

Meeting December 16th at 3 pm Larry Davis at the Burud Residence

Our December program will be at the home of David and Lori Burud in Sharpsburg on the south side of Atlanta on Sunday, December 16th at 3:00 pm. The artist will be our own Larry Davis playing their Allen GW-IV— four of four so to speak... GW-IV's at Ken Double's in September, the Strand in October, the Carter's in November and now, the Burud's in December.

About the artist... When **Larry Davis** was eleven years old, a previously-undiscovered musical ability surfaced during the Christmas season when he sat down at his aunt's piano and began playing carols, despite having never previously touched a piano. A few months later, his parents bought him a Conn spinet organ (an instrument he still owns). He took a few lessons from the organ salesman and then began to study on his own, learning style and musical ideas from recordings by Jesse Crawford, Les Barnett, and particularly Don Baker. Within a year, at the age of thirteen, he began to perform publicly.

He became a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the then-ATOE, and played his first theatre pipe organ in the mid-1960's at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Simmons. During the late 1960's he alternated between theatre organ, folk guitar, and playing organ in a rock-and-roll band.

In 1969, he entered Emory University and his relationship with ATOE faded. He continued playing organ and piano, however, first as an assistant organist at Roswell Street Baptist Church in Marietta during his early college years.

Then, beginning in 1971, he served for more than thirty years as the organist



for the Corvillia Bible Conferences in Florida.

In 1974, he attended his first service at the Mount Paran Church of God, where he encountered the person he says was his next great influence in organ playing – our own Wanda Carey Fields. Larry says, “I unashamedly stole everything I could from her, because she was and is quite simply the best gospel organist I have ever heard.” In 1976, he became organist for Faith Memorial Assembly of God in Atlanta, where he served until 1982.

After 1982, he began to focus on piano with his musical mentor, the late, legendary concert pianist and composer Merle Maupin.

Music, however, was not all that Larry was doing. From 1973 onward, he was employed by DeKalb County, first as a juvenile officer and later as a member of the Sheriff's Office. He also became a paramedic, working on ambulances serving the metropolitan Atlanta community. In 2003, he retired from DeKalb County, and a few weeks later, attended the Maple Avenue Methodist Church presentation of *Ben-*

Hur with Ron Carter playing the score. Through Ron's encouragement, he re-associated with the world of theatre organ and the Atlanta Chapter, now ATOS, and says, “I have come back to my first and greatest musical love. I am having more fun that I could ever have hoped for.”

About the instrument... The organ, an Allen four-manual GW-IV, was acquired a few years back from a private residence in the Houston, TX area. The easy part was finding and shipping the organ. The difficult part was figuring a way to get this instrument and 16 speakers into a quant Georgia house. With the assistance of Ron Carter, plans were devised for a room addition, allowing for double doors for the console. An additional closet was added upstairs to allow for a second speaker chamber, along with front room chambers to complete the third percussion chamber. Final room dimensions are 28' x 14' x 13' high, with a very simple, clean décor (wooden floors, minimal furniture) to maximize the sound. The organ offers 33 ranks, with an added Smart Recorder and external rhythm unit. A digital toy counter and 4 additional toe studs were also added.

Within the past month an additional bass speaker was added, bringing the total to 17 speakers.

Directions on Page 2

Thanksgiving with the Carters (and Friends) !!!

Sunday, November 18th, 2012, at 3:00 pm the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS found themselves graciously welcomed for a Thanksgiving treat !!! We gathered at the home of Ron and Donna Carter for an afternoon of music, show, talent and



Ron, Abby & Jake Carter.
Joe Arnotti & Catherine Rhodes

surprises !! The featured instrument was the Allen Renaissance GW-IV, and our artists were varied talented !!

President Randy Hendry called the meeting to order, and after a brief chapter business session, turned the program over to Larry Davis to make introductions for the upcoming show. Larry

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**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
770-948-8424

www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

*AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under
Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

Chapter President - Randy Hendry
Vice President - Bob McKoon
Treasurer - Rick McGee
Secretary - Tim Stephens
Newsletter Editor - Elbert Fields
Associate Editor - Wanda Carey Fields
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis

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

Welcome New Members

Dalton L. Ward, Jr.
1408 California Street, Apt. 503
San Francisco, CA 94109-4727

Jean W. Somerlot
671 Oakledge Drive NW
Marietta, GA 30060-6937



Come support the Earl Smith Strand Theatre as it features the Atlanta Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 770-293-0080 or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org.

The Atlanta Lyric presents the stage musical **WHITE CHRISTMAS** in December. Please go to their web site www.earlsmithstrand.org for days and times. There will be Christmas music played on the Mighty Allen Theatre Organ before each show.

Movie Magic and Birthday Bashes

The Earl Smith Strand Theatre invites you to its 4th birthday celebration on Saturday, January 5th beginning at 7 pm with the cocktail hour: 7:30 organ pre-show with singers Catherine Rhodes and Joe Arnotti (the two soloists at the Ron Carter and Friends November ATOS program); 8 pm with a live stage show featuring songs from the movies—Cheek to Cheek from Top Hat to My Heart Will Go On from Titanic; Kids on Broadway musical review; then take a trolley ride to the home of former Governor and Mrs. Roy Barnes for drinks and desserts. Each guest will also receive a Marietta square gift bag valued at \$100. Tickets may be purchased by contacting Ron Carter at 770-428-4809 or at ronhcarter@msn.com. Tickets are \$100 and are tax deductible. Black Tie Requested!

