



# ATOS ATLANTA

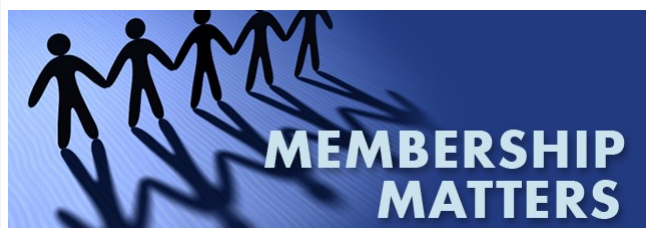
Official Newsletter of The Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



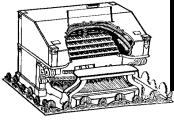
**December Chapter Meeting**  
**Saturday, December 21 - 2:30PM**  
**Ken Double and Friends**  
**Stephenson High School**  
**701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA**



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



## A Letter from your President



Mailing Address:  
Lee Lanier

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS  
220 Dunwoody Creek Circle  
Sandy Springs, GA 30350  
404-790-5400

[www.atosatanta.org](http://www.atosatanta.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta](https://www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta)

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

Chapter President - Eddie Hulsey  
Vice President - David Yackman  
Treasurer - Lee Lanier  
Secretary - Larry Davis  
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless  
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis  
Membership Director - Lee Lanier  
Board members:

Kerry Bunn  
Ron Carter  
Rick Clear  
Ken Double  
Randy Hendry

Strand Project – Ron Carter  
Page Project – Jack Sandow

Dear Friends,

I cannot fathom that Christmas is almost here, and, with it, 2025. This year has certainly flown by! The December message will be my last as the Chapter's President. I want to thank each of you for allowing me the privilege of serving. It has been a great year for us.

In addition to fabulous meetings and concerts, we have had the opportunity, thanks to a partnership with Rhythm Communications, to spread the message about our Chapter and its activities to a broader audience. The area has seen record attendance for silent films screened at the Plaza and Strand. This marketing firm has also provided some excellent help in locating grants, which are in various stages of processing. Great things are looming on the horizon.

I am most thankful for our other officers and Board. Without the hard work of these selfless and dedicated people, we would not be where we are. Debbie Chambless deserved a special note of gratitude. We have an amazing newsletter each month, far better than many other Chapters. She is so dedicated to her role as editor, and selflessly gives of her time and talents.

To those who are incoming officers and directors, I wish you the best. You have a wonderful group of members and comrades to make the Chapter even better. The year ahead looms bright with hope and opportunity.

To the members, thank you for being the greatest asset and resource the Chapter possesses. Support the Board. Attend the meetings. Enjoy the music and fellowship. By doing all this, you make the greatest difference of all. If you have not paid your dues, please be sure that you do.

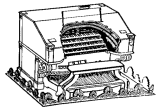
Several people have asked me about ways to contribute to the Chapter. In one of the upcoming newsletters, I am going to list several options one may want to consider.

Be sure and mark your calendars for the 2:30pm December 21st meeting at Stephenson High School! It will be a great afternoon of fun Christmas music and fellowship. We will also vote on the slate of officers for the coming year. Don't miss it-end the year on a truly high note!

Thanks again for granting me the privilege of serving. It is one of the greatest honors I have ever received. I am humbled by the experience, and I appreciate each and every one of you tremendously!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Eddie Hulsey



## **My Memories of John Clark McCall Jr.- a true southern Gentleman: PART II (By Ron Carter)**

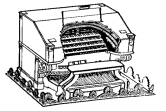


John had developed a relationship with Lane Green, the architect for the restoration of the Rylander Theatre in Americus Ga. He had introduced me to Lane at the opening ceremony of the Rylander, so through his contacts, Mr. Green was hired as the historical consultant for the Strand's restoration and made a tremendous impact on the Strand's restoration.

One situation I will never forget was as we were approaching the Grand opening of the Strand in January of 2009, Earl Reece the then Executive Director of the theatre, called me three weeks before the opening and said "Ron, we have got to have an organ for the Grand opening and you have got to do a silent comedy in the show". Our work on the Robert Morton organ from the Capitol theatre was far from complete much less installed in the Strand. In addition, because of the economy at that time our fund raising efforts had come to a standstill. I knew that John had rented out his Allen 317EX to Columbus State College, so I called and asked him if he would be willing to rent the instrument to the Strand. He immediately replied YES, but with the caveat that it be for a minimum of six months. The Strand came up with the funds and Jim Ingram, recently retired as President of Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta, agreed to go to Moultrie, GA, pick up the organ and all of its speaker cabinets at no charge, and with the help of Chapter members, the organ was installed at the Strand and I accompanied a short Harold Lloyd comedy during the show. Well, the silent film was a tremendous success and got more comments from the attendees than any other part of the show!! It was so successful that the Strand continued to use it for pre-shows and another silent film beyond the 6 month rental!! I approached the Chapter Board to see if they would purchase the organ for what John was asking at that time, a very modest 16K. The chapter would then have free use of the theatre for chapter programs and be able to partner with the Strand to produce theatre organ events. John said he would accept payment on a monthly schedule over a period of several years. And They did! The Robert Morton was sold with enough proceeds to pay off the note to John, with some left over, in less than a year.

