

SUNDAY DECEMBER 11, 3 PM
CHRISTMAS PARTY/MEETING/PROGRAM
RICK MCGEE RESIDENCE

**ACATOS CLOSSES OUT
THE YEAR AT RICK'S**

The Atlanta Chapter December meeting will be at the home of Rick McGee with an opportunity to see, hear and play his glorious Allen TO-5, the five-manual colossus in his music room.

The program will feature what might be termed "The Best of the Best" as it will be an open console affair with a chance for all who wish to play this magnificent instrument.



So, shine up your organ shoes, dust off some old favorite Christmas hymns and holiday favorites, and plan to be part of the show. Our chapter boasts a whole array of outstanding musicians and those attending will be in for a



**OUTSIDE THE BOX, ON
THE SQUARE**

It was everything but your normal open house event on Sunday, November 6, as folks lined into the Earl Smith Strand Theatre for an afternoon of entertainment centered around the mighty theatre organ. This year's annual production of "Ron Carter and Friends" returned to the Strand Theatre, but this time it was more than a monthly Chapter meeting for ATOS Atlanta – it also served as an open house and appreciation event for the Strand's friends and patrons.

With the sounding of the gong, Chapter President Larry Davis and ATOS President Ken Double warmly welcomed the crowd and introduced Ron Carter at the console of the Mighty Allen GW-IV theatre organ. The four-manual console rose from the pit as

toes began tapping to the sounds of Gershwin's "I Got Rhythm", and the scene was set for a musical journey through Broadway and the Great American Songbook. From the pen of Irving Berlin came the next two selections: "How About Me?" and "Remember". Keeping with the theme of remembrance, Ron transitioned into "Try to Remember" from the 1960 musical *The Fantasticks*. It was at this point when the audience was introduced to the incredible voice of Catherine Moulton.

The next stop on the afternoon's tour of Broadway was Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady*, as Catherine glided across the stage performing "I Could Have Danced All Night". Then, from *A Connecticut Yankee*, "My Heart Stood Still". One of the most unique moments of the afternoon's performance came as the silver screen lit up to show the ending of the 1936 film *San Francisco*. As Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy paced through the sea of tents in Golden Gate Park, Ron joined in on organ and Catherine in voice to "Nearer, My God, to Thee" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic". Ron and Catherine's powerful accompaniment truly brought this moving scene to life.



**Merry
Christmas**

potpourri of musical excellence.

There will be one major piece of business as it will be election time for officers and board members. If there is a member who wishes to place their name in nomination for a post on the board, contact Chapter President Larry Davis. (More on Page 3)

Directions to Rick's home
on Page 3.

As the screen disappeared behind the curtain, shades of Benny Goodman filled the spotlight as Catherine started into "I'm Gonna Love That Guy". Ron Carter then showed off some of the more orchestral sounds of the Mighty Allen with Eric Coates' "Bird Songs at Eventide", complete with bird chorus. On the heels of Halloween and *The Phantom of the Opera* season (as it seems), Ron was joined by Christine (Catherine Moulton) and The Phantom (Joel Rose) for a handful of numbers from the Webber musical, including the title song, "The Music of the Night", and "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again".

After a brief intermission, the projector fired up once more to show the trailer for the 1955 film *The Dam Busters*, with Ron showcasing another Coates tune – "The Dam Busters March". The tempo was then slowed for a most beautiful arrangement of Hal Hopson's "The Gift of Love" followed by Joel Rose's performance of "This Nearly Was Mine" from the movie *South Pacific*. Once more the screen illuminated – this time with Audrey Hepburn and George Peppard in the closing scene to *Breakfast at Tiffany's*.

(Continued on page 2)

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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

Chapter President - Larry Davis
Vice President - Ken Double
Treasurer - Rick McGee
Secretary - Randy Cobb
Newsletter Editor - Elbert 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

Bianca and Joseph McAleer



**President's
Message...**

An End-of-Year
Report

I often say it. What are our three goals: to preserve the historic theatre pipe organs that come into our care, to preserve the art of playing the theatre organ, and to present the theatre organ to audiences who are not part of our movement. So, as 2016 ends, how are we doing, and how has our year gone?

