



ATOS ATLANTA

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



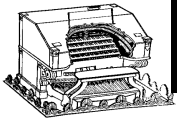
**NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 - 3:00PM
HECTOR OLIVERA IN CONCERT
DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**



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



Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society
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ACATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt
organization under Section 501.c.3
of the Internal Revenue Code.

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

Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey, Jr.
Lee Lanier

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow

A LAST-MINUTE CHANGE TO HEAR HECTOR!

We have a wonderful opportunity to enjoy something different,
yet – in a word – wonderful!

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church is a beautiful church with a magnificent pipe organ just restored by our friends at the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company. To celebrate the restoration, the great Hector Olivera will perform a concert free and open to the public.

It so happens that concert is set for the same time as our November chapter meeting, so as you have already seen, we are changing our location for the November chapter meeting to support this magnificent church; enjoy this glorious Aeolian-Skinner organ; and hear Hector!

All good things, and unfortunately, my crazy schedule – the busiest fourth quarter of concerts, films and Fox work that I have had in years – will find me in Indianapolis that Sunday afternoon. But attend and enjoy. Hector is always special!

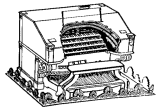
Meanwhile, thanks to Jay Mitchell and all of our friends at the Plaza Theatre for their hospitality last month at the Plaza. As noted in this newsletter, Jay was great, as always.

And I know many of you traveled all over – Marietta and the Strand; Savannah and the Lucas; Columbus and RiverCenter; and the Plaza; Clearwater, FL; and seemingly everywhere – as Ron Carter, John McCall, yours truly and others were busy playing silent films during the Halloween season. And big crowds enjoyed these performances, too, which was so very rewarding!

Lots of important news in this edition of the newsletter, including your first opportunity to see the slate of candidates for officers and board members for 2024. We will actually stage the vote of the membership at the December meeting at the Cumming First United Methodist Church when we enjoy the return of David Marsh, this time playing the Hauptwerk organ.

Hard to believe it is November; Thanksgiving coming up; then Christmas and then writing the New Year on the next set of checks!! For those who write checks!

Will hope we have a great turnout for Hector at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church at 1026 Ponce de Leon (it's right across the street from the Plaza Theatre).



A TIMELY REMINDER AS WE NEAR THE YEAR'S END

There are two major messages involved in this reminder: dues and support.

Your dues will be due for 2024 membership in the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS, and while we have managed to maintain about 70 active memberships (which counts for nearly 100 people when one considers spouses and family members living under one roof account for one membership), we are always hoping to increase our numbers, and our best path toward that goal is to have our current members “bring ‘em in” with positive word-of-mouth about our group and our music.

Meanwhile, not only do many of our members support the chapter by renewing at levels far greater than the basic membership dues amount, this is a good time to remind members about the potential tax benefits of a major gift to the chapter, or leaving something for ACATOS in an estate plan or a will.

One chapter in ATOS benefitted from a triple-whammy circumstance in that three members passed away within about a four-year period, and each member left that chapter an estate plan gift of \$250,000. That left the chapter with a treasury of \$750,000-plus.

While we certainly don't expect THAT kind of thing to happen, providing for the chapter with a donation that might provide tax benefit now; or a gift in your will; can have a major impact on the ability of the chapter to do our work.

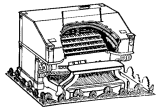
Organs like the Page pipe organ; the Allen at the Strand, the Plaza, and RiverCenter, are all chapter-owned and need financial support to maintain playability. The chapter needs financial resources to plan programs, silent films and concerts.

I hope some of you can renew your membership at a higher level; can take advantage of our non-profit status and provide a gift that can help you at tax time; and might be able to include the chapter in your estate planning.

If you have any questions about this important subject, please don't hesitate to call. And as always, we encourage any of you thinking of these matters to consult your financial advisors before taking action.

Thank you. We cannot do what we do, and do so very well, without your support on every level.