Then manna from Heaven arrived!! At the beginning of 2010, I was contacted by Dr. Tom Hamilton of Richmond, Virginia for assistance in helping him sell his Allen GW4 with a price of 70K. Dr. Hamilton and his wife were moving to a retirement community and his GW4 was much too big for their residence. I told Dr. Hamilton that I did not know of anyone who might be interested in the instrument, but I knew of a historic theatre in Marietta where the instrument would be heard by thousands of people. I asked if he would he consider an even trade since John's 317Ex was much smaller than the GW4 and had fewer speaker cabinets. Thinking this was a real long shot I did not get my hopes up. BUT the very next day Dr. Hamilton emailed me with an affirmative YES! Well it was indeed MANNA from Heaven and the success of the GW4 and Atlanta Chapter's partnership with the Strand has been a tremendous success. This would have never happened had it not been for the generosity of John McCall!

Part III to be continued in the January newsletter



## In Memory of Our Great Friend, John McCall



### More McCall Memories

To begin with, almost everyone knows about John McCall's generous use of the transposer. For the most part, he played only in the key of C and used the transposer to move songs into other keys. He was so skillful at it that often it was not discernible unless one knew that it was his process. When he placed first in the ATOS Amateur Organist Competition about twenty years ago, I wondered if the judges didn't know, or just didn't care, about that transposer. In any case, there's no doubt he deserved the honor.

John enjoyed collaborating with other musicians. When he met Fred Boska, he found the perfect musical partner. Fred, with his perfect pitch, his exceptional musical skill, and his vast repertoire of music was perfectly capable of keeping up with John. When Fred retired and moved to Tallahassee, John took me down to the Rylander Theatre and "auditioned" me as a replacement. We pulled out the Rosalyn Carter Steinway and I chased him through various keys and songs I had never heard, but somehow he decided we could work together. And for quite a few years, we did. We collaborated on three programs for the chapter, two at Sarasota, including playing their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program, and played many shows down in Tallahassee at the McGuire Center.

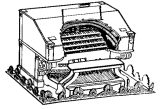
Fred had warned me that "John plays things his way, and his way is often not the way the music is actually written. You will have to learn it his way and once you do, you will find it hard to ever get back to playing it right." This fact was a great trial for Fred's perfectionist heart. One day at Tallahassee, with Fred doing some technical work in the room, John and I were rehearsing "Someone to Watch Over Me," a Gershwin composition. Fred was a serious Gershwin music scholar. John passed over the descending chords without actually playing all of them, and I got confused and was trying to show him how it actually worked (we never got there). Fred growled out from the back of the room, "Neither one of you knows what the hell you're doing!" Maybe not, but we had fun.

In one of our most memorable days, we went up to Fort Payne, AL to do a program on what is left of a former 5-rank Kilgen theatre organ now housed in the local opera house. Whatever it had been, with all the deletions and modifications, it's not much of a theatre organ at the present time, but we were both willing to make a go of it. But on the day of our planned Christmas program, upon our arrival, we found that the grand piano they had brought in was not tuned the same as the organ. They were significantly different, and there was no way that we could play them together. John and I put our heads together and reworked our program. We played separately, both of us playing on both piano and organ. But never together. John's flexibility and creativity turned what could have been a failure into what everyone there thought was a delightful program.

Playing programs with John is one of my most delightful memories.

Larry Davis





### **The Post Office Box Issue**

Hi, all! I have had some inquiries about the post office box, and I have news. After further deliberation, your board of directors has voted to keep the post office box, P.O. 657, Marietta, GA 30061 as our official address. We had earlier planned to discontinue the use of the box due to increasing expense (\$220/year) and due to the problems with the post office, both local and regional. We have been informed by Mr. Hulsey that changing our legal address to a private address will create issues with the IRS (God help us!) and the Secretary of State. Therefore, we will keep the post office box. BUT! And this is important: news reports inform us that the issues with the Marietta branch of the post office continue, and the resolution of them is still uncertain. A new postmaster has continued to turn away the media and the police about the matter, Therefore, we still recommend that if you are mailing a check for your dues, send it directly to Lee Lanier at his address at 220 Dunwoody Creek Circle, Sandy Springs, GA 30350. Of course, you can always deliver your dues to him or to me at the chapter meetings. Do not ever send cash in the mail, and if you pay in cash at a meeting, put it into an envelope with your name so we can keep us with it. Thanks to all!

