

ATOS Atlanta

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



AUGUST MEETING IS MONDAY NIGHT!!! AT THE FOX!! AUGUST 27TH.

The August meeting will be truly special. We have a wonderful opportunity to hear Mighty Mo in concert as we join with the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in a joint meeting.

Ken Double and Rick McGee will represent the ATOS and Dr. Patrick A. Scott, organist and Associate Choirmaster of the Cathedral of St. Philip in Buckhead will represent the classical organists. Dr. Scott, the last student of the legendary Gerre Hancock (St. Thomas Church on 5th Avenue in NYC – yes, “that” Gerre Hancock!) is a winner of the AGO national improvisation competition and one of America’s most exciting young organists.

An ATOS & AGO mixer with a catered meal of hot hors d’oeuvres is at *The Windsor Over Peachtree*. This is Ken Double’s new residence, which is across Ponce de Leon Ave from the Fox Theatre’s Stage Door Entrance. This will be a great opportunity to chat with our AGO colleagues about the two national conventions being hosted in Atlanta in 2020.



Mighty Mo

Cost of the meal at the social hour will be \$10 each for all attendees.

Required RSVP to kdatos52@yahoo.com or call Ken at 404-790-5400.

6:00 p.m. – Mixer at *The Windsor Over Peachtree*, 620 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30308 (Ken Double’s new residence)

7:30 p.m., Fox Theatre (with the American Guild of Organists, Atlanta Chapter) enter the Fox at the Stage Door on Ponce de Leon Avenue



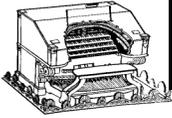
Patrick Scott



Ric McGee



Ken Double



A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The Summer Youth Adventure, WHAT A WOW!

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

Chapter President - Ken Double
Vice President - Larry Davis
Treasurer - Rick McGee
Secretary - Bill Thompson
Newsletter Editor - Ted Barnett
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow



On a very special Friday at Stephenson High School the theatre organ’s future was on grand display using the *Grande Page* organ. Our monthly meeting was the closing night concert of a week of intense education performed by the fourteen young students of the Summer Youth Adventure.

The twelfth year of the program, it was the first time that we hosted it in Atlanta. There were young people ages 11 to 22, with six who were brand new to the program. Three of the six had *never* played a theatre organ or any other kind of organ before.

Highlights included Ben Forstettler (who could barely reach the pedals) ripping off a rousing *Everything’s Coming Up Roses* including a double-fingered two-octave-plus glissando/portamento big finish worthy of George, Lyn and the instructors! This was just one of many memorable, *wow* moments.

Brett Miller (age 15) plays a ballad as beautifully as someone four times his age. Runner up at the ATOS Young Theatre Organists’ Competition this summer in Los Angeles Brett performed Sondheim’s *Anyone Can Whistle* with a level of depth rare for one so young.

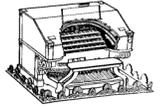
Several familiar ATOS youngsters also attended. Los Angeles 2018 competition winner, Luke Staisiunis, Toby Washburn and Edward Torres, were just some of the attendees.

Two local young musicians, Jada Stills and Jordan Morrison represented Stephenson High School, home of the Grand Page Theatre Pipe Organ. Jada is off to college this fall, and Jordan is headed into his sophomore year. Jordan comically noted that with Jada off to college he is now the best keyboardist at SHS!! Having never used multiple keyboards or their feet for notes, they showed great courage in performing in front of people. Great skill and tremendous determination were on display in their performances.

The Atlanta Chapter should be proud of its leaders: Larry Davis, Lee Lanier, Tim Stephens and Ken Double were involved in planning and execution; David and Lori Burud hosted a session at their home on the George Wilson 4 manual Allen; and our friends from the Alabama Chapter opened up *Big Bertha*, and they got to stop at Fred Dove’s to play the Walker. The Grand Page Organ was in spectacular shape thanks to John Tanner, with help from Kerry Bunn and John Alford. Thanks to all for your great efforts.

There is nothing as inspiring as watching fourteen young people sit down and play with such skill, dedication and *passion!* What a week for falling in love with the theatre organ all over again. Spectacular!





Photos From Summer Youth Adventure



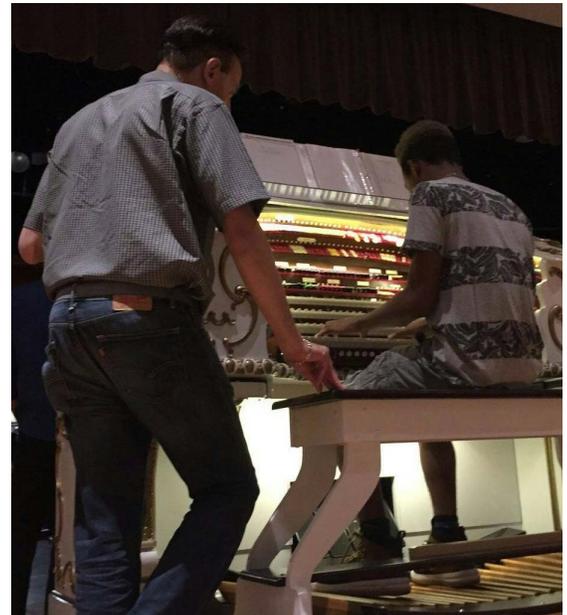
Students at Fred Dove's Walker Theatre Organ



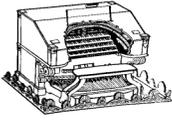
Andrew Dunning at Mo



Expert Coaching at David Burud's Allen GW4



Jordan Morrison & Jelani Eddington at Page Theatre Organ



George Lee Hamrick Biography,
Atlanta's Favorite Organist Addendum
By John Tanner

Just when you thought you had done all the research, written the article, and sent it to be published, you find there is more to the story.

