by Eric Coates, with everything from light classical to English folk music in between, the afternoon was unforgettable. He returned two years later for another delightful afternoon, this



time on Bucky’s Walker organ. Then in 2013, he was the opening artist for our ATOS convention and his performance that

afternoon was another unforgettable occasion with his absolutely unique console riser, his use of the string ranks in the spiritual that he played, his transcription of “Things to Come,” and many other great moments. Now he returns, this time to play our chapter’s own Grande Page pipe organ that has just undergone tonal finishing under the unparalleled hands of Clark Wilson and Carlton Smith. Appropriate that they are unparalleled for so is Richard Hills and so will be this coming concert.

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society**

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*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:  
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Donations***

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***Welcome New Members***

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2165 Shorehaven Street  
Villa Rica, GA 30180-8435  
  
James Edward Hulsey, Jr.  
P.O. Box 724  
Tallapoosa, GA 30175  
  
Charles Story & Anne Fausett  
1010 Edgewater Dr. NW  
Sandy Springs, GA 30328-3512



***President's  
Note...***

“The Needs of the Many outweigh the needs of the one.” Remember Spock’s saying from *Star Trek*? Well, there are people in our chapter who, every month prove that to be true. I try to write at least a paragraph or two each month to recognize people who make special contribution of time and effort. Some months ago, I wrote about the board of directors who come together to run the chapter so that our meetings are free for entertainment and not business.

This month, I will recognize two people who were instrumental in the success of the recent tonal finishing of the Page Organ. No, not Clark and Carlton, we know how much we owe them, and they’ve been publicly honored. But there were two people who worked very long hours and in the background while C&C were here to make things happen that needed to happen.

One of them needs no introduction for if there is a chapter member who has been indispensable over the years, it is **John Tanner**. With three or four organ jobs at the organ shop having to be dealt with, traveling from Atlanta to Columbus – OH, not GA – to south Georgia to Beaufort, SC and who knows where else, he worked nights and weekends on regulators, tremis, chests, supervising a too-small crew and got more accomplished than seemed possible. During

the visit of The Two, he installed a chest, got it winded, removed and reinstalled a trem, shortened other lines – and that was just in the daytime. At night he was busy in the shop with regulators, tremis, pipes, and I don’t know what else.

The other person was **John Alford**. How many times during the week did I hear the words, “Where’s Johnny,” or “Find Johnny.” Whether it was checking driver boards, to assisting with cleaning pipes to running to the store for supplies to driving to Tennessee to bring back a couple of ranks of pipes, he was busy and working late nights with JT. Since he and Carlton had been friends for years, Carlton – as geniuses often do – became focused on what he was doing and like a great surgeon just expected things to flow around him as he worked. And Johnny was his man. And whenever the call came, day or night, he was there. And where did we ever find a Gottfried Trumpet? You guessed it.

There have been many, many people who have contributed countless hours to the Page and there will be a time to chronicle these contributions and honor the contributors, but when you hear the Grande Page and the work done by Carlton and Clark, you can add John Tanner and John Alford to the names of those who made it happen that week.

*Larry Davis*



Linda Johnson has asked for the chapter's help in selling the wonderful Empire Theatre Organ that was played by Gordy. She is asking \$2995 which also includes two external speaker cabinets and a KORG sound module. The instrument is in like new condition. The organ would be perfect for a Hawptwerk system since it has full midi. If interested please contact Ron Carter [ronhcarter@msn.com](mailto:ronhcarter@msn.com).

**What's New** (Continued from page 1)

- The Oboe Horn – less strident than its Orchestral Oboe counterpart and perfect in the accompaniment...
- and, the French Trumpet.

With the tonal finishing accomplished by Clark Wilson and Carlton Smith, each rank now has each pipe speaking properly in volume and tone; and each rank is in proper balance with the others, “terraced” correctly so that the Flute is in proper proportion in volume to the Clarinet, which is

proper to the Tuba, etc., etc.

The organ layout by chamber is:

- MAIN- Tibia, String, String Celeste, Clarabella Flute, Diapason, Quintadena, Oboe Horn, Tuba, Clarinet, Vox Humana, Dulciana, Unda Maris
- SOLO – Tibia, String, String Celeste, Post Horn, Trumpet, French Horn, Kinura, Orchestral Oboe, Vox Humana, Saxophone

Just about half the organ is made up of ranks original to the

Page organ. And the Flute, one Tibia, the Diapason, the Tuba, one String, the French Horn and the Post Horn all extend down to the 16’ pitch, giving the organ a powerful bass!