Larry Davis

### **Nominations for Officers and the Board of Directors for 2024**

As announced at the November meeting, the following are the nominations for the Officers and members of the Board of Directors who are in office by election. You will notice an additional nominee has been added to the list for board members at large. As provided for in the Chapter Bylaws, if you have additional nominations, please notify the Secretary in writing at [secretary@atosatlanta.org](mailto:secretary@atosatlanta.org) making sure you have the permission of your nominee. The vote for these positions will be held at the December meeting: December 21st,, 2:30pm at Stephenson High School.

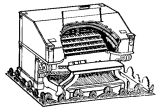
President – David Yackman

Vice-President – Ken Double

Secretary – Larry Davis

Treasurer – Lee Lanier

Board Members at Large: Kerry Bunn, Ron Carter, Rick Clear, Randy Hendry, Eddie Hulsey, David Tuck, Brady Born



Sunday, November 17th  
Carter Center for the Performing Arts

As the soft glow of a November afternoon's sun filled the elegant Carter Center for the Performing Arts, a sense of anticipation hung in the air. We were about to witness a musical journey led by the legendary Ron Carter and his talented guest, Barry Lancaster.

The recital commenced with Ron's console-riser of choice, a lively rendition of Cole Porter's "Anything Goes," showcasing the organ's vibrant timbre. Ron followed with a tender interpretation of Lyn Larsen's "I Just Don't Understand," highlighting his Allen GW-4's warm, mellow tones.

Barry Lancaster's smooth, velvety voice, reminiscent of Sinatra's golden age, effortlessly captured the essence of "Just In Time." The mood shifted seamlessly as the lush harmonies of "A Garden in the Rain" enveloped the room, transporting us to a bygone era. This poignant melody, a recurring theme in the 1942 film "Pittsburgh," was a perfect choice for a romantic interlude.

Ron Carter then lightened the mood with the playful novelty piece "I Got a Feelin' You're Foolin'." However, he quickly returned to more serious fare, utilizing the GW-4's toy counter to create realistic bird sounds for "Bird Song at Eventide." This nostalgic tune, popularized by the BBC television series "The Singing Detective," seamlessly transitioned into the romantic "We'll Gather Lilacs," a beloved song popular in the UK in the 1940s.

We then transitioned back to the vocal stylings of Barry Lancaster. His rich, soulful voice brought the classic "There'll Be Some Changes Made" to life. The timeless Sinatra melody of "If You Are But a Dream" perfectly captured the bittersweet nature of longing and hope.

Ron and Barry then led us in a heartwarming singalong. The room was filled with the spirit and warmth of Thanksgiving as we joined them in a heartfelt rendition of "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart," followed by the centuries-old "We Gather Together." The singalong concluded with a fitting rendition of "Bless This House," leaving us feeling grateful and inspired. Bless this house, indeed!

The duo then captivated the audience with a pair of mellifluous melodies. Their rendition of "It Had To Be You" was vibrant and lively. The iconic melody of "Maria" from "West Side Story" followed; a masterclass in subtlety and nuance. Ron's delicate accompaniment perfectly complemented Barry's smooth vocals.

Nearing the end of the program, Ron Carter surprised us with a bold and unexpected solo choice: Richard Harris's 1968 hit "MacArthur Park." This song, often hailed as either a masterpiece or a disaster, was given a fresh perspective through Ron's masterful arrangement. By stripping away the song's more eccentric vocal elements, he revealed its underlying beauty and timelessness. As Ron explained, the song held special significance for him and Donna, and his heartfelt performance certainly conveyed this sentiment. Richard Harris, eat your heart out!

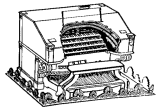


The afternoon performance concluded on a poignant note with Barry's powerful and emotive rendition of "Bring Him Home" from "Les Misérables." Ron's sensitive accompaniment perfectly complemented Barry's vocals, creating a truly unforgettable moment.

After the performance, the Carters generously offered door prizes and hosted a delightful reception. The delicious hors d'oeuvres and festive atmosphere added to the overall enjoyment of the event.

Ron and Donna Carter, thank you for once again sharing your musical talents and hospitality with us.

