



ATOS ATLANTA

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



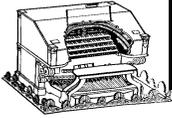
**November Chapter Meeting
Saturday, November 12 - 2:00pm (CST)
Stuart Thompson in Concert
Gorham's Bluff Meeting House**



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



Level	Base	Cap
Student	\$17.50	
Basic	\$35.00	
Donor	\$36.00	\$99.00
Contributor	\$100.00	\$199.00
Sponsor	\$200.00	\$299.00
Patron	\$300.00	And up



A Letter from your President



Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society
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www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

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

Chapter President - Ken Double
Vice President - Ron Carter
Treasurer - Paul Beavin
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
Membership Director - Janis Beavin
Board members:

John Tanner
Eddie Hulsey, Jr.
Larry Davis
Randy Hendry
Lee Lanier
Rick McGee
David Yackman

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow

IMPORTANT AND ENTERTAINING INFORMATION FOR ACATOS!

With the partnerships with the Plaza Theatre and Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta – thank you Chris Escobar and Jeff Ayers – last month’s concert starring Hector Olivera on the chapter-owned Allen LLQ324 theatre organ was a smashing success. Read more in these pages, but a big THANK YOU to the multi-talented and multi-colored (gads, what a frock!) Hector Olivera for a spectacular concert!

ELECTION INFORMATION: Chapter members will be receiving a separate email/snail mail notice for the upcoming election of officers, which will take place at the December meeting at Stephenson H.S. on Sunday, December 11th at 3:00 p.m.

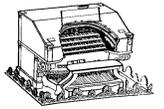
Those with an interest in serving on the Board of Directors are invited to contact me at 404-790-5400. Our chapter is only as strong as its members, and those who choose to be involved and help lead us forward. We at the Board encourage all of you to consider assisting us. We welcome new voices and new ideas!

Membership Renewals: This is also the time of the year we begin the push to ask you to do two things – first, renew your membership, and if you can, renew at one of the levels that also provide some additional funding; and, do what you can to find a new member to join us. That’s the only way we grow.

Note: the full costs of enjoying Hector Olivera in concert totaled over \$3500, between hotel, fee, meals, etc. That alone eats up most of our base level membership dues **for the year!** And yet, those who were there surely enjoyed it, making that concert alone worth it.

Add Ron Rhode in June; John Lauter in July; and all of the other wonderful programs we have enjoyed this past year, we have certainly had a fantastic year musically. Your generous support makes all this happen.

A Road Trip: We have not enjoyed a road trip for a while, and the November meeting will find us heading to Pisgah, Alabama, to hear our friend from Birmingham, Stuart Thompson. Details later in the newsletter. There will be car-pooling opportunities for those who would prefer to ride along rather than drive themselves! Let’s hit the road for some fun next door!



“Hector” – No More Need Be Said!

Without a doubt, the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS is one of the most active chapters in the nation, and members and friends have access to the best of opportunities to hear and to play the theatre organ, as well as providing the community with the same opportunities. The truth of this statement was exhibited at the highest level on October 23 at the Plaza Theatre with the dedication of the Allen LLQ-324 Theatre Organ that the chapter owns, has put in top playing condition, and placed in the Plaza Theatre on Ponce de Leon Ave in Atlanta. The artist for the day was the most celebrated organist in the world, the legendary Hector Olivera.

Of course, as Ken Double pointed out, it’s all in who you know, and the Plaza is owned by Chris Escobar, the son-in-law of the world-famous organist. So, it was appropriate that the program began with a welcome from Chris, who described the process by which the organ came to the theatre – or didn’t at first and then did. He then introduced Ken Double who pointed out how very remarkable it was to have the organist’s name and the upcoming concert on the marquee of this theatre that has shown movies continually since its opening in 1939. He then very accurately described our artist as one who has resided so long at the top of the world of organ performance that he can be introduced just as “Hector.”

