



ATOS ATLANTA

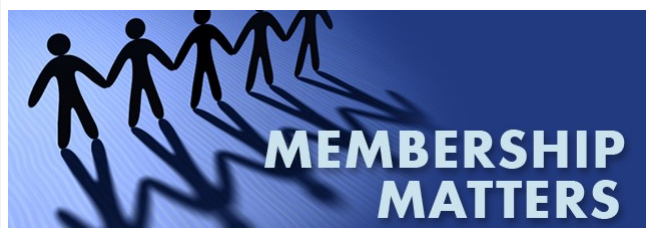
Official Newsletter of The Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



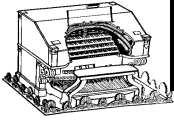
April Chapter Meeting Saturday, April 29 - 3:00pm Tedde Gibson Stephenson High School



Please renew your ATOS Chapter membership if you haven't done so.



Level	Base	Cap
Student	\$17.50	
Basic	\$35.00	
Donor	\$75.00	\$149.00
Contributor	\$150.00	\$249.00
Sponsor	\$250.00	\$499.00
Patron	\$500.00	And up



A Letter from your President



Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society
P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
404-790-5400
www.atosatlanta.org
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

ACATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Chapter President - Ken Double
Vice President - David Yackman
Treasurer - Paul Beavin
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
Membership Director - Janis Beavin
Board members:
Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey, Jr.
Lee Lanier
Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow

IT'S NOT APRIL SHOWERS, BUT APRIL SHOWS! Lucas Wurlitzer Premiere April 14th; Tedde Gibson at the Page April 29th

What a month ahead for the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS, with two stellar events our members and others will not want to miss!

Friday night, April 14th, an event nearly 25 years in the making will take place in Savannah. The beautifully restored Lucas Theatre will finally become whole again with the return of its Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ. The curtain goes up and the Wurlitzer roars back to life at 7:00 pm. Yours truly will be privileged to play this first concert.

This Wurlitzer was installed at the Lucas in 1925, replacing the original Pilcher that opened the theatre in 1921. Chapter member Dr. Ed Simmons purchased the organ but never got it installed. Donated to the chapter; stored at no charge by Art Schlueter and his pipe organ company; the ongoing search proved frustrating in terms of finding a home or returning to the Lucas.

A chance encounter with Stratton Leopold, whose famous family owned restaurants and an ice cream parlor there, proved fortuitous. Leopold, who left Savannah for fame in Hollywood (he became a major producer for Paramount), returned, re-opened the ice cream parlor while still making movies, and reached out to ATOS for help in getting an organ reinstalled at the Lucas Theatre to honor a Savannah legend, Herb Traub.

Those initial steps, dating back almost 10 years, led to SCAD's Vice President Danny Filson offering to buy the Wurlitzer for \$1, and have it restored and returned to the theatre in time for its 100th anniversary. Unfortunately, COVID issues ruined plans for the big celebration. But the organ is now installed, sounding fabulous, and April 14th will be the grand re-introduction of this pipe organ back in its original home.

The original 11-rank organ is now a fabulous 18 ranks, with additions noted with an *:

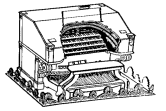
MAIN (8 ranks)

Diaphanonic Diapason
Horn Diapason*
Concert Flute/Bourdon
Salicional and Celeste (II ranks)
Clarinet
Tuba Horn
Oboe Horn*

SOLO (10 ranks)

Tibia Clausa
Vox Humana
Quintadena*
Saxophone*
Brass Trumpet*
Post Horn*
Kinura
Orchestral Oboe
Violin and Celeste* (II ranks)

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Congratulations to all at SCAD; grand kudos to Art and Arthur Schlueter, and the excellent craftsmen at the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Co., led by John Tanner, Marc Conley, Kerry Bunn and many others who did a magnificent restoration and installation.

Georgia now boasts Mighty Mo, the great Möller at the Fox; the 3/11 “mini-Mo” at the Rylander; the Barton at the Grand Theatre in Fitzgerald; and now the first Wurlitzer in many, many years.

