

***John McCall at the Gary Mull Residence on the  
New Allen Q315T — 3:00 pm Sunday, October 20th***

Our October meeting is special in that it is an opportunity to see and hear one of Allen's newest theatre organs, the Q315T, played by well-known Atlanta Chapter member John McCall, at the Gary Mull residence in Atlanta on Sunday, October 20th at 3:00 pm.

**About the artist.... John McCall**, a native of Vidalia, GA, got his first taste of the theatre organ through the HI-FI record "George Wright Encores at the Mighty Wurlitzer". By the time his family relocated in Moultrie, GA in 1960, he had a fairly extensive library of theatre organ recordings and was hopelessly hooked. Early sightings of silenced organs in Georgia's Albany and Fox theatres heightened his interest in movie palaces and their musical "soul". In 1969, he finally heard his first theatre organ live at the Atlanta Fox with Bob Van Camp at the helm. He promptly joined ATOS and the Atlanta Chapter.

McCall's theatre organ training has been self-taught. His teaching tool was a two-manual pipe organ console graciously supplied by Atlanta Chapter members Edd and Norma Simmons. This pipeless console and recordings helped McCall to develop organ technique.

In 1986, he played for his first real audience prior to a screening at Chicago's Music Box Theatre. Shortly after, he was invited to play for an American Guild of Organists' cocktail reception at their national convention in Charlotte, NC. His second appearance



in a theatre was not until June, 2000, when he played for the screening of *Singin' In the Rain* at the Rylander in Americus, where he followed with his first concert appearance with ATOS members Fred Boska and James Thrower, July 1.

John was instrumental in securing the 3/11 Möller organ for the Rylander Theatre in Americus, GA, 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.

He earned a degree in journalism from Georgia State University where he worked as administrative assistant to the chairman of the Department of Music. While there, he produced the first "Keyboard Colossus" at the Atlanta Fox. The concert raised more than \$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 more than \$70,000 toward the "Save The Fox" campaign.

Recent concerts and appearances have included numerous concerts at the Alabama Theatre, Birmingham; numerous concerts at the Forker Memorial Wurlitzer, Sarasota, FL; The Music House Museum Wurlitzer, Acme, MI; winning first place in the Hobbyist Division Competition of ATOS in 2002.

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.

McCall was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS following his solo concert at the Rylander Theatre, October 16, 2010.

**About the organ...** Gary's organ is a new Quantum Q315 by Allen. It is a 15-rank/three-manual theatre organ featuring: patented Quantum Technology, Multiple Organ Stop Suites — 15 Theatre Ranks including Morton, Wurlitzer, Barton and 17 Classical, Acoustic Portrait and Real Xpression, Allen Ensemble Division, Stop-by-Stop and Note-by-Note Voicing plus many other features.

***Directions to the  
Gary Mull residence  
on Page 2.***

***On Mystery Photos:***

By Larry Davis

***SEPTEMBER MYSTERY PHOTO:***

When Bob Fountain was 15 years old, his father told him, "You need to come meet the organist at my church," which was Curtis Baptist Church in North Augusta, SC. "He used to play at Radio City Music Hall." Soon thereafter, Bob met John Terwilliger, who was in the army and stationed at

Fort Gordon. He told Bob that he and Ray Bohr were friends and Ray didn't like playing the house out at the end of the night so he had recruited John to substitute for those performances. Bob, John and John's wife spent many afternoons at his home listening to theatre organ records. John said, "If you're ever in New York, look me up." Two years later, while on a family vacation, Bob contacted John and was told, "Buy a ticket to the movie and

when it's over, come down to the front. I'll be playing and there's always a small group of people gathered at the rail to watch. When I take the organ back in, they'll leave, and you just stay there." Bob followed those instructions and soon found himself sitting at the console of the Radio City Music Hall Wurlitzer. It was, as Bob remembers, the right side console because the left

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**Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426  
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426  
404-725-1155  
[www.atosatlanta.org](http://www.atosatlanta.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta](http://www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta)

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Associate Editor - *Wanda Carey Fields*  
Chapter Correspondent - *Larry Davis*

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

***Thanks for the Donations***

***General Fund***

Jack Corbin  
Lee Griffin

***Welcome New Members***

Frank E. Block, Jr.  
141 Eldorado Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72212-2763  
[frankjr@blockzoo.com](mailto:frankjr@blockzoo.com)

