



ATOS ATLANTA



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

Our Next Chapter Meeting:

A BIT OF HISTORY, A LOT OF ENTERTAINMENT - AUG. 16 AT THE STRAND

Everybody Sing!

The August Chapter Meeting is Saturday, August 16th at 1 p.m.

The Strand Theatre, Marietta



Donnie Rankin – Page 3



Don Ernest – Page 4

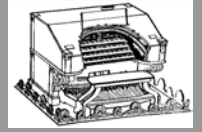


Dr. Esther Morgan-Ellis – Page 5

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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Brady Born
Ron Carter
Ken Double
Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey
David Tuck
Strand Project – Ron Carter

A Letter from your President

Hi, Everyone!

August is already here, and we're still buzzing from a fantastic July chapter meeting featuring Donnie Rankin (who was also a featured performer at the ATOS national convention last week)! But even though summer's winding down, we're not!

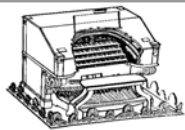
I hope you'll all join us in **August at The Strand Theatre for this month's chapter meeting on Saturday, August 16 at 1 p.m.** We're excited to host **Dr. Esther M. Morgan-Ellis**, who will give a special presentation based on her 2018 book, *Everybody Sing!: Community Singing in the American Picture Palace*. She'll explore the fascinating origins of theater sing-alongs and the pivotal role of the theatre organ in that movement.

A huge thank you to everyone who made July's chapter meeting a success! **John Tanner and Ken Double** deserve a special shout-out for their expertise in getting the Grande Page in fine tune for Donnie Rankin's performance. Thanks also to **Randy & Priscilla Hendry and Tom Bellamy** for helping out with the refreshments, and **Lee Lanier** for hosting and chauffeuring Donnie Rankin for the weekend. If I missed anyone, thank you as well. We appreciate everyone's contributions.

Want to help make our future events even better? We're always looking for volunteers! Let us know if you'd like to lend a hand.

Warmest Regards,

David Yackman

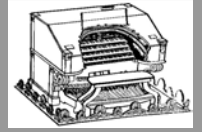


**DONNIE RANKIN, ATOS *Organist of the Year* for 2023
Plays Outstanding Program on the Grand Page!**

The Atlanta Chapter enjoyed a superb concert by ATOS organist of the year, Donnie Rankin, who played a varied and very interesting program on the Chapter's Grand Page Organ, Sunday afternoon July 20th. Donnie was in complete control of the Page's four manual console and played with exuberance and spontaneity. He has a very professional artist console presence and offered very interesting comments before each of his selections. What struck this reviewer was Donnie's very clean playing, especially in those very difficult musical passages that many organists struggle to get through.

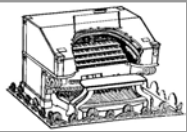
From an exciting console riser, *The King Kong March*, to his *Rock Around the Clock* encore, Donnie played as a professional way beyond his years!! He entertained us with *The Cop on the Beat*, *The Man in the Moon and Me*, and *Princess Leia's Theme* from Star Wars. He then provided us some country tunes not normally heard on the theatre organ, *Southern Nights* and *Wichita Lineman*. Donnie presented a jazz arrangement of *Take 5* with some interesting middle parts, a theatre organ arrangement of *The Lost Chord*, and a medley featuring various themes from Star Trek that this reviewer has never heard. We then were given a very beautiful ballad from the 1931 film *Blond Crazy*, *When Your Lover Is Gone*. Donnie ended with a spectacular rendition of *Slaughter on 10th Avenue*! A great afternoon of excellent entertainment with refreshments and enjoyed by all!

