

September 11, 3 pm at Callanwolde
Atlanta's Movie Palaces and Their Theatre Organs
"Pipes on Peachtree"

Our September 11th Sunday afternoon program will be a departure from our usual organ performances. This month it will be a special joint program (fundraiser) with profits split 50/50 between Atlanta Chapter, ATOS and Callanwolde titled *Atlanta's Movie Palaces and Their Theatre Organs, "Pipes on Peachtree"*. You are invited to come early and/or stay late to hear the 60-rank Aeolian Pipe Organ playing throughout the house. Sit back and enjoy a wonderful PowerPoint presentation and panel discussion featuring chapter members John McCall as moderator, Joe Patten (Phantom of the Fox), and John Tanner.

As we all know, John Tanner has spent thousands of hours researching Atlanta's now long-gone movie palaces, their organs and organists. This may be the first of several of these programs to be presented because John has so much material, tidbits, and trivia about this bygone era. For this program the panel will concentrate on those movie palaces on Peachtree Street. Advance ticket sales of \$10.00 per person will be available through Callanwolde or \$12.00 cash only at the door. Please go to the Callanwolde website at www.callanwolde.org and click on the events calendar to purchase tickets or call 404-872-5338. Callanwolde is located at 980 Briarcliff Road, NE, Atlanta, GA 30306. Directions can be found on their website listed above.

Seating will be limited to 200 persons and we expect a sell-out because of the publicity that Callan-

wolde will be generating for this program. We are asking all Chapter members to bring your favorite "goodie" to share in a reception after the program and Callanwolde is going to provide the beverages.

About the moderator and the presenters...



John McCall, program moderator, 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; the Forker Memorial Wurlitzer, Sarasota, Fla.; The Music House Museum Wurlitzer, Acme, Mich.; winning first place in the Hobbyist Division Competition of ATOS in 2002; 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, which included six of the film's original actors, hosted by Robert Osborne of Turner Classic Movies. In December 2009, McCall inaugurated the Allen GW-4 theatre organ recently installed in the Athens Theatre, DeLand, Fla. 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.



Joe Patten, known as "Phantom of the Fox" was born in Lakeland, Florida. After graduation from Lakeland High School, Joe entered the U.S. Navy and, from

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**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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

Thank you Jim and Sarah Ingram

As many of you know, Jim Ingram, former President of Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta now retired, delivered the John McCall 317-EX Allen to Mr. Tom Hamilton who lives in Columbus, Ohio, brought back the Hamilton's GW-4 and delivered it to the Strand. It took Jim four days and nights of his time to make the pickups and deliveries and his only charge to the Chapter were his gasoline expenses.

Then, Jim and Sarah recently made a special gift to the Chapter in honor of Ron and Donna Carter of the six Allen Organ HR-200 speaker cabinets that he had loaned to the Chapter for use in the Strand for the last 2-1/2 years. These speakers cost over \$5000.00! Jim and Sarah supported the Atlanta Chapter while Allen Organ Studios was under their ownership for over 25 years by hosting programs, paying for artists, moving and supplying theatre organs. The list goes on and on. And now, in their retirement, they are still supporting the Atlanta Chapter!

Jim and Sarah, words cannot express our gratitude for everything you have done for us!!

Closing Chords

Karl Bevins

Long-time Atlanta Chapter member Karl Bevins, 96, died on July 29th. Karl was Traffic Engineer for the City of Atlanta until he retired in 1978, 1st chair clarinetist with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and private clarinet teacher for over fifty years. He was a supporter of the Atlanta Chapter and attended for many years until his health did not permit.

His family requests that in lieu of flowers, make memorial contributions to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Annual Fund, 1280 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 4074, Atlanta, GA 30309.

Brent Wood

With much sadness, Atlanta Chapter member/MTOS Treasurer Paul Gelsleichter reported the death of the Metrolina Theatre Organ Society President and Atlanta Chapter member Brent Wood. Brent passed early in the morning of August 1st at Carriage Club in Charlotte, NC, where he was a resident for a short time.