Jack C. Corbin  
738 Hanover Lane SE  
Marietta, GA 30067-6697  
[buckc23@bellsouth.net](mailto:buckc23@bellsouth.net)



**Ron Carter, Larry Davis, Ken Double,  
Misha Stefanuk, Phillip Allen**



**John  
Moore**



**Catherine  
Rhodes**

***A Recipe for Laughter***

Take one early Chaplin (with skates attached), a generous helping of Keatons (the more, the merrier), Laurel and Hardy (one stuffed with crab – your choice), another Chaplin (with sport coat and wagging tail), combine them all with the strikes and sobs of the theatre organ, and you have the classic recipe for an afternoon of comical relief! ATOS Atlanta and the Earl Smith Strand Theatre served up the Fourth Annual Silent Comedy Shorts on Sunday, September 15, to a crowd of theatre organ fans, silent film enthusiasts, and those just looking for a good laugh.

Ron Carter not only served as the event's director, but welcomed the audience with an upbeat pops pre-show program and sing-along including Strand vocalist Catherine Rhodes. Our own John Moore, of WSB fame, prepared the crowd for their near century-long journey back in time as the emcee for the afternoon. (No... John's not that old – the films are!) Then one-by-one, Strand organists accompanied the classics to the applause, laughter, sighs, and gasps of a captive audience. Larry Davis, Misha Stefanuk, Ken Double, and Phillip Allen all brought the films to life with their own scores and special sound effects.

After the program, an interested crowd gathered around the console and lift for a closer look and, for some, a chance to take the Mighty Allen for a spin (or a ride). Not only was it a great avenue for exploring these standards of the silent film era, but it provided great exposure for the theatre organ and for ATOS Atlanta. From greeters in the lobby to entertainers on the stage, the Atlanta Chapter was superbly represented, and our thanks to Ron and all who pitched in and made the afternoon a hit. Now we anxiously await next year to whip up batch number five of this perennial favorite!

*The Foxy Vox*

***Directions to the Gary Mull Residence***

499 Trabert Avenue NW, Atlanta, GA. 30309, 404-317-7894

- If you know the Atlanta Deering Road popular cut-through between Peachtree Street and Northside Drive, you are one street away from Gary's House!
- From Interstate-75 take Exit 252, and take the Northside Drive Georgia Dome, US 41 Exit, going South. It is 1.9 miles to Trabert Avenue NW. going South on Northside Drive US 41. Move over to the left hand lane on Northside Drive. You will pass under the CSX railroad, then by the City of Atlanta Utility Center on the right side of the road. Trabert Avenue is one block South of Deering Road. After you pass Deering Road on the left, and get near Trabert Avenue you will notice a large Goodwill Store on the right side of Northside. You will need to approach the turn lane carefully as the Goodwill store is very popular with people coming from the South to get into the turn late to get into the Store. Turn left on to Trabert Avenue NW which is almost at the top of the hill. Go to the beginning of the third block. 499 is the second house on the third block on the left side (North), of the street.
- From Peachtree take Deering Road. At the second stop sign on Deering Road, take a left turn on to Mecaslin Street N.W. Go one block, take the next street to the right which is Trabert Avenue NW. 499 is in the fourth block and the third house on the right side (North), of the street.

On Mystery Photos (Continued from page 1)



was undergoing renovation. “Under the tibias,” as Bob describes it (are we surprised he mentioned the tibias?), or “the sweet side,” as John Terwilliger described it. It was the first time Bob had ever played a theatre organ. While he was there, Bob met Louis Ferrara, longtime caretaker of the RCMH organ, who asked John if there was anything needing attention. John mentioned that the triangle didn’t work on Accompaniment second touch. When he walked away, Louis said, “Who cares if the darn triangle doesn’t work, who could hear it in this place.” After being in communication for a few years, Bob lost touch with John but in 2002, an article in the Theatre Organ Journal mentioned John Terwilliger and Bob wrote him to tell him that the experience of playing the Mighty Wurlitzer had been life-changing, and had led to his long career making music. Bob thanked John him for being the impetus for the course of his life. Two years later, at the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend, Bob found himself at the banquet table sitting across from John Terwilliger, whom he had not seen in more than forty years. John has now passed away, but there are recordings available for the listening on YouTube. The photograph, then, is Bob Fountain at age 17 at the Radio City Music Hall in New York City. There are a few people in the chapter who already have this photo and they were excluded from the contest. But from out in Texas, Danny Brooke sent me a note, “That is Bob Fountain! I recognize the white shoes.” Notice he didn’t mention the very recognizable console of the 4/58 Wurlitzer, only the white shoes. Prize to Danny.