Just announced — Strand January Classic Movies with organ pops pre-show and sing-a-long organists TBA

- **GONE WITH THE WIND**, January 11th, 8 pm, organ pre-show at 7:30 pm
- **CASABLANCA**, January 12th, 8 pm, organ pre-show at 7:30 pm

***Directions to the Burud Residence
11 Parlor Circle, Sharpsburg, GA, 770-463-1222***

Head south on I-85 towards Peachtree City and Newnan. Take Exit 56 – Collinsworth Rd / Palmetto (about 15 miles south of the loop, on I-85). At the top of exit ramp, turn LEFT and go over Interstate. Immediately on the other side (just past the northbound exit) turn RIGHT on Canongate Rd. Travel 2 miles to first stop sign. Turn LEFT on Palmetto-Tyrone Rd. Drive 1 mile and French Village Subdivision will be on your Left.

Turn into subdivision and road will become Frontier. Third side street will be Parlor Circle. The house is on the corner. For those who like to use mapquest.com, address is: 11 Parlor Circle, Sharpsburg, GA 30277

Year 2013 ACATOS Nominations/Elections Announcement

The Annual Meeting of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is scheduled for December 16, 2012 at the home of David and Lori Burud at 3:00 pm. (Details on Page 1—Directions above)

As provided in the chapter bylaws, the annual election of officers and directors shall take place at this meeting. In addition to the names listed below, any qualified chapter member may present themselves as a candidate for office or as a director by written notification to Mr. Tim Stephens, 2883 Sumac Drive, Atlanta, GA 30360-1449 (tcstephens@gmail.com), or may be nominated from the floor during the Annual Meeting. The nominees for office and board are:

Officers

President: Tim Stephens - **Vice President:** Bob McKoon - **Secretary:** Kathy Lanegger - **Treasurer:** Rick McGee
Newsletter Editor: Elbert Fields - **Strand Project Chair:** Ron Carter - **Page Project Chair:** Jack Sandow

Directors at Large

Ken Double - Bob Fountain - Randy Hendry - Lee Lanier - Brad Sorano - David Tuck

Director Emeritus – Bucky Reddish

Update on the Page at Stephenson High School

The convention is now about 7 months away and preparations continue. It is going to be a great event. And, it's a time to show off our new Page Organ installation at Stephenson High School. There is much good news to report.

The console re-wiring is complete; cleaner; more serviceable; and more professional. Congrats to Bob Haag and Rick McGee, along with Tim Stephens and Randy Hendry. This was a monumental task, and while a bit of "one step backwards" it was well worth the subsequent "two steps forward!"

Through the cooperation of A. E. Schleuter Pipe Organ Company, good friends to ACATOS (thank you Art and Arthur Schleuter!!!), needed repairs are being done to the chestwork as John Tanner provides his expertise. In addition, Rick McGee and Larry Donaldson and the Alabama crew will be

working on needed repairs and/or rebuilding of tremulants and other components.

There is much more work to be done, and some of it cannot be done on a strictly "volunteer" basis. We have asked before, and you have been generous. Thus, we ask again. Might you donate once more to help ACATOS get "over the top" in getting the Page Organ completed? Specific items:

- Materials for rebuilding components - \$2500
- 11 remaining chests - \$7800
- Repair and voicing reed ranks - \$12,700

Along with other odds and ends that is a formidable list, but we have some dollars in hand; some dollars pledged; and convention proceeds that will eventually help replenish the chapter treasury. But we need every bit of assistance we can muster.

We are at the end of 2012, thus, it is for many, a good time to give for tax

purposes. ACATOS is an IRS-recognized 501c3 organization. It could be advantageous for some, and we suggest you consult a tax or accounting professional to determine if it is advantageous for you.

We have not made this plea for a while because we know you have given in the past, not only to the Page, but to the Strand project as well. Can you dig in once more? I hope so. It's time the Page was singing forth at full volume!!

Please make a donation to the chapter's Page Organ Fund and help us complete this project! Help us show off this new installation for the convention! Thank you.

Ken Double and Jack Sandow

Note: Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**, mark for Page Organ Fund **and** mail to: Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426

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introduced our emcee (and one of the artists) for the day, Mr. Ron Carter.

The Show:

First up - Ron Carter at the GW-IV for four selections (three from the year 1928): "Home in Pasadena," "Lazy Day," "O Divine Redeemer," and "Bless This House." Four distinct styles and equally distinct presentations.

Next, showing great strides in talent and performance ability, Master Jake Carter (aka THE PHANTOM.) Jake offered and surprised us all with his selection combining the opening from J. S. Bach's immortal Toccata (BWV 575 - for the AGO who might be in the audience) and the Phantom's theme from Lloyd Weber's "The Phantom of the Opera."

