

***A Walt Strony Weekend
September 23 – 24
Stephenson High School,
Stone Mountain, GA***

By Ken Double & Tim Stephens

One of America's premier concert organists, Walt Strony, makes his way to the Grande Page organ for one "Grande" weekend of events this month!

First, learn the tricks of the trade from the master himself at Walt's workshop – "Everything You Wanted to Know About the Theatre Organ But Were Afraid to Ask" – on Saturday, September 23 from 2 – 5 p.m. at Stephenson High School. To ensure a more focused event, we've limited seats for this very special opportunity to join Walt at the console of the magnificent 4/22 Page theatre pipe organ. At this time, the workshop is half full and seats are available only on a first-come, first-served basis. You must register online for this event – there will be no registrations available at the door (registration info is below). Whether you want to become a better player or simply a better listener, this one-on-one session will offer a truly unique experience. Registration is only \$30 per person.

Then on Sunday, September 24 at 3 p.m., the incomparable Walt Strony will be featured in concert on the Grande Page organ of Stephenson High School. Prepare for an afternoon of stunning artistry on the 4/22 theatre pipe organ. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students and are available online in advance or at

the door.

To register for the workshop or to purchase concert tickets online, head over to our website at www.atosatlanta.org for more information. Stephenson High School is located at 701 Stephenson Road in Stone Mountain, GA.



About the Artist....Walt Strony has established himself as one of those few organists equally at home playing both theatre and classical organ. Walt has performed hundreds of concerts worldwide, including many conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists. He has twice been voted "Organist of the Year" by the ATOS - the only living theatre organist to have received that honor. In 1999, he made his premiere appearance with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. Recently, Walt was inducted into the ATOS Hall of Fame. Walt is also well known for his many fine recordings. His services as a pipe and digital organ consultant are always in demand in addition to his prowess as a concert artist.

About the Organ... Constructed in 1927 for the WHT radio studios of the Wrigley Building in Chicago, it was the first of the Page Company's crown jewel

four-manual organs. Ultimately arriving in Atlanta in 1977, the instrument was eventually installed in a warehouse owned by Winn Sound and became the center of activity for the Atlanta Chapter. In 1991 the organ was purchased by Walt Winn and donated to the Chapter. After years of planning and with the cooperation of DeKalb County Schools, the current installation at Stephenson High School in Stone Mountain began in 1996.

Originally a 4/15 specification, the organ has been carefully expanded to 22 ranks. The chests, pipework, and percussions have received expert attention and restoration, and the instrument was professionally voiced to its new home last year. The stunning four-manual console has also been completely rebuilt, incorporating new keyboards, stop actions, and the latest relay technology. Ongoing volunteer and professional work continues almost weekly to further refine the organ to maintain its status as a world-class instrument.



***ATOS Atlanta Summer
Organ Crawl***

By Ken Double

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**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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**ATOS Atlanta Summer
Organ Crawl** (continued from Page 1)



Freddie Brabson, - Tivoli Theatre

First stop was the beautiful Tivoli Theatre, looking more sparkling than ever as continuing restoration is evident. The featured organist was Freddie Brabson, Associate House Organist at the Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville. He entertained us with fine selections from the Great American Songbook, showing off the Tivoli 3/13 Wurlitzer to great effect. Hats off, too, to Bert and Ann Allee, the wonderful babysitters and curators of that fine organ. Thanks to Courtney Keene and Sam Fort for hosting us on behalf of Tivoli Theatre management.

The group headed to Sticky Fingers, one of the more popular BBQ establishments in downtown

Chattanooga. Lunch was terrific, including cocktails for a couple of “shall-remain-nameless” shameless church organists!



We had a chuckle as the bus had “run out of juice,” and literally needed a jump, which extended the lunch hour a bit, but we were back on the road and off to the town with the distinctive name of Soddy-Daisy, just north of Chattanooga, and a visit to a dream.



John Alford owns a warehouse in which he hopes to install a great Wurlitzer organ. He already has the console. A Ken Crome-designed beauty, a replica of a four-manual French-style Wurlitzer console which currently controls a digital set up, as John begins the arduous process of rebuilding and installing his pipe or-



gan. Mr. Glitch was in evidence, unfortunately, and so, the digital samples sounded wonderful, but would not sound consistently for continuous playing. Nonetheless, John’s temporary concept will get those bugs worked out while he tends to the installation of the real thing. It was a fun, informative visit to Soddy-Daisy. Thanks, John!



Angela Arthur & Jeff Harbin

Jeff HarbinThe final stop featured a recently dedicated church installation, hosted by our long time chapter member and friend Jeff Harbin. He is the Organist and Director of Music Ministries at Dalton First United Methodist Church. Jeff and his assistant Angela Arthur treated us to a wide array of wonderful music, including some gospel and even tibia-based theatre organ sounds! The 3/50 Parkey organ sounded wonderful in the grand acoustical environment of the church.

