

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH, 3 P.M.

Brett Valliant at the Reddish Residence

See Page 4 for
directions to the
Reddish residence.



The Artist... A native of Kansas, **Brett Valliant** began his musical training at age four. While he excelled at the piano, his dream was to play the organ. By the age of eleven he was organist for a church and fulfilling his young musical dream. Since then he has attended Wichita State University, studied classical organ with Dan Miller of Charlotte, North Carolina, theatre organ with Clark Wilson, been a featured performer on National Public Radio's *Pipe Dreams*, and performed at conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists.

At age fifteen, Valliant discovered the theatre organ, which opened his eyes to a new world of music, and a completely different style of organ playing. Today, he has toured throughout the United States, New Zealand, and Australia performing at notable venues. While at home in Wichita, Kansas he is the artist-in-residence for Wichita Theatre Organ Inc. where he plays the world renowned New York Paramount Wurlitzer organ installed in Century II Civic Center.

In the world of silent film, Brett is known for accompanying dramatic films such as *King of Kings*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Ten Commandments*, and *The Eagle*. Valliant plays annually for several film festivals including the International Film Festival, hosted by the American Film Institute.

Along with a busy performance schedule, Valliant continues his love for the classical organ while being a full time church musician at the First United Methodist Church of

Wichita. While at the church, he plays the largest pipe organs in Kansas and oversees a music department seen by thousands across the Midwest on the church's award winning television program. Brett currently has two recordings to his credit.

The Organ... Bucky's fantastic Walker RTO-335 Opus I is one of the two featured at Walker's exhibit in the Georgian Terrace Hotel during our 2004 Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend. This is a unique installation with six speaker systems on each of two opposing walls with 12 additional speakers on the balcony and in a closet area on the main floor. Subsequently, this installation was modified to add a custom 2nd pedal cabinet on the catwalk and a real blower and tremolo in a closet to give a realistic pipe-organ effect. With the 21-foot high reflective wall and hardwood floors the organ voices truly blossom and the sound is unbelievable!



President's Message... I wish to thank all the members of the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS for electing me President for 2008. I was honored, excited, and overjoyed about getting elected, then reality hit me. I realized that I had to follow our President of the last 3 years —

Larry Davis.

How do you follow someone who has been the President's President? Larry has guided (along with the other officers and board of directors) in improving our Chapter from one of the many to one of the best around! The turn-around started under John McCall and the committee of the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend in 2004. Then Larry came on board and the Chapter really took off! We are now nationally known for our membership numbers, the Page and Imperial organ projects, our outstanding programs and artists. Finally on a personal note,

the fact that Larry was willing to be Vice-President, gave me the confidence to run for President. Thanks, Larry, for a Fantastic three years as President!

Bucky Reddish

Thanks for the Donations

David & Lori Burud
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Jim & Melanie Grier
Bucky Reddish
James Thrower

In Memory of Charles Walker

Warren Williams

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 657
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0657
770-428-4091

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

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*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or*

NOTES FROM THE VP

1. It is unfortunate that the threat of inclement weather made it necessary to cancel the January meeting. Naturally, after we did, neither the weather nor the roads were as bad as predicted. It was sort of like washing your car and then it rains, so I'm glad we were able to do our part to keep the people of Georgia safe and secure in their homes and on the highways. We have rescheduled this meeting at the McKoon's to Sunday, March 9.
2. Most ATOS chapters do not have monthly meetings. We do because of the many chapter members who volunteer their homes for our meetings, and because of the many capable performers we have within our own ranks. If you are willing to host a meeting or play for one, please

PAY YOUR 2008 DUES NOW !!!

According to our By-Laws, Article VIII, dues are payable on January 1st and shall be paid within the first two months of the year.

Please pay your 2008 dues of \$35 (student \$17.50) now and don't miss out on any of the wonderful things our chapter has to offer. Members who joined during the last quarter of 2007 are deemed members for 2008. Those who have not renewed by the end of February will be dropped from the newsletter distribution list.

**Make check payable to Atlanta Chapter, ATOS and mail to:
Wanda Carey Fields
413 Concord Rd SW
Smyrna, GA 30082-4509**

get in touch with me. 2008 is being planned as you read this.

3. Those of you interested in having a copy of the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend CD may see me at the monthly meetings -- or at any other time, because I will always have copies with me. It is a two-CD set and the price is \$25. Mail orders are only being processed by the Fox Theatre; www.foxtheatre.org/shop.htm or call 404-881-2119 and ask for the Gift Shop. I am not mailing CD's.
4. We have a special event emerging for September. The Augusta arts community is sponsoring an arts/music/cultural festival called Westobou, after the Indian name for the Savannah River. We have been invited to participate as an organization. Ron Carter will play a silent

film at Sacred Heart Cultural Center, we will sponsor an organ concert at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and will have a chapter concert hosted by Bob and Amanda Polglase, at which Dolton McAlpin will be our artist. We will also have open console opportunity at the home of Dale and Susan Parrott, and an "afterglow" on Sunday evening at the newly-completed pipe-organ installation at the home of Randy and Kim Magnuson. Please let me know if you are interested in going to Augusta for this event. We need to reserve tables at the silent film program and see what we can do about obtaining some kind of deal at a hotel there, if possible.

