



ATOS ATLANTA

Official Newsletter of The Atlanta Chapter of the
American Theatre Organ Society



March Chapter Meeting
Saturday March 9, 2024, 2:30PM
A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company
2843 Stone Mountain Lithonia Rd.
Lithonia, GA 30058
770-482-4845

A.E. Schlueter will provide a tour of their organ maintenance and manufacturing facility where we'll be able to see the various bits and pieces of pipe organs, including the Alabama Theatre's Wurlitzer, "Big Bertha", and Atlanta's beloved "Mighty Mo" Moller theater organ from the Fox Theatre. Following the tour, there will be open console time in the A. E. Schlueter showroom. Light refreshments will be provided.



Arthur E. Schleuter, Jr., known
as "Art", Founder and CEO

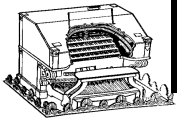


Arthur E. Schleuter, III, known as
"Arthur", Corporate Vice-President
Tonal and Artistic Direction

Please renew your ATOS Chapter membership if you haven't done so.



Level	Base	Cap
Student	\$17.50	
Basic	\$35.00	
Donor	\$75.00	\$149.00
Contributor	\$150.00	\$249.00
Sponsor	\$250.00	\$499.00
Patron	\$500.00	And up



A Letter from your President



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American Theatre Organ Society
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www.atosatlanta.org
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

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

Chapter President - Eddie Hulsey
Vice President - David Yackman
Treasurer - Lee Lanier
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
Membership Director - Lee Lanier
Board members:

Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Ken Double
Randy Hendry

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow

What a Wonderful Time in Columbus!

For those making the trip, it was a weekend not soon forgotten! RiverCenter presented a fabulous screening of “Metropolis”, with the incredible Clark Wilson at the console. This was followed by a phenomenal concert by Ken Double on the Wave. An enthusiastic and energetic crowd greeted both artists with tremendous response. Our good friend Norman Easterbrook really outdid himself in bringing in the faithful AND many new converts to the Wave! Our Chapter is still riding high from the experience! But wait, as a popular infomercial phrased it, there is MORE!!

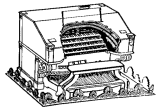
Have you ever taken a “behind the scenes tour”? It can be a most fascinating experience. It is there the curtain is parted, and the magic is revealed. In a departure from our customary monthly programs, we have a rare chance to experience what makes a pipe organ tick from an up close and personal perspective. On March 9th, we gather at the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ facilities for a truly once in a lifetime experience. In addition to great fellowship, we have a chance to view and hear about two fantastic ongoing projects of the firm. Two of the most iconic theatre organs in the world are sharing shop space, and we get to see them! As many of you are aware, a chamber of the famed “Mighty Mo” is being lovingly rebuilt. Alongside of the Moller, the console of the Alabama’s beloved “Big Bertha” is there getting an interior update as a part of its restoration. Couple that with the chance to view the temporary console from the Fox, and you have a trifecta for any aficionado of the theatre organ! There will be ample opportunities for open console (unfortunately not at any of these instruments!) for those wishing to “perfume the air with music”, as the old timers once phrased it. Look for more details here in the newsletter!

This would be a great time to invite a friend to join us for the meeting. For someone who is mechanically minded, the information and opportunity to see HOW the components come together to make beautiful music could spark further interest in ATOS. The tech aspect is vitally important to keeping the music playing. If you have any organist friends, reach out to them. This would be a fine opportunity to introduce them to what we are all about.

In closing, a special thanks to Ken Double and Larry Davis for their help in showing Southern hospitality to Clark during his visit. Thanks to these, and other members, we set the bar higher for other chapters. That is a reputation, of which, you should be very proud.

See you in March!

Eddie Hulsey



Once Again, Clark Wilson and Metropolis

In my recent historical articles, I chronicled the screening of Metropolis at the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend twenty years ago with Clark Wilson at the console of the Fox Möller. Without doubt, it was a significant, even monumental, event in the long history of the legendary film. It also affected science fiction fandom in Atlanta and, through later performances, in other places across the country, by introducing SF enthusiasts to a to-them new art form. Since that time, Clark has twice returned to the Atlanta area to accompany Metropolis at the Strand Theatre.



In February, he made his first visit to a different region of Georgia, the west central area, Columbus, and the magnificent RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, once again, to present one of the most significant films ever made to a new audience from west central Georgia, from east central Alabama, from Columbus State University, from Auburn University.

Thanks to the programming and promotional genius of Executive Director Norm Easterbrook, there were almost 600 people in the auditorium for the film, but there had been a prior exhibit in the lobby – a robotics display by young people featuring Lego robots performing tasks, and also a visiting robotic dog.

