

Christmas Party at Stephenson High School Sunday Afternoon, December 15th at 3:00 pm



Our December 2013 program will be a Christmas party with open console on our Grande Page 4/16 organ at Stephenson High School in Stone Mountain on Sunday afternoon December 15th at 3:00 pm. Bring your favorite Christmas dish, and we will share the goodies and enjoy music from our members and guests.

A variety of drinks will be provided for you to enjoy with the assortment of great food in the lobby area outside the auditorium. (School regulations prohibit food or drinks inside the auditorium.)

For those of you who have wanted to play the Page, this is your chance. Come prepared, bring your music and take advantage of this opportunity to express yourself on this wonderful instrument.

About the Instrument... The following is taken from an article written by Larry Davis and used with his permission. The Grande Page theatre organ at Stephenson High School was the first of the Page Company's crown jewel, four-manual organs. It was originally installed in 1927 in the WHT radio station in the Wrigley Building in downtown Chicago. It was said to be the largest such organ ever built for a radio studio. In 1929, the WHT Page was moved to the Michigan Theatre in the town of Flint, Michigan, where it entertained theatre audiences until 1950. Later it was removed and installed by



several owners. Ultimately in 1977, the late Richard Weber (a member of the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS) acquired the Page to be used in a proposed pizza restaurant in Atlanta, Georgia. However, a different organ was ultimately installed in the restaurant, and the Page organ was stored in a warehouse owned by Winn Sound in Atlanta.

After a couple of moves to other warehouse locations for Winn Sound, the organ was purchased by Mr. Winn in 1991 and donated to the Atlanta Chapter. At that point, it was removed from the warehouse and stored in trucks at a local business. Through the late 1980's and early 1990's efforts were made to find a home for the Grande Page. It was at that time that chapter member Jack Sandow emerged as the champion of the Grande Page. He approached his friend, Dr. James Hallford, Superintendent of Schools of DeKalb County, who expressed interest in having a theatre organ placed in one of the county high

schools. Chapter members toured existing schools, but were unable to locate a suitable facility for a pipe organ. At the time, Stephenson High School in Stone Mountain, GA was in the design stage. In 1992, a meeting was held between officials of DeKalb County School System and members of the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Chapter. The school system agreed to make building modifications to a planned 500-seat theatre in the new Stephenson High School to include chamber space, an organ pit, organ console storage area, blower accommodations, and electrical and wind conduits. Jack Sandow became the project leader after the initial meeting and worked closely with Beers Construction Company and the school system's engineer as design and construction progressed.

Work has continued on the Grande Page over the years. Most of the organ has been rebuilt and plans call for adding six ranks to what you heard at the Convention. The Atlanta Chapter's Page Crew has been working untiringly to make sure the Grande Page will be ready to perform better than it ever has.

**Directions to
Stephenson HS on Page 4**

Year 2014 ACATOS Nominations/Elections Announcement

The Annual Meeting of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is scheduled for December 15, 2013 at Stephenson HS at 3:00 pm.

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, qualified chapter members 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:** Ken Double - **Secretary:** John Alford - **Treasurer:** Rick McGee
Newsletter Editor: Elbert Fields - **Strand Project Chair:** Ron Carter - **Page Project Chair:** Jack Sandow

Directors at Large

Larry Davis - Bob Fountain - Randy Hendry - Lee Lanier - Bob McKoon - James Thrower - David Tuck

Director Emeritus - Bucky Reddish

**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 - *Tim Stephens*
Vice President - *James Thrower*
Treasurer - *Rick McGee*
Secretary - *Kathy Lanegger*
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

Lyle & Brenda Letteer
P.O. Box 319
Locust Grove, GA 30284-0319
678-583-6949
w4ke@mindspring.com

John "Jay" Mitchel
4440 Myrtle Hill Road NE
Kennesaw, GA 30144-1519
770-926-2713

When I was doing some research on the theatres of Waycross Georgia, I came across this article out of the January 21, 1925 edition of the *Waycross Journal-Herald*.

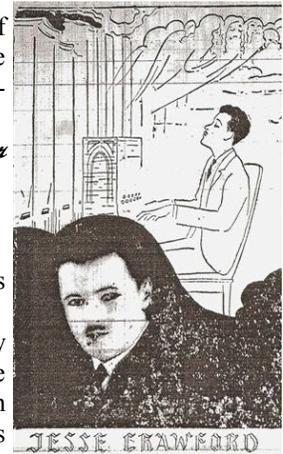
John Tanner

***EVEN ORGAN IS NOW USED
FOR SYNCOPATION***

Jesse Crawford, Organist, Explains Why He Plays Modern Music:

The organ, associated heretofore with Sunday morning in church, and the most solemn and impressive of concerts, is now joining other classical instruments in the interpretation of what, for the lack of a better name, is called "jazz."

