

**October 16th (Saturday), 3:00 pm  
Rylander Theatre in Americus, GA  
Featuring House Organist John McCall**



Our October program will be on Saturday afternoon October 16th (not our usual Sunday) at the Rylander Theatre in Americus, GA featuring House Organist John McCall beginning at 3:00 pm, with the theatre doors opening at 2:30 pm.

In addition to the concert fare, the program will include the presentation of Buster Keaton's hilarious 22-minute silent film, "The Playhouse" in which Keaton plays almost every male and female role. The film was released just about the time the Rylander Theatre opened in 1921. There will also be a surprise or two on stage!

The program will be followed by a dinner break at 5:00 pm. After dinner, an "Open Console/Jam Session" will be held in the Rylander Theatre from 7:00 to 10:00 pm.

The day's events will be free and open to the public, and will be publicized in Americus and the greater South Georgia area. So, while you're there, welcome a new friend to our world of theatre organ.

**About the artist...** John McCall, was instrumental in securing the three manual, eleven rank Möller organ for the Rylander Theatre in Americus, Georgia, where he now serves as house organist. He has played for countless productions of

the Sumter Players and has been featured with Mickey Rooney and President Jimmy Carter and his first lady Rosalynn.

McCall earned a degree in Journalism from Georgia State University. While there, he produced the first "Keyboard Colossus" at the Atlanta Fox. The concert raised over \$9,000 toward the "Save The Fox" effort. His monograph on the theatre, "Atlanta's Fox Theatre: Mecca on Peachtree Street" went through several printings and raised over \$70,000 toward the "Save The Fox" campaign.

Recent concerts and appearances have included an appearance for the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists; his eighth concert at the Alabama Theatre, Birmingham; the Forker Memorial Wurlitzer in Sarasota, FL; The Music House Museum Wurlitzer, Acme, MI; winning first place in the Hobbyist Division Competition of ATOS in 2002; playing for the banquet of the national ATOS convention in Cleveland July 2009 at the State Theatre, featuring Allen's newest and largest theatre organ, the STR-4. McCall has written numerous articles and jacket notes on theatre organ and theatre history for such publications as "Marquee", "Theatre Organ Journal", "Atlanta Journal and Constitution", and the "Atlanta Historical Society Bulletin". In November, 2009, he was featured with Ron Carter at the 70th Re-Premiere of "Gone With The Wind" at the Strand Theatre, Marietta, GA, playing to the sell-out audience. In December 2009, McCall inaugu-



rated the Allen GW-4 theatre organ recently installed in the Athens Theatre, DeLand, FL. His most recent CD recording, "Alabama Album", was recorded at the Birmingham landmark theatre which houses its original 4/29 Crawford Special Wurlitzer. McCall is an Allen Sales representative with Dunne Music Company.

**About the instrument...** The Rylander Theatre is one of two theatres in Georgia equipped with an authentic theatre pipe organ, the other being the Fox Theatre in Atlanta.

The theatre's Möller is a baby brother to the Fox's Mighty Mo. Since reopening in the fall of 1999, there have been several organ concerts and screening of the silent movie, "Wings," with organ accompaniment. Events have been well attended.

The M.P. Möller Co. of Hagerstown, MD built the Rylander Theatre's Frank Sheffield Memorial Organ in 1928 for the Riviera Theatre in Scranton, Pa., at the cost of \$8,500. James Thrower of Marietta donated the organ to the Rylander Theatre. Americus native Anne Sheffield Hale and her husband Bradley Hale funded the restoration, reconditioning and installation of the organ. For more than a year, John Tanner and a team

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**Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society**

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[www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/](http://www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/)

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*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:  
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or  
[elfields@yahoo.com](mailto:elfields@yahoo.com)*

***Closing Chord  
Paul S. Renard***

Paul S. Renard, 76, born in New York City, died on September 24, 2010, at a nursing home in Louisville, GA of advanced dementia. Paul had been an Atlanta Chapter, ATOS member living in Augusta, GA with a long history musical activity, including teacher, performer, composer and arranger.

***Welcome New Member***

Edward "Butch" Pair  
205-960-0400  
135 West Green  
Birmingham, AL 335243-1881  
[butchpair@me.com](mailto:butchpair@me.com)

***Thanks to Bob Foreman***

The Atlanta Chapter would like to give a **BIG THANKS** to chapter member Bob Foreman for all of his hard work in preparing the warranty of sale and transfer paperwork on the trade of the Chapter's 317EX for our new GW4. This is just one of many, many contributions that Bob has given to the Chapter!

Bob, **thank you so very much** for all you have done for us over the years!

***Don't forget the continuing need for donations*** to make our \$300 per month payments on the Allen digital theatre organ being used at the Strand Theatre. Although we have traded John McCall's Allen 317EX on the newer and larger Allen GW4, we are still obligated to continue the monthly payments to John.