Then, Miss Abby Grace Carter graced the piano and joined Jake for an organ-piano duet "In the Hall of the Mountain King."

Abby accompanied herself at the piano with a vocal solo "Turning Page" from the recent "Twilight" film series.

Ron returned to the GW-IV to present a great and seldom heard ballad "A Garden in the Rain" from the film: Pittsburgh - 1928 also!

Next, our two guest artists from the Strand Theatre in Marietta, Catherine Rhodes - soprano and Joe Arnotti -

actor / singer. They were accompanied by Ron on the GW-IV and offered good old-time Hollywood-style presentation of the selections "Younger Than Springtime," "Something Wonderful," "I Have Dreamed." This could have been a segment from a good Hollywood romantic musical - pro all the way !!

Ron then offered us an Al Jolson medley: "Mammy, I'll Sing About You," "I'm Sitting on Top of the World," "Blue Skies," "California, Here I Come," "Sonny Boy," and the classic "Mammy."

A series of multi-artist selections came next: "Give Thanks" - Ron on piano - Abby and Jake vocal duet / "Come Back to Sorrento" Abby on the piano, Ron at the GW-IV / "Trumpet Tune" Jake on the piano - Ron on the GW-IV. A musical trio to be watched in the future, for sure !!

Ron then offered "Waltzing Matilda" variations on the tune featured in the film "On the Beach."

To conclude, the collaborations grew - "People Will Say We're In Love" with Catherine and Joe offering us a true Rogers & Hammerstein moment - then all vocalists - Abby, Jake, Catherine and Joe joined as Ron accompanied for a full-out closer - "You'll Never Walk Alone." !!!

After this, the door prizes were awarded, and the much-anticipated feast

from the Carter Kitchens (who else, but Donna - and her magic touch - left nothing else to say but a grateful "Thank You" from all in attendance. This was a November meeting to remember !!!

Offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased (and still full) ear! Remember, the walls / chambers, kitchen and balcony all have ears!!

Comments from a non-ATOS guest

What an awesome afternoon !!! First, walking into your home, ablaze with fantastic Thanksgiving scenes, pictures, sculptures, leaves, colors, and smells of the season. Then, being surrounded by some of the friendliest people I can imagine, all introducing themselves and smiling. Next, having our host and hostesses greet us as if we were just the two people they had been waiting for, all afternoon. In addition, meeting the talented friends and grandchildren of the host - what a delightful surprise.

We knew we would be in for a treat, with Ron's playing and Donna's cooking. But what we didn't know was that it all would be wrapped up in a magical package and tied with an out-of-this-world bow, complete with streamers which - even now - have followed us home.

Roberta Roberts

Organists, Pianists, Instrumentalists Needed for Christmas at Callanwolde

Christmas at Callanwolde is Friday Dec 7th—Tues Dec 18th We still need organists each morning and evening for one-hour time slots 10 am to 11 am except for the two Sundays which are 11 am to 12 am and then in the evenings from 3 pm to 4 pm except for the two Sundays which are 4 pm to 5 pm. All organists will receive two tickets to CAC plus two drink tickets and can park on the property. This year they will have a grand piano in the music room and need volunteers to play each day from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm and 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm except for the two Sundays when the times are from 12:30 from to 1:30 pm and from 2 pm to 3 pm. We also can use other instrumentalists/vocalists in the music room during these times in lieu of or in addition to the piano. All participants will receive tickets, parking as the organists. If you can do any of these times please e-mail me at ronhcarter@msn.com.

Ron Carter

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- December 7 & 8 (Friday & Saturday) 7:30 pm -10:30 pm, Bob Fountain playing at McKinnon’s Louisiane Restaurant, no cover charge (Note: This is in addition to Bob’s usual Wednesday night programs)
- **December 16, (Sunday), 3:00 pm, December meeting at the Burud residence with Larry Davis at the GW-IV (See Page 1)**
- December 17, (Monday) 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:00 pm), Larry, Carols & Mo at the Fox Theatre, Tickets Required. (See article below)

***Larry, Carols & Mo at the Atlanta Fox on Monday December 17th
Doors open at 6:00 pm, Sing-Along begins at 7:00 pm***

Once again the Atlanta Fox Theatre will be presenting Larry, Carols & Mo including an organ concert and sing-along with organist in residence Larry-Douglas Embury playing the Mighty Mo organ and featuring emcee Tom Sullivan, the Song of Atlanta Show Choir, the Gwinnett Young Singers and The Fox Theatre Rising Stars. The movie will be “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” starring Jim Carrey. There will also be snow on Peachtree Street and inside the Fox, plus photos with Santa. This is a ticketed event and tickets are limited. Please visit foxtheatre.org for full details. The Fox will be accepting donations for Toys for Tots and the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

Do you own an organ? _____ If so, description _____

Membership Category (check one): Patron (\$300 and up) Sponsor (\$200 - \$299)
 Contributor (\$100 - \$199) Donor (\$36 - \$99) Basic (\$35) Student (\$17.50)

Send Newsletter via email: Yes No

Please make check payable to ***Atlanta Chapter, ATOS***
 Mail to: Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426