Jesse Crawford, America's most famous organist, has succumbed to the lure of modern syncopation and is blazing a trail which will undoubtedly be followed by many other famous organ musicians. Mr. Crawford plays at the Chicago, in



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Closing Chord

Dear Friends:

With deep regret and sadness, Michael Proscia Organbuilder, Inc., announces the death of long-time friend and eight-year employee of the company, Mr. Joseph William Smith. "Joey" as he was commonly known, succumbed to a brutal and savage beating of his torso, shoulders, neck and head at the hands (and feet) of an acquaintance Joey knew along with two of that persons' "friends."

Joey's death occurred in the early morning hours of Thursday, 24 October, 2013, after having been life-flighted to the Atlanta Medical Center from his home in Bowdon, GA., where Joey and the acquaintance shared his residence. Joey was announced to be brain dead shortly after being admitted to the neurological intensive care unit of the hospital. In the midst of the horror, we learned (as was typical of his selflessness and generosity) he was an organ donor. Regretfully however, the family and G.B.I. were informed by the coroner at the time of the autopsy, that most of his organs were so badly damaged by having been repeatedly kicked, they were no longer viable. The perpetrators now face manslaughter or second degree murder charges.

Joey leaves behind his Mother, Sara, stepfather, Montgomery, half-brother, Montgomery, Jr, brother Chris, two sons, Malachi and Caymen and other relatives.

We are very proud of our beloved Joey and the many contributions he made to the company and he will be sorely missed. Requiescat in pace, my friend.

Michael Proscia

Mystery Photo

By Larry Davis



November's mystery photo was apparently a puzzler. There were a few who had seen the picture before and self-disqualified from claiming the prize. They might as well have done, since I got only one response. Initially, Rick McGee's guess was half right. He correctly identified the organ and mused that the person sitting at the console might be a young Bucky Reddish - which it isn't. Shortly thereafter, he sent me a follow-up email saying, "If that's not right, then it must be..." And the answer was correct.

This is the console of the Möller Organ located in the Macon City Auditorium. It is an organ of 61 ranks, and a few years ago, the organ and blower were discarded. The pipes remain in place in the chests in the chambers, unaltered. The person sitting at the console is none other than Joe Patten, caretaker of the greatest Möller of all.

Ron Carter and Friends



Ivy Belt Pirl (insert), Abby Carter, Joe Arnotti, Catherine Moulton, Ron Carter, Jake Carter (in front)

The Chamber Mouse, having discovered that digital organs have chambers, too, dared at the risk of his life to enter Donna Carter's home, and having escaped safely, files this report:

The annual visit to the home of Donna and Ron Carter is perhaps the most anticipated of all chapter events, and any of the 95 people in attendance this year would affirm that the always-excellent level of entertainment is the reason.

The nature of the afternoon was such that the organ in solo performance was almost the least of the events, as entertaining as it is, and the first performance of the afternoon demonstrated it effectively. As the organ opened with a rousing melody, the sound of a trumpet sounded from the balcony, carrying the melody. It was a striking and exciting moment featuring Abby Carter, Ron's granddaughter, who plays trumpet in both the marching band and the concert band, and the song was the Hillgrove High School fight song.

Following the thrilling opening, Ron performed a medley of Gershwin tunes and a patriotic medley in honor of Veteran's Day. The patriotic songs included such greats as "This is My Country," "Over There," and "God Bless America." Ron's silent film performance skills were in evidence in the transitions between songs and the exciting presentation that evoked visions of marching soldiers, flags flying and the great vistas, "purple mountain majesties and amber waves of grain." He concluded his solo set with Kern and Hammerstein's "This Song is for You."

ORGAN USED FOR SYNCOPATION (Continued from page 2)

Chicago, Ill., the largest theatre in the world. Although the public calls what he plays "jazz," he refuses so to consider.

"The public insists on calling everything "jazz" that has a dance rhythm," he explains "But there are dance rhythms and there are dance rhythms. Jazz is one thing, and American music as it is developed today is quite another.

"I think especially of one foxtrot ballad that I play very often, *"Honest and Truly"* as rhythmic and melodic a piece of

Catherine Moulton and Joe Arnotti joined Ron for a medley of Victor Herbert tunes: "When You're Away," "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life," a tune familiar to all theatre organ enthusiasts, "Kiss Me Again," and "Thine Alone."

Abby Carter with her trumpet in hand accompanied Ron in "Georgia on My Mind," and then her younger brother Jake (along with Ron) played the "King William March" on the piano, followed by "Night Journey." During that song, in a move that brought back memories of the convention, Jake moved from piano to organ and Ron from organ to piano, giving Jake his first opportunity to demonstrate his effective and entertaining pedal technique.

Ivy Belt Pirl, who teaches piano to Abby and Jake, joined the program with a classical endeavor, Liszt's *Sonetto 104 del Petrarca*, with all the skillfully executed triplets.

Catherine and Joe returned to perform a series of songs of Sigmund Romberg: "One Kiss," "Stouthearted Men," "Lover, Come Back to Me," and a duet, "One Alone."

Jake returned to the console with the *Toccata in D minor* by J.S. Bach. Move over Cameron Carpenter, here comes Jake, probably playing pedals better than CC did at his age. The cheers of the audience indicated the enjoyment from listening and watching this unique performance.