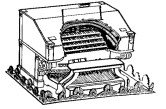
There are plenty of silent horror films, but very few true silent science fiction films and this one is the greatest of all, exploring the themes of social disparities and scientific advances and their dangers, all in the framework of a love story, and featuring the famous iconic robot and the soaring architecture of the Metropolis. The accompanying score by Gottfried Huppert is monumental, and Clark has taken the full orchestral score and transcribed it to the organ with all the skill that contributes to his well-deserved reputation of being the greatest exponent of silent film accompaniment.

This film is intense, but Clark controls the internal pressure to play with matching intensity, reserving the volume for the most powerful moments at the ends of the three sections of the film. That, and the sensitive renderings of the beautiful sub-themes and the love song truly bring out the glory of the great score. The conclusion, where the three main themes are woven together in a grand and glorious finale evoked the well-deserved standing ovation.

Once again, the greatest of all science fiction films and the greatest silent film accompanist were joined together to provide the finest entertainment to a new audience.

Larry Davis





Here's Why

If I may take a point of personal privilege: Back in 2004 and 2005, our chapter, in the space of a few months, made trips to Augusta for a two-day organ crawl involving four venues, a trip to Americus for a two-day program at the Rylander Theatre, and another two-day trip that included events at four venues in Macon and Americus. In a President's Message at the time, I wrote the following, which seems appropriate to revisit at this time in our history:

"But do I hear a question? Why are we going out of town? Why so much? And why so close together? The answer is opportunity. Opportunity involves access and timing. Where will it ultimately lead? I don't know but let's take the opportunity to find out.... Once again, this is an opportunity in which access and timing makes it possible for us to hear and present theatre organ in two different public venues, including the best opportunity of all: a world-class theatre organist playing a theatre pipe organ in a theatre. These are exciting times for theatre organ in Georgia. New things are happening and we of the Atlanta Chapter are right up front doing what we do: enjoying and promoting the theatre organ and its music."

These words are still applicable and appropriate. In the past few months, we have been to Birmingham, to Columbus twice, and we will be going back to Gorham's Bluff, AL in May. We had almost 600 people in Columbus for Metropolis, met with the Columbus AGO, and we'll be presenting the theatre organ to a new audience in Gorham's Bluff. These are opportunities to do something different, hear different instruments and artists, and fulfil our mission to promote theatre organ to those outside of our regular circles. Let's keep taking these opportunities as they emerge.

Larry Davis



Showstoppers On The Wave – Featuring Ken Double

A spectacular theater organ weekend at Columbus, Georgia's RiverCenter For The Performing Arts was had by all in attendance. On Saturday the 17th, Clark Wilson graced us yet again with his accompaniment of the silent movie "Metropolis" featuring the original score. On the afternoon of Sunday the 18th, our very own Ken Double serenaded us in concert on the chapter-owned Allen GW4, dubbed "The Wave", providing a perfect bookend to the weekend.

After an intro by RiverCenter's Norm Easterbrook, Ken opened up with his quintessential console-riser "That's Entertainment", followed by a jaunty rendition of "Everything Is Peaches Down In Georgia". These two tunes were the lively beginning to showcase Ken's "Showstoppers" concert theme. Ken followed that up by a medley of four Al Jolson tunes; "April Showers", "Sonny Boy", "Toot, Toot, Tootsie (Goodbye)", and "My Mammy".

Next, it was Mambo time! Ken burst into a rousing arrangement of Barclay Allen's "La Cumana", with castanets and tambourine syncopated accompaniment followed by popular WWI-era love song titled "The Sunshine Of Your Smile".



A quartet of Judy Garland songs were the contents of another "Showstoppers" medley; "The Trolley Song", "Hello, Bluebird", the sultry "The Man That Got Away", and finally, Ken's beautiful interpretation of the iconic theme song from the 1939 movie The Wizard Of Oz – "Somewhere Over The Rainbow". Then, another piece with a Latin flare – Antonio Carlos Jobim's breezy bossa nova "Wave", a fitting title for a song played on "The Wave"! The first half of the concert was brought into intermission with the old-time Eddie Cantor show-stopping classic "Yes, Yes My Baby Said Yes, Yes".

The second half of Sunday's concert began with a turn-of-the-century march, "Blaze Away". And then, a rare treat; a Ken Double vocal! Accompanied by music recorded digitally on the Allen GW4 pre-concert, Ken sang "When You're Smiling" for us. Everyone in attendance was left with a smile on their face after that performance! Another medley followed; a great Frank Sinatra set, starting with a lilting "Nice N Easy", followed by the elder Frank's could-be epitaph "My Way", then a song that Sinatra came out of retirement to record, "You Will Be My Music" and a rousing end to the medley – "My Kind of Town". "My Melancholy Baby" was a somber contrast following "My Kind of Town".