Make your checks payable to:

***"Atlanta Chapter, ATOS"***. Enter "Allen Organ" on the memo line and mail to: Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attention: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426.

***Organists Needed for Christmas at Callanwolde***

The Aeolian organ is back up and sounding good. For the first time in many years Callanwolde is going to have its Christmas Decorator showcase and as house organist I am responsible for scheduling organists to play on selected days and times.

As organist, you and one guest receive free admission to the house, parking in the back parking lot and free refreshments. Please see the schedule below and let me know if you can play. Call 770-428-4809 or email [ronhcarter@msn.com](mailto:ronhcarter@msn.com)

Programs are December 1st through 12th on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays at 10-11 am and 3-4 pm., Wednesdays at 10-11 am & 5-6 pm and on Sundays at 11-12 am & 3-4 pm.

*Ron Carter*

***Board Votes to Sell Holbrook Robert Morton***

Atlanta Chapter Board votes to sell the Holbrook Robert Morton theatre organ and to continue the storage of the Lucas Wurlitzer for future installation in the Earl Smith Strand Theatre or another venue. Because the Chapter has been given notice to vacate its storage location of both of these instruments, the Board of Directors has voted to sell the Holbrook Robert Morton and appointed Ron Carter to coordinate the sale of the instrument.

Since 1991 the organ has been moved six times to different storage locations at considerable expense to the Chapter treasury and it is felt that at this time, with the donation of the GW4 to the Chapter for placement at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre, this is the most prudent course of action.

James Thrower has offered to store part of the Lucas for the time being in his garage with the remaining parts in storage at A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company in Lithonia. It is hoped that the Robert Morton can be sold quickly so that the organ will not have to be moved (again at Chapter expense) for the seventh time!

*Ron Carter*

***"In the seventh year...."***

...the land shall have rest." – Lev. 25:4. So the Lord told the Hebrews and I think it is a good plan. Three years as president, one year as vice-president and two as secretary and I'm ready to follow the Biblical admonition and rest from the administration side of the chapter. I appreciate the trust that all of you – the nominating committee, the board, the members – have placed in me for the past six years and it has been an honor to serve you all. I'm not leaving, just resting, so, as the song goes, I'll be seeing you in all the old familiar places.

*Larry Davis*

**Great Program —  
Clark Wilson at the Fox**

By Larry Davis

Clark Wilson, well-known to us as one of the world’s finest theatre organists, traveled from the Midwest to the heart of the South and stole the hearts of Southerners with his magnificent rendering of the quintessentially Southern silent film *The General*. Multiplied hundreds of people streamed into the Fox Theatre on Tuesday August 10, for the rare experience of hearing a silent film accompanied by Mighty Mo. For many of them, it was a new experience.



In the lobby, they were greeted by officers and members of the Atlanta Chapter as well as ATOS President and CEO Ken Double and ATOS Board Chairman Mike Hartley. Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, North and South Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio: these states were all represented by those in attendance as well as every corner of Georgia, and not all those who came from afar were part of the theatre organ community. Theatre organ enthusiasts, silent film enthusiasts, science fiction enthusiasts (who still remember *Metropolis*) were all in attendance. Our youngest chapter member Joshua Dill came all the way from Albany on a school night with his mother and grandmother.

When you “see a flick at the Fox on Peachtree Street,” you are always privileged to hear Larry-Douglas

Embury and to participate in the traditional sing-a-long, and so it was on Tuesday before Manager Allen Vella came to the stage to welcome everyone. Ken Double then introduced the world of ATOS to the audience as only he can do before bringing Ben Mankiewicz of Turner Classic Movies to the stage. Ben talked about the film, then introduced Clark who brought Mighty Mo up with *There’s No Business Like Show Business*. After a brief discussion of the art of accompanying silent film, the organ descended, the curtain ascended and Buster Keaton’s great film began.

The 35mm print was outstanding and the score magnificent, executed with all the creativity and skill that makes Clark the consensus choice as the best of the silent film accompanists. Laughter, applause and cheers punctuated the performance and at the conclusion the crowd rose in a rousing standing ovation. Upon his arrival in the lobby, Clark was mobbed by fans new and old, while people crowded the ATOS table to acquire informational material.

It was a successful evening for all the sponsors: TCM, the Fox and ATOS. But most of all it was a wonderful evening for those of us who were able to share in the consummate artistry of Buster Keaton and Clark Wilson.

*(Rylander Program—Continued from page 1)*

from the A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company, Lithonia, meticulously restored the console and chamber pieces. David Becton, an Americus craftsman, refinished the exterior.

Initially used to accompany silent films in the 1920s, the instrument is an opus 5351, which means this is the 5,351<sup>st</sup> organ built by Möller. It has three manuals, or keyboards, plus the pedal and had seven sets of

pipes or ranks at the time it was built, but was prepared for 11, which have been acquired by various owners and now installed at the Rylander.