Ken Double



Finishing the Drill - Metropolis at the FFOW

The success of the 1925 silent film *Metropolis* at the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend generated a ripple of effects on people outside of the theatre organ world that continues to this day. For me, it's a personal story that many of you do not know. One of the first things that I learned when I came into the chapter in 2003 was that this coming FFOW of which people were speaking would include a Sunday night screening of the silent film *Metropolis*, at the Fox, with Clark Wilson providing the musical score on the Möller. For science fiction enthusiasts, *Metropolis* is a film of legend, so much so that at DragonCon a few years ago, a panel of SF film critics unanimously declared that it remains the greatest science fiction film in history.

But no one alive had ever actually seen the film. The original 153-minute film had been severely cut only a few weeks after release, and the final archived version was a mere 91 minutes long. In the 1990's, the Kino Company in Germany undertook to locate, restore, reassemble, and digitize as many fragments of the original as possible, which resulted in a film that was 124 minutes long. That film was screened for the FFOW at the Fox in 2004, with live organ accompaniment for the first time since the 1920's. Why do I recount all this history? Because when I heard that the film was to be shown, I knew that many of those who are part of the science fiction fandom community in Atlanta, as I am, would be excited to see *Metropolis* – and we could profit from their interest!

How did it come to pass that the chapter undertook to present this unusual and niche film? Unsurprisingly, it began with Ron Carter, silent film organist himself. He acquired a CD recording of the original orchestral score to *Metropolis* and upon hearing it, believed the film would make a wonderful part of the FFOW. When the FFOW committee agreed, Ron contacted Clark Wilson, who was initially skeptical of trying to score such a monumental film – until he heard the CD. He then acquired a copy of the Gottfried Huppert score and began to prepare. National ATOS was also skeptical about including a silent film in the weekend's offerings, but the chapter determined to pursue the event regardless, and representatives from national soon changed their minds. Thus, the stage was set, and the opportunity was in place for an unforgettable evening – unforgettable in several ways!

Next month – *Metropolis* at the FFOW – ACATOS changes the Sci-Fi Multiverse

Surprise at the Strand

I had an unexpected response from the audience at the Strand Theatre on the night of Friday, October 13, when I was there to open for – wait for it – *Friday the 13th*. Despite the festival that had the Marietta Square blocked off and the Marietta Homecoming Parade that had streets blocked off, we had an audience of around 220 for the movie. When I was speaking to them just before I closed my show and promoting the upcoming silent *Phantom of the Opera*, I asked, "How many of you have never seen a silent film with live organ accompaniment?" If 30 people raised their hands, I'd be surprised. That means that 90% of that audience has experienced a silent film with theatre organ accompaniment. That may well be some kind of a record, and Ron Carter deserves the credit for all he has done to make that a reality there. And of course, you! Because it is the chapter who owns the organ at the Strand and keeps it in top playing condition all the time.

Larry Davis





**Jay Mitchell at the Plaza Theatre
Saturday, October 14**

For our October program, the Chapter returned to Atlanta's Plaza Theatre. The meeting was opened by David Yackman, our Vice President, welcoming guests and members alike. After announcing the upcoming meetings where officers would be nominated and elected, he turned the floor over to Ron Carter for an introduction of our program artist, Jay Mitchell.

The term living legend is often overused and misapplied. There is, however, no better description for Jay Mitchell. From his days at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham through his thirteen year tenure at the Fabulous Fox and beyond, he has exhibited a rare and exceptional musicianship that has become his hallmark. As Mr. Mitchell opened the program, he brought back a host of memories by playing his console riser from the Fox Theatre, "That's Entertainment!" He inherited this tune from his predecessor, Bob Van Camp, but definitely made it his own. This was followed by Jimmy McHugh's classic "It's a Most Unusual Day." With this, he demonstrated the lyrical, singing quality that he brings to the organ.

Taking the audience back to the days of the dearly missed Music Grinder pizza restaurant, Mr. Mitchell next presented "One Note Samba." Many people in playing music of this type allow percussion voices to overtake the melody. That certainly was not the case with his arrangement. The percussions blended perfectly in his orchestration, just like in a real orchestra. His clarity of melody and sense of rhythm made people want to get up and dance. Switching musical genres, he elegantly wove together a medley of the Victorian songs "Sweethearts", "One Kiss, One Man to Save It For", and "Kiss Me Again." In doing so he transformed the organ into a baritone, contralto, and soprano. This medley demonstrated just exactly how beautiful a tibia clausa can sound in the right hands. He literally made the organ sing!