Once introduced, Hector took his seat at the keyboards of the beautiful black console, a perfect fit to the gold drapes and curtains of the Plaza, and launched into a classical work. It didn’t matter that most people there – including this writer – did not know what he was playing – and still don’t. It was our first opportunity to see fingers flashing on keys and feet dancing on the pedals, with full organ (off trem) and marvelously subtle, quiet interludes both in the same work. We didn’t have to know what the music was to enjoy it and be impressed by it.

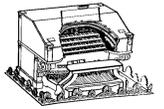
But it was a deceptive work as well – deceptive if anyone thought it foreshadowed an afternoon of his signature classical music because save for two very special later selections, the rest of the music was pure theatre organ.

The next song opened with flutes, high on the Accompaniment manual, soon joined by a solo tibia on the Great, and the music flowed into Harold Arlen’s *Over the Rainbow*, with crescendos and decrescendos evoking all the emotion of that song until the conclusions with the Chrysoglott at the end. Hector described his musical approach to this most famous of Harold Arlen’s works as based on Vierne’s Second Symphony.

He then launched into *Nola*. That, of course, is a famous “knucklebuster” and as if it were not digitally complex enough, Hector added his own additions that made it even more complex – and dazzling.

He then announced the next song as one of his signature theatre organ pieces and it was indeed pure theatre organ: Tibias and Voxes and Strings and the Pedal Cymbal to express the *Moonlight Serenade*, complete with a generous portion of descending chromatic scales. No one can bring orchestral music to life like Hector and this legendary Glenn Miller work was an opportunity for him to showcase his ability to do so.

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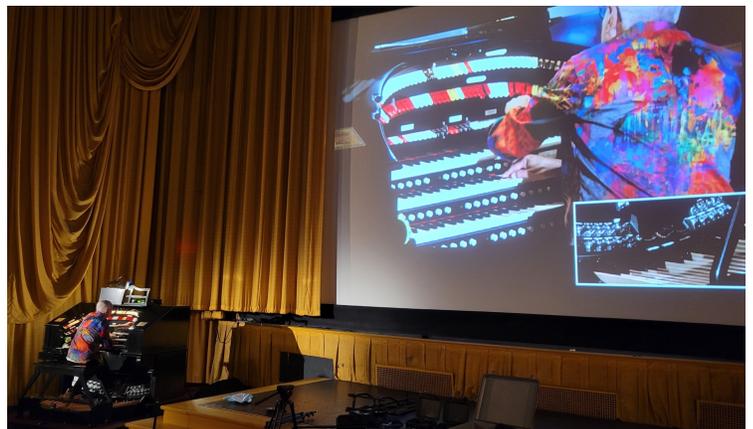


And then, for some, including this writer, one of the most special sections of the afternoon followed. Hector Olivera of Argentina presented the music of the legendary Astor Piazzolla of Argentina, a student of Boulanger, the bandoneonist described as “the foremost composer of Tango music.” And Tango was what we got in two works, the muted *Oblivion*, and the rip-roaring *Libertango*, complete with the central section described by the performer as “a lot of Hector Olivera.” Hector has a natural understanding of the music of his fellow-countryman and his presentation was at the same time faithful and creative. It is worth noting that he could not have

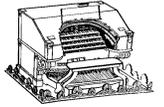
performed those transcriptions as effectively on a classical instrument; those lack the cymbals and xylophones that Hector used so effectively and emphatically in his work.

From the thundering music of Piazzolla, Hector then began a quiet work, using the Glockenspiel and Chrysoglott, evoking a little girl’s music box, to introduce Lerner and Loewe’s *Thank Heaven for Little Girls*, a tribute to Nicole, his daughter. There wasn’t a dry eye in the house, including Hector’s, when at the end, she came down front and embraced him at the console. It was a special moment, and we were privileged to share it.

