



ATOS ATLANTA



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

APRIL 12th AT A RENOVATED STEPHENSON HIGH SCHOOL

New surroundings; new artist, Juan Cardona, Jr., and the Grande Page

Sunday, April 12th at 3:00 p.m.

Stephenson High School Auditorium

701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain GA

Juan Cardona, Jr. and his Atlanta Chapter debut!

Bring your friends and family and come see the beautifully
renovated auditorium, and hear our Grande Page theatre pipe organ!



**The Allen GX-342DK Ron Carter at the Allen
(to the left) Pgs 4 & 5 GW-319 Pages 4 & 5**

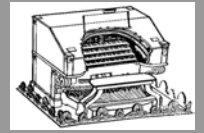


**Juan Cordona Jr.
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Please renew your ATOS Chapter membership if you haven't done so.



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



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Vice President – Ken Double
Treasurer – Lee Lanier
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Newsletter Editor – Brady Born
Chapter Correspondent – Larry Davis
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Brady Born
Ron Carter
Ken Double
Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey
David Tuck
Strand Project – Ron Carter

A Letter from your President

Happy Spring, Everyone!

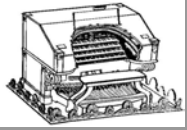
In case you missed the news, the Georgia Senate recently voted to swap our state flower from the Cherokee Rose to the Sweet-bay Magnolia. Apparently, the rose is an "invasive species," while the Magnolia is a local native that actually supports our wildlife. Personally, as I look out my window at the thick, yellow clouds of fine-milled dust coating every square inch of the planet, I think the Senate missed a golden opportunity to just name the Loblolly Pine our official state mascot and be done with it.

Regardless of the yellow haze, springtime is officially here, and "spring cleaning" is the order of the day.

The team at Stephenson High School has embarked on a massive renovation project just in time for our April 12th event featuring Juan Cardona. They are currently replacing the theater's lighting with a brand-new system. We can't wait to see our programs — and our guest artists — in a whole new light (literally) for years to come.

The Grande Page is getting some TLC, too. Tom Helms recently gave the console keyboards a thorough cleaning and adjustment; the feel and response are now vastly improved. No more "sticky situations" for our performers!

Our next task involves reworking the swell shades to quiet them down a bit and restore full functionality. We're hoping to wrap that up as spring rolls into summer and the school schedule clears out.



Want to get your hands a little dirty (or at least a little dusty)? If you'd like to help us out with the swell shade project or any other tasks with the Page, let us know! We'd love to have you on the crew.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter and a (mostly) sneeze-free spring!

Regards,

David Yackman

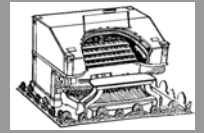
RON'S UNREMITTING REPERTOIRE

REGALES REGULARS AT THE ALLEN ORGAN STUDIOS

Carter Presents a Parade of Titles in a Great Program

No wonder there was so much music spread across two consoles Sunday, March 22nd, at the Allen Organ Studios. Ron Carter reached deep into his musical library to present a wonderful and varied program on two Allen organs, much to the delight of 31 attendees on a sparkling Spring day.

In honor of Easter coming soon, Ron opened with *Here Comes Peter Cottontail*, harkening back to his youth, and added *Easter Parade* for good measure, and set the tone for a delightful afternoon of music. Off to the world of Rudolph Friml and a sumptuous *Gianina Mia*. We then heard *Dream of Olwen*, including the intriguing story behind this theme from the film "While I Live".



To the Allen GX342DK classical organ and two selections, *Prelude in Classical Style* and Ron's brilliant improvisation on *Ode to Joy*, providing ample evidence that Ron is no stranger to that "other" side of the organ musical spectrum.

What followed was a *tour de force* in arranging as Ron played 14 selections in a medley he titled SONGS WE ALL REMEMBER. The highlights included *Good Night Sweetheart*; *I Dream of Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair*; *Happy Days Are Here Again*; *Loch Lomond*; a personal highlight for this reviewer was *Shenandoah*; and *Old Man River*, among others. That was the first deep dive into Ron's repertoire, providing his audience a massive amount of marvelous music!

He then told a story about his Dad asking him to learn a piece on the accordion, Ron's first instrument. Struggling with the tune, Ron about gave up. Until, as Ron recalled, his Dad offered him \$50 to learn it. Ron - and his Dad for sure - got their money's worth as Ron is STILL playing Sousa's *Under the Double Eagle*.

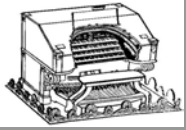


Now time for the next medley. Outdoing the first one, Ron presented 15 different song titles, too many to mention all here, but again some highlights included *Younger Than Springtime*, *One Alone*, three tunes from *42nd Street*, *Try To Remember*, *Hello Dolly*, an absolutely stirring version of *And This Is My Beloved, If I Loved You*, and *Oh What a Beautiful Morning* from the pen of Rodgers and Hammerstein.

He closed this masterful performance with a modern selection, *Forever Young*, providing chapter members with a great afternoon of fine music. Thank you, Ron!