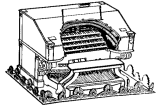
In response to a request by a friend, the audience returned to the Music Grinder for a spirited rendition of the "Colonel Bogey March" from "The Bridge on the River Kwai." With closed eyes, any listener would have sworn a military band had marched down the aisle of the Plaza. In contrast, Mr. Mitchell channeled the stylings of Jesse AND Helen Crawford with the playing of "Home" from 1932. The artist's brilliant technique perfectly captured both the famed Crawford glissando and jazzy excitement for which Helen was known.

A truly great theater organist must not only be a skilled player, but also a sound musical arranger. Mr. Mitchell demonstrated his skill and versatility in this aspect by perfectly marrying "S'Wonderful" and "Falling in Love is Wonderful" in a big band style which would have made Glenn Miller, or Tommy Dorsey, proud! One could have easily visualized a slide trombone on the Plaza stage.

Harkening back to the days of ragtime, the audience was treated to Irving Berlin's early hit-"Alexander's Ragtime Band." Mr. Mitchell made full use of the organ's resources to evoke the pizzazz and energy of the infamous band itself. Every useful voice on the organ was successfully employed.

In a further demonstration of his true mastery of organ registration, the artist made colorful use of the more delicate voices from the instrument's tone palette with his next two selections. In his Ron Rhode inspired rendition of "You Needed Me", the gorgeous harmonies were made for the lush strings of the Plaza's organ. When playing the beautiful "Under Paris Skies", Mr. Mitchell so skillfully duplicated the sound of an accordion that one felt like a cafe patron on the Champs-Elysees!

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In the program's next offering, "Wave" (written by the same composer of "One Note Samba"), the breezy and seemingly effortless accompaniment supported a tibia solo which, with perfect clarity, sang like Renee Fleming. With the equal force of any symphony orchestra, the amazing arrangement of "The High and The Mighty" was packed with emotion and it masterfully presented all the dynamic musical ranges, building to a brilliant and powerful conclusion.

If there was one selection which was PURE fun for artist and audience, it was the song "Mobile", which was an homage to the city of Mr. Mitchell's youth. Played straight the first time, it subsequently transformed into a rollicking and raucous honky-tonk staple. With the drums, cymbals, and everything else thrown in, the only element missing was Gypsy Rose Lee!

In his grand finale, the program ended with Max Steiner's "Tarantella" from "Rome Adventure". Through the exhilarating piece, the xylophone and chorus reeds intoxicated the audience to the point of smelling pizza baking and seeing Vespas circling Rome's fountains.

It was a day that truly was entertaining and MUCH more!

Ciao-

Ken Yura



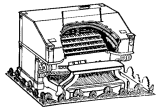
**Hector Olivera at Druid Hills Presbyterian!!
Sunday, November 12, 3 PM
1026 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta
A Change of Plans for November**

Winston Churchill famously said that he changed his actions in response to changing events and that is what our chapter is doing this month. We have learned (through the eagle eye of Karen Davis) that the esteemed Hector Olivera is performing at the Druid Hills Presbyterian Concert in a free concert on Sunday, November 12, at 3 PM. Therefore, we are not changing the date of our meeting, we are not changing the time, but we *are* changing the artist and location. The location is 1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, right across the street from the Plaza Theatre where Hector performed for us last year. So we are going to join our chapter meeting to the church's celebration of the premiere of their newly renovated Aeolian-Skinner organ. And this will also be a celebration of the work of our friends and chapter members at the A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company, who oversaw the renovation.

It is almost completely unnecessary to introduce the artist, long a favorite and a friend of our chapter and our members, but for those who have joined us since this time last year, Hector is widely celebrated as the greatest organist in the world. Born in Buenos Aires, Mr. Olivera's first teacher (who was his father) encouraged him to begin playing the pipe organ when he was three. Two years later, he was appointed organist of the Church of the Immaculate Conception. At age 5, he played for the legendary Eva Perón. At six, he entered the Buenos Aires Conservatory to study harmony, counterpoint and fugue. By age nine, he had composed a suite for oboe and string orchestra, performed by the Buenos Aires Symphony Orchestra. At age twelve, Mr. Olivera entered the University of Buenos Aires. By eighteen, he had performed more than three hundred concerts throughout Latin America. In 1965, New York's prestigious Juilliard School of Music offered him a scholarship. From there, his unparalleled ability took him to the very top of the concert world, where he has remained since.