We have made great progress on our Page Organ. With the tonal finishing by Carlton Smith and Clark Wilson, the

organ, in the words of the donor of the instrument, the late Walt Winn, "sounds better than it ever has in its entire life." We are moving forward to make changes recommended by Clark and Carlton and to finish the console and complete all the inner workings. We meet on Saturdays to work and to play. Come join us when you can.

The Imperial Wurlitzer is safely stored at the theatre in Augusta and awaits funding to reinstall it in the theatre. Efforts a decade ago by this chapter provided the opportunity for this instrument to have a future.

The Tivoli Wurlitzer that we have adopted as our project is in good condition and with the help of our sister chapter in Alabama, the Tibias are re-leathered and the organ is being maintained and used when the occasion arises. And it's great to have two Chattanooga organists, Grant Wolf and Buddy Shirk, participating in the public performances!

In Savannah, a local group has taken the lead in fundraising for the reinstallation of the Lucas Wurlitzer that is owned by our chapter. This organ was rescued by our friend and recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award, Edd "Doc" Simmons and later once again by our chapter with the support of Art Schlueter. We will pass on more information as things develop.

Our efforts to present the theatre organ outside of our own circles have been very successful this year. In addition to our many, many programs at the Strand – the Strand Allen is the most-used chapter instrument that we have thanks to the efforts of Ron Carter - we've used the Page Organ for school programs at Stephenson, and for the first time, our Allen LLQ324 was very successfully used for a public performance at Marietta High School. The Chattanooga Tivoli, the Rylander in Americus, the Grand in

Fitzgerald are all places where theatre organs are available for public use.

But that's not all: In March, we had the great privilege of presenting the incomparable Richard Hills on the Grande Page to an audience that included members of the AGO, some of the faculty and a large group of SHS students. In July, we hosted the AGO's Pipe Organ Experience for young people and in August held a joint meeting with the AGO at the Strand with organists from that organization playing the theatre organ.

Thanks to the support of chapter members, the Page has made great progress and we've used it for chapter programs (Double, McAlpin), but we have also been welcomed in the homes of the McKoons (McCall, Davis), the Buruds (David himself), Mr. Double for an "inside picnic", Mr. McGee this month, and in the return of Walker RTO Opus 1 at Ted Barnett's home (Double). And we had a very, very special final meeting, and the closing chords on the Hammond at the Fox Theatre apartment of one of our founders, the legendary Joe Patten with Lloyd Hess at the keyboards.

And that brings us to our losses, which in the past 15 months have been great. With the loss of so many people who played an important role in our chapter and in the greater theatre organ world, we feel much poorer – but we are truly richer for we have our memories and the legacy they left behind. We feel poorer, but we are richer for their lives. So let's remember with joy our friends Kenn Fields, Gordy Johnson, Fred Boska, Bucky Reddish, James Thrower, Larry Embury, Joe Patten, Walt Winn, and most recently, Sherwood Merchant and Don Weiss.

A new year comes and an opportunity to add to their legacy.

Larry Davis

OUTSIDE THE BOX, ON THE SQUARE (Continued from page 1)

Ron and Catherine joined in with Mancini's "Moon River", allowing the audience to once again experience the film as never before. "We'll Gather Lilacs" once more featured the incredible soprano voice of Catherine Moulton, along with "Hello, Young Lovers" from *The King and I*. Finally, "Auf Wiedersehen" appropriately brought the afternoon to a close.

Thank you, Ron, for a truly entertaining afternoon filled with fun and "outside the box" surprises! Thank you to Catherine and Joel for sharing your incredible talents! And thank you to all of our friends at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre for hosting such a special event and opening your doors to not only ATOS Atlanta, but to all of your friends and patrons so that everyone could experience the magic on the Square!

