

**APRIL 23RD AT 3 PM**  
**ATOS CHAPTER PROGRAM FEATURING THE**  
**CALLANWOLDE AEOLIAN PIPE ORGAN**

*By Ron Carter*

Come join us on Sunday afternoon April 23rd at 3 pm for a special program featuring the Callanwolde Aeolian Pipe Organ. Presented by the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, the program will present the organ playing historic orchestral rolls and played by live musicians in the Great Hall. There will also be a brief discussion of the history and workings of this historic instrument and a self guided tour of the mansion. Come see the beautiful grounds and Callanwolde gardens at this time of year and experience a unique art form from the 1920s.

**THE ORGAN:** During the early 1900's, when symphony orchestras were virtually nonexistent, organ builders of the period crafted orchestral organs to give audiences the opportunity to hear and enjoy the fullness of symphonic orchestra sounds. Wealthy families of the

era often installed these pipe organs in their homes. Most of the residential organs were manufactured by the Aeolian Pipe Organ Company of New York. Callanwolde's Organ, is located in the former home of Charles Howard Candler, eldest son of Coca Cola's founder Asa Candler. It is one of the largest existing Aeolian instruments still in operational condition and its original home.

The Callanwolde Organ has 3,742 pipes. They are arranged in 55 ranks, in four specially built chambers. The instrument is controlled by a three-manual console located in the great hall. The console has 147 tilting-tablet stop keys, a variety of push button controls, and a built in roll player. The instrument fits perfectly into its environment and blends so well into the style of the house, that you hardly know it is there! Its sounds emanate from ornamen-

tal grills in the front entrance archway, over the staircase and in the winter living room.

Following Mr. Candler's death in 1957 the Callanwolde estate was practically abandoned until 1972 when a group of interested citizens saved it from commercial development. Our own ATOS member Charles Walker was instrumental in saving the organ and mansion. In 1975 the Callanwolde Guild began to raise funds for the organ's \$202,857 restoration. Total restoration was completed in four phases and completed 18 years later in May 1993. This monumental achievement was accomplished by the Callanwolde Guild a group of dedicated ladies who saw what a tremendous asset the organ was to the estate.

It will be open console and a demonstration of organ rolls by Tim Baxter



**Pre-show organ concerts at the Strand**

- Friday April 14th 7:30 DIRTY DANCING Misha Stefanuk organist
- Friday April 28th 7:30 GONE WITH THE WIND Ken Double organist
- Friday May 5th 7:30 MAMA MIA John McCall organist

**STRAND DINNER AND FUNDRAISER** Wednesday April 26th from 6 pm to 9 pm. I have comp tickets (regular price at \$25) to give away to ATOS members. This is a catered cocktail type dinner fare, silent auction and live entertainment. In fact the Chapters Allen GW4 will be featured accompanying a short silent comedy and soloist Catherine Moulton. Please contact Ron Carter at [ronhcarter@msn.com](mailto:ronhcarter@msn.com) to reserve your tickets.



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American Theatre Organ Society**

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

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Treasurer - Rick McGee  
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*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:  
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***Metropolis***  
***Personal Reflections and***  
***Rambling of a Sci-Fi and***  
***Theatre Organ Enthusiast***

By Larry Davis

To do anything but stand silent with respect to the experience of Clark Wilson accompanying *Metropolis* at the Strand on March 25. So let me engage in a little reflection.

Well before my teens I heard of the film *Metropolis* in Forrest Ackerman's *Famous Monsters of Filmland* magazine. He included a lot of intriguing photographs but very little information on the film itself, possibly because the 88-minute version he might have seen was incomprehensible, being just over half of the original film length. It never screened in a theatre here and it was not the sort of thing they showed on late night TV. So when I came to the chapter in 2003 as we prepared to screen *Metropolis* at the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend, I was very excited at the coming opportunity to see this "restored" masterpiece.

I used my contacts in the Sci-Fi world to promote the film and even went down to Little 5 Points and posted flyers at various locations. I could hardly get one up before someone would take it and I ended up having to put out multiple copies in many places. That was how much people were attracted to the idea of seeing such a famous film on the big screen.

That Sunday evening of Memorial Day weekend was the occasion one of the most memorable events of my Sci-Fi and musical life. Let me put it this way: I've attended multiplied hundreds of concerts, including rock, country, folk, orchestral, classical piano, classical organ, jazz, blues, Gospel and yes, theatre organ, but Clark's accompaniment of *Metropolis* that night holds the distinction of being one of the most memorable of all those many events. I never wanted to repeat the experience. Some things affect you so deeply that they are and should be one-time experiences. I felt nothing could surpass that night.