Ron Carter

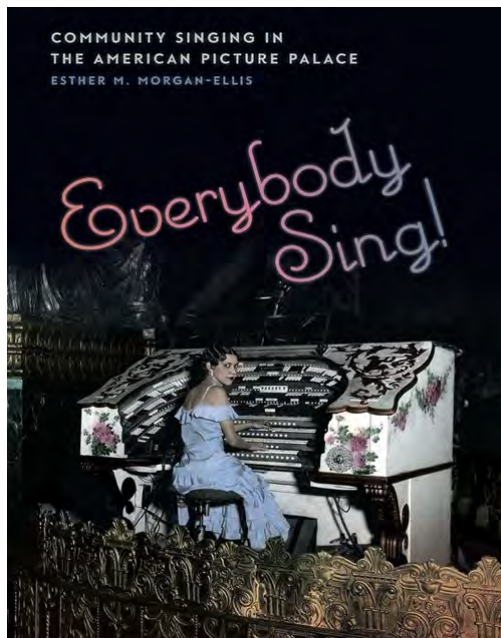


Larry's Mystery Photo – The Answer

This photo was provided to me by our esteemed Jay Mitchell. If you look closely, you will see that on the left is a younger Jay Mitchell, in the center is our dear Jack Sandow, but to the right is someone that I didn't know: Don Ernest. Where was the photo taken? For those with a lot of technical knowledge, the location may be confusing because the switchstack is Wurlitzer. But it is attached to a 3/8 Kimball organ that was located in the old Aldersgate Church on Boulevard near Grant Park. Jay says, "Jack was a very enthusiastic member of that work crew that tried to get the Grant Park organ playing again, and only left the Grant Park project when he began negotiations for the Page organ. I think it took a lot of his time to get the Stephenson High School organ space agreed upon and worked out with the architect." Jay goes on to say, "I remember two programs we had there, while the organ was still playing. The first one was around late 1970s or early 1980s. The program featured a talented young fellow that played an excellent concert for us. I forget his name ... I gave the second program there around 1988 or 1989." Jay says that the specifications for the organ were: 16' Trombone, 16' Tibia, 16' Viole, Diaphonic Diapason, Concert Flute, Oboe (Synthetic), Clarinet, Kinura, Vox Humana. The console was 3m. The organ, which was being made playable again, was originally installed in 1945 by Manley and Steiner, the Reuter representatives from that era, located in the Atlanta area. For the record, we have no idea of the status of the organ at this time. It may still be in place in the building, now sold. AND THE WINNER IS: Lynne Hart, whose reply was the only one I received. She identified Jay and Jack, did not know John, but she said, "I'm thinking that the photo may have been taken at Grant Park Aldersgate Methodist. Jay has told me about working on that organ. If that is true, Jay could verify it. I did take lessons on that organ, I believe in the late 1970's." Good work, Lynne!



A BIT OF HISTORY, A LOT OF ENTERTAINMENT AUG. 16 AT THE STRAND



Prof. Esther Morgan-Ellis and the History of Sing-a-longs!

Saturday, August 16th at 1 p.m.

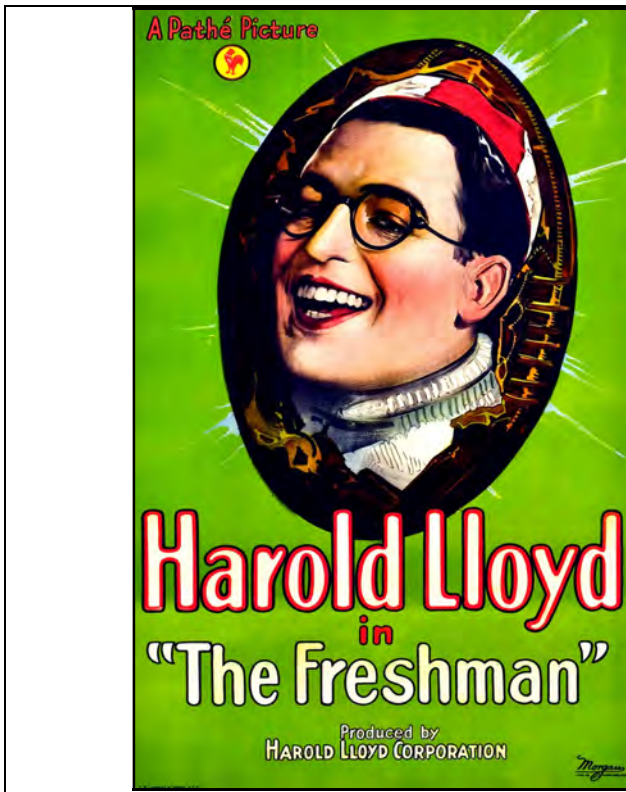
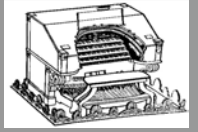
The Strand Theatre, Marietta

How appropriate that we gather at the Strand, where sing-a-longs are often a part of our pre-show presentations on the Allen GW 4 theatre organ. We will enjoy a delightful bit of history, courtesy of Prof. Esther Morgan-Ellis, author, music historian, and an expert on a specific part of the movie palace era. Right up our alley!

Her book, ***EVERYBODY SING!*** is a deep dive into the era of the movie palaces of the 1920's, and the development of community singing, also known as "the sing-a-longs" which became a hugely popular, major staple of a visit to the movies in the 1920's and 30's.

Her presentation will include historic slides; a presentation on just how extensive the entertainment was at the movies back then; and the Strand Theatre's Mighty Allen organ will lead attendees in an actual sing-along, as is often presented on movie nights at the Strand Theatre. Ken Double will be on the bench to accompany the audience.

Professor Esther Morgan-Ellis is an assistant professor of music history and world music at the University of North Georgia.

