

2:30 pm Sunday, September 15th
Great Silent Comedy Shorts
at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta

The Strand Theatre and Atlanta Chapter ATOS present the fourth annual Great Silent Comedy Shorts at 2:30 pm on September 15th!! Come see and hear Ron Carter, Phillip Allen, Ken Double, Misha

Stefanuk, and Larry Davis give the Strand's mighty Allen theatre organ a workout as they accompany great silent comedy shorts by the world's greatest silent comedians Harold Lloyd, Laurel and Hardy, Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin and others. Special guest and radio personality John Moore will M.C. this fun-filled afternoon program!! This is great family entertainment for all ages. Expose your kids and grand kids to what real comedy is all about!

Tickets are discounted to \$7.00 each for ATOS members (Individuals \$10.00 and Senior/



Student/Military \$9.00) and may be purchased at the Strand box office two hours before Showtime or by phone at 770-293-0080 (general seating).

Following the silent film screenings there will be open con-

sole for anyone who wishes to try out the Allen GW-IV, ride the lift, whatever!

Also, we need Chapter members to act as Greeters and man the gift-shop counter to distribute information, membership applications, answer questions about ATOS and sell FFOW CDs! Anyone who can help with these tasks, please advise Ron Carter at 770-428-4809 or ronhcarter@msn.com.

President's Notes:



The date was March 4, 2001, and the article in the Savannah Morning News read "The 'Mighty' Music Maker". The special feature detailed Edd Simmons' purchase and rescue of the Wurlitzer 235 theatre organ from Savannah's Lucas Theatre in 1970, when the future of the Theatre and its organ were very much in question. With the recent \$10-million fundraising campaign and rebirth of the Lucas Theatre, the story proudly

proclaimed that "the Wurlitzer is returning to the newly restored theater it was built for." Unfortunately, the project never came full circle and the organ was returned to storage back here in Atlanta.

Now, 12 years later, there's a renewed interest in the project, sparked by film producer and Savannah native Stratton Leopold. Thanks to Stratton's interest and generosity and the help of several Chapter members, the Wurlitzer is now back in its hometown in secure storage, setting the stage for its long-awaited reunion with the Theatre it calls home. Now

begins the task of raising the awareness and funds needed to make the dream a reality, and we very much look forward to relaying good news about the project in the coming months.

Our very sincere thanks to Stratton Leopold, Mark Malenich, Jim Abraham, and Hubert Baker for all of their efforts down in Savannah. We also express gratitude to James Thrower, John Tanner, and the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company for providing storage for the organ in hopes that this day would soon come. And our

(Continued on page 2)

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
404-725-1155
www.atosatlanta.org
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

*AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under
Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

Chapter President - *Tim Stephens*
Vice President - *James Thrower*
Treasurer - *Rick McGee*
Secretary - *Kathy Lanegger*
Newsletter Editor - *Elbert Fields*
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*

(President's Notes Continued from page 1)

thanks to Bob Haag, David Tuck, James Thrower, Ken Double, Lee Lanier, Randy Cobb, Randy Hendry, Rick McGee, and Ted Barnett for the valuable help in moving the many pieces and parts, and a very special 'thank you' to John Alford and John Tanner for the many additional miles and hours they invested into the relocation.

On the heels of that exciting news, we hope to soon bring news of yet another theatre organ installation coming to an iconic Atlanta movie house here in the very near future! It is truly an exciting time for the theatre organ in Georgia and for the Atlanta Chapter. However, our organization and our efforts can sometimes be the best kept secret in town. We have an excellent opportunity to share the excitement during our Silent Comedy Shorts presentation at the Strand later this month. Will you bring a friend (or two) to the Strand to introduce them to ATOS Atlanta and the magic of the theatre organ? I look forward to seeing many new and familiar faces on Sunday, September 15!

Tim Stephens

Thanks for the Donations

Page Fund

Bruce Brownlow
David Nelms

***Add to your August 2013
Membership Directory***

Brownlow, Bruce L. & Marie
404-983-5906
P.O. Box 658
Lakemont, GA 30552-0011
blbrownlow@comcast.net

Mystery Photos:



Who is this and what organ is this? A clue: This is a current member of the Atlanta Chapter. Those of you who actually possess a copy of this photo - sit back and enjoy the guessing as it emerges. First answer to acatos@earthlink.net gets the prize.

With respect to the photo of Gary Mull at the Tivoli, Rick McGee did correctly identify the organ, as I predicted several of you would, but in addition, he correctly identified our own Gary Mull whom he recognized immediately but

we didn't have a chance to talk until after I had sent my notes to Elbert.

The second photograph (lower right), which was published in the August 2013 newsletter, was originally provided to me by someone who identified it as Graham Jackson at Johnny Reb's. Since it was posted, I have received the identification from several people, all of whom say that this photo was taken at Pittypat's Porch. I shall have to correct my historical source if this proves to be the consensus. Frank Block, Jr. was the first person who emailed me with the information. Bob McKoon, David Nelms and John McCall followed soon after, followed by Don Kasten. Congratulations to all. Frank takes the prize for being the first.

Larry Davis



“Hamm-O-Phantom-Rama”: Hamm-O-Rama Opus VII!!

