

*August 13th, 3 to 7 pm, Open-House Program  
Bucky's Big Birthday Bash at the Reddish Residence  
with Jelani Eddington, Mark Herman,  
Dave Wickerham & a Surprise or Two*

Our August program will be an open-house from 3 to 7 pm on Saturday, August 13th at the Reddish residence for Bucky's Big Birthday Bash featuring Jelani Eddington, Mark Herman, Dave Wickerham and a surprise or two. As usual, there will be open console on the outstanding Walker RTO-335.

*About the artists...*



During the years that **Jelani Eddington** has given concerts, he has easily established himself as one of the most prominent and sought-after artists on the concert circuit. Jelani has performed in most of the major concert venues throughout the United States, has toured extensively abroad, and has received numerous awards and recognitions, including his selection as the 2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year.

Jelani Eddington was born in Muncie, Indiana to Louise Eddington and the late Robert Eddington and grew up in a very musical family. Between the interests of his mother, a professional music teacher of many years, and those of his grandmother, Florence Arnold, a well-respected piano instructor, it was no surprise when Jelani demonstrated an inclination toward music at a very early age.

Shortly after beginning piano instruction at the age of four, Jelani began studying classical piano under the

direction of his grandmother. At the age of eight, a trip to hear the 4-manual 42-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ installed in the Indianapolis, Indiana restaurant, the Paramount Music Palace, introduced Jelani to the sounds of the theatre pipe organ.

Soon thereafter, he began to pursue classical organ lessons and ultimately began studying theatre organ under the direction of John Ferguson, whose skills as a theatre organ instructor have been highly acclaimed internationally.

At the age of 13, Jelani won the American Theatre Organ Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition, prevailing over competitors ages 13-21 from the United States, England, Australia, and New Zealand. Jelani remains the youngest competitor ever to win this title. Jelani went on to graduate Magna Cum Laude from Indiana University in 1996, and later received a Juris Doctor degree from the Yale Law School in 1999, after which time he was admitted to practice law in New York State.

During the course of his concert career, Jelani has been featured at numerous national and regional conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, and has toured extensively throughout the world, including numerous concert appearances in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. He has also accompanied numerous silent films and appears regularly at film series. In 2007, Jelani accompanied the classic film, *The Hunchback Of Notre Dame*, for an international organ festival in

Finland on the country's largest pipe organ.

In addition to his work as an organist, Jelani has also distinguished himself as a concert pianist, appearing recently as a guest pianist for performances of Edvard Grieg's Piano Concerto in A-Minor, George Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue, and Leroy Anderson's Piano Concerto in C-Major. In February 2008, Jelani was invited to perform two special performances of Anderson's concerto with the Tulsa Signature Symphony as part of a celebration of Leroy Anderson's centennial. Jelani has also produced and marketed over 30 theatre organ albums on some of the best-known and most dynamic instruments in the country. In August 2001, the American Theatre Organ Society honored Jelani's extensive career as a concert and recording organist by naming him the 2001 Theatre Organist Of The Year. Jelani retains the distinction of being the youngest-ever recipient of this prestigious honor.



**Mark Herman** was born in August of 1987 and currently resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has been studying the piano since he was seven years old and began classical organ lessons at the age of twelve. His first introduction to the theatre organ was when he was in fourth grade and was at the Embassy Theatre in downtown Fort

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*Directions to Bucky's  
on Page 2*

**Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society**

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[www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta](http://www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta)

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*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:  
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or  
elfields@yahoo.com*

**We're on Facebook** 

You've asked for it, and now you have it - an all new Facebook Fan Page for the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society! Check it out now at [www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta](http://www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta), become a fan, and spread the word. There's quite a lot of information already there, and we're working on building and developing much more content for the site, including event calendars, photo albums, and video archives. For those who have yet to make the leap to Facebook - don't worry. You don't have to join Facebook to view the page or any of its contents, but you do have to sign in if you'd like to post or interact with the page (signing up is completely free). Let us know what you think, and if you have something you'd like to see on the page, contact me at [tcstephens@gmail.com](mailto:tcstephens@gmail.com) or 404-725-1155.

*Tim Stephens*

**Thanks for the Donations**

Pam Hudson—Strand Organ Fund

Claire F. Kuhl—Father's Day  
donation in honor of Elbert Fields

**Sunday July 17, 2011 was a monumental day** on several fronts for the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS and the ongoing efforts to put the spotlight on the theatre organ. The Silent Film Comedy event with Larry Davis, Rick McGee, Ron Carter and yours truly was a smashing success on so many levels. The performance was very well received by a big crowd. The crowd was liberally sprinkled with young people, moms and dads, Strand Theatre regulars, and a LOT of kids!