A wonderful day of great music was enjoyed by all, with thanks to all who made it possible!



**President's
Message...**

**Who? What?
Where?
When?
Why?**

Those are the five “W” questions that journalists were taught to ask about any story. We can ask those, too, about our chapter. But what I want to talk about this month is – well, most of them in a way.

When “the Chapter” comes to mind, our thoughts mostly turn towards our chapter meetings and the newsletter. But there are many, many more things going on than that. We have chapter members who contribute musically in various ways in their own communities – things we never hear about as a group. We have members who play public programs, some local, many across the region and even the nation, and in the case of Ken, around the world. There is a lot of music being exported that is not chapter sponsored but it is going on nonetheless. Our members play for the Alabama Chapter, the Magnolia Chapter, the Central Florida Chapter, the Manasota Chapter, plus events such as the now twice-yearly concerts at Tallahassee and programs at the

Tivoli in Chattanooga. John and I are now taking our show on the road to the little community of Ft. Payne, AL, home to the mostly-Kilgen theatre organ in their opera house. And Ron Carter accompanies a silent film every September to a completely sold-out crowd and standing room only attendance in Augusta. And there is the Fox. “Mighty Mo at Every Show” is a mostly realized goal there in the capable hands of Ken and Rick – and the occasional guest artist.

What else? Two summers in a row we have hosted the American Guild of Organists Pipe Organ Experience for young people for an event at Stephenson High School. I wish you could have hear the ‘Oh, cool” from one of the budding classical artists playing Messiaen when I added the 16’ and 8’ Post Horn stops to his registration at a big moment. Next summer we host the ATOS Summer Youth Experience, which is going to be more special for those kids than they know.

At the Strand, Bill Thompson presented a program to many of his friends to celebrate his and Bunny’s 50th Wedding Anniversary (congratulations, you two!!) and a week later, we held the annual “Silent Comedy Sunday.” Ron will be back at Halloween accompanying

Nosferatu at the Strand and at the Rylander Theatre. After the chapter meeting at Stephenson in July, a group headed over to Ted’s for more music on the Walker. I will be assisting at the Alabama Theatre for Nathan Avakian’s appearance as part of Birmingham’s Sidewalk Film Festival and again to help them present *Phantom of the Opera* for the 40-something time this Halloween. Then comes Christmas – and movies at the Strand and Christmas at Callanwolde and the Nutcracker at the Fox and all of our musician members at their various churches.

On the technical side, in addition to our own instruments, we are helping to keep the Tivoli Organ playing along with the members of the Alabama Chapter. And we’re working in Augusta and Savannah so that two historic organs can once again be heard in those cities.

Who? A lot of us. *What?* Music, music, music plus technical support and preservation. *Where?* You name it, but definitely all over Georgia and the South. *When?* Year round. *Why?* Well, because it’s fun. And because it fulfills our mission as members of our great organization.

Stay in touch
Larry D

Bob Fountain

Our only surviving charter member of the Atlanta Chapter ATOS, *Bob Fountain*, experienced serious injures and bone breakage as a result of an automobile accident on June 10th and is still recuperating for another month or so. Bob is at Nurse Care of Buckhead, 2920 Pharr Court South NW, Atlanta, GA 30305 and would very much appreciate a visit or phone call.

His cell phone is 404-310-0398, which is his choice , and the facility phone is 404-261-9043.

Strand Events

- SAFETY LAST SUNDAY AFTERNOON 3 pm OCTOBER 8TH. The Strand is screening this fantastic Harold Lloyd film with accompaniment by House Organist Ron Carter again by popular demand. This is a special Blu-Ray screening with permission from the Harold Lloyd Foundation. Watch Harold as he climbs a 12-story building, encountering everything from attack pigeons to being shocked by the electrical wires of a clock as dangles 10 stories above the street of 1920's downtown Los Angeles. Harold did all of the stunts himself with no doubles or special effects!! Organ preshow at 2:30 with organist TBA.

- NOSFERATU and HAUNTED SPOOKS!! The Strand presents a double feature starting with the Harold Lloyd silent comedy short Haunted Spooks and then followed by the acclaimed first Dracula film F. W. Murnau's NOSFERATU. The English translation of Nosferatu is "Symphony of Horror" all accompanied by House Organist Ron Carter on the Strands Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. Haunted Spooks has Harold and his wife inheriting a southern plantation home but to do so they have to live in the house for a year and it is rumored to be haunted by ghosts! Organ preshow at 2:30 with Organist TBA

Tickets are only \$10 and can be purchased 2hrs before show time, or by calling 770-293-0080, in person at the box office m-f from 11 am to 6 pm, Sat from 9 am to noon or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org.

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

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

Membership Category (check one): Patron (\$300 and up) Sponsor (\$200 - \$299)

Contributor (\$100 - \$199) Donor (\$36 - \$99) Basic (\$35) Student (\$17.50)

Send Newsletter via email: Yes No Please make check payable to ***Atlanta Chapter, ATOS***

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