To conclude the program, Hector chose his signature theatre organ work, *The Trolley Song*. From Hector, we learned that this well-known show-stopping arrangement of Hector’s has a surprising Atlanta connection that demonstrates Hector’s long Atlanta connection as well: he told the story of being inspired to work out this transcription by hearing our own Jay Mitchell playing at the pizza restaurant in Marietta. The music itself is what these days is commonly known as a “mashup,” assembling together two unrelated things, in this case, the famous song from *Meet Me in St. Louis* with Joseph Jongen’s *Toccata* from his *Symphonie Concertante*. It was a stunning finale to the program.



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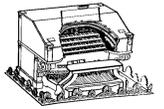


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Hector departed the auditorium for the lobby but the applause was unremitting, so back down the aisle to the console he came and offered an encore, Jerome Kern's moving *Ol' Man River*, famously recorded by him on the Fox Theatre Möller a few blocks down the street.

And so concluded one of the most special afternoons in the history of the Atlanta Chapter: the opportunity for chapter members, our friends from the American Guild of Organists, and friends from the community to experience the best of organ music on a chapter organ performed by one of the greatest organists in history – in a theatre. It was an unforgettable day that will be remembered down the years.



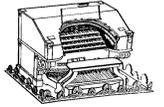


Ron Carter Strand Theatre Events Pre-Shows by Strand Organists

November 12	8:00pm The Greatest Showman - organ pre-show TBA
November 19	8:00pm My Big Fat Greek Wedding - organ pre-show Phillip Allen
November 27	3:00pm Sound of Music Sing-along - organ pre-show Larry Davis
December 9	8:00pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show Ron Carter
December 10	8:00pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show Larry Davis
December 11	3:00pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show TBA
December 15	8:00pm Elf - organ pre-show Debbie Chambless
December 16	8:00pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show Debbie Chambless
December 17	3:00pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show TBA
December 18	8:00pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show John McCall 3:00pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show Eddie Hulsey
December 20	11:00am It's a Wonderful Life - organ pre-show Misha Stefanuk 2:30pm It's a Wonderful Life - organ pre-show Misha Stefanuk 6:00pm It's a Wonderful Life - organ pre-show Larry Davis 9:15pm It's a Wonderful Life - organ pre-show Larry Davis
December 21	7:30pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show TBA
December 22	7:30pm Christmas Traditions - organ pre-show TBA

RiverCenter Events

December 3	10:00am - 2:00pm Christmas on the Wave and Gingerbread houses display. Chapter organists will entertain in the huge lobby of RiverCenter on the Chapter's GWIV!
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Chapter Programs - 2022

Special Commentary on our November Program From Ron Carter:

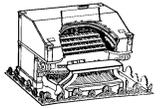
Everyone, I so hope that you are planning on coming to Gorham's Bluff, Alabama, just north of Pisgah AL, on Saturday afternoon, November 12 at 2pm CST. I spent a day in late October at their neighborhood "Meeting House", along with Alan Buchannan of Allen Organ Studios, voicing the marvelous custom Allen Theatre III organ. This instrument was designed by Tom Hazelton and was the largest made by the Allen Organ Company at the time. It has 9 channel audio with a very large B40 Sub woofer and eight (8) top of the line HC18 speaker cabinets. The organ console is located in the balcony with great sight lines to the audience floor. This is a very acoustical-ly live room with large windows, beamed ceiling, and hardwood floors. The organ sounds marvelous in this setting. Stuart Thompson, one of the organists for the Alabama Theatre, is presenting the program. He last played for the Chapter at the Strand several years ago and did a marvelous job. The scenery on top of this mountain bluff is worth the trip!. Debbie and Daryl Chambless our newsletter editors are our hosts and are excited about having a theatre organ program in their little paradise community! Please invite friends, relatives, anyone who loves popular music for this fantastic fall event!! And there will be food!

