

**THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 19, 20 & 21
AUGUSTA ORGAN CRAWL**



**SEPTEMBER ORGAN CRAWL
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA**

September 18 – September 21

Our September program will find us in Augusta for four days of very special events and you may join us at the beginning or at any point during the weekend that you are available. The Augusta Arts Council is presenting the first-ever Westobou Arts Festival, patterned after the famous Spoleto Festival. The Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society has joined these efforts with public and private events as the festival opens. Between our events, you will have the opportunity at your leisure to attend Westobou events, eat great food (!), walk along the Riverfront, and enjoy the businesses and museums in the Augusta downtown and surrounding area. See some possibilities at: www.augustaga.org (click "Visitors") and for festival events at www.westoboufestival.org.

THREE FACES OF EVE

**Imperial Theatre, 745 Broad Street
Thursday, September 18 - 8:00 pm**



Our pre-glow event takes us to the Imperial Theatre, whose theatre organ was rescued by this chapter and returned to the theatre in 2005. Last year, the Imperial hosted the 50-year anniversary of the premiere of

the Academy Award winning *The Three Faces of Eve*. The film chronicles true story of the battle of Chris Costner Sizemore ("Eve") with multiple personality disorder, and Ms. Sizemore made a personal appearance at the anniversary. The program was so successful that it is being repeated this year, and includes tours of the now-closed Miller Theatre (2-6 P.M.); a special appearance by 92-year-old Emily Remington, well-known Augusta organist who played at the premiere of the film in 1957; and of course, a screening of the Academy Award winning film. You are responsible for your own tickets to this event, which are \$15 for general admission and \$50 for V.I.P. admission. 75% of the profits from this event will go to the restoration of the Imperial Theatre Organ. Tickets are available online or at the box office on the day of the show. <http://www.imperialtheatre.com/september08.htm>

PANDORA'S BOX

Silent Film

**Ron Carter at the Organ
Sacred Heart Community Center,
1301 Greene Street
Friday, September 19 – 7:00 pm**



[From the Sacred Heart Website] As part of the inaugural Westobou Festival Sacred Heart Cultural Center presents Silent Movie Night Friday, September 19, 2008. This year's feature will be the G. W. Pabst's 1929 masterpiece, *Pandora's Box*, starring the iconic Louise Brooks. Once again, the delightful Ron Carter will bring the film alive on Sacred Heart's fabulous organ – movie palace style. This groundbreaking and steamy 1929 thriller follows the vampy Lulu on her destructive path through Berlin to her ultimate end. One historian says this film is "bold for the way it featured a strong, decisive female character, and innovative for the way it broke down stereotypes and barriers." *Pandora's Box* is perennially on the short list of great silent films and is one no enthusiast should miss. Ron Carter is dedicated to keeping the art of early 20th century "Movie Palace" organ music alive. His passion for this unique art form keeps him busy accompanying silent film all over the Southeast. Combining the original movie scores with his own improvisations, Ron's talent for bringing silent film alive is compelling – a treat not to be missed. The Chapter reserved three tables based on the number who notified me that they were attending. All the spaces on these tables are now claimed. General admission is \$12 but this event usually sells out so make your arrangements as soon as possible if you plan to attend. <http://www.sacredheartaugusta.org/annualevents.html>

**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
Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

Chapter President - Bucky Reddish
Vice President - Larry Davis
Treasurer - Wanda Carey Fields
Secretary - Tom Robertson
Newsletter Editor - Elbert Fields
Associate Editor - Wanda Carey Fields
Chapter Correspondent - Rick McGee

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

A NEW PAGE TURNS AT STEPHENSON H.S.

Our August meeting was held at the Stephenson High School auditorium near Stone Mountain, GA, on Sunday, August 24, 2008 at 3:00 pm.

After a short business meeting covering several chapter projects

and a report from Ron Carter on the Strand Theatre project status, Larry Davis introduced Rick McGee at the Page organ.

A mini-concert of selections began the musical portion of the meeting. Georgia On My Mind led to Georgie Girl as a tribute to Atlanta's Bob Van Camp, closely associated with the Page when it was in the Winn Sound warehouse. After a couple of other selections, Rick turned the program over to the Page Organ Crew's boss – Jack Sandow, and the rest of the crew – Bob Haag, Larry Davis, Randy Hendry and Rick McGee.

