

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 3:00 P.M.
GREG OWEN AT THE CARTER'S**

About the Artist...

Now a native of Manchester, Tennessee, Greg Owen has established himself as a widely known concert artist throughout the United States. Born in 1965, he has had a love for the organ since the age of 9. Inspired by artists such as Virgil Fox, Lyn Larsen, Walt Strony and Tom Hazelton, Greg has taken a style all his own.

He has concertized for numerous chapters from the east and west coasts. He has performed for the Garden State theatre organ society at such venues as the Trenton War Memorial, the Pascack Theatre, the Rahway Theatre and for NYTOS at the Lafayette Theatre in Suffern, the New York Military Academy in Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York and at Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. He has also played at the Byrd Theatre in Richmond, Virginia, as well as the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham,



Alabama. He has played the Wanamaker organ on numerous occasions as well as many other venues including the Atlantic City Convention Hall Organ and the Sanfilippo Residence Organ, including the Wichita Wurlitzer.

He has held the prestigious position as staff organist at the Organ Loft in Salt Lake City for over 4 years.

Equally at home on electronic organs, Greg has played for many electronic organ societies including the Hammond Organ Society and the Monmouth Organ Society in New Jersey. He is a Yamaha Electone Festival Competition winner as well. This will be Greg's third time for the Atlanta Chapter.

About the Instrument...

The Lake Somerset Allen is a state-of-the-art digital theatre organ. It is commonly called a GW-IV or George Wright four manual. The Carter instrument uses Version 7 of the Allen Renaissance Software which produces 33 digitally sampled theatre organ voices, tuned percussions and various toy-counter effects. This instrument has 16 channels of sound produced by 1600 watts using 16 one-hundred watt amplifiers driving 18 large speaker cabinets. These cabinets are the first produced by an organ manufacturer to reproduce digital organ sound.

The Carter's also have a Kawai digital grand piano, model CP200, which has won several awards in both the electronic instrument and piano industry since Kawai introduced it in 2000.

Directions to the Carter's

On I-75 take Exit 263 to South Marietta Parkway (South Loop, GA-120) & turn West. Go under the railroad bridge and turn right. In about 1/4 mile turn left on Whitlock (GA-120) and go West for about 6 miles. Turn right on Bob Cox Road then left on Somerset Drive. The Carter residence is the 8th house on the left. Address: 219 Somerset Drive, Phone: 770-428-4809.

Ron asked all attendees to PLEASE PARK ON ONLY ONE SIDE OF THE STREET and ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE STREET AS THE TRAFFIC FLOWS. There were complaints about this when we had the program at the Carter's last year.

**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
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Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
elfields@yahoo.com*

***“Larry, Carols & Mo”
Christmas at the Fox – The Third Edition***



On Tuesday, December 9, at 7 pm, Atlanta Chapter Member and Fox Theatre Organist-in-Residence Larry Douglas Embury will host the third annual “Larry, Carols and Mo” Christmas organ program at the Fox Theatre. I call it the Third Edition because this year’s program will not be the same. The film will not be a full-length film which will make the schedule friendlier for children; and the guest lineup is revised. What will be the same is that the theatre organ will be the center of the program presented to a sold-out audience. Tickets are FREE and available at the Fox Box Office starting on November 14, or through Ticketmaster for a small fee. See you there!!

Closing Chord

On September 24, 2008, the organ crew of the Chattanooga Tivoli Wurlitzer lost one of our most treasured members with the passing of Staley McPeak. Staley was a retired educator and administrator in the Hamilton County schools, and also worked for eleven years, including a term as director, at the Chattanooga Nature Center.