The highlight of the day had little to do with the performance. Ron Carter invited people to come down to look at the console, and before they left the hall, several young people from 8 years old to 14 years old actually played the Allen GW 4. What a sight to behold, as one after another, a youngster got their first taste of playing a theatre organ. Who knows from whence will come the next superstar organist, and what generates that "WOW!" moment?

Ron Carter's idea. Ron Carter's format. Ron Carter's production and execution. Ron Carter's invitation for folks to come and play. And all of us were the beneficiaries of being able to tag along. Great job James Thrower, Larry Davis, Rick McGee and Ron. Congratulations in order to all. Thanks to John Moore for his wonderful work as host and MC. We have much to look forward to at the Strand if the growing success of the silent films and exposure of the Allen organ is any indication.

And I have a job to do. That is, to spread the word of this success to ATOS overall. The chapter is fortunate indeed to have a theatrical "home" in which we can now do productions open to the public.

*Ken Double*, President and CEO ATOS



The above photo taken at the Providence Performing Arts Center shows most of the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS members present at the 2011 ATOS Convention in Providence, RI just a few weeks ago. Our group of approximately 22 Atlanta Chapter members ranked third in convention attendance. The Eastern Massachusetts Chapter, convention host, had the most members in attendance while the Garden State Theatre Organ Society was second.

**Directions to the Bucky Reddish Residence, Mableton,  
GA 5370 Vinings Lake View Dr. SW — 770-948-8424**

- From I-285 take Exit 12, US-78/US-278, Hollowell Pkwy (formerly Bankhead Hwy). Go West (outside the Perimeter toward Austell) for about 4.5 miles. Turn
- Right on Cooper Lake Road, which is the 2nd light past Lindley Middle School.
- Travel about 1/2 mile to The Retreat at Old Vinings Lake Estates entrance on the right. Follow the main road and the house is at the corner on the left. Please respect the neighbors and park on one side of the street only. Please do not park on the main street into the subdivision. Carpool if possible. Additional parking is available at the clubhouse by the tennis courts, located to your right when you reach Bucky's street, then down the hill on the left.

## Frank Willingham—Calvin Stephenson Memorial Concert

Dr. Theodore Guerrant will present an organ concert in College Park on Thursday evening, August 25, at 7:30 in the sanctuary of College Park First United Methodist Church, located at 3726 E. Main Street, College Park, GA close to the MARTA station. The memorial program, in tribute to Frank Willingham and Calvin Stephenson, will be played on the magnificent Ruter pipe organ designed by Frank Willingham and built exactly to his specifications.

For over 35 years, Frank was assistant organist at College Park Methodist, playing for the evening services and for many weddings and funerals. At the age of eleven, Dr. Guerrant began organ lessons with Frank, continuing these weekly lessons throughout his high school years at Woodward Academy.

Calvin Stephenson, a longtime choir member at College Park Methodist, was chairman of the organ restoration committee and, through his leadership, contributed in vital ways to this important project.

Dr. Guerrant, who grew up in College Park, is Organist and Choirmaster at Saint Margaret's Episcopal Church, Associate Organist at Saint Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church, and a member of the teaching staff of the University of Maryland School of Music. The public is invited to attend the memorial concert. Admission is free.



## Rankin Reigns !!

Sunday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 3:00 pm, the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS convoy converged on the residence of David and Lori Burud, thoughtfully secluded in Shaprsburg, Georgia (or so they thought!!) A beautiful home with a music room most wanted to take with them, featuring an Allen Renaissance GW-4 that speaks from all four corners of the room, and a host and hostess of the most gracious variety possible!

Donny Rankin had come to Gainesville, Georgia for a wedding, and we immediately corralled him for a program while here. He agreed most willingly and we were in for a treat . . .

Donnie opened with a bow to THE SOUTH with a nod to "Dixie," leading into what he called "Southern Links," a sampling of the music of the South.

Then, Donnie changed modes and explored what he refers to as the 'sleazy' style with the selection "My Old Flame." He dedicated this to an individual, but he will have to tell you who!

Then, for member James Thrower, he offered the selection "All the Things You Are," complete with the verse, and, James, you would have been proud – he done it well.