And of course, our Grande Page pipe organ at Stephenson High School, where Tedde Gibson returns for a spectacular production which will also include the Stephenson High School Concert Choir under the direction of Leroy Kennedy. Saturday afternoon, April 29 at 3:00 pm, the great console will rise from the pit for an afternoon of great music. Tedde’s last visit was a blast of pops, jazz, gospel and more – an entertaining tour de force, and we expect much more of the same.

Tickets for Ken Double at the Lucas Theatre Wurlitzer are available online and are \$15; just \$10 for seniors. The website is: lucastheatre.com.

NOTE: For chapter members making the trip to Savannah, the chapter will enjoy a private session with the new Wurlitzer on Saturday morning, April 15, from 10:00 am til noon. Open console time; discussion about the project and installation, and more!

Tickets for the Tedde Gibson concert at Stephenson H.S. are available on line at atosatlanta.org, or can be purchased at the door for just \$15.

Plan for a fun overnight in Savannah with the Wurlitzer April 14th at 7:00pm; and an afternoon with Tedde Gibson at the Page Saturday, April 29th at 3:00pm.

NOTE: Tedde Gibson is playing a “double-header” weekend as he will be presented in concert on Sunday, April 30th, at RiverCenter in Columbus on *The Wave*, the chapter-owned Allen GW IV, at 3:00 p.m.

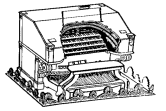
Wow, what a month!!! More reason to renew your memberships!! And I will close with a big “Thank You” to John McCall for “pinch-hitting” for Jay Mitchell at the Plaza Theatre last month for our chapter meeting. Read more about that later in this missive. Hope to see LOTS of you at LOTS of venues this month!

Thank you for the donation!

Robert and Linda Wilson
Ken Double

If you have not renewed your membership, now is your opportunity!
Complete the membership application on the next page and mail
or visit atosatlanta.org to renew online.





BECOME A PART OF HISTORY, AND KEEP THE MUSIC PLAYING...



BY JOINING THE ATLANTA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY!

We are a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt educational musical organization chartered by the State of Georgia and dedicated to preserving and promoting a uniquely American musical instrument.

Membership Benefits

- Monthly Chapter programs at public and private locations featuring local, regional, and national talent
- Presentations of public programs and silent films throughout the region featuring the theatre organ
- The ability for open console access at public and private theatre organ installations throughout the Southeast
- Hands-on experience in rebuilding, installing, and maintaining theatre pipe organs
- Monthly Chapter newsletter
- Social activities with people of similar interests
- The sheer enjoyment of listening to exciting music performed on the “King of Instruments”

Whether you're an organist, technician, or simply enjoy listening...we invite you to become a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, and help us to keep the music playing!

Membership Application – Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society

Atlanta Chapter ATOS – P.O. Box 426 – Marietta, GA 30061-0426

Membership Category: (check one)

Patron (\$300 and up)

Contributor (\$100 - \$199)

Basic (\$35)

Sponsor (\$200 - \$299)

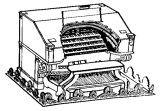
Donor (\$36 - \$99)

Student (\$17.50)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Send Newsletter Via E-mail: Yes No

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____



Tedde Gibson in Concert
April 29, 2023 - 3:00pm
Stephenson High School
and
April 30, 2023 - 3:00pm
RiverCenter - Columbus, GA

Tedde Gibson is a pianist and classical, Hammond, and theatre organist. He is also a composer, arranger, and silent film scorer. Born in Tacoma, WA, he began organ study at 16 with the late AGO president Dr. Edward Hansen of the University of Puget Sound. Tedde later studied classical organ improvisation with David Dahl, professor emeritus at Pacific Lutheran University.

He studied theatre organ arranging with Jonas Nordwall of Portland, OR, and the late Andy Crow. He was a regular organist at Tacoma Pizza and Pipes from 1995 until the restaurant's demise in 1999. Tedde was organist at Tacoma First Assembly of God/Life Center. Upon moving to Seattle in 1996, he studied with Dr. Carol Terry and Dr. J. Melvin Butler at the University of Washington. He was then organist at First AME Church Seattle.

