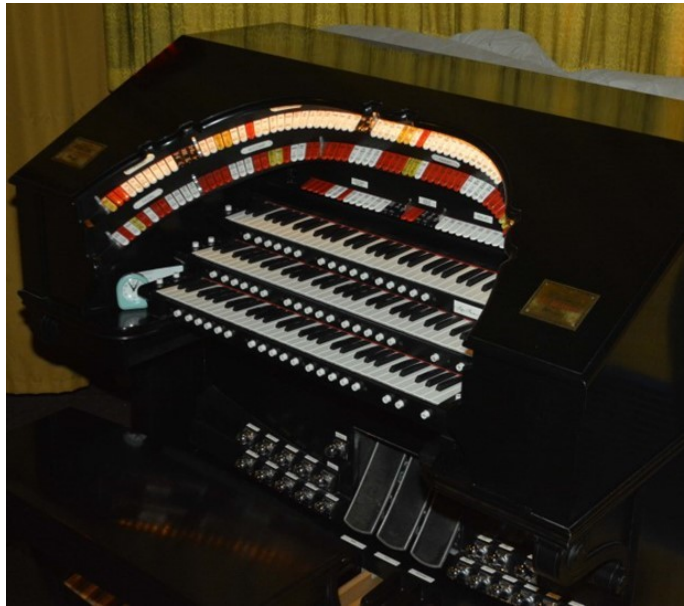


# ATOS Atlanta

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



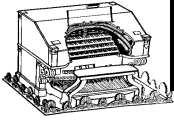
**December Chapter Meeting at the Plaza Theatre  
Election of Officers and ACATOS Renewal  
Saturday, December 19 - 11:30am  
Rick McGee at the Console**



Please renew your ATOS Chapter membership if you haven't done so.



Level	Base	Cap
Student	\$17.50	
Basic	\$35.00	
Donor	\$36.00	\$99.00
Contributor	\$100.00	\$199.00
Sponsor	\$200.00	\$299.00
Patron	\$300.00	And up



## A Letter from your President



### THE MOST WONDERFUL, AND IMPORTANT TIME OF THE YEAR

As the Christmas song says, “It’s the MOST wonderful time of the year!” And we hope that between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Hannukah or however you celebrate, we have some manner to close out the difficult year of 2020 with smiles, with family and friends, and with hope for a far better 2021.

Meanwhile, we have important information to pass along. In just a few days, every member of the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS will receive an envelope in the mail. This is what makes this the most important time of the year. There are four items inside the envelope:

1. The official ballot for the election of officers and board members for 2021. This ballot includes a slate of candidates which you may simply approve. It also has a space for write-in candidates.
2. A letter explaining the election process, and information on renewing your dues.
3. A form which you can fill out to renew your dues.
4. A self-addressed stamped envelope so you can mail in the ballot and your dues.

Note – you may also renew online by credit card, which is safe and simple. The instructions are in the letter and we encourage you as strongly as possible to place a check mark on the slate, or write-in candidates for election. And to please, if possible in these tough times, renew your membership with an additional donation, and support us in ACATOS.

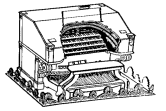
In these pages you will read about our most enjoyable meeting at the Strand Theatre; our upcoming meeting at the Plaza Theatre; and, an update on the Page Pipe Organ at Stephenson High School, which has undergone a bit of a facelift!

We hope to see you at the Plaza Theatre. Be on the lookout for that envelope! And have a safe, wonderful, joyous holiday time, and our most sincere wishes for a GREAT New Year in 2021. I know I plan on an extra sip or two of champagne on New Year’s Eve. One sip to congratulate myself on surviving 2020; and a second BIG sip in hopes of great things to come in 2021!

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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 - Ron Carter  
 Treasurer - Rick McGee  
 Secretary - Bill Thompson  
 Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless  
 Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis  
 Board members:  
 John Alford  
 John Tanner  
 Eddie Hulsey, Jr.  
 Larry Davis  
 Randy Hendry  
 Lee Lanier  
 Strand Project – Ron Carter  
 Page Project – Jack Sandow



## A STOP TAB MAKEOVER FOR OUR GRANDE PAGE

Four years ago, Clark Wilson and Carlton Smith came to Atlanta for some major work on our chapter-owned Page pipe organ at Stephenson High School. This included major tonal finishing, which is one of the reasons the Page sounds so fantastic, and is such fun to play.

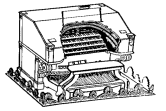
At that time, Clark made several suggestions regarding the stop layout that made good sense. We also acquired the Krumet Horn rank that was original to the Page and brought it back for installation. All this dictated that the stop rails be removed from the console, and sent off to Rick McGee for yet another change in the name and order of the stop tabs.

on November 21<sup>st</sup>, Rick, Bob Haag, Ken Double, John Tanner and Larry Davis spent time at the school to make the console look whole again, and reinstall those gorgeous, colorful and jam-packed stop rails back into the white and gold console. Bob Haag spent time re-connecting all of the stops and reassembling all of the cabling.

Randy Hendry will devote his energies to a new “definition file” for the relay system which will reflect the stop changes, and the organ will be back in business. And that will come after John Tanner and his mates get that new rank wired in; move the Trumpet rank and wind its new tremulant; and all of the various and sundry tasks that work together to make a theatre pipe organ play.