We did not have enough folks wanting to rent a van or mini-bus, so we are asking everyone to try and car pool. If you live in the northwest part of the Atlanta area you can ride with me. I can provide seating for three. Just let me know and I'll reserve you a seat. We will need to leave from my home at 219 Lake Somerset Dr. Marietta, GA 30064 no later than 12 noon. You can just leave your car in our driveway. I believe Ken Double is also offering folks to ride with him. It is about a 2hr and 15 minute drive from the Atlanta area but well worth the trip!! Directions attached.

Open console at the end of the program for anyone who wants to play.

December Chapter Meeting

A Potpourri of Chapter organists will entertain us at Stephenson HS, on Sunday afternoon, December 11 at 3:00pm. Wonderful Christmas refreshments will follow, plus open console for anyone who wishes to try out the fantastic Page Theatre Pipe Organ!



**IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR !
TIME TO SHOW YOUR ONGOING SUPPORT
FOR THE ATLANTA CHAPTER OF ATOS.**

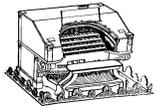
Take a moment to either sit down and write that check, or go online and renew your membership, and continue to support all we are doing to present the music of the mighty theatre organ to the greater Atlanta area. Your membership and support are vital!!



79 Members and Counting!

CHAPTER CHALLENGE - 100 MEMBERS BY DECEMBER 31st!

2 Chapter Meetings remain in 2022. Let's all invite our friends to the Chapter events and each bring in one member by the end of the year. What a great way to kick off 2023 with 100+ members!



Stuart Thompson
November Chapter Meeting
Saturday, November 12 - 2:00pm (CST)
Gorham's Bluff - The Meeting House
108 Main St - Pisgah, AL



Stuart Thompson has enjoyed a lifelong interest in organs; however, his attention was turned to theatre organs in 1991 with a visit to the home of Ron and Donna Carter of Marietta, GA. There, Ron had installed a 2-manual, 9 rank Wurlitzer pipe organ. Soon after this visit, he came to Birmingham's Alabama Theatre and began playing there in 1992 and joined the organ staff the following year.

He is originally from Jacksonville, AL but now resides in Pelham, AL just south of Birmingham. He graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham with a degree in electrical engineering and currently works for Albireo Energy designing HVAC control systems for commercial buildings.

Directions to November Chapter Meeting

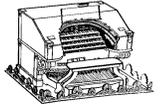
From Atlanta (approximately 3 hours)

From Marietta (approximately 2 ½ hours)

Use your GPS to 108 Main St, Pisgah AL or follow these:

Take I-75 N to exit 306 Summerville/Adairsville
Turn left onto GA-140 (Good place for potty break)
16.0 mi - Turn right onto US-27 N
13.9 mi - Turn left onto GA-48W Entering Alabama
12.6 mi - Continue onto AL-117 N
10.4 mi - Turn right onto US-11 N
702 ft - Turn left onto AL-117 N/AL-40W
17 mi - Turn right onto AL-71N
2.2 mi - Turn left onto County Rd 58 (Kuntry Korner)
4.5 mi - Pass by Dollar General (on the right)
4.7 mi - Turn left onto County Rd 357
1.6 mi - Turn left onto County Rd 457
1.1 mi - Turn right into Gorham's Bluff
Go past the pond
At the traffic circle, take the 1st exit
Take first street to the right
Meeting House will be on your right - it looks sort of like a church





**David Marsh in Concert
Sunday, December 11 - 4:00pm
Cumming First United Methodist Church**



Theater Organ sensation, David Marsh, returns for his third appearance at Cumming First United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 11 at 4:00pm playing a concert of Holiday Pops on the Hutchinson Organ, a Hauptwerk instrument. The concert is free (donations appreciated) and there will be a short open console period following the concert and reception.

Read more about the organ at is <https://cfumcga.com/worship-music/hutchinson-organ/>. For more information, email John Hutchinson at jhutchinson@cfumcga.com.