Now, there are a number of the chapter who are Sci-Fi fanatics, and Donnie transported us all with him on a journey through the Universe according to Roddenberry. A great medley of selections from the Star Trek franchise: the "original television series main



title", then "Ilea's Theme" from the first Trek film, then "Enterprising Young Men" from the most recent Trek film, and along the way back to the opening theme, we had the first movie title theme. Beam us up anytime!!

A selection to make use of David's automated percussionist, Donnie offered a very complete and true rendering of the Paul Desmond tune, as recorded by Dave Brubeck – "Take 5."

Now, this next medley was titled by Donnie as - well, ask him! These are selections recorded by Nat King Cole that others promptly recorded (Nat could pick good material.) The selections included: "Avalon," "Lush Life," "Walking My Baby Back Home," "Nature Boy," and "Almost Like Being in Love."

Member Bob Fountain is a great fan of all things Etting and Lynn (Ruth and Vera, that is,) and Donnie included a Ruth Etting selection for him. The title – "There Ought to Be a Moonlight Savings Time." You expected Ruth to join in song just any minute . . .

We were invited to call out the title as soon as we recognized the song –

right where he expected it – just after the verse. The verse, not often heard, sets the stage for the song, and this is the most famous film song of all time (according to the Academy): "Over the Rainbow" from Dorothy's visit to OZ had the wonder and longing in the rendition – just as it was in the film.

Now the orchestra arrived, and Donnie put on all of his other hands and feet, and 'conducted' a blazing offering of Anton Dvorak's "Slavonic Dance No. 8 in G minor." This demonstrated the true orchestral capability of the Unit Orchestra, and the detailed 'conducting' from its master conductor.

Encore time – you didn't think you would get away without one, did you Donnie? We were treated to a visit from Ethel Smith via her favorite "Tico-Tico."

FOOD – We were then called to the dining room and living room by the waiting goodies – many and varied. That Key Lime pie did not stand a chance !!!

A number of folks from the neighborhood joined us for the meeting. We hope they will let David and Lori stay after meeting all of us!

Thanks, Donnie, for a great musical afternoon, and thanks to David and Lori for a wonderful venue and treats – and being such gracious hosts to the invaders !!!!!

This missive, informed or not, offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the walls, seats, kitchen and dining room have ears!!

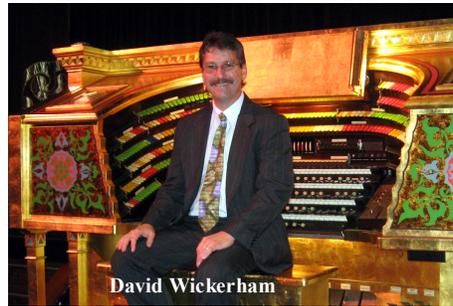
(Continued from page 1)

Wayne. This was made possible by the late Robert Goldstine and the local American Guild of Organists Chapter's Room on the Organ Bench program. In 2001, he began theatre organ studies with John Ferguson of Indianapolis, who is recognized worldwide for his skills as a teacher.

In the summer of 2003, Mark was given the opportunity to play a cameo performance at the American Theatre Organ Society's (ATOS) annual convention in Oakland, California. The following year, he won the ATOS Young Theatre Organist Competition in Milwaukee at the Riverside Theatre. That enabled him to perform a critically acclaimed concert for the ATOS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Pasadena, which took place the following July. During the summer of 2006, he toured for six weeks in Australia and New Zealand, setting records in CD sales at many of the venues in which he appeared. In 2009, he Friday Evening, July 1, 2011 returned for a second 7-week tour of those countries. Over the past few years, he has played dozens of solo concerts in theatres and venues from coast to coast. He is a graduate of The Theatre School, DePaul University in Chicago where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts with a focus in Theatre Management. In addition to playing the organ, Mark has also been known to perform on the piano, as well as introduce several original compositions. Mark is a proud endorsee of Hammond Organs and Leslie Speakers for Hammond Suzuki USA.

In 2010, Mark relocated from Chicago to Indianapolis to pursue entrepreneurial ventures. He founded Handwritten Works LLC, a company that specializes in producing authentic handwritten notes and hand-addressed mail in large quantities for professional and personal interests. Additionally, he owns and operates TheatreOrganCDs.com, a website that sells CD albums recorded by many of the world's top theatre organists. His company Mark Herman Productions LLC has produced three albums.

He feels special gratitude towards his parents, Ron and Andrea, as well as all of his family and friends who have supported him from the beginning.



**Dave Wickerham** was born in Encino, California in 1962. He began playing the electronic organ at the age of four and had his first pipe organ experience at age 10. His musical education started at age 7.