As the crew assembled on stage, Jack informed the audience that there was a special surprise. The stage curtain parted to reveal the

Page console on its platform, shell painted white and with manuals, stoprails and pedalboard in place. Even a Howard seat was there.

The console wiring has started and things are moving rapidly now for the completion of the console.

All present were invited to come on stage and examine, poke, prod, ask questions, etc.

As this was in progress, the Page organ (using the temporary Wurlitzer console) was available for open console. Larry Davis, Paul Renard, Don Schoeps, Ron Carter and Bob Fountain provided entertaining music for all to hear.

Chamber and pit tours were available and a number of people took advantage of this to examine the work in progress.

Refreshments were provided and a great time to visit and catch up rounded out a great Sunday afternoon at school.

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



STRAND RENOVATION UPDATE

By Ron Carter—Strand Organ Project

Work continues at breakneck speed for the anticipated opening of the Strand Theatre in December of this year!! All sheetrock work has been completed and the painters are busily painting the auditorium ceiling. The Proscenium Arch should be finished by the end of August. The roof-top terrace on the 4th floor is completed with Trex decking and the art deco hand rails have been installed. The large transom etched glass panels have been installed above the 2nd floor windows. This has changed the entire outside appearance of the theatre. Additional transoms are being etched and will be installed above the windows at the roof-top terrace level, on the front side of the building above the lighted display windows and above the entrance doors of the storefront.

The under-stage dressing rooms are completed. All electrical work for the 15-hp blower is finished. As soon as the metal ladders for chamber access are installed the chambers electrical will be installed and all walls will be plastered and painted.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Atlanta Lyric Theatre is entering into an agreement with the Friends of the Strand to be its in-house musical theatre company!

They have agreed to produce and present six shows a year, renting the auditorium 150 days a year. As part of this agreement the Atlanta Lyric has given the Friends of the Strand the funds to excavate an orchestra pit and install a fly system!!! The organ console will remain in the center of the orchestra pit on its own organ lift. This is Atlanta's only resident theatre company and have been producing shows for over 25 years! Shows to be featured at the Strand for their first season are Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*; *Smokey Joe's Café*; *The It Girl*; *Pirates of Penzance*; *Chicago*; *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. Tickets range from \$30 to \$35 and season packages are available through the Lyric Box Office at 404-377-9948. The Lyric is extremely excited about having the Strand as their home base because of its intimate auditorium, its historic look, its location (on the Marietta square) and its having a theatre pipe organ!!!

(Continued from page 1)

**ORGAN CONCERT
KEITH SHAFER**

**Saint Paul's Episcopal Church,
605 Reynolds Street
Saturday, September 20 – 4:00 pm**



On Saturday, the *theatre organ*-oriented Atlanta Chapter presents a free *classical organ* concert to the citizens of Augusta and visitors to the Westobou Festival. The program will be held at the historic Saint Paul's Church on the mighty Casavant Organ and the artist will be Keith Shafer, Organist and Music Director at Saint Paul's.

A native of Connecticut where he grew up on a farm, Mr. Shafer was educated at the Hartt College of Music at the University of Hartford; the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati; and the Meadows School of the Arts at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, where he was an organ student of Richard Fowler, John Holtz, and the renowned American concert artists Gerre Hancock and Robert Anderson. Mr. Shafer was a finalist in the major American organ playing competitions and has since appeared in concert throughout the country. Since 1983 he has been Director of Music and Organist of historic Saint Paul's Church, where the music program is recognized as one of the most innovative in the Episcopal Church. More than 100,000 people have attended *Tuesday's Music Live*, the largest luncheon concert series in America. Mr. Shafer has spent residencies in a number of British cathedrals, including Worcester, York Minster, St. Mary's Cathedral (Edinburgh), and St. Paul's

Cathedral, London. Mr. Shafer has been Georgia Convenor of the American Guild of Organists and been Dean and Treasurer of the Augusta AGO Chapter. A member of the faculty of the Sewanee Church Music Conference held annually at the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee, he directs the conference on a regular basis and serves on the Board of Trustees. He has been a member of the Liturgical Commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, and has made a number of recordings that have been heard throughout the country on National Public Radio's *Pipedreams*, Georgia Public Radio's *Performance Showcase*, and *South Carolina Public Radio*. Mr. Shafer is married to June and they have a two-year-old granddaughter. He lives on the Savannah River in Augusta and enjoys golf, fishing, and politics.