Tedde moved to the Washington, DC metro area in 2003 and studied pipe organ with Dr. Mickey Thomas Terry. While attending Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, MD, he studied with former AGO president Dr. John Walker.

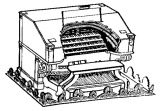
Tedde is the Director of Fine Arts at the 8,000-member Mount Pleasant Church and Ministries in Baltimore, MD, and organist at Capitol Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church in Washington, DC.

For 18 years, he was an organist/musician-in-residence at First Baptist Church of Highland Park in Landover, MD, and music educator at Highland Park Christian Academy. He was organist at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Roman Catholic Church in Washington, DC, before the Covid-19 pandemic.

Tedde is an active recitalist and workshop clinician, performing on theatre and church organs nationwide. He has been featured on NBC Nightly News Weekend Edition and has accompanied "Sex and the City" alum Mario Cantone in the PBS production of "Wicked in Concert," broadcast nationally. He recently performed on the Seattle Paramount Theatre's Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ at the 2022 American Guild of Organists Convention held in Seattle, WA.

Tedde became a director for the American Theatre Organ Society in 1997, Vice Chairman of the Board in 1998, and is in his last year as Chairman. Check him out at www.teddegibson.com.





MORE ON THE PREMIERE OF THE LUCAS WURLITZER

SCAD officials have graciously offered our chapter the opportunity to enjoy the new Wurlitzer installation “up close and personal” on Saturday morning, April 15th from 10:00am til noon. We will have a chance to find out more about the installation, and Open Console will give those who wish to play, the opportunity to enjoy the organ, as well.

We encourage you to explore hotel options online (note, downtown Savannah is a tad “expensive!”), with prices ranging from “Ouch” to reasonable (a bit farther out from downtown).

The concert will be a creative effort produced by SCAD. An actor will portray the character of theatre magnate Arthur Lucas; it will be as much vaudeville as concert, with a barbershop quartet; solo vocalist; comedian; juggler; a short silent film; and lots of the Wurlitzer.

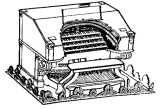
The film, *AT LONG LAST*, is a 7-minute silent film conceived and produced by the SCAD film studies program, and it is delightful.

This is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! An original Wurlitzer, removed from its theatre, is now back home and singing forth better than ever. This almost NEVER happens. Come join the celebration in Savannah!

The Mighty
WURLITZER
Comes Home

CONCERT CELEBRATION
Friday, April 14 | 7 p.m.

LUCAS
THEATRE FOR THE ARTS



A COFFEE CUP CONCERT

On a beautiful March Saturday morning, a loyal group of Chapter members and several guests gathered to hear our own Chapter Member, John McCall, put the Chapter's Allen LLQ324 theatre organ through its paces. This instrument and organist strongly complement one another! We have heard Mr. McCall in previous concerts but he was definitely on the top of his game for this 10:30am program at the Historic Plaza Theatre, located since 1939, on the famous Ponce de Leon Ave just 2 miles from the Fabulous Fox.

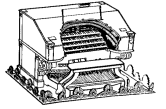
Beginning with "Good Mornin/Lucky Day" John woke his audience up with these up beat selections. Continuing with the selections of "I Can't Stop Loving You", "Our Love Affair" and "I Wish You Love", John demonstrated his LOVE of the theatre organ and its music.

Other selections were an Everett Norse (of the famous San Francisco Fox) rendition of "A Little on the Lonely Side" followed by "Yellow Bird", using the organ's castanets, and a Lee Irvin arrangement of "The Nearness of You", with a beautiful orchestral intro. John changed the mood with a beautiful arrangement of the hymn "My Jesus, I Love Thee".

Ending his well thought out program with "The Coffee Song", "It Must Be True", and a Jesse Crawford arrangement of "I'm Confessin'", this coffee concert ended way too soon. Thank you John for a well played and enjoyable concert on a beautiful Saturday morning.

From the Ghost in the Chambers!





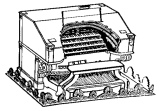
Triumph for the Children By Larry Davis

In March, for the twelfth time, I was invited by US101, Chattanooga's powerhouse country music radio station, to open for their annual Heartstrings for Hope concert to raise support for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.