Sunday, August 18th, 2013, at 3:00 pm, a chance for a repeat of a treat first held in 2010. We were back at the apartment home of Joe Patten, in the Fabulous FOX Theatre, his Hammond organ and the reproducing grand piano!! We had selections from rolls for the piano to grace our entrance, and set the mood for much more music (thanks Robert for the roll-playing – you certainly have been practicing)!

Tim Stephens greeted the crowd and gave us updates from the recent convention, coming events and some meeting ideas for the near future. Then, acting as the “dis-embodied voice,” he introduced our first artist – Mr. Ken Double . . .

Ken treated us to a couple of selections, the first for Joe Patten, having seen an early photo of Joe at the apartment - “You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby.” Then, turning to the ever-popular “Coquette” to show a completely different style the Hammond can offer.

Then the “dis-embodied voice” returned, and offered us another artist – this time our own Lee Lanier . . .

Lee gave us a sampling of vintage and eclectic selections from radios’ golden days and the mark made by the Hammond: “I’m a Whistlin’,” “Now Voyager” a soap opera theme, and “Belle Ami.” Well done, and a pleasant choice of not over-done tunes.

Again, the “dis-embodied voice” returned, and offered us still another artist – this time the Hammond King – Lloyd Hess.

Lloyd made the Hammond travel the world, and even take on other life-forms. We went to Germany for some beer music, then back home South for a little inspired blues – gospel, then to the aviary where we were surrounded by birds, then to church for Beethoven and his immortal “Ode to Joy.” Lloyd, how do you keep the passport updated ???

The “dis-embodied voice” returned again, and offered us even another artist – this time the Hammond Queen – Mrs. Wanda Carey Fields . . .

Wanda took us “Stompin’ at the Savoy,” then let us hear what we hear too little of – WCF at the



Ken Double, Wanda Fields, Lee Lanier, Bob Fountain,
Rick McGee and Lloyd Hess

piano. Wanda made us think and reflect with a very rich and sensitive offering of “Great is Thy Faithfulness.” And no, Ted, she did NOT use the roll player!!!

The “dis-embodied voice” then returned, and offered us the final artist of the afternoon – the one, the only - Bob Fountain . . .

Bob immediately got things rolling with “S’wanee.” Next, a suggestion of the style of Lenny Dee - “Bye Bye Blues.” Then, Jesse Crawford had to join the party and we found the Hammond has a pedal-steel guitar hidden inside, with “Song of the Islands.” Joining Bob, Rick McGee manned the piano for a little P/O duet action with “Cumana” with “El Cumbanchero,” then a Jesse and Helen Crawford duet “Mary (What Are You Waiting For),” – the jury is still out on who was Jesse, and who was Helen, then “Beer Barrel Polka” with a nod to Liberace.

Back to solo Hammond for a tribute to the great Kay McAbee and his “Tea for Two.”

After the program, open console (organ and/or piano) and several gave it a try. However, the goodies won out and, all too soon, a well-fed crowd bid the Phantom’s Lair farewell. Don’t worry, Joe – if you leave the door open, we WILL be back!!! Thanks for all the hospitality!!!

Offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the walls / stairs / and secret passages have ears!!

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- September 12th -15th, John McCall plays pre-show concert for The Sumter Players' production of "On Golden Pond", 8 pm nightly (Sunday matinee at 2:30 pm); Rylander Theatre, 310 West Lamar Street, Americus, GA 31709; call 1-877-662-2312 or visit www.sumterplayer.org for tickets.
- September 15th (Sunday) 2:30 pm, Strand/Atlanta Chapter ATOS fourth annual Silent Comedy Shorts with organ pre-show. - See article on Page 1.
- September 22nd (Sunday) 2:00 pm CST, Alabama Chapter ATOS presents John McCall in concert at the Alabama Wurlitzer, Alabama Theatre, 1817 Third Avenue, North; Birmingham, AL. Free admission and open to the public.
- **October 20th (Sunday) 3:00 pm, Chapter program at the Gary Mull Residence on his new Allen Q315T organ.**
- 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.
- **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.
- **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.

- **FREE screening of BACK TO THE FUTURE** at the Strand on Saturday evening, September 7th at 8:00 pm with an organ pops-pre-show by Larry Davis at 7:30 pm
- Sunday September 15th, **GREAT SILENT COMEDY SHORTS** with organ pre-show at 2:30 pm. - See article on Page 1.
- **"Kennesaw the Last Mountain" Sunday afternoon, September 22nd beginning with organ concert from 6:30 to 7:30 pm by Ron Carter.** Come help celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War (The War Between the States to us southerners!) and the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain with the premier of this new film, presentations and discussions by the National Park Service historians, artifacts display and live period music by local musicians throughout the theatre. \$8.00
- **SILENT FILM PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, Sunday afternoon October 27th accompanied by Ron Carter.** Come hear Ron weave his magic using the themes from the Academy Award Winning film from 1943 to accompany the definitive 1925 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA starring Lon Chaney. \$7.00 for ATOS MEMBERS

Membership Directory Emailed

An Atlanta Chapter ATOS membership directory was emailed on August 10th to all members with email addresses on file. For those twelve members without email, there will be a limited number of printed copies available for pick up at the Strand Theatre gift-shop counter during our September 15th event at the Strand.