When he moved to Arizona in 1976, he became Associate Organist at the famous Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson. While in Arizona, he continued his musical studies with Roseamond Crowley, one of the few remaining descendants of the Louis Vierne line of organists. He attended the University of Arizona in Tucson on a full scholarship, pursuing classical organ studies for six years with Dr. Roy Johnson.

In 1984, Dave moved to the Chicago area to become Staff Organist at Pipes and Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. In addition to his performance there, he concertized frequently, as well as ministering musically and serving at various churches.

August of 1990 found the Wickerham family, Dave, his wife and two young children, moving to Wisconsin, where he was one of the featured Staff Organists at the Piper Music Palace in Greenfield, a position he held for 10 years.

In the spring of 2000, Dave ushered in the new millennium with a limited special engagement, as a featured organist at Roxy's Pipe Organ Pizzeria, part of a \$26,000,000 expansion phase at the FIESTA Casino and Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. The Wickerhams, Dave, Rhonda, and now three great kids, spent a year and a half there before returning back home to Wisconsin in August of 2001. For the next three years, Dave resumed his position at the Piper Music Palace and was also the Principal Organist at Williams Bay Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva, WI.

He enjoys concertizing frequently

to many audiences including various chapters of the American Theatre Organ Society. In April of 1999, he took great pleasure being a feature artist in Melbourne, Australia for the convention of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia for which he received rave reviews. He returned "Down Under" for a five-week concert tour in New Zealand and Australia during the summer of 2003 and has been asked to come back to repeat the same complete tour in a near future season.

Dave also enjoys recording and has recently "sold out" his fourth CD Sounds of Music recorded on the famous 5-Manual, 80-Rank Theatre Organ at the Sanfilippo Residence in Barrington, IL. There are two NEW recording projects that are soon to be completed and released.

Currently, Dave and his family enjoy living in South Florida where he has accepted the position of Organist in Residence - Curator at the Milhous Museum in Boca Raton. The museum houses three pipe organs and a vast amassment of beautifully restored automated antique musical instruments and classic cars from the turn of last century.

### *About the Organ*

Bucky's fantastic Walker RTO-335 Opus I is one of the two featured at Walker's exhibit during the 2004 Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend.

This is a unique installation with six speaker systems on each of two opposing walls with 12 additional speakers on the balcony and in a closed area on the main floor. This original installation was later modified to add a custom 2nd pedal cabinet on the catwalk and a real blower and tremolo in a closet to give a realistic pipe-organ effect.

With the 21-foot high reflective wall and hardwood floors, the organ voices truly blossom and the sound is unbelievable.

### *Welcome New Member*

Mrs. Joan C. Williamson  
6213 Traymore Trace  
Smyrna, GA 30082-3382



**Organ Pre-shows** will be featured at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre for the following movies:

- August 3, 10 am, CURIOUS GEORGE —organ pops pre-show by Larry Davis
- August 6, 8 pm , ANNIE—organ pops pre-show by Phillip Allen
- August 19, 8 pm, HAIRSPRAY—organ pops pre-show by Phillip Allen
- August 26, 8 pm, DOCTOR ZHIVAGO—organ pops pre-show by Rick McGee

- August 27, 8 pm, SOUTH PACIFIC—organ pops pre-show by Larry Davis
- September 2, 8 pm, CASABLANCA—organ pops pre-show by Ken Double
- September 3, 8 pm, ROCKY HORROR—organ pops pre-show by Larry Davis
- October 22, 8 pm, GREASE SING ALONG—organ pops pre-show by Phillip Allen

### *Silent Film Series*

- Aug 28th 3 pm, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL with Ron Carter
- Oct 30th 3 pm, DR. JEKYLL and MR. HYDE with Ron Carter

## *Flesh and The Devil at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre*

*Flesh and The Devil* will be shown Sunday, August 28th at 3 pm with an organ pre-show and sing-a-long at 2:30 pm. This 1927 film stars Swedish born Greta Garbo in her first American appearance. She portrays an irresistible vixen who comes between two life-long friends, John Gilbert and Lars Hanson. Stunning photography with a digitally restored print made at the height of the silent film era just before talkies came out. Ron Carter has masterfully created a dramatic score for this film which will keep you on the edge of your seats to the very climatic ending! We need ATOS greeters and volunteers for our information table!!

**NEW... Mark your calendar: Atlanta's Movie Palaces and Their Theatre Organs (Pipes on Peachtree)** a joint program (fundraiser) between Atlanta Chapter, ATOS and Callanwolde on Sunday afternoon September 11 at 3 pm. Come early and/or stay late to hear the 60-rank Aeolian Pipe Organ play throughout the house. Sit back and enjoy a wonderful PowerPoint presentation and panel discussion featuring chapter members John McCall, Joe Patten (Phantom of the Fox), and John Tanner.