The mighty Casavant Organ of Saint Paul's, comprising four divisions, was installed in 1966 and restored and expanded by Casavant in 1996. A very informative, detailed, and exceptionally interesting history of the organs of Saint Paul's, written by Mr. Schafer, is available by email from Larry Davis by request. www.saintpauls.org

**ORGAN CONCERT
DOLTON McALPIN**

**Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Robert
Polglase, 3696 Inverness Way
Sunday, September 21 – 2:00 pm**



Sunday takes us back to the residence of Bob and Amanda Polglase, who hosted us for the unforgettable Walt Strony dedicatory concert in 2005. The Allen Renaissance GW-4, magnificently voiced by

Walt, has been described as one of the finest-sounding home installations anywhere.

Performing will be one of our chapter's perennial favorites, Dolton McAlpin. Dolton is a native of Jackson, Mississippi and has resided in Starkville for the past thirty years. Mr. McAlpin's interest in the pipe organ dates from early childhood, when he would climb into the choir loft every Sunday at First Baptist Church in Jackson to watch the organist play the postlude on the large E. M. Skinner pipe organ. When Dolton was a student at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, he discovered a recently-restored Robert Morton theater pipe organ in the Paramount Theater there, and beginning in 1966 he played the Paramount's organ regularly for intermission performances. During his years as house organist for the theatre, he recorded two albums on the Paramount Robert Morton: "Thoroughly Modern Morton" and "Hey Look!"

Though Dolton's day job is practicing law, he has traveled widely, performing in Atlanta, Georgia at the Fox Theatre, the Excelsior Mill, and the Walt Winn Warehouse; and the Carter residence in Marietta; in Birmingham at the Alabama Theatre; in Memphis at the Orpheum Theatre; in Beaumont (TX) at the Jefferson Theatre; in his home state at the Temple Theatre in Meridian, the Jeff B. Seale Studio in Laurel, and the Garner residence in Jackson; and at Saenger Theatres in New Orleans, Mobile, Pensacola, and Hattiesburg.

Dolton's wife Martha is a registered nurse, and they are the parents of two children: Emily, who is in graduate school, and Greg, who is an engineer for Toyota. Martha and Dolton are heavily involved with church activities at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Starkville, where Dolton serves on the vestry and as an associate organist.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

**OPEN CONSOLE – F.I.G.A.R.O.
Residence of Randy and Kim
Magnuson
Sylvania, GA**



Our “afterglow” takes us south of Augusta to Sylvania, GA and the wonderfully restored 1905 home of Randy and Kim Magnuson to hear and play Randy’s home installation, FIGARO, Randy’s inventive acronym for his “Found In Garage and Attic Rusting Organ.” Randy has taken an eclectic combination of pipes, percus-

sions and electronics and assembled them into an installation that sounds absolutely wonderful. The transition from electronics to pipes is seamless – if Randy doesn’t tell you, you won’t know which is which. The beautiful Möller console in the Magnuson’s living room must be seen to be believed. Come and enjoy an opportunity to hear and play this wonderful instrument.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hampton Inn, 3030 Washington Road (at I-20), \$112/night, discounts for AAA/AARP, #2-rated hotel in Augusta by TripAdvisor. www.hamptoninn.com or 1-800-HAMPTON.

Marriott Riverfront Inn and Suites, 2 Tenth Street (downtown Augusta), \$139/night, \$119 senior

discount. Upscale hotel on the river. www.marriott.com or 1-800-229-9290.

Hilton Garden Inn (brand new), 1065 Stevens Creek Road (just off Washington at I20), \$111 (senior discount), \$119 reg., www.hilton.com or 1-800-HILTONS.

Country Inn & Suites, 103 Sherwood Drive (off Washington Road near I-20), from \$99, www.countryinns.com, no national number on website, local: 706-736-8988.