Staley was very active in his church, St. Elmo United Methodist, and it was there that he met Jon Robere, the church’s organist, who was also the organist at the Tivoli. By that time, the theatre had been purchased by the city and was undergoing restoration. Most of the Wurlitzer had been removed and was being repaired and restored in the basement of the Chattanooga Memorial Auditorium (home to the recently restored Austin Organ). Staley became involved in the Wurlitzer project in 1987. Larry Donaldson remembers him as being there for regular work sessions every Thursday evening. Bert Allee remembers that he often took parts home to restore, particularly the tuned sleigh bells, and particularly remembers the ingenious fix that he engineered for a balky tibia offset chest. After the reinstallation of the organ in the Tivoli, Staley continued for the next two decades as a member of the volunteer crew, participating right up until his untimely and unexpected passing at the age of 70.

It was Staley who, earlier this year, arranged for the organ to be used during a fundraising concert sponsored by the Hamilton County Rescue Squad, for which he had volunteered for 45 years. The audience obviously enjoyed the Wurlitzer, since it was only the second time the organ had been heard in almost a decade. So well-received was the music of the pipe organ, that the musical groups participating at the event called for the Wurlitzer to join in the grand finale. Certainly, the event was one that demonstrated a positive public response to the use of the organ for theatre events – made possible by our friend.

Staley was one of those treasures of the theatre organ world whose contribution was not in making music, but in enabling others to be able to make music through his dedication, technical ability, and his advocacy.

Larry Davis

ALL MCCALL!



Our October meeting was held at the residence of David and Lori Burud in Sharpsburg, GA., on Sunday, October 12, 2008 at 3:00 pm.

After a business meeting and updates on the chapter projects, Larry Davis introduced John McCall at the Allen Renaissance GW-4 organ.

A McCall program is more of a McCall Event! Exuberant enthusiasm launches the event and it is the order of the proceedings for the afternoon.

Opening with *He Ain't Got Rhythm* got the momentum started. Following was *I Know Why (and So Do You)*, a nice contrast to the opener.

Since it is Sunday, a trip to the pub seems perfectly in order and this "English Beer Hall Medley" offered the hymn selections for the day:

Man on the Flying Trapeze
If You Were the Only Girl in the World
Only a Bird in a Gilded Cage
Let's All Sing Like the Birdies Sing
For Me and My Gal

Learnin' the Blues offered an instructional moment and we all learnt it well.

A quiet, reflective moment featured *Since I Fell for You*. The great soft stops and mellow ensembles were showcased here for all to hear.

A rousing *Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart* carried the group up to the time of INTERVAL – stretching, exploring the house and greetings to others present were the necessary items for the break.

Starting the second half with Gershwin is always good and *Someone to Watch Over Me* filled the bill.

A unique and welcomed medley followed, featuring Helen and Jesse Crawford Favorites. These were suggestions of the Crawford arrangements with personalized styling by our artist:

My Love Song
I Found You
Can't We Talk It Over?

Tie a String Around Your Little Finger (this selection was recorded by both Helen and Jesse as solo arrangements – this one leaning more on Helen).

La Vie en Rose had everyone humming along with a favorite of all listeners.

For the Fall season, *Autumn Leaves* set the tone for this great time of year.

Canadian Sunset was treated with a fresh musical approach and offered an insight into the performer's thoughts and stylistic feeling.

Maybe, I Will Come Back was a welcomed threat that we will hold John to. He had better honor this title!!

Encores offered in response to the audience call were *Jeannine*, *I Dream of Lilac Time* and *Market Day at Wally World*, a composition by our own composer in residence, John McCall.

Wonderful refreshments were provided by our Hostess, Lori, and a great time to visit and catch up rounded out a great Sunday afternoon at this most enjoyable setting in Sharpsburg, Georgia – who knew!

All comments and observations provided courtesy of **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear — remember, the walls and onion domes have ears!



**JONAS NORDWALL
"HOLIDAY POPS"
THEATRE ORGAN
CONCERT**



Jonas Nordwall, renowned as both a theatre and classical organist, will appear in concert on Wednesday, December 3, 7:30 pm, at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Midtown Atlanta, as part of the 2008-09 Concert Series. Nordwall is the only artist who has appeared in concert at The Fox playing the Mighty Mo, and at All Saints' playing the James G. Kenan Memorial Organ, which was built by John-Paul Buzard of Champaign, Illinois in 2003. Tickets are \$10 adult, \$5 student/senior, and will be available at the door. Tickets can also be ordered through the church's website: allsaintsatlanta.org -- click on music, then Concert Series, and a link will connect with an order page where tickets can be charged using Visa or MasterCard. The concert follows the church's traditional St. Nicholas Dinner and service.