The organ is a 1940 Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ, designed by the legendary G. Donald Harrison. Originally an organ of 3 manuals, 36 ranks, it has been preserved in almost original condition since its installation. An excellent history of the organ and the renovation project, including specification, can be found at <https://dhpcorganrestorationproject.org>.

Last year about this time, you heard him in an unforgettable program on our digital theatre organ at the Plaza. This year, come hear him on a classical pipe organ across the street! Bring your friends for what will, without doubt, be a spectacular afternoon of music!



IN CONCERT

MAESTRO HECTOR OLIVERA



NOV 12TH

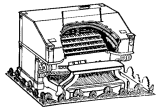
3PM

FREE ENTRY

Performing on our newly restored
historic Æolian-Skinner pipe organ

DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1026 PONCE DE LEON AVE, ATLANTA GA 30306

Visit us on Facebook for more information- DHPC Organ Restoration Project



Announcement of Nominations for Officers & Board of Directors

The Board of Directors presents for the consideration of the members the following proposed officers and members of the Board of Directors for 2024. All those nominated have agreed to serve if elected:

President – Eddie Hulsey

Vice President – David Yackman

Secretary – Larry Davis

Treasurer – Lee Lanier

Board of Directors – Ron Carter, Rick Clear, Kerry Bunn, Randy Hendry, Ken Double.

This is the initial list of board members, others are being considered and will be added once they have been consulted, and you will be notified.

Chapter By-Laws state: The Board of Directors shall submit a slate of Officers and Board members to the Chapter Members by announcement at the regular Chapter meeting and by publication in the Chapter newsletter immediately preceding the Annual Meeting. Members may submit additional nominations in writing to the Secretary no later than two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

Therefore, anyone wishing to serve, or to nominate someone – with their consent, please! – email me at acatos@earthlink.net

Larry Davis, Secretary

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





Upcoming Chapter Events

November Chapter Meeting	Sunday, November 12 - 3:00pm Druid Hills Presbyterian Church Hector Olivera in Concert
December Chapter Meeting	Sunday, December 3 - 3:00pm Cumming United Methodist Church David Marsh in Concert

Ron Carter Strand Theatre Events Pre-Shows by Strand Organists

1940s Radio Hour (rec music from the 1930s and 1940s)

Friday, November 10	8:00pm, pre-show organist TBA
Saturday, November 11	3:00pm, pre-show organist TBA 8:00pm, pre-show organist TBA
Sunday, November 12	3:00pm, pre-show organist TBA
Friday, November 17	8:00pm, pre-show organist TBA
Saturday, November 18	3:00pm, pre-show organist TBA 8:00pm, pre-show organist TBA
Sunday, November 19	3:00pm, pre-show organist TBA

Movies for November and December

Sunday, November 26	White Christmas - 3:00pm - pre-show 7:30pm - John McCall
Wednesday, November 29	Christmas Vacation 8:00pm - pre-show 7:30pm - Debbie Chambliss
Thursday, November 30	Elf - 8:00pm - pre-show 7:30pm - Debbie Chambliss
Tuesday, December 19	It's a Wonderful Life , 11:00am - pre-show TBA 2:30pm - pre-show 2:00pm Eddie Hulsey 6:00pm - pre-show 5:30pm Larry Davis 9:15pm - pre-show 8:45pm Larry Davis

Christmas Traditions

Friday, December 15	8:00pm - pre-show TBA
Saturday, December 16	3:00pm - pre-show TBA 8:00pm - pre-show TBA
Sunday, December 17	3:00pm - pre-show TBA
Wednesday, December 20	7:30pm - pre-show TBA
Thursday, December 21	7:30pm - pre-show TBA
Friday, December 22	8:00pm - pre-show TBA
Saturday, December 23	3:00pm - pre-show TBA 8:00pm - pre-show TBA

Just thought everyone might like to know how much the Chapter's Strand Organ is being used. For shows already passed and those to come:

75 pre-shows for silent films, movies and live stage productions
5 silent feature films
3 private events