Quality Inn & Suites, 1052 Claussen Road (near I-20) is a less expensive alternative at \$55.99 - \$83.99/night, AAA and other discounts. www.qualityinn.com or 1-877-424-6423, local: 706-737-5550.

Downtown Augusta Venues

1. The Imperial Theatre, 745 Broad Street (between 7th St. and 8th St.) 706-722-8341
2. Sacred Heart Cultural Center, 1301 Greene Street (at 13th St.) 706-826-4700
3. Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church, 605 Reynolds Street (at 6th St.) 706-724-2485

Directions from Washington Road at I-20 to Downtown Venues

Washington Road and I-20 to downtown is about a 10 minute drive, and all downtown venues are accessible via Washington Road. Take Washington Road **southeast** from I-20 **towards downtown**. The surface street merges onto the Calhoun Expressway (no turns needed) and the expressway merges onto Greene Street (no turns needed).

- For the Imperial Theatre, take Greene Street to 7th Street, turn left, go two blocks to Broad Street, turn left. The theatre is in that block. On street parking is available in the area.
- For Sacred Heart Cultural Center, just after the Calhoun Expressway merges onto Greene Street, turn left at 13th, the Cultural Center is a half block. Ample street parking in the area and behind the facility.
- For Saint Paul’s Episcopal, take Green Street to 7th Street, turn left, go three blocks, turn right. Saint Paul’s is in that block. Ample parking at the church.

Directions from Washington Road at I-20 to Bob and Amanda Polglase’s Residence

- Bob and Amanda live at 3696 Inverness Way, Augusta, Georgia 30907. From Washington Road at I-20, travel northwest (away from the city) on Washington Road for approximately 8/10 of a mile. Turn **RIGHT** onto Fury’s Ferry Road. Travel approximately 2.3 miles, and turn **RIGHT** onto Inverness Way. Continue to 3696 Inverness Way. The trip is about 10 minutes in length.

Directions to the home of Randy and Kim Magnuson in Sylvania will be provided at the organ crawl to any who are going to make that trip.

If you require maps to the venue’s, send an email to Larry Davis at acatos@earthlink.net.

If you have problems locating any venue, please call Larry Davis on his cell phone.

STRAND ORGAN FUND PROGRESS REPORT FOR AUGUST

By Ron Carter

Since our July report, the Strand Organ fund has received an additional \$1025.00 in contributions and two pledges of \$1000.00 and \$2000.00. Please see the listing of contributors since the July newsletter. This is for the period of July 26th to August 25th. Total given and pledged to date is \$12,675.00.

Thanks to those members who gave and pledged this month and to ALL those who have given so far. If you have not contributed, please give generously and send in your contribution or pledge today. If you know of any organization, business or individual who can help us, please send me the contact information and I will follow up by sending a donation request letter and Organ brochure. Also, if anyone knows someone who might have the financial resources for a possible naming rights gift, please contact Ron Carter.

There was a question by one of our members at the Stephenson HS Chapter meeting about who is maintaining the organ funds: A special money-market account has been opened at United Community Bank and Larry Davis, our VP, will be handling all funds received. He has developed a spreadsheet for contributions and pledges and is sending a thank-you letter containing our Atlanta ATOS Federal Tax number for Income Tax deductions to all donors. **THIS IS AN ATLANTA ATOS ACCOUNT.** Only Ron Carter and Larry Davis have access to this account which will be

used only for expenditures relating to the restoration and installation of the Strand organ. The Friends of the Strand are not involved in the handling of these funds. Larry Davis will prepare periodic reports to the Atlanta ATOS membership and/or as requested.

Thanks for the Strand Theatre Organ Project Donations

BRONZE CIRCLE (\$1000 to \$2499)

Ron and Donna Carter (pledge)
David Tuck (pledge)

PATRON (\$250 to \$499)

Jim and Sarah Ingram (Allen Organ Studios)
Marietta Dental Associates
Mark and Carrie Renwick
Dale and Susan Parrott

FRIENDS (up to \$99)

Brad Sorano

Additional Sponsorship Levels Available

LISTENER (\$100 to \$249)

VIP (\$500 to \$999)

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: \$12,675 (5.07% of Goal)

STOP THE PRESSES!! W.C. Fields Performs at the Fox



The other day, W.C. Fields stopped by and put Mighty Mo through its paces. W.C. Fields is alive and

well in the person of Wanda Carey Fields. She and Elbert (keen-agers) were celebrating their second anniversary and I invited them to the Fox. Despite her long association with the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS, Wanda had not played Mo.