### AUGUST MYSTERY PHOTO REDUX:



When I posted the photograph of Graham Jackson in the August newsletter, I assumed it was at Johnny Reb’s, where I heard Graham Jackson when I was a boy. But all those who replied indicated that it was Pittypat’s Porch. Then I received two communications. Bob Fountain pointed out – and I hope I remember all this correctly – that, first, Graham used a Hammond Model BCV for his public shows and that the photo shows a church model Hammond. He also points out that there is a Maas-Rowe chime keyboard on the Hammond and a Hammond SoloVox on the piano. Because of the chimes, he believed this to be a church organ somewhere. The SoloVox had been out of production for many, many years before Graham ever played at Pittypat’s Porch and Bob also points out that Graham looks much younger than he did when Bob knew him (more on that later). Bob wondered if this photograph might have been taken in the 1940’s at one of the churches where Graham played. The incomparable historian John Tanner sent me this note: “This photo is from the Lane Brothers photo collection at Georgia State University. The description in the catalog does not mention an eating establishment. It only mentions Cable Piano Company so I wonder if this was taken at their studio showroom? Graham looks fairly young here probably right after WWII or early fifties.” I later learned that this photo was taken in 1947, and from John’s records, this is likely a demonstration setup at the Cable Piano studios. Excellent work, people! But let’s add to that a little more Bob Fountain history: In 1959, Bob visited Atlanta and was taken to Johnny Reb’s where Graham Jackson was performing.

He was introduced to Mr. Jackson as a young man who played the organ and Mr. Jackson invited him to play for him right then and there. Bob said, “It was like being asked to play for George Wright.” Graham told him, “I learn something from everyone that I hear.” When Bob moved to Atlanta to attend college, he was reintroduced to Graham, and became Graham’s chosen replacement to perform when Graham wanted time off. He described Graham as very gracious and kind, a true gentleman.

Final note: Can you imagine a life where you get to play the Radio City music hall at age 17? At age 18 you get asked to play for the already legendary Graham Jackson and at age 19, Jackson engages you to substitute for him? Talk about treasures! Bob Fountain is truly a treasure for us here in Atlanta and especially for those of us in the Atlanta Chapter fortunate enough to get to hear him on a regular basis.



### President’s Notes:

There’s nothing quite like hearing a theatre audience collectively cheer, laugh, and sigh to a silent film masterfully accompanied on the mighty theatre organ. The Fourth Annual Silent Comedy Shorts at the Earl Smith Strand received an outstanding welcome from attendees young and old, and it marked just the beginning of “silent film season” across the country.

I would venture to say that no other month would come close to the month of October in the number of silent film presentations, putting the theatre organ in the forefront doing what it was originally designed to do. From the comedy classics to the original horror and fright films, the season brings those masterpieces of yesteryear back into the spotlight. This not only provides great exposure for classic cinema, but provides the perfect avenue for a new audience to experience the magic of the theatre organ.

Our area here in the Southeast is no exception to the phenomenon. You’ll notice several listings in the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter. Each of these represents a