The Foxy Vox

In accordance with the chapter by-laws the Board of Directors submits the following nominations for officers and board members for the year 2017. As per those bylaws, notice was distributed at the November meeting. The by-laws provide that further nominations should be submitted to the Secretary (Randy Cobb) no later than two weeks prior to the annual business meeting on December but since that meeting will be held earlier in the month, the time frame is extended until one week before the election (December 4) so that those receiving notice via the newsletter will have an opportunity to participate in the nominating process. The annual business meeting will be at the December chapter meeting at Rick McGee's home at 3 pm on December 11.

PRESIDENT – Larry Davis
 VICE-PRESIDENT – Tim Stephens
 SECRETARY – Ted Barnett
 TREASURER – Rick McGee
 NEWSLETTER EDITOR – Elbert Fields

PAGE PROJECT CHAIR— Jack Sandow
 STRAND PROJECT CHAIR – Ron Carter
 MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:
 Lee Lanier , Randy Hendry, Mike Hutcherson,
 Bob Fountain — John Tanner

Closing Chord — Sherwood Merchant

Chapter member Sherwood Merchant passed away on October 18 at the age of 94 just shy of his 95 birthday.

Sherwood and his wife Peggy were regular attendees at Chapter programs for the last 8 years. You may remember seeing him with his WWII baseball cap on having served with General George Patton's Third Army. He was quite a personality. He graduated from Atlanta's Commercial High in 1940 and his first job was manager of the Euclid Theatre in Little Five Points!! He was very active in community organizations having held every office in the Capitol Area Kiwanis, served in the Salvation Army for over 45 years, and

in the United Methodist Church for 80 years holding every local church office except Pastor. One of his most famous quotes was "I don't have any enemies they have all died!" I remember meeting Sherwood for the first time at Stephenson HS. He always had a smile and a good word. He loved theatre organ music. Sherwood would take the time to hand write me personal notes after my theatre organ programs and he and I talked frequently on the phone. In fact during our last conversation he said "Ron I'm ready to go". We will miss you Sherwood a great American from the finest generation! Peggy we hope you will continue being with us in ATOS.

Ron Carter

Directions to the McGee residence in Vinings at 3600 Tanglewood Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA 30339-4226, 770-289-5942

From Cobb Parkway (US41) just north of the Chattahoochee River, go west on Paces Mill Road

From Atlanta Road, go east on Paces Ferry Road SW

From I-285 Exit 18, go east on Paces Ferry Road SW

Turn south on New Paces Ferry Road SW in “downtown Vinings” east of the railroad track

If you come up Paces Mill, you will pass the Methodist church and the Paces Pavilion / Vinings Inn buildings. You will come to a traffic light. Go straight through and you are now on Paces Ferry. At the second traffic light, turn left and you will be on New Paces Ferry. If you reach the railroad tracks, you have gone too far.

If you come from Atlanta Road or I-285, once on Paces Ferry – at the bottom of the hill you will pass a QuikTrip, cross over the railroad tracks, and turn right at the first traffic light and you will be on New Paces Ferry.

Once on New Paces Ferry, it is level for a short distance and then goes downhill to a sharp left curve. As you start downhill, look straight out your windshield – Rick's house is directly in front of you. After the curve, Tanglewood Drive is the first right. The driveway is just to the right in the bend of the sharp curve and comes in on the back of the house.

Tanglewood runs south from New Paces Ferry Road SW — Rick's house is at the intersection of the two. You may park on either Tanglewood or New Paces Ferry, but be careful not to block the driveways adjacent to Rick's driveway.

Parking will be limited, and if you park in the Jubilee shopping center diagonally across from the house (in the bend of the curve), stay to the outer edges. Do not park in the parking lot where La Paz / Mellow Mushroom are – their lot is very limited, and could cause towing issues. You can come to the front or back doors – whichever is easiest. There two steps at the front, and no steps at the back.