Nordwall's concert will be a program of traditional holiday favorites, both sacred and popular, including an audience sing-along of familiar carols. Some of the program highlights will be "Echo Noel" by Louis Claude Daquin, the Fugue from the "Pastoral Sonata" by Rhineberger, and the Dupre setting of "Adeste Fideles".

Jonas Nordwall is an internationally renowned organist with the unique ability to perform both classical and popular music with equal virtuosity. He has been a frequent American Theatre Organ Society convention artist, and was named "Organist of the Year" by ATOS in 1987. He began taking piano and organ lessons at age ten, and at age sixteen performed on the accordion for King Gustav Adolf during a tour of Sweden.

For nearly three decades Nordwall has toured North America presenting concerts and workshops. International concert appearances include China, Japan, and five tours of Australia. He has made many recordings, and

several of his CDs will be available at the concert. He has appeared on national television in both the United States and Australia, and his recordings are frequently heard on "Pipe Dreams", the syndicated PBS weekly radio program.

He has recently been a guest recitalist and adjudicator for the International Organ Competition in Geneva, Switzerland. Jonas serves as organist for the First United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon, a position he has held since 1971, and is also the organist for the Oregon Symphony Orchestra. He has performed organ solos with the Oregon Symphony Orchestra, the Portland Chamber Orchestra, the Portland Festival Orchestra, and both the Vancouver, British Columbia and the Vancouver, Washington Symphony Orchestras.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Mr. Nordwall studied with Goldie Poz and received his Bachelor of Music Degree from the University of Portland where he was a pupil of Arthur Hitchcock. Additional study was with Frederick Geoghegan, Richard Elsasser, and Richard Purvis. He has been a very influential force in the musical instrument manufacturing industry, having been a product designer, marketing consultant, and recitalist for several organ manufacturers.

ATTENTION

In order to save club money, we are offering you the option of receiving your monthly newsletter in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format by email instead of "snail" mail. This will not only save on postage expense, but reduce the reproduction and envelope costs. Also, it is in color. *Note:* These are fairly large files and this choice might not be satisfactory for dial-up internet connections.

***If this is your preference, please email
elfields@yahoo.com.***

STRAND ORGAN FUNDRAISING UPDATE

by Ron Carter

Please see our latest contribution and organ parts sales report in the adjacent column. We still have not received either a pledge or a donation from many chapter members and/or chapter friends. Your dedicated organ crew does not wish to stop our restoration efforts because of the lack of funds so if you have not contributed, PLEASE DO SO TODAY!!

We will purchase \$4000.00 worth of syndyne stop action magnets this month and supplies for the restoration of the Wurlitzer keyboards, swell shade leather, and RM chest pallet leather has been ordered. Our biggest purchase will be for the electronic relay system (the brains of the organ). We estimate this to cost approximately \$12,000 and we will need to do this before the end of this year! But, we cannot order the relay unless we have the funds to do so.

Please send your check or pledge to Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, Ga. 30061-0426 and specify "Strand Organ Project" on the memo line.

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Thanks for the Strand Theatre Organ Project Donations

PATRON (\$250 to \$499)

Diane M. Abdi
Ira W. Pittman

LISTENER (\$100 to \$249)

J. D Buttrey
John E. Delk

Additional Sponsorship Levels Available

FRIENDS (up to \$99)

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SILVER CIRCLE (\$2500 to \$4499)

GOLD CIRCLE (\$5000 to \$9999)

DIAMOND CIRCLE (\$10,000 +)

ORGAN-NAMING RIGHTS AND WORLD

CLASS CONTRIBUTOR (\$100,000 +)

*Total given & pledged to date: \$14,054.75 (5.6% of Goal)
including sale of Lucas console parts to John Alford
(\$100) and Holbrook marimba to Richard Noah (\$395).*