There are 875 pipes; the tallest is almost 18 feet, the largest nine feet six inches high and 12 inches by 14 inches deep. The smallest is five eighths of an inch. The pipes are made of various materials depending on the tone qualities and are sugar pine, rolled zinc, tin and

some from a combination of lead and tin. In addition to the 11 sets of pipes, the organ has tuned percussion — chimes, xylophone and orchestral bells, bass drum, snare drum, cymbal, sleigh bells, tambourine, tom-tom, Chinese block, Persian cymbal, Chinese gong, castanets, slap sticks and triangle. In addition, the sound effects include wind, thunder, doorbell, siren, song-birds, a model-T Ford horn and steamboat whistle.

***Specifics regarding our October 2010 trip to The Rylander Theatre and Americus***

For those desiring accommodations for either Friday or Saturday nights, October 15th or 16th, may we suggest the beautiful, newly-renovated Historic 1892 Windsor Hotel, just a mere two blocks from The Rylander Theatre. They have graciously offered our group a 15% discount off their regular rates, down to \$84.99 per night. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at 229-924-1555 and please ask for the “ATOS Group Rate.”

***Important !***

All parking is on the street in front of the Rylander or in the city lot across the street. ***Absolutely no parking in back...*** Monroe’s Restaurant next to the Rylander owns the lot immediately in back of the restaurant in front of the stage door to the Rylander and is having violator’s cars towed. You have been warned!



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

- **October 16 (Saturday), 3:00 pm, Chapter Meeting and Entertainment** — *Rylander Theatre featuring House Organist John McCall in Concert* in Americus, Georgia and its wonderfully restored 1928 Mighty 3/11 Möller Theatre Pipe Organ; complete with a newly installed and more powerful blower. (See article on Page 1)
- October 24 (Sunday), 3:00 pm, Silent Movie Event: *Phantom of the Opera* featuring Ron Carter accompanying this Halloween classic on the new Allen GW4 Digital Theatre Organ at the Strand in Marietta, with Phillip Allen performing the pre-show entertainment and sing-a-long.
- October 26 (Tuesday), 7:00 pm, *Phantom of the Opera* at the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro, NC accompanied by Ron Carter
- October 30 (Saturday), 2:00 pm, Silent Movie Event *Phantom of the Opera* at the Athens Theatre in Deland, FL accompanied by Ron Carter
- **November 7 (Sunday), 3:00 pm, Chapter Meeting and Entertainment** — *Featuring Regional Theatre Organist Dolton McAlpin in Concert on the Allen GW4 at The Strand Theatre ...* on the historic Marietta Square. Chapter members, their family and friends are invited to come and hear this wonderful artist on our chapter's new Allen GW4 Digital Theatre Organ. (Please note: this will not be publicized or open to the general public, but chapter members are encouraged to bring their family members as well as their friends.) Open console to follow.
- **December 11 (Saturday), 3:00 pm, Chapter Meeting and Entertainment** — *Featuring National Theatre Organ Artist, Scott Foppiano ...* in concert at the Reddish Residence at the Mighty Walker 336-RTO Digital Theatre Organ.

### *Upcoming Events at The Earl Smith Strand Theatre where the Newly- Installed GW4 will be used by*

Strand Organists Larry Davis, Rick McGee, Phillip Allen, James Thrower, Ron Carter  
 and guest organist John McCall

**(Please support the Strand and the use of the Theatre organ by your attendance!)**

- Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm, **SIDEWAYS**: Organ pops pre-show by Ron Carter at 7:30. Make your reservations on Strand website for wine tasting beginning at 6 pm
- Oct 15<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm, **CASABLANCA**: Organ pops pre-show by Ron Carter at 7:30
- Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 3 pm, Silent Film **PHANTOM OF THE OPERA**: accompaniment by Ron Carter with organ pops pre-show by Phillip Allen at 2:30
- Oct 30<sup>th</sup>, midnight, **ROCKY HORROR**: Organ pops pre-show by Larry Davis
- Oct 31<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm, **REAR WINDOW**: Organ pops pre-show by Rick McGee
- Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm **MAMA-MIA SING ALONG**: Organ pops pre-show (Strand staff organist TBA)
- Nov 26<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm, **SOUND OF MUSIC SING ALONG**: Organ pops pre-show by Phillip Allen
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 pm, **AVATAR**: Organ pops pre-show by Rick McGee
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 3 pm, **HOW THE GRINCH STOLE XMAS**: Organ pops pre-show by Ron Carter
- Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, 7 pm, **WHITE CHRISTMAS**: Organ pops pre-show by Phillip Allen
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For more information, check the Strand website at:  
[www.earlsmithstrand.org](http://www.earlsmithstrand.org)