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- **December 11, 3 pm Christmas party/meeting/program at Rick McGee's home in Vinnings**
- **Christmas at Callanwolde:** Still need organists to play. Contact Ron Carter at ronhcarter@msn.com. The event runs from November 28th through December 13. The organ plays from 11 am to 4 pm each day.
- **January 22, 2017, 2 PM** - For our January meeting, we will be joining the Alabama Chapter as the present international young artist Nathan Avakian and his unique musical styling on the Mighty Wurlitzer of the Alabama Theatre. This is a ticketed event but the chapter will be covering the cost of the tickets for our members. There will be more information in the January newsletter.
- **Strand: Christmas traditions:** Chapter organists will be playing 30 minutes before each show. Come and support the Strand and the presentation of the Chapters GWIV theatre organ. Here are the dates and times: Dec 8, 9, and 10th at 8 pm, Dec 11th 3 pm. Dec 15h, 16, 17th at 8 pm. Dec 18th at 3 pm. Dec 20th and 21st at 8 pm.
- **Its a Wonderful Life Marathon:** Take a break from the hectic Christmas shopping and come to one of the four screenings of this Christmas Classic December 22nd at 12, 3, 6 and 9 pm with organ pre-shows 30 minutes before each show.



Empire two-manual theatre organ. This instrument belongs to Linda Johnson and she has asked my help in selling it. It was purchased by Gordy and Linda about 15 years ago. Gordy and Linda are long time Atlanta Chapter members. Gordy passed away last year. It is an all digital instrument with moving stop tabs and midi atraps and four tremulants. Two small external speaker cabinets come with the organ in addition to a Korg X5D5 sound module. See the attached photo and specification. The organ is in like new condition. This would make a great home practice instrument. Asking \$1995. If interested please contact Ron Carter at ronhcarter@msn.com



Empire Theatre Organ Specifications

<p>ACCOMPANIMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trumpet 8' Open Diapason 8' Tibia Clausa 8' Concert Flute 8' Viole D'Orchestre 8' Vox Humana 8' Octave 4' Tibia Piccolo 4' Flute 4' Vox Humana 4' Twelfth 2 2/3' Piccolo Flute 2' Solo to Accompaniment Percussion to Accompaniment 	<p>SOLO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuba Profunda 16' Diaphone 16' Tibia Clausa 16' Contra Viole II 16' Trumpet 8' Open Diapason 8' Tibia Clausa 8' Viole D'Orchestre 8' Orchestral Oboe 8' Vox Humana 8' Tibia Piccolo 4' Viole 4' Tibia Twelfth 2 2/3' Tibia Piccolo 2' Tibia Tierce 1 3/5' Tibia Fife 1' 	<p>PEDAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuba Profunda 16' Diaphone 16' Tibia Clausa 16' Bourdon 16' Tuba Horn 8' Open Diapason 8' Tibia Clausa 8' Flute 8' Pedal Sustain Accompaniment to Pedal Percussion to Pedal
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<p>Tuned Percussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Piano Honky Tonk Xylophone Glockenspiel Chrysglott/Vibraphone Chimes 	<p>Accompaniment Traps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snare Drum Tom Tom Hi Hat Tambourine Wood Block Tap Cymbal 	<p>Pedal Traps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bass Drum Tap Cymbal Crash Cymbal 	<p>Touch Pads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snare Roll Crash Cymbal 	<p>Tremulants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tibia Main Reed Vox
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General Information

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-61 Note Manuals 6 Adjustable General Pistons Transposer +2 to -4 Reverberation Controls Volume Slider: Accompaniment Pedal Percussion traps Horseshoe Console 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 32 Note Radiating Concave Pedalboard 8 Memory Bank Switch Voicing Variation A/B Depth and Speed Control Measurements: Width - 60.5" Height - 48" w/o Music Desk Depth - 27.5" Depth w/Pedalboard - 46" Finish: White Satin, Polished White Polished Walnut
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CHURCH ORGAN CONCEPTS

THAT NOTEABLE DIFFERENCE

Patent
Kinsale
Clusia County (352) 726-2133
Nation Wide (800) 909-8863

Handwritten notes on the spec sheet include: 'QUALITY DIFFERENCE IN SPEAKERS AND TONE BOARD', 'MIDI ORCHESTRAL VOICES', 'WALNUT ELITE MATERIAL - (WALNUT)', 'CHRYSGLOTT', 'COMPARIS', 'SET CHANGE + VIBR?', 'TUBA PROFUNDA', 'FRONT OF TUBA HORN', and 'NO ORGANIST REQUIRED'.