David Yackman



Membership Renewal Time!

Hi, all! It's time to renew your membership. We are successfully avoiding the sweep of inflation affecting everyone else thanks to the generous donations in time and money from the many members who are able to provide a little extra, your dues remain at \$35.

When you are ready to pay your dues, we urge you to use the online payment route at www.atosatlanta.org. It is quick, easy, and safe, unlike mailing a check (the issues with the various post offices continue, as you may have read). Those who still wish to mail a check, send it directly to:

Lee Lanier  
220 Dunwoody Creek Circle  
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

Do not ever send cash in the mail!!

If you renew with cash, be sure to place it in an envelope with your name before you hand it to Lee. If Lee is not available at a meeting, you may hand your envelope or check to Larry Davis. Please direct any question you may have to either one of us and we will provide an answer.

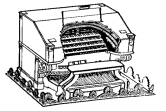
Lee Lanier, Treasurer & Larry Davis, Secretary

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"To our members, patrons, and supporters-

As you all know, ATOS Atlanta relies on donations to keep our organization moving. We believe strongly in our mission to promote theatre organ programming and preserve as many of these wonderful instruments as possible. We are appreciative of everything you all have done to support our organization, and there's never been a better day to stand behind us than Giving Tuesday.

December 3 is [Giving Tuesday](#), which is a global movement that encourages people to celebrate generosity by supporting their local nonprofits. You can join in by supporting ATOS Atlanta and allowing us to continue our work. "Help the music keep playing" - visit <https://atosatlanta.org> on Tuesday, December 3 to make a donation for Giving Tuesday."





## Upcoming Chapter Meetings

December Chapter Meeting    Saturday, December 21 - 2:30PM  
Stephenson High School  
Ken Double and Friends  
Holiday Music on the Grande Page Theatre Pipe Organ

### **Ron Carter Strand Theatre Events Pre-Shows by Strand Organists**

- December 13    Christmas Traditions - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist Ron Carter @ 7:30PM
- December 14    Christmas Traditions - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist Jay Mitchell @ 2:30PM  
8:00PM Pre-show Organist Jay Mitchell @ 7:30PM
- December 15    Christmas Traditions - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis @ 2:30PM
- December 17    A Wonderful Life -    11:00AM Pre-show Organist Eddie Hulsey @ 10:30AM  
2:30PM Pre-show Organist Eddie Hulsey @ 2:00PM  
6:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis @ 5:30PM  
9:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis @ 8:30PM
- December 18    Christmas Traditions - 7:30PM Pre-show Organist Misha Stefanuk @ 7:00PM
- December 19    Christmas Traditions - 7:30PM Pre-show Organist Debbie Chambless @ 7:00PM
- December 20    Christmas Traditions - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist Debbie Chambless @ 7:30PM
- December 21    Christmas Traditions - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist Debbie Chambless @ 2:30PM  
8:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis @ 7:30PM
- December 22    Christmas Traditions - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist Ron Carter @ 2:30PM
- December 28    When Harry Met Sally - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist Eddie Hulsey @ 7:30PM





## UPCOMING MEETINGS FOR THE ATLANTA CHAPTER

Following our December 21st meeting at Stephenson High School to hear the Grande Page pipe organ, the year 2025 holds some promise for a year of great music on all of our chapter instruments:

- Saturday, January 25th, we head to RiverCenter in Columbus where Ken Double will accompany the silent classic SUNRISE. Admission free to chapter members.
- Sunday, February 23rd, we will have a formal concert at the Strand Theatre on our Allen GW 4, artist TBA.
- Not an official chapter meeting, but there is another date, Thursday, February 13th, the Plaza Theatre will screen THE MARK OF ZORRO with Douglas Fairbanks as the swashbuckling Don Diego.
- We are in contact with three well-known touring artists for what will be great concerts during the upcoming year.
- And in April, we will have the 3rd Annual Graham Jackson Memorial Concert on the Grande Page organ.

As always, 2025 will feature a series of silent film classics at the Strand Theatre in Marietta, with Ron Carter providing his fabulous scoring skills in what is the longest running silent film series in the state of Georgia.

But new for 2025, the Plaza Theatre has scheduled five dates for silent film fun, providing an amazing opportunity for the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS to showcase its instruments.



Finally, a reminder to go to the Fox Theatre website and sign up for the FREE tickets to see **A Very Merry Mighty Mo** with Ken Double at the console. Wednesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. This year's family film is ELF with a bonus - Ken Double will accompany BIG BUSINESS with Laurel and Hardy selling Christmas trees!