Then in 2008, the missing footage was found in Argentina and two years later, *The Complete Metropolis* was released. And I began to dream of having Clark back here to accompany the new release. The Strand was the obvious location. I recruited Ron to the cause – that didn't take any effort at all – and we continued to try to identify a weekend and build support for the endeavor. Strand Manager Cassi Costoulas became interested in the idea and we were finally able to arrange a date with Clark and the Strand. It turned out to be my birthday and I thought, "What a fabulous birthday present!!" And it was! What was great about this program? I think the most exciting thing was the turnout. When you propose an event like this, there is no way of predicting the response. You can only speculate. Over and over, Ron Carter and I said to each other, "If we can just get 300, we'll be really, really happy." We broke 300 in sales a couple of hours before the show started, and I believe the final count was something like 369 with about a dozen comp tickets. Just a few people shy of 400 were in the auditorium for the event. So it was a financial success, but more than that, it was a wonderful opportunity to fulfil our mission as a chapter and to promote interest in our art and our cause. The film itself was as magnificent as its legend says it is. Watching it, you could see where the additional footage had been added because the quality of the film was different. And the additional footage made the story line much clearer, added some substance to the characters (especially the "Thin Man," my favorite), and increased the dramatic power exponentially. I sat there and thought, "How could they have thought the film would make any sense without these sections?" So it was great to see it again on the big screen, this time able to discern the changes. And of course, there was Clark and that magnificent score. Theatre organ enthusiasts, especially those who have had the

*(Continued on page 3)*



### **President's Message...**

I read an entry on Facebook the other day that announced the retirement concert for Ron Rhode – the end of an era. I first met Ron when he came to Bucky's home and it was at dinner that James Thrower first brought up the possibility of our chapter hosting a national convention. Ron played at that 2013 convention, and there are those who remember his appearance at the Fox in the 1978 convention and his later dedication concerts premiering the Rylander Möller. Those and all the concerts that he performed at our ATOS conventions and many other places, with his unique and immediately recognizable style, are his legacy.

But he's not the only one. Not long ago, Lyn Larsen retired

from the concert stage. And as we go forward, we will see others step back from public performing, both nationally and locally. Fred Boska retired from playing several years before his passing but, as Mr. McCall will testify, he lost none of his magic as we had a chance to hear on one of our visits to Tallahassee. And of course our dear treasure, Wanda Carey Fields, is not able to play for us though it is always good to see her at our events.

Nationally, I think we're in good shape, with David and Mark and Donnie and the Justins and our friend Danny and many others coming along. We have often featured these young people at our chapter meetings but it would be nice if we could encourage some young people to take up the art here in Atlanta. We need to keep our eyes (and ears) open.

Leadership is another issue. I've often spoken of our goals for the chapter. I know that Ken

Double, during his ten-year tenure as ATOS President, did his best to move the national organization in a direction that would be sustainable for the long term, even as the number of members decreased and the leadership changed. Here, we have organs to provide for as the years pass, and our goals as an organization must reflect our long-term responsibilities as well as our immediate interests.

What do we need? We need people to step up to join the leadership team in all the roles that we need and we need wise counsel – wisdom that I believe we have among our members – as we plan for our future and the future of our instruments.

Be thinking about these things over the next few months, will you? And stay in touch!

*Larry D*

### **Metropolis!** (Continued from page 2)

opportunity to accompany a silent film, don't quite disconnect from the musical accompaniment like the public does, and so I was constantly aware of that musical underpinning. The score, of course, is magnificent. And Clark's execution of it was as masterful as we know that it will always be when he plays. The registrations, the dynamics – all just perfect. It was a true masterpiece of photoplay accompaniment.

But it doesn't take a theatre organist to appreciate him – as evidence by the roar that came from the audience when the console came up at the end of the program – almost t is axiomatic in philosophy that “the greater is never judged of the lesser,” and that being the case, who am I t400 people on their feet cheering.

What did not-theatre-organ people have to say?

“I didn't know an organ could sound like that. There were so many different sounds.”

“You know, I got caught up in the film and kind of lost track of the music.”

“This is the best thing ever.” (posted on FB at intermission)

“This is an intense film.” (no kidding!)

“We had a wonderful time. Thanks for letting us know.” (to me)

“Thanks for a great show.”

Once again, the Atlanta Chapter has presented a special event, a memorable event, and a truly rare experience to the people of our city.



**Organ for Sale...** Denson Buttrey wishes to sell his Allen 317 with 7 speakers (one is a bass speaker — 6 are HE1 plus the bass cabinet.) It has a Yamaha piano box, an external Cymbelstern and an extra MIDI input. It includes an Allen Smart Recorder. The console finish is a custom Mahogany finish over Walnut wood. The organ is in excellent condition and has been serviced whenever necessary.

Asking price is \$17850.00.

You may call Denson at 404-626-0534 or email him at [jackdb52@bellsouth.net](mailto:jackdb52@bellsouth.net)

**Bob Fountain’s Birthday Bash...**

On Sunday 23 April at 7:00 pm Bob Fountain will again be celebrating his birthday at McKinnon’s Louisianne Restaurant and Lounge on Maple Drive in Bulkhead. There will be a \$4 cover charge but free food by Bob’s friends. No show — just music and fun.

**Strand Movies with organ pops pre-slows..** Come support the Earl Smith Strand Theatre as it features the Atlanta Chapter's Mighty Allen GW-IV Theatre Organ and Chapter organists. 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).

**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**

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