At Brent's request, he will be cremated and there will be no service. A donation to the MTOS Concert Fund may be made in his honor if you so desire. Donations should be sent to: Paul Gelsleichter, MTOS Treasurer, 4815 Autumn Leaf Lane, Charlotte, NC 28277. Telephone 704-502-4545.

Mark Your Calendars for the Strand Organ Dedication on November 12th at 8 pm

Ken Double and Skip Stine, former lead trumpeter for the Harry James Orchestra, are the featured artists. Ken is preparing a special program for this event to include a short silent comedy and some other musical surprises! This will be a ticketed event with a meet-the-artist reception beginning at 6:30 pm. WE WANT EVERY CHAPTER MEMBER AND THEIR FAMILY TO BE A PART OF THE SPECIAL RECEPTION THAT EVENING. It is important for all ATOS Board of Directors to be present as they will be recognized during the program along with the Strand Board of Directors.

Black tie optional. If you have a tux or evening dress please wear it. If not, then coat and tie for men and dress-up for the ladies. There will be recognitions at intermission to include the Allen GW-4 donors Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hamilton, John McCall, Jim and Sarah Ingram, Jeff Ayers and Strand Executive Director Earl Reece. Also, a donor plaque with the names of all persons who contributed a minimum of \$250.00 will be presented to the Strand to be displayed in the Theatre Lobby. All ticket sales profits from this show will be split with the chapter on a 50/50 basis. We hope to have at least 300 persons in attendance. Invite friends, relatives, fellow AGO members. Please get the word out! This is our opportunity to really showcase the Atlanta Chapter and the Chapter's Mighty Allen Organ.

Ticket prices for the show and catered reception have not been set by the Board at this time, but we will do everything we can to make them affordable for everyone. Ticket purchase information and prices will be announced in the October ATOS newsletter.

Ron Carter

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1944 to 1946, served as a Pharmacist's Mate.

He began his career as an Application Engineer with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1948 and served there until the early 1960s, including a two-year stint in Caracas, Venezuela. After Westinghouse, Joe's other long-term employment was S&H x-ray Company in Atlanta, which was later acquired by Philips Medical System, from which he retired in 1985.

Joe's relationship with the Fox Theatre goes back to his first visit there in 1947 and continued and grew after he moved to Atlanta in 1953.

In 1963, the Fox's magnificent Möller Pipe Organ was virtually unplayable. During that year, Joe Patten led a team from the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS in restoring the Organ to its pristine grandeur. In 1965, Joe added to the organ the Golden Grand Piano from the Piccadilly Theatre in Chicago with its "Liberace" candelabra. Later, in 1968 and 1969, Joe as Recording Engineer and Bob Van Camp as superb Pipe Organist produced the recordings which in 1997 formed the basis of the Compact Disc set issued by the Fox entitled "The Atlanta Fox Theatre Remembers Bob Van Camp at its Mighty Möller Pipe Organ."

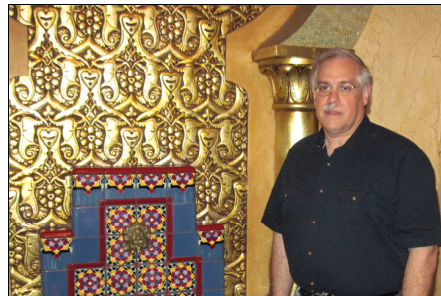
But even more significant than his work in restoring the Pipe Organ was Joe's role in saving the Theatre itself from the wrecking ball in 1974 and 1975. Since Joe had accumulated more knowledge of the Theatre and its capabilities than any other living human, he was able to don his black tie and tails [and cane], ascend the Fox stage, and demonstrate to the members of the Georgia Legislature and many other prominent personages who needed convincing of many wonders of the Fox. Bob Van Camp was there, of course with his amazing Pipe Organ Talent!

After the Fox was saved, Joe was made an Honorary Member of the national American Theatre Organ Society for his work with the Pipe Organ and the Save-the-Fox Campaign.