First, let me say that finding information on George Hamrick and his involvement with the *Sleepy Hollow* program, wasn't easy. Many of the early WSB radio programs are not well documented. It has taken quite a bit of digging through newspapers, especially the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, to come up with information on the programs.

Now I have a little more information, and need to make a correction.

I stated in my article in the July 2018 issue of the AC/ATOS newsletter that Elmo Ellis was the narrator of the *Sleepy Hollow* program. Mr. Ellis did do the narration for at various times, but the *first* narrator was Stan Perry. Also on the program was Hugh Ivey who read poetry.



This photo, taken shortly after *Sleepy Hollow* began broadcasting, shows George Hamrick at the Hammond with Stan Perry (standing).

Often when a new radio program airs, most of the advertising is done on the radio. But in the case of Atlanta's WSB radio, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* owned the radio station, and every now and then advertisements for a new radio program would appear in the newspaper's radio section.

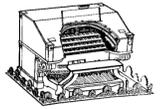
In the summer of 1940 WSB radio erected a new transmission tower at the intersection of Briarcliff and LaVista Roads. This is now

the location of Northlake Mall and Northlake Festival.

The new transmission tower (still in use today) enabled WSB to increase their broadcast wattage to 50,000 watts. To celebrate this achievement, WSB radio ran a series of advertisements for various programs that they were airing at the time.



The one for *Sleepy Hollow*, the only advertisement I have found for that program, in the August 4, 1940 edition of the *Atlanta Journal*.



News From Ron and the Strand Theatre

The Strand is doing very well. We are involved in a 250K fund raising effort to match a gift from Earl Smith to retire the debt. This has to be done by the end of the year. So, if you know of anyone or if you yourself could help out with a gift that would be great. Andy Gaines and the staff are very supportive of the organ. In fact he wants to do another 6 silent films in 2019 and would like to do Metropolis again! As you might remember this was a tremendous success and the chapter actually made about \$700 dollars after all bills were paid. We have several programs coming up involving the Chapter. For our Silent Comedy

shorts on Sunday afternoon at 3pm chapter members will be admitted FREE of charge. Then in November we will enjoy Ron Carter and Organ Friends, Strand Open house where hopefully all those organists who play at the Strand will do a mini-concert from 3 to 5 pm.

We have several classic films coming up where our chapter organists will be doing the pre-shows. Thanks to Ken, Larry, Misha, and John McCall for all of their efforts so far in 2018.

Wanda Field's Wurlitzer console piano is available to free of charge. If you have a home for this well maintained piano, please call Larry Davis at 770-402-8319 or 770-428-4091. acatos@earthlink.net





UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

Date	Time	Location	Event Description
Aug 19 Sun	2:00 PM CDT	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL	Alabama Chapter Meeting - featuring Vince Mirandi at the 4/32 Mighty Wurlitzer
Aug 26 Sun	12:30 PM CDT	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL	The Sidewalk Film Festival presents Nathan Avakian and the International Youth Silent Film Festival; individual tickets are \$15 and available here.
Aug 27 Mon	7:30 PM	Fox Theatre - Atlanta, GA	Monthly Chapter Meeting - a joint meeting with the Atlanta AGO, as we join together for an evening with "Mighty Mo"; showcased by AGO artist Patrick A. Scott and ATOS artists and Fox organists Rick McGee and Ken Double; joint social at 6 pm at the Windsor Over Peachtree - see newsletter for RSVP details
Sept 9 Sun	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Monthly Chapter Meeting - Silent Comedy Shorts - the annual presentation of classic silent shorts, all accompanied on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ; tickets \$10, available here; free admission for ATOS Atlanta members
Sept 30 Sun	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Silent Film - <i>Girl Shy</i> - Harold Lloyd's 1924 comedy, accompanied live by Ron Carter on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ; tickets \$10, available here
Oct 28 Sun	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Silent Film - <i>The Monster</i> - the 1925 horror film, with accompaniment by Ron Carter on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ; tickets \$10, available here
Oct 28 Sun	2 PM CDT	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL	Silent Film - <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> - the tradition continues with the Theatre's 40th showing of the 1925 classic starring Lon Chaney, accompanied by Tom Helms on the 4/32 Mighty Wurlitzer; additional details to come
Oct 29 Mon	7:00 PM	Westminster Oaks Center for Lifelong Learning - Tallahassee, FL	John McCall in concert at the Allen 317 and Bosendorfer Grand Piano - Free Admission
Nov 18 Sun	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Monthly Chapter Meeting - Ron Carter and Organist Friends - the annual tradition returns to the Strand Theatre and will feature performances by the talented roster of organists at the Strand