Abby performed, this time as vocalist, with Sondheim's haunting "Losing My Mind," excellently conveying the pathos of the song.

Mrs. Pirl returned with a tour-de-force arrangement of the beloved hymn, "It Is Well With My Soul."

For the final set, Mrs. Moulton and Mr. Arnotti returned with a medley of Rodgers and Hammerstein's songs: "What's the Use of Wond'rin," "This Nearly Was Mine," with a very sensitive and understated performance by Mr. Arnotti, concluding with a electric duet of "If I Loved You," with Catherine's soaring soprano lines thrilling everyone.

Ron had decided to forego his final solo, but the audience demanded it, so he played "Lucky Old Sun," before Mrs. Pirl went to the piano and all the vocalists, Abby, Jake, Catherine and Joe, came back for the grand finale, "Climb Ev'ry Mountain."



Donna Carter

It was as exciting a show as the chapter has ever experienced, and the afternoon concluded with prizes being awarded to lucky guests, and excellent refreshments provided by Donna for everyone.

The Chamber Mouse

music as any that the great writers of sentimental music have ever given us. The idea that many people have, that the masters only wrote intellectual music, is a fallacy that must be exploded, before the American public will appreciate what the modern composers are doing.

"In reality, the serious musicians of today are interpreting great themes in rhythms of the time, much as former composers interpreted great themes in the rhythms of their own periods."

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- December 9th, 7:00 pm (Monday) Larry, Carols & Mo! Annual Holiday Organ Concert and Sing-Along With Popular Holiday Movie "A Christmas Story", Tickets On Sale Monday, November 11 at 10 am.
- December 22nd, 6:00 pm, 20th Annual Nicolas Bowden & Friends concert at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, 33434 Roswell Road NW, Atlanta. www.peachtreepres.org.
- **December 15th, 3:00 pm, Christmas party and open console at Stephenson High School.**

Bob Fountain's Last Cabaret Show of 2013

Bob Fountain's final cabaret show of this year at McKinnon's Louisianne Restaurant will be held Sunday evening, December 29th. Bob will begin playing at 7 pm and the show starts at 8. McKinnon's Louisianne is located at 3209 Maple Drive in Buckhead. The usual \$3 per person cover charge applies. Everyone is welcome, so come join the fun.



Come support the Earl Smith Strand Theatre as it features the Atlanta Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. Contact the Strand Box Office at 770-293-0080, in person Monday-Friday from 9 to noon and 1 to 4, or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org.

- **A CHRISTMAS TRADITION, December 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th and 21st at 8 pm with additional 3 pm matinee performances on the 8th, 14th, 15th and the 22nd.** All shows will be preceded by a holiday pops organ concert and sing-a-long on the Strand's Might Allen Theatre Organ by house organist Ron Carter, 30 minutes before showtime. The Strand will produce its biggest and most elaborate song and dance revue. This is wonderful family entertainment showcasing awe inspiring sets and effects. It is guaranteed to make the entire family dance, clap and enjoy the spirit of the holidays. Songs spotlighted include Christmas and holiday classics like White Christmas to the funky favorites like Leroy the Redneck Reindeer! Tickets are \$25 with special pricing for groups and children.
- **STRAND HOLIDAY MOVIE SCHEDULE** - Come 30 minutes early for an organ pops preshow on the Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ by Chapter organists:
 - Friday, November 29th, 8 pm **GREASE** with **Ken Double** at the console
 - Sunday, December 15th, 8 pm **MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET** with **Larry Davis** at the console
 - Monday, December 23rd, **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE MOVIE MARATHON!**
 - 12 pm **Misha Stefanuk** at the console
 - 3 pm **Misha Stefanuk** at the console
 - 6 pm **Larry Davis** at the console
 - 9 pm **Larry Davis** at the console
 - Friday February 28th, 8 pm **The Atlanta Premier** of the Blue Ray Restored **Silent Film SAFETY LAST** starring Harold Lloyd accompanied by Ron Carter at the Strand Theatre on the Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ

Directions to Stephenson High School

From I-85 N - Turn South on Jimmy Carter Blvd. which changes to Mountain Industrial Blvd. and then Hairston at Memorial Dr. Go to the 3rd traffic light and turn left on Rockbridge Rd. When you cross the railroad tracks, continue two miles and turn right on Stephenson Rd. Go 1 mile. School is on the right.

From I-285 - Exit on Memorial and turn East toward Stone Mountain. Turn right on Rockbridge Rd. and continue. When you cross the railroad tracks, continue two miles and turn right on Stephenson Rd. Go 1 mile. School is on the right.

From I-20 West Side - Take Exit 74 and go north on Lithonia Industrial Blvd. Turn left on Stone Mt. Lithonia Rd. Go about a mile and turn right at the light onto S. Dishon Rd. Proceed approximately 1.25 miles (past a church on the right) and turn left on Alford which dead-ends into Stephenson Rd. Turn left. The school will be about 1/2 mile on your left.

School address is: 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087