Joe has been a Trustee and Secretary of Atlanta Landmarks, Inc., the nonprofit corporation created to own and operate the Fox. He became Technical Director of the Fox in 1975.

Because of his contribution toward the well-being and saving of the Theatre, the Board of Trustees in 1980 leased to Joe the Shrine Office Space [which had a leaking roof and needed complete restoration] for his apartment on the condition that he at his expense make the necessary restoration which would pass to the Theatre upon Joe's death. He has occupied the showplace apartment since 1981.

On April 15, 1996 a fire broke out on the Ponce de Leon side of the Theatre Building between the restaurant kitchen and the Fox's office area; because of Joe's role in alerting the Fire Department and assisting it with its successful efforts to protect the Theatre, Ed Neiss, our General Manager, was heard to say on the morning after the fire, that Joe Patten has saved the Fox Theatre —again!



John Tanner considers himself a fifth generation Atlantan because for five generations on his mother's side and four on his father's side, have all lived at one time or another within walking distance of Peachtree Road.

John attended elementary and high school in Dekalb County, later graduating from the University of Georgia in 1977.

As John says about the subject of the movie palace in Atlanta: "Growing up I went to movies at the Rialto, Roxy, Grand, and the Fox. I always had an idea that they were very special places, mainly because to my eyes they were so big compared to the Brookhaven Theatre, and later Cherokee Theatre that I normally went to on Saturdays."

During high school John became interested in architecture and one day took his uncle's camera downtown to take pictures of some of John Portman's creations. While standing on the top of the Merchandise Mart, He looked down onto the building next door and took several pictures. The roof had just been peeled off the top of the Roxy Theatre. So as he was looking down into the interior of the auditorium, little did he know about what the future would bring.

While in college the Fox was next to be slated for the wreckers ball but the public outcry and campaign to rescue the building received a lot of attention. It was during this time that John came across a book by a former Atlantan by the name of Ben Hall. "The Best Remaining Seats-The Golden Age of the Movie Palace" awakened an interest in the other movie theatres in Atlanta that he remembered but were now gone.

After graduating from college and not having a clear direction for a life-long occupation, John took some time off and spent it in local libraries looking for information on these lost theatres.

He also became a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, which nurtured his interest both in theatres and theatre organs. At this time John met two individuals that would

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Organ Pre-shows will be featured at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre for the following movies:

- September 2, 8 pm, CASABLANCA—organ pops pre-show at 7:30 pm by Ken Double
- September 3, 11 pm, ROCKY HORROR—organ pops pre-show at 10:30 pm by Larry Davis

- October 22, 8 pm, GREASE SING ALONG—organ pops pre-show at 7:30 pm by Ken Double

Note: There will be some additional Halloween movies with organ pre-shows to be announced

Silent Film Series

- Oct 30th 3 pm, DR. JEKYLL and MR. HYDE with Ron Carter — organ pops pre-show at 2:30 pm by Ken Double

Chapter Member Volunteers Needed to help at Callanwolde September Program

Please advise Ron Carter via e-mail, ronhcarter@msn.com, or by phone, 770-428-4809, if you can help with the following assignments:

- ***Selling tickets at the door (cash only — no credit cards):*** We will need about \$100 or so in cash to make change and at least two persons to handle this. The tickets at the door will be \$12.00 and purchased ahead of time \$10.00 (Callanwolde is handling all of the pre-show ticket sales for us via ticket leap). **Please arrive no later than 1:30 pm.** Callanwolde will provide table and chairs for you.
- ***Greeters:*** Need a couple of persons to welcome folks as they come in and to advise them of the self guided tour of the house/listen to the organ before and after the program. **Please arrive no later than 2 pm**
- ***Chair Set Up and take down in Courtyard:*** Will need three or more to help set up chairs in the Courtyard and take down after program. Callanwolde staff will set up large screen, platform for panel, and three microphones. We are using their sound system and projector. **Arrive no later than 1:30 pm**
- ***Refreshment Table:*** Callanwolde is providing drinks, cups and ice. ATOS is providing napkins, small paper plates and **hopefully home made dessert type goodies by our members!** If we see we don't have enough we might need to run out and get some cookies, doughnuts etc. Will need several folks to help pour the drinks, get the ice, and set up the table. Also will need someone responsible for picking up napkins and small paper plates for around 200 persons and if needed run out and get more goodies! **Arrive no later than 1:30 pm.** Refreshments will be served in the Great Hall after the program. This is where the organ console is located and where it can be heard the best!!
- ***Power Point Presentation and Panel Discussion:*** Rick McGee and John Tanner will provide the power point presentation. Rick will run the power point and provide the computer. John McCall will be the panel moderator. Joe Patten and John Tanner will be panel speakers. If John Tanner wishes to open the floor to questions we might need someone to carry a microphone to the audience so everyone can hear the question. **Please arrive no later than 1:30 pm**
- ***Live Organists to play before and after the program:*** I need several ATOS organists to play during the self-guided tours before and after the program. We also will be using some great new rolls and the roll player will be operated by Tim Baxter from the Callanwolde Organ Committee. **Please arrive by 2 pm**

Atlanta Chapter Archive Project

We are trying to get together a history of the Atlanta Chapter and we need your help. If you have copies of any old program notices, newsletters, photos, recordings, etc. of chapter events over the past 50+ years, **please let us know.** So, if you are cleaning your closets and find something, throw it our way.

If you don't want to part with any of the items in your possession, please give us the opportunity to scan/photograph them for our archives. With today's technology the physical space required is reduced greatly by the use of electronic data. Of course, the value of all donated items is tax deductible.

For more info, contact Tim Stephens at 404-725-1155
or email tcstephens@gmail.com

A Smash of a Bash!

On Saturday, August 13th, members of the Atlanta Chapter and guests descended upon the Bucky Reddish Residence for what has become an annual highlight – Bucky’s Big Birthday Bash! Past years have brought some of the most highly acclaimed theatre organists to perform on the wonderful Walker RTO-335, and this year was no exception. With names like

Jelani Eddington, Mark Herman, Donnie Rankin, and Ken Double, the audience was bigger than ever, and included guests from Texas through North Carolina and beyond!

Jelani Eddington literally kicked off the festivities with “Good News”, then took the audience on an orchestral journey through the Walker’s many voices with selections such as Chopin’s “Waltz in E Minor”, “Body and Soul” (a host’s favorite), and Tchaikovsky’s Waltz from “Swan Lake”. As always, Jelani’s artistry and arrangements were second-to-none!

Mark Herman, fresh from a stellar performance at the ATOS National Convention in Providence, followed with “Married I Can Always Get”, which had toes tapping across the floor (and balcony)! Mark then slowed the tempo for an intimate performance of Cole Porter’s “I Concentrate on You”, before he took us back to the “Toons” with a Harry Warren medley and wrapping up with Bernie Wayne’s classic “Vanessa”.



Ken Double, Mark Herman, Jelani Eddington and Donnie Rankin

The “formal” program was rounded out by Donnie Rankin, who began with a spectacular arrangement of “All is Fair in Love and War”. Donnie then filled a request from James Thrower most capably with his own treatment of Jerome Kern’s “All the Things You Are”, and concluded with a thorough treatise on music from “Star Trek”.

Perhaps the most incredible performances, however, came during the “jam” session afterwards. In trying to describe it, the closest one can come to being accurate is “spontaneous musical magic”! Ken Double took to the console for a host of swing and Broadway tunes, which no one can do better than he. Then Jelani, Mark, and Donnie took turns at the Walker and piano (four hands) for almost three hours of continuous entertainment in its truest form!

As if that weren’t enough, the talents of Mike and Allison Hutcherson prevailed in the kitchen as an amazing spread was enjoyed by all! It was noted that some guests were encouraging Bucky to have more than one birthday a year. While he wasn’t completely sold on the idea, he did state that planning is already underway for next year’s Big Birthday Bash. Thank you, Bucky, for a wonderful afternoon and evening, and Happy Birthday!