Folks, what a banquet – the music she produced was awesome. I told her (because she thought she was making mistakes), “Wanda, there isn’t a professional alive who wouldn’t kill to add your mistakes to their repertoire.”

In my memory, outside of Virgil Fox in the classical realm, I have not been treated to such a musical smorgasbord – pure theatre, pure gospel. Pure Wanda!

Thanks ever.

Larry Douglas Embury

Organist-in-Residence

The Atlanta Fox Theatre

***Organ Program at Central
Presbyterian Church in
Anderson, SC,
October 28, 7 pm***

by Steve Grant

(a member in Anderson, SC)

There will be a public organ concert on October 28 at my church, Central Presbyterian, 1404 North Boulevard in Anderson, SC. The artists are Stephen and Susan Talley, along with their Daughter Laurel playing violin. They are the full-time organist and associate at Covenant Presbyterian in Charlotte, NC. Central Presbyterian Church

has a 3/37 Reuter with enhanced tremolos — very theatrical. The Talleys are a husband and wife duo and will play a 50/50 program of regular classical music and lighter transcriptions, specifically *Sousa-Stars and Stripes* and *Ride of the Valkyries* by Wagner. They are not afraid to use tremos when its called for. I have heard them practice as a duo and it is a wonderful sound—two players at one console.

The duo program should prove to be a real pleasure. I have maximized the tremos on the swell and choir of the organ. Combined with the old-wood 1905 pipes that

came from an old tracker Möller its not too bad.

There is a reception afterwards and the admission is completely free. To be completely accurate, this program is conceived as a straight organ recital, but the Talley's are VERY open to transcriptions and theater styles, and they are capable of doing it quite well. They have agreed to devote about 40% of the "show" to lighter, entertaining pieces. If you have any questions feel free to contact me, Steve Grant, at 864-221-9388.

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- September 7, 6:00 pm, Due West United Methodist Church Festival of music on the Marietta Square— bring lawn chairs and picnic dinner. For more info call 770-427-3835. www.duewest.org
- **September 18-21, Augusta Organ Crawl (See Page 1)**
- September 28, 2:00 pm, Hector Olivera at Atlanta First United Methodist Church
- October 2, 7:30 pm, Wesleyan College, Macon, organ rededication with Guest Organist Peter Richard Conte
- **October 12, 3:00 pm, John McCall at the Burud residence in Sharpsburg**
- October 18, 10:00 am, Robin Hensley, organ, Children's Organ Day celebrating the International Year of the Organ at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
- October 19, 2:00 pm, John McCall in Concert at the Forker Memorial 4/23 Wurlitzer, Grace Baptist Church, 8000 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL, open to the public. See <http://theatreorgans.com/mtos/>
- October 25, Ron Carter accompanying the silent film *Pandora's Box* at the Rylander Theatre in Americus, GA
- October 28, 7:00 pm, Stephen and Susan Talley organ concert at Central Presbyterian Church, 1404 North Boulevard, Anderson SC (see above)
- 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 at the Carter residence, artist to be announced**

Thanks for the Donations

James Thrower

INCLUDING THE ATLANTA CHAPTER IN YOUR WILL

Many of us are now retired or reaching retirement age and have heard the horror stories of persons who wanted to leave something to an organization or cause they felt deeply about but just never got around to making the legal provisions to do so. If we want to perpetuate the wonderful sounds and use of the theatre pipe organ it must have a future financial commitment to keep it alive for years to come. Donna and I are currently updating our wills to make sure those causes that we love so dearly and the people we care about receive and use the assets we worked so hard for in our lives in the manner we wish. Please consider leaving something substantial to the Atlanta Chapter and notify Wanda Carey Fields, our Chapter Treasurer, in writing of that decision so that we can have it on file.

Ron Carter