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

- October 6th (Sunday evening) 7:30 pm, Buster Keaton's "The General" and sing-a-long with organist Ron Carter at Central Presbyterian Church, 1404 North Boulevard, Anderson SC 29621. This is a free AGO event and the organ is a 34-rank 1957 Reuter with MidiTzer.
- **October 20th (Sunday) 3:00 pm, Chapter program by John McCall at the Gary Mull Residence on the new Allen Q315T organ.**
- October 29th (Tuesday) 7:30 pm - Peachtree Presbyterian Church Sanctuary. Three of Atlanta's outstanding organists, Scott Atchison (Peachtree Road UMC), Tom Alderman (Roswell UMC) and Nicholas Bowden (Peachtree Presbyterian) are teaming up for a spectacular concert, where they add 2 additional organs to the mighty Schlicker and enjoy an incredible evening of music. Tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased at the door. Nursery is provided for children 5 years and younger. See <https://www.peachtreepres.org/community/MusicConcertsEvents.aspx>
- November 9th (Saturday) 2:00 pm, John McCall plays "Your Packard Hit Parade" Edition III at the Forker Memorial Wurlitzer for the Florida Packard Club, Grace Baptist, 8000 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34241; free admission. For more information: 229.560.7540, [jcmdc@windstream.net](mailto:jcmdc@windstream.net).
- **November 10th (Sunday) 3:00 pm, Variety Show at the Carter Center for the Performing Arts. If you were present last year at this Chapter program you will be excited to learn that Strand singers Catherine Rhodes and Joe Arnotti will be retuning along with Abby and Jake Carter to entertain us. This program's music will be taken from the great American Songbook using music by Sigmund Romberg, Victor Herbert, George Gershwin, and even J.S. Bach! Great refreshments by Donna Carter and those wonderful door prizes!!**
- November 10th (Sunday) John McCall in concert at the Central Florida Chapter's Wurlitzer, time TBA, Pinellas Park City Auditorium, 7690 59th Street North, Pinellas Park, FL 33781; free admission. For more information: 229-560-7540, [jcmdc@windstream.net](mailto:jcmdc@windstream.net).
- **December (date not finalized), Christmas party at Stephenson High School**



*Come support the Earl Smith Strand Theatre as it features the Atlanta Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ.* Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 770-293-0080 or on the web at [www.earlsmithstrand.org](http://www.earlsmithstrand.org).

**Friday at MIDNIGHT, October 11th ROCKY HORROR**, with pre-show entertainment beginning at 11:30 with **Larry Davis** at the Strand's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ.

**Saturday 8 pm, October 12th Alfred Hitchcock's NORTH BY NORTHWEST** with pre-show entertainment beginning at 7:30 with **Misha Stefanuk** at the Strand's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ.

**Saturday 8 pm, October 19th the original NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD** with pre-show entertainment beginning at 7:30 with **Ron Carter** at the Strand's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ.

**Friday 8 pm, October 25th ARMY OF DARKNESS** with pre-show entertainment beginning at 7:30 with **Larry Davis** at the Strand's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ.

**Saturday 8 pm October 26th Alfred Hitchcock's PSYCHO** with pre-show entertainment beginning at 7:30 with **Misha Stefanuk** at the Strand's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ.

**Sunday 3 pm October 27th the silent classic PHANTOM OF THE OPERA** accompanied by **Ron Carter** and pre-show entertainment beginning at 2:30 by **Phillip Allen** at the Strand's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. \$7.00 for ATOS members.

### *President's Notes (Continued from page 3)*

great opportunity to introduce someone new to the theatre organ and to ATOS Atlanta. My first silent film experience happened at the Strand Theatre with Ron Carter's accompaniment of *Phantom of the Opera*, and it was the perfect introduction to silent cinema. Ron will again be performing for *Phantom* on Sunday, October 27, at the Strand Theatre. For our members and

friends across the line in Alabama, Tom Helms will once more do the honors for *Phantom* at the Alabama Theatre the same day. I ask one favor as you make your plans to attend these events – will you also make plans to “bring a friend” or two to share in the experience?

Also this month, we're fortunate enough to take in the sounds of a brand new instrument from a long-time member. Our most sincere appreciation

goes to Gary Mull for hosting the Chapter's October program. We're also very fortunate to be able to showcase the great talent and artistry of John McCall, whom we're proud to call our own. Gary, John, and I look forward to seeing you on the 20<sup>th</sup> for a wonderful afternoon of entertainment!

*Jim Stephens*

## ***Misha V. Stefanuk—New Choir Rehearsal Accompanist at Glenn Memorial UMC***

We are pleased to announce that our own Misha V. Stefanuk was recently accepted as new choir rehearsal accompanist at Glenn Memorial UMC. This is an awesome opportunity to work with a very successful professional choir, directed by exceptionally gifted Dr. Steven Darsey. The piano is a magnificent concert Steinway grand, and the organ is an equally magnificent Casavant with Timothy Albrecht as Organist Laureate. Congratulations Misha.