The Foxy Vox

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really get his interest in high gear. One was the late Charles Walker who helped him get more interested in anything old and historical.

The second was John Clark McCall Jr. (the moderator) who’s writing style was like Ben Halls and who had done several articles on Atlanta theatres.

In 1981, John joined the firm of A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organs and began to build a career in the pipe organ field, which is still his occupation. In building a career, many times other interests have to be put on the back burner so too was the

movie palace research.

It was not until the mid 90’s that John realized that much of this information was being lost and if somebody did not start gathering this information and writing it down then it would be lost.

Since 1996 He has made a consistent effort to gather material from whatever source presents itself. Much of his spare time has been devoted to visiting libraries, historical societies, newspaper offices, constant searches on eBay, and even a probate court, to find any information on these theatres.

In 2006 John began writing a series of articles that were published

in the Atlanta Chapter American Theatre Organ Societies newsletter on many of the theatres. Most of the Atlanta theatres have been covered in those articles and he is now writing a series of articles about some of the theatres around the state that had organs.

John stated, “Because space in the newsletters is limited, it is my hope that this larger forum at Callanwolde will allow for more people to get a glimpse of what the history of the movie theatres of the first half of the Twentieth Century was like.”

Upcoming Meetings & Events (*Mark your Calendars*)

- September 4 (Sunday), 3 pm, Ron Carter to accompany *The General* at the Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville, TN
- **September 11 (Sunday), 3 pm, Joint Fund Raiser for Atlanta Chapter, ATOS and Callanwolde—Atlanta’s Movie Palaces and Their Theater Organs “Pipes on Peachtree” at Callanwolde — \$10 advance admission, \$12 at the door—cash only, no credit cards** (see Pages 1 & 5)
- September 12 (Monday), 7 pm, Larry-Douglas Embury, Atlanta Fox Organist in Residence, in concert at the Grand Theatre in Fitzgerald, Georgia performing on “Big Bart” their Barton Theatre organ
- September 23 (Friday), 7:30 pm, Ron Carter to accompany *The Flesh and The Devil* at The Sacred Heart Cultural Center in Augusta. Special lecture on the making of this film by film collector and author Jan Wahl from 6 to 7 pm
- October 4 (Tuesday), 8 pm, Ron Carter to accompany *The General* at the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro NC
- **October 11 (Tuesday), Joint Meeting Atlanta Chapter ATOS and Atlanta Chapter AGO at Atlanta First United Methodist Church**
- October 16 (Sunday), 3 pm, Ron Carter to play for the Manasota ATOS Chapter in Sarasota, FL on the Grace Baptist Church mighty Wurlitzer
- October 30 (Sunday), 3 pm *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1921 horror classic starring John Barrymore) accompanied by Ron Carter at the Earl Smith Strand.
- **November 12, (Saturday) 9 pm, Earl Smith Strand Organ Dedication with Ken Double and Skip Stine. This will be a ticketed event (fundraiser) — More info on Page 2**
- **December 4 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Ken Double on the 5-manual, 42-rank Allen TO5 at Dr.’s Petway and Lacefield residence.**

Bucky Says Thank You

Welcome New Members

Michael & Melinda Garrett
23660 Holly Ridge Drive
Marietta, GA 30060-7316

Allison and Mike Hutcherson,
David Bell, Mike Knight, Gary
Mull, Ted Barnett, Betty and
Randy Anderson and all of our
artists for making his birthday
bash a great success.

Thanks for the Donation

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce L. Brownlow
General Fund

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

Renew your membership for 2011 now (If you haven’t paid since Oct. 1, 2010)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

Do you own an organ? _____ If so, description _____

Annual membership dues \$35 (Student \$17.50). Please make check payable to ***Atlanta Chapter, ATOS.***

Note “Dues” or “Membership” on the memo line and mail to:

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426