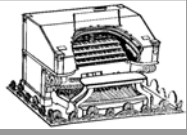


**The Freshman, a silent film at The Strand
With Live Organ Accompaniment by Ron Carter**

This is short notice because the date of the film is the same as the publishing date, namely August 2nd, i.e. TODAY. "The Freshman" is a 1925 Harold Lloyd film and runs 1:17, a bit more manageable than the dramatic films of this era. From an IMDB reviewer: "THE FRESHMAN is the best college spoof film ever made. Outside being lap-slapping hilarious throughout, it has some most original, poetic, and convincing romantic moments as well, like when Harold saw the girl from the reflection of the mirror in his room; or while dancing with other women he saw how she revealed her love for him on the bouquet he gave her, that moment is a wonder. Besides the great football sequence, this film is full of wonderful gags, especially that little dance Harold invented, and the party sequence. Not only this film hasn't aged a bit, but the formula of this film is still used in Hollywood nowadays, but the results hardly, if ever, top this one here."

I encourage you to attend if you are otherwise unencumbered this afternoon.

Brady Born
Editor



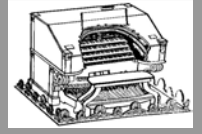
ATOS Atlanta

ATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS

August 16, 2025	Saturday at 1:00 PM	Author Esther Morgan-Ellis, Professor of Music History at the University of North Georgia, with a presentation on her book <i>Everybody Sing!</i> a History of Community Singing in the Movie Palace. Location The Strand.
September 21, 2025	Sunday at 3:00 PM	Tom Helms at the Grande Page
October 11, 2025	Saturday, all day	A ROAD TRIP TO TENNESSEE, and a visit to Bert and Ann Allee's home. Depart Marietta at approximately 9:30 a.m. BBQ lunch at Allee's, and music from his unique pipe organ.
October 25, 2025	Sunday at 7:30 PM	Silent Film: <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> at RiverCenter, Columbus GA, accompanied by Ron Carter on the GW-4
November 9, 2025	Sunday at 3:00 PM	Mark Herman at the Grande Page
TBD, December, 2025		Stay tuned for details but it will be seasonally appropriate!

STRAND THEATRE EVENTS

Saturday, August 2	The Freshman (1925)	1:30 p.m., a Harold Lloyd silent comedy as part of the Cobb Film Festival. Ron Carter accompanist. No pre-show.
Saturday, August 16	Everybody Sing!	1:00 p.m., <i>Everybody Sing!</i> a presentation on the History of Community Singing in the Movie Palace. Ken Double accompanying an organ sing-along
Saturday, August 16	Magic Mike (2012)	8:00 p.m., Magic Mike. Pre-show Organist at 7:30 p.m., Larry Davis
Friday, August 22	Do the Right Thing (1989)	8:00 p.m., Pre-show Organist at 7:30 p.m., Misha Stefanuk

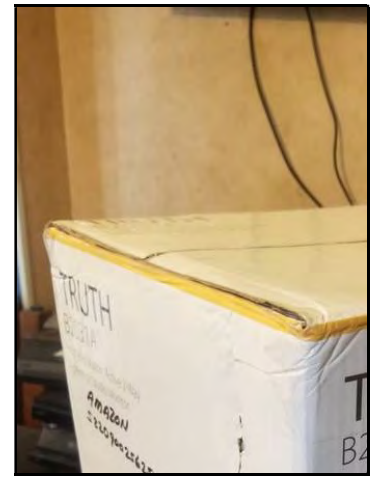


Music Room Sale

Behringer's **TRUTH B2031-A** Studio monitor speakers:

I overbought 6 of these new speakers for my Hauptwerk organ and would like to sell them. They were unboxed and put into service for a total of 20 minutes, just to be sure they were working properly. They are terrific sounding speakers! I just bought too many of them.

I paid \$202.00 each for these. I will accept any reasonable offer.



Conn Organ speakers:

From my wonderful old Conn Theatre Organ, model 644, I built a large rolling tone cabinet to house its speaker system. It sounds much better when not installed in the console. This cabinet holds the four main speaker, 15" – 12" – 10" – 6 X 9" plus the Leslie rotating baffle speaker. It also holds the crossover network for all these speakers. All it needs is hooking up to an organ amplifier and two 125 VAC on-off switches to power the Leslie fast and slow rotation motors.

Tone Cabinet Dimensions: 24" D X 26" W X 6 Ft Tall.

In addition, I have duplicate "backup" replacement speakers for this tone cabinet, plus a backup crossover network. Asking \$100.00 but will consider any reasonable offers.

Phone: 770 926-2713 (voice mail – please leave a message)

Jay Mitchell email: sousascousin@gmail.com