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Dizzie Digits, music critic for the Tinseltown Tattler



The RH picture immediately to the left (are you still with me?) shows the 1934 art deco 3/10 Wurlitzer R16 residence organ (console) at the Rahway Senior Center in Rahway, NJ. The organ started its life in the Rainbow Room of NBC's 30 Rockefeller Center. It was removed in 1986 because it sounded "too funeral". I listened to Mr. Cardona play "Charisse" on it and it is a perfectly respectable theatre organ.

Juan Cardona Jr. playing for the Garden State Theatre Organ Society (left) Brady Born – Editor

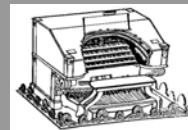
A CONNECTICUT YANKEE PERFORMS IN GEORGIA Juan Cardona, Jr. at the Grande Page April 12th

Juan Cardona, Jr. hails from Newtown, CT, and began piano and organ at the age of seven, and continued serious study of music, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts with a major in classical organ performance. His love of theatre organ was embraced during these early years with inspiration from the Marr and Colton theatre organ at the Thomaston Opera House.

Juan has been the staff organist there for fifteen years. In addition, for the past ten years he has also been the staff organist at the Bardavon Opera House in Poughkeepsie, NY. In 1994 and 1995 Juan was awarded first place in the American Theatre Organ Society's Hobbyist Division Competition. As a concert artist, he has performed theatre organ concerts in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Alabama, and Missouri. He was a featured artist at the 2022 ATOS Annual Convention, appearing at the Wonder Morton at the Balboa Theatre in San Diego.

In addition to his music, Juan is involved in building and flying radio control model airplanes, and N scale model railroading. He works as a Network/Systems Engineer in the IT field.

We are thrilled to present Juan Cardona Jr. in his premiere performance at the Page organ.

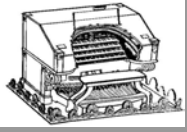


ATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

April 12, 2026 Sunday at 3:00 PM	Juan Cardona, Jr.	The Grande Page at Stephenson High School
May 2, 2026 Saturday (morning)	Ben Forsthoffer	The Plaza Theatre
May 3 2026 Sunday at 3:00 PM	Clark Wilson	Accompanies the silent film Wings on the Lucas Theatre Mighty Wurlitzer in Savannah GA
June 2026	TBA	The Grande Page at Stephenson High School
July 26, 2026 Sunday at 3:00 PM	Richard Hills	The Grande Page at Stephenson High School

STRAND THEATRE EVENTS

Saturday, April 4	The Greatest Showman	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, TBA
Friday, April 10	Princess Bride	3:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 2:30 PM, Eddie Hulsey 8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, Larry Davis
Sunday, April 12	Ben Hur: A Tale of Christ (1925)	2:30 PM, Pre-show Organist at 2:30, Eddie Hulsey 3:00 PM, Silent Film Accompanied by Ron Carter
Saturday, April 25	Steel Magnolias	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Larry Davis
Sunday, May 3	Gone With the Wind	2:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 1:30 PM, TBA
Saturday, May 9	Twister	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, TBA
Friday, June 12	Jaws	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, TBA
Friday, June 19	Hairspray	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, TBA
Friday, June 26	Singing in the Rain	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, TBA



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE ATLANTA CHAPTER

Ben Forsthoffer Returns Saturday, May 2nd

Saturday, May 2nd, Time TBA - Ben Forsthoffer returns, and will perform at the Plaza Theatre. Ben owns an Allen LLQ324 and will feel right at home on ours. We will announce the time at our April meeting.

Sunday, May 3rd, 2:00 p.m. - Clark Wilson accompanies WINGS on the Lucas Mighty Wurlitzer. A treat to see a great film at Savannah's Lucas Theatre. Go online to scadboxoffice.com for ticket information.

June - date/time TBA as we return to thrill to the Grande Page theatre organ

July 26th - A Sunday 3:00 p.m. date with RICHARD HILLS, returning to the Grande Page at Stephenson High School. Come hear the organist many consider to be the best player in the world.

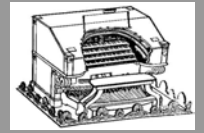
SOMETHING NEW IN OUR "HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

For well more than 20 years, Stephenson High School has been the home of our Grande Page Theatre Pipe Organ, and a wonderful home it has been in our great partnership with DeKalb County Schools. It is now even better.

Stephenson's auditorium has undergone most of a massive renovation, just in time for our April 12th visit with Juan Cardona, Jr. Here is some of what has transpired:

- minor and major repairs and a fresh coat of paint
- repaired and recovered seats, now a royal blue to match the school colors
- a massive and completely new fully theatrical lighting system
- upgrades to the new PA system installed two years ago
- a stellar new projection system and a new screen
- still to come this summer, brand new stage draping.

Congratulations to Dr. Sackey, Quentin Goins, Director of Music, and everyone at the school for this tremendous upgrade to the performance space we share so gratefully. I do believe our members will like what they see!



Rodgers Organ for Sale

From Larry Davis: a friend has upgraded to a different instrument, and this Rodgers Organ is available for a reasonable price. It has always lived in a climate-controlled environment and presently sits next to his current instrument. This is a Rodgers 321B, in good condition, as you can see, and the organ works and is playable. For those who don't know, it has settable blind combination action. It is at a ground level in the current residence. I have actually played this one. It comes with a bench that has been upholstered based on the bench at the Blackpool Tower. For more information, contact Larry Davis.