The idea for the concert was first conceived by well-known country music writer and singer Kelly Lovelace (*Country Nation, I'm Still a Guy, Camouflage*). His vision was realized first in 2010, was an unqualified success, and the success has only grown in the years since. Having heard about the program, I offered to open their 2011 show by playing classic country music on the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Tivoli Theatre. That year, during the afternoon, the organ was broadcast live on the radio station through their remote broadcast. I have continued to open for the show since then and have had a chance to meet many country music performers, all of whom donate their time and talent to the cause. These have included Hunter Hayes, Easton Corbin, the inimitable Randy Houser, Sheryl Crow, and many others.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of Heartstrings, the show was moved to the Soldier's and Sailor's Memorial Auditorium, and the instrument became the 1924 Austin Concert Organ. That show sold out and it has been kept at the auditorium, which accommodates twice as many as the Tivoli. Over the 14 years, millions of dollars have been raised for St. Jude's, and this year alone, over \$1 million was received to help sick children. It has been an unqualified privilege to participate in these programs over the years. As they say, the man in black plays classic country music on the grand organ.

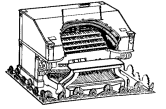


Upcoming Chapter Events

- Fri, April 14 The Return of the Lucas Theatre's Mighty Wurlitzer Organ with Ken Double at the console.
The Lucas Theatre is located in the historic district of Savannah and has been completely restored! A stunning venue with its original theatre organ which has been expanded to 18 ranks!! Come see and hear an original short silent by SCAD students with a musical score by Ken Double.
- Sat, April 29 Tedde Gibson plays the April chapter meeting at **Stephenson High School** - 3:00pm
- The Inaugural Graham Jackson Concert at Stephenson High School, Stone Mountain, GA with ATOS National President Tedde Gibson at the Page console. Great music with the Stephenson High School Concert Choir. Graham Jackson's son and grandson in attendance!
- Sun, April 30 Tedde Gibson plays a special concert at **RiverCenter** - 3:00pm

Ron Carter Strand Theatre Events Pre-Shows by Strand Organists

- Fri, April 7 Pillow Talk - organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Larry Davis
- Sat, April 8 Rocky Horror Picture Show - organ pre-show at 7:30 by Misha Stefanuk
Rocky Horror Picture Show - organ pre-show at 11:15pm by Larry Davis
- Sun, April 16 Encanto - organ pre-show at 2:30pm
- Sat, April 22 Princess Bride - organ pre-show at 2:30pm by Phillip Allen
Princess Bride - organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Larry Davis
- Fri, May 26 The King and I - organ pre-show at 7:30pm
- Fri, June 30 My Fair Lady - organ pre-show at 7:30pm by John McCall
- Fri, Aug 25 Singin' In The Rain - organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Larry Davis



AN ACATOS SPECTACULAR AT THE GRANDE PAGE APRIL 29

All of us hope you will mark your calendars for Saturday, April 29th at 3 p.m., and then make your way to Stephenson High School for what will be a spectacular concert, and a first for our chapter. A first of, hopefully, many such annual events.

This concert will feature an amazing array of talent in a sensational show:

- The return of organist Tedde Gibson, President of ATOS, who thrilled us at the Page
- An appearance by the Stephenson High School Concert Choir under the direction of Leroy Kennedy
- With special guest Graham Jackson, Jr., whose famous father was a spectacular and popular performer for many years.

At this concert, in partnership with Stephenson High School, the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS will award the first-ever Graham Jackson Scholarship – a \$1500 award to a deserving music student at Stephenson High School to assist with college education, and help inspire a young musician.

This ambitious event will be entertaining; full of variety with the Grande Page theatre organ singing forth under the talented fingers of Tedde Gibson; and a variety of pops, jazz, and gospel music of every kind in a thrilling event aimed at honoring the memory of the great Graham Jackson. And aimed at benefitting a deserving young student pursuing music and higher education.

Mark your calendars, indeed. This event will “raise the roof” at Stephenson High School like never before.