STRAND THEATRE RENOVATION UPDATE

by Ron Carter

The Strand theatre renovations continue moving at a quick pace. The orchestra pit is completed to include the new organ pit. The organ elevator will be placed in the center of the orchestra pit and will be 2 feet lower than the orchestra pit floor. This means that the elevator will have a rise of 109 inches to the top of the stage. What a ride that will be for our volunteer organists!!! The electrical installation has been completed in the organ chambers to include lighting, 110-volt electrical outlets and a dedicated circuit for each chamber. The maple hardwood floor has been laid on the stage and all 540 seats have been installed by the Irwin seating company. The seat ends are replica's of the 1935 original Strand seats with low-voltage lightings under the arm rests. The auditorium painting is completed and the cove lighting for the auditorium walls has been installed and tested. The chandeliers for the grand foyer and wall sconces for the reception room have been purchased and will be installed the last week in October. These stunning light fixtures were found in a surplus warehouse in south Atlanta and came from an old hotel. They are PERFECT for the Strand. Through the efforts of James Thrower, granite countertops were donated to include installation for the concession stand, gift shop and all public restrooms. Bathroom fixtures have been set and the under-the-stage dressing room floors have been tiled.

The Strand Marquee arrived the middle of October and has been installed. It is a replica of the beautiful 1935 red art deco Marquee but will have a front LED lighting board and over 600 light bulbs! There is not going to be another neighborhood theatre in Atlanta as unique as the Strand.



Photos by
Ron Carter



Items left over from a Rodgers 340 rebuild — wish to sell, trade, etc.

Qty Description

- 2—M-13 Rodger speakers with (12) 6x9 speaker elements
 - 1—RL-1 Rodger Leslie speaker cabinet (walnut finish) with S-100 amp and controller
 - 1—Rodgers electro mechanical amplified chime unit and controller
- If interested please call Ted Barnett at 404-876-0563. Prices are very negotiable.



Several items of interest to theater organ enthusiasts —

A toy counter, glockenspiel, and a number of LP records (including Jesse Crawford, etc.). Contact Jack Barnes at 770-214-2410 or jacbar@comcast.net.



Just Released: *Alabama Album: John McCall LIVE at the Alabama Wurlitzer* CD. \$20.00, including tax, plus \$1.50 postage. jcmcdc@alltel.net; 229-560-7540; 1415 Crescent Drive, Moultrie, GA 31768.

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- November 2, 4:30 pm Recital, 5:00 pm Evensong – William Krape, organ in the Sanctuary / The Feast of All Saints at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
- November 9, 2:00 pm, Tom Alderman with the Southern Adventist University Orchestra at Atlanta First United Methodist Church
- **November 16, 3:00 pm, meeting — Greg Owen at the Carter residence**
- November 28, 2008, 7:30 pm, — Moultrie native and ATOS member Gene Hodges (currently organist and choral director at Grace Methodist Church, Venice, FL) presents *Hymn-Tune Homecoming*— a concert on the new Allen C-8 organ at St. Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church, 1499 South Main Street, Moultrie, GA; 229-616-1116; free and open to the public.
- December 3, 7:30 pm, *Holiday Pops* with Jonas Nordwall at All Saints' Episcopal Church in Midtown Atlanta, Tickets \$10 adult, \$5 student/senior. See www.allsaintsatlanta.org—click on Music, then Concert Series (See article on Page 4)
- December 9, 7:00 pm - Larry, Carols, and Mo, at The Fox Theatre, Free (See article on Page 2)
- **December 14, 3:00 pm, meeting — Donnie Rankin at the Reddish Residence**
- December 20, 5:00 pm, Reception -7:00 pm Program — A Figaro Christmas at The Magnuson Residence, Sylvania, GA. Program participants to be announced.

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

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*. Meetings are held monthly, usually on the 3rd Sunday afternoon. Mail this application and your check to: Wanda Carey Fields, 413 Concord Road SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509.