The last medley of the concert featured tunes by The Beatles. Channeling John, Paul, George and Ringo, Ken belted out "Can't Buy Me Love", followed by the whimsical "When I'm 64", the pretty "Something", and "Eleanor Rigby". The final song for the day was a show-stopping song from the musical Mame; Jerry Herman's "It's Today". It's today – a fitting song for any day, and what a day it was! As always, a wonderful concert by the incomparable Ken Double!

David Yackman



THE 2nd ANNUAL GRAHAM JACKSON CONCERT IS SET FOR APRIL 20th ACATOS Honors the Great Musician; Awards its Annual Scholarship



On Saturday, April 20th at 2:30, the Stephenson High School auditorium will host the second annual Graham Jackson Memorial Concert, and welcome one of the finest practitioners of the theatre organ art form, organist Jelani Eddington back to the Grande Page pipe organ for a Saturday afternoon of great music and celebration.

A year ago, with Tedde Gibson at the console, we staged the first of these events with a great concert, and an education about just how tremendous a talent was one Graham Jackson. This event also provided the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS the chance to celebrate Cory Bohler, a young trombone player completing his freshman year at the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. Young Mr. Bohler was awarded our first \$1500 scholarship to assist him in his quest for a life in music.

Graham Jackson was a multi-talented dynamo of a musician, who once he arrived in Atlanta, poured his energies into music of all kinds. He created jazz groups and full orchestras; played piano and organ in church, movie theatres, and on radio and television. Led his own choir; taught music; and became famous (as his business card so succinctly stated) as the Favorite of Presidents.

While never the “official” organist at the Fox Theatre, he made many appearances at Mighty Mo, offering his impressive jazz and improvisational touch to the music emanating from those five pipe chambers at the Atlanta Fox.

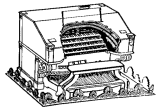
Our chapter is proud to shed the spotlight on one of the most influential musicians to call Atlanta home. And equally proud to help another young musician take his or her next steps toward a career in music.

The concert on Saturday afternoon, April 20th at 2:30 p.m., will not only present Jelani Eddington – who played the very first public concert on our Grande Page almost ten years ago to the day – but will also feature the Stephenson High School Wind Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Quentin Goins, the 2023 Georgia Music Educator of the Year, and our great partner and supporter of the Grande Page pipe organ.

Make your plans now for a most memorable Saturday afternoon, April 20th with the Page.

Don't forget to renew your membership. We need you!
Renew at atosatlanta.org





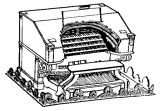
Honoring Quentin Goins

All of us who are associated with the Grande Page at Stephenson High School know, appreciate, and greatly respect the Director of Bands, Mr. Quentin Goins. Mr. Goins came to Stephenson High School in the early 2000's, after graduating from Redan High School in DeKalb and obtaining his music degree from Florida Agricultural and Technical University (FAMU), a university with a marching band of legend. Mr. Goins has led the Stephenson High School bands to many honors, including participating in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and he himself has been the recipient of many awards. He also plays a mean saxophone!

With respect to ACATOS and the Grande Page, Mr. Goins has been an enthusiastic supporter, and has included the theatre organ in most programs that are held in the arts auditorium, including occasions of accompanying the band, orchestras, and chorus. We could not ask for a better ally, and Mr. Goins received our own President's Award for his long advocacy for the Grande Page.

It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride that we can announce that Mr. Goins has been designated the 2023 Music Educator of the Year for the State of Georgia. Join us in applauding our friend and fellow-enthusiast for this much-deserved honor.





Upcoming Chapter Meetings

March Chapter Meeting	Saturday, March 9 - 2:30PM A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company Facility Tour
April Chapter Meeting	Saturday, April 20 - 2:30PM Jelani Eddington in Concert Stephenson High School
May Chapter Meeting	Saturday, May 18 - 2:00PM (CST) Keyboard Extravaganza Gorham's Bluff Meeting House

Ron Carter Strand Theatre Events Pre-Shows by Strand Organists

Saturday, March 2	Dungeons and Dragons - 8:00PM Pre-show organist - Larry Davis
Sunday, March 17	Darby O'Gill and the Little People - 3:00PM Pre-show organist - Eddie Hulsey
Saturday, March 30	Princess Bride - 8:00PM Pre-show organist - Larry Davis
Sunday, April 21	Steamboat Bill, Jr. Starring Buster Keaton - 3:00PM Live organ accompaniment - Ron Carter Pre-show organist - Eddie Hulsey