The sound today is spectacular, glorious, and everything we had dreamed of creating in the Grande Page’s new home. And Richard Hills is sure to make it sound even better, because that is what our greatest players do. You do not want to miss Saturday night, March 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Richard Hills** (Continued from page 1)

There are some who will read this who do not know who Richard is and wonder what the excitement is about. From the Cinema Organ Society, we read these words: “Richard Hills is one of the very few musicians to have truly 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 '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 programs as diverse as Radio 3 Choral Evensong and Radio 2's 'Friday Night is Music Night', and has several recording credits.”

What is missing from the COS

biography is that he was awarded first place honors in the Young Organist Competition at the age of 14, that the next convention stunned the entire theatre organ world with an amazing concert, and that every concert since then has provided memories that are talked about years later by those who were in attendance.

It will be our good fortune on March 5 at 7:30 pm to hear our own treasured organ in the hands of a treasure of the theatre organ world – a delightful young man, an incomparable performer, who will provide us with another unforgettable experience!

**Hills Tickets a Bargain for Chapter Members and Friends in AGO!**

In bringing Richard Hills to Atlanta to perform, we knew we were bringing in one of the absolute brightest stars in the organ world. His two Fox performances – the FFOW in

2004 and the opening concert of the 2013 convention – were spectacular.

In an effort to reward our chapter members; entice our friends in the AGO; and fill the house, the ticket package is simple: Buy One, Get One Free! And bring your friends to hear what we know will be a special night.

So, if you, a friend, and another couple wish to come – you can buy two for \$30 but get \$60 worth of tickets! The

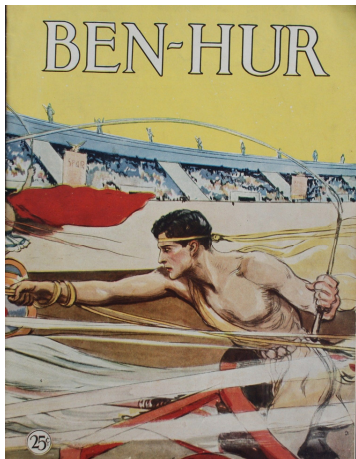
only thing we ask is this: use those free tickets to introduce someone to the Page organ.

And the simplest way to get tickets is to go online at: [www.atosatlanta.org](http://www.atosatlanta.org). There you will see the banner announcing the concert, and simply “Click to Buy” and you can get your tickets.

If there are questions or issues, contact Larry Davis or Ken Double.

**Upcoming Meetings & Events** (*Mark your Calendars*)

- Mar 5, 7:30 pm, Richard Hills in Concert at the Grande Page organ, Stephenson High School.
- Apr 17, 3:00 pm, The McKoon Residence with Larry Davis and John McCall.
- May 15, 3:00 pm, The David Burud Residence with our host, David, at his own Allen GW-IV.
- June 12, 3:00 pm, The Tivoli Theatre, Chattanooga, artist TBA.
- A Musical Tribute to Dr. Fred Boska, Larry Davis and John McCall at the Steinway and Allen 317, Westminster Oaks Retirement Center, Tallahassee, FL., Monday, April 25, 2016. For more information: 229.560.7540.



**The Strand has added the silent classic BEN HUR**, A Tale of the Christ, to its calendar for Sunday afternoon, March 13th at 3 pm accompanied by Ron Carter and the Strand's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ.

BEN HUR: The 1926 Silent Masterpiece was a production and financial disaster but yet a technical and popular triumph. This film still captivates and astounds. It took four years and 4 million dollars to make which is equivalent to 20 million in today's dollars! Starring Ramon Novarro and Francis X. Bushman the film is based on the novel which had sold more copies in its time than any other except the Bible and was blessed by the Pope. Now, more than seventy five years after its blaze into film history, the grandeur of this film and its famed blunders cannot fail to excite our awe and curiosity. The famous chariot race was not topped in the 1959 version. Instead it was copied!! Forty-two cameramen logged 53,000 feet of film on race day with thousands of extras!

***It's Time To Pay Your Dues — Do It Now, Don't Put It Off***

Calendar-year 2016 dues of \$35 per household (Students \$17.50) are now due and payable. Article VIII, Section 2 of our By-Laws state "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 2015, you are considered a member for 2016. 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