As we all know John Tanner has spent thousands of hours researching Atlanta's now long-gone movie palaces, their organs and organists. This may be the first of several of these programs to be presented because John has so much material, tidbits, and trivia about this bygone era. For this program the panel will concentrate on those movie palaces on Peachtree Street. Advance ticket sales of \$10.00 per person will be available through Callanwolde or \$12.00 cash only at the door. Please go to the Callanwolde web site at [www.callanwolde.org](http://www.callanwolde.org) and click on the events calendar to purchase tickets or call 404-872-5338.

Seating will be limited to 200 persons and we expect a sell-out because of the publicity that Callanwolde will be generating for this program. We are asking all Chapter members to bring your favorite "goodie" to share in a reception after the program and Callanwolde is going to provide the beverages.

*Ron Carter*

## *Ron Carter, Strand House Organist, Receives 2010 Ovation Award*

Atlanta Chapter Board Member Ron Carter recently received the *Outstanding Instrumentalist* award presented by the Cobb Arts Board and Friends of The Arts for his efforts in bringing the music of the Theatre Organ to the Cobb County and Marietta Area.

Earl Reece, Executive Director of the Strand, told a standing room only crowd at the Cobb Terrace of the Strand Theatre that he had never met an individual so passionate about an art form and that the Strand and the Marietta/Cobb community was fortunate to have someone of Ron's caliber on the Strand Board and enriching the community and the Strand's programming with his playing as House Organist.



**The Atlanta 2013 Convention Committee** continues meeting to finalize specifics for the big event. And, there are still opportunities for chapter members to serve. Areas of need: Hospitality/Registration... Bus Captains... and Artist Transportation, particularly for the young artists who might be here for the competition.

Contact Lee Lanier or Ken Double if you are interested. We have 19 hearty souls involved so far, but the more the merrier.

Monthly planning meetings will begin in earnest very soon. We will soon announce the schedule and the initial artist lineup, subject to change, of course! Come join the fun and help us make the 2013 ATOS Convention the best one ever!!

**Upcoming Meetings & Events** *(Mark your Calendars)*

- **August 13 (Saturday), 3 to 7 pm, Bucky’s Big Birthday Bash Open-house featuring Jelani Eddington, Mark Herman and Dave Wickerham along with a surprise or two. (see Page 1)**
- August 20, 2011, 7 pm Ken Double on “Big Bart” at the Grand Theatre in Fitzgerald, Georgia
- August 25, 7:30 pm, Dr. Theodore Guerrant will present an organ concert in memory of Frank Willingham & Calvin Stephenson in the sanctuary of College Park First United Methodist Church (see Page 3)
- August 25, 7:30 pm, 1920 Silent Film *Mark of Zorro* accompanied by Clark Wilson at the Atlanta Fox Theatre—Tickets \$8
- August 28 (Sunday), 3 pm, The Silent Film *The Flesh and The Devil* (the film that made Greta Garbo a star) accompanied by Ron Carter at the Earl Smith Strand
- **September 11 (Sunday), 3 pm, Joint Fund Raiser for Atlanta Chapter, ATOS and Callanwolde—Atlanta’s Movie Palaces and Their Theater Organs (Pipes on Peachtree) at Callanwolde — \$10 advance admission, \$12 at the door. (see Page 5)**
- September 12 (Monday), 7 pm, Larry-Douglas Embury, Atlanta Fox Organist in Residence, in concert at the Grand Theatre in Fitzgerald, Georgia performing on “Big Bart” their Barton Theatre organ
- **October 11 (Tuesday), Joint Meeting Atlanta Chapter ATOS and Atlanta Chapter AGO at Atlanta First United Methodist Church**
- October 30th, 3 pm *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (1921-horror classic starring John Barrymore) accompanied by Ron Carter at the Earl Smith Strand.
- **November 12, Dedication of Earl Smith Strand organ**
- **December 4 (Sunday), 3 pm, Chapter Meeting & Concert by Ken Double on the 5-manual, 42-rank Allen TO5 at Dr.’s Petway and Lacefield residence.**

**Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application**

*Renew your membership for 2011 now (If you haven’t paid since Oct. 1, 2010)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own an organ? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, description \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership dues \$35 (Student \$17.50). Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**.

Note “Dues” or “Membership” on the memo line and mail to:

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