Our thanks to ALL who work on the Page, and help make it sound absolutely magnificent!



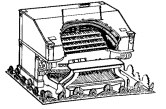


**December Chapter Meeting  
The Plaza Theatre  
1049 Ponce de Leon Avenue - Atlanta, GA  
Saturday, December 19 - 11:30am**

Rick McGee will provide the music for our meeting on the Chapter's Allen LLQ324 console. Please join us for an enjoyable and informative meeting. We will begin at 11:30am and need to be out of the theatre before 1:00pm. Masks are required, and we will follow social distancing for seating.

It is the meeting for electing officers and board members for 2021, and for your renewal of membership in our chapter. You will receive additional information under separate cover.





## *Five for Playing... "A Strand-a-ganza"*

It is understandable that in these times our numbers would be unusually small; and regrettable that the Atlanta Chapter had one of its lightest audiences in history. In contrast, five organists gave unique and stellar performances last Sunday, November 15 on the Chapter's George Wright four-manual Allen at the Strand Theatre, Marietta.

The players included one of our newer performers in the opening spotlight: Debbie Chambless. Debbie presented a refreshing set of selections proving she is no novice at the theatre organ. Whether interpreting popular or sacred music there is a dynamic energy that makes one sit up a little more attentively when she takes the Allen through its paces. Her selections included two from across the pond: the Beatles' *When I'm Sixty-Four* in honor of her husband, Daryl's attaining the song's title, and *Can You Feel the Love Tonight?*—the runaway Disney hit made famous by Elton John. Her sensitive *Hallelujah* showed her solid gospel and sacred training and yet another side of the Strand Allen.

John McCall followed, taking the console up with a Sinatra classic, *The Day That I Met You*. He continued with a slow and rather plaintive *That's My Desire*, featuring some of the Allen's battery of solo voices. *Since I Fell for You* and Noel Coward's nostalgic *I'll See You Again* completed his set.

It is no secret that Larry Davis is a big fan of Don Baker of New York Paramount fame. He enjoys presenting the organ with a full and rich approach which is certainly in contrast to many. And it proves the point that the theatre organ can travel in hundreds of directions to hundreds of destinations. Especially notable was his "Smile Set": *When You're Smiling* and Charlie Chaplin's beautiful *Smile*. This selection was quite appropriate as Chaplin, the composer, also was a theatre organ owner. He had a small Robert Morton in his elegant Hollywood home. Larry's final piece was the nostalgic *We'll Meet Again*—a World War II song made famous by Britain's Vera Lynn; possibly one of the most remembered "anthems" on both sides of the Atlantic.

Ken Double is no stranger to the Atlanta Chapter; in fact, he is no stranger to the universe of the theatre organ. His playing was consistently inventive, crisp, and dead-on accurate. His arrangements were refreshing and perfectly suited to the Allen's resources. Ken's musicality continually reminds this reviewer, and thousands of others, "Now, this is how it is done and done right." Among Double's well-chosen set was *Everything's Coming Up Roses* (from the play and later film *Gypsy*). This one has almost been done to death. But when this organist "double downs" there is a fresh, chill-bump interpretation of the perfect console riser. His *When My Baby Smiles at Me* showed his talent in transforming the organ into a small jazz ensemble. To this reviewer it was a significant selection since Al Melgard (one of Ken's early instructors) introduced this song to me in one of his many recordings on the behemoth Barton organ at the Chicago Stadium.

It surprises no one that Ken's experience in the broadcast field places him among the best in being a spokesperson for the instrument. And after he descended, Ken took over Ron Carter's job as master of ceremonies, enabling him to present the Strand's house organist for not only his musicianship but honoring his unwavering tenure of dedication to the Strand, its programming, its fund-raising and its promotion.



Ron Carter's fifteen minutes in the spotlight was memorable. To this reviewer, it was some of his most inspired playing. And it was a fitting way to finish the afternoon with a presentation by a gentleman who perhaps knows this organ best. His (what I would term) *Thanksgiving Fantasy* was a marvelous tapestry of themed melodies that included *Come Ye Thankful People Come* and *Bless This House*. Ron occasioned this as a time to also show the Allen untremmed and in its most ecclesiastical provenance. The Strand organ teamed with Ron Carter can hold its own with straight, classically voiced organs! His film theme from *The High and Mighty* will not be forgotten either. The composition has marvelous harmonic transitions and Mr. Carter achieved them in a supreme display of technique and *soul*.

The matinée of chapter organists did not actually stop when Carter took the Allen back to the bottom of the pit. Some exceedingly fine playing continued during the initial time of open console. Rick McGee advertised his upcoming December concert at Atlanta's Plaza Theatre in the best possible way...by playing magnificently on an Allen "cousin." It was remarkable to realize that despite some serious physical issues which might have limited most organists, Mr. McGee--a regular at the Atlanta Fox--is in the best of form and ready to entertain us on an equally superb installation of another chapter Allen organ. If you missed the "Strand-a-ganza" do try and make it for the "Plaz-a-ganza"!

*John Clark McCall, Jr.*



May December bring you the love of family, the gift of music, and the blessing of health. Best wishes for a beautiful holiday season!