Larry Davis

**A MONTH OF TRIUMPH FOR
THE THEATRE ORGAN PART 2 –
CHRISTMAS IN AMERICUS**

by Larry Davis

As reported last month, the month between Thanksgiving and Christmas was a wonderful time for the theatre organ, beginning north of Atlanta with the organ of the Tivoli Theatre in Chattanooga, then in Atlanta for the second annual "Larry, Carols, and Mo" at the Fox. The third event occurred south of Atlanta at the Rylander Theatre in Americus, with John McCall at the console of the Frank Sheffield Memorial Möller Organ and Dayle Harding at

the keyboard of the Rosalyn Carter Steinway Piano.

John opened with "Jingle Bells" and followed with a medley of tunes from *Meet Me in St. Louis* and continued with *Little Christmas Tree*, *Christmas Island*, and *Let It Snow*. Then John debuted the latest of his own compositions, *Windsor Wonderland*, in honor of the historic Windsor Hotel in Americus. Then Dayle took his seat at the piano for an eclectic series of songs, from *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, to *I Saw Three Ships*, to *White Christmas*, and then changed to the Roland keyboard for an orchestral solo of *Dance of the Sugar Plum*

Fairy.

Following a brief intermission, the program resumed with John and Dayle playing *The Christmas Waltz*. The console descended as the curtains parted to reveal the opening frames of Edison's *The Wrong Santa*. After this entertaining interlude John resumed with *Christmas Day*, and then a medley of quiet Christmas tunes. With *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, one of the most entertaining programs of the year came to a conclusion. It was another wonderful program by our own John McCall and our new friend Dayle Harding in one of our favorite venues.

**STRAND ORGAN PROJECT AND FUNDRAISING
PLAN APPROVED**

by Ron Carter—Strand Organ Project

At the January Atlanta Chapter, ATOS Board meeting, a plan was approved for the installation of a theatre pipe organ in the Strand Theatre. Included in this plan is the methodology of what instrument will be used and the raising of funds for the Organ Project. Decisions on what organ(s) will be installed in the Strand cannot be made until a physical assessment and inventory is made of both the Lucas Wurlitzer and the Capitol Robert Morton. After that is completed, the Board will bring to the Chapter membership their recommendations of either selling both instruments and using those funds and others from chapter fund raising efforts to purchase an instrument that has already been restored, or combining the best from the Lucas and Capitol instruments into one organ and then installing that instrument in the theatre.

Warehouse space has been offered to the Chapter by Roger Deboy who is on the Strand Board and who is chair of the Construction committee. We have been waiting for several months for this warehouse space to become available so that we can move the two organs to Marietta. The warehouse is only six blocks from the theatre. It is our hope that this can be done in February. The Schlueter Pipe Organ Company which is currently storing the Lucas Wurlitzer for us has offered to move the entire organ to this warehouse at no charge! Chapter members will be responsible for moving the Robert Morton instrument to the same warehouse from its Griffin location.

For us to be able to move this project forward we need funding. We are going to solicit funds from all chapter members, apply for grants with various foundations and corporations and solicit contributions from the general public and organ enthusiasts. Larry Davis and I met with the Friends of the Strand Executive Committee who are enthusiastically supporting the installation and use of a theatre pipe organ and our fund raising efforts. We just need to BEGIN! In the next several weeks each chapter member will receive by mail a

description of our project and a contribution/pledge card. We hope that all will generously support this project. The Strand is our last opportunity to place a real theatre pipe organ in a beautifully restored historic theatre in a vibrant location where it will be played and heard continuously. The Friends of the Strand have committed to this project by budgeting approximately \$75,000 of their own funds to prepare the building for the pipe organ and to even include an elevator for the console. Much of their work is already completed.

If anyone knows of donation prospects outside our chapter to include foundations, businesses, or individuals please contact Ron Carter, Strand Project Chairman. Remember that all donations are completely tax-deductible and donors will be recognized on a permanent plaque in the Strand lobby.

STRAND THEATRE PROGRESS REPORT

by Ron Carter—Strand Organ Project

As of the last of January, tremendous progress has been made on the restoration and renovation of the Marietta Strand Theatre. The major demolition work has been completed. All of the 1935 HVAC roof equipment, cooling tower, ductwork and the large HVAC roof units added during a 1980's renovation have been removed. Cherokee street, a major thoroughfare going through the Marietta square, was closed to accommodate a large crane that was used in the process. Also, during this time a 54-foot long by 3-foot deep steel beam was removed so that the roof could be raised from the top of the old projection booth back 40 feet towards the rear of the theatre for the new reception space.

The front of the Strand will now be four stories tall and the elevator shaft has been completed for all four floors. The Proscenium Arch has been moved an additional 8 feet to the front to enlarge the depth of the stage house to 25 feet and a curved apron of an additional 8 feet added to give a stage depth of 33 feet. This necessitated moving the organ pit and elevator to in front of the stage apron, where it will be enclosed with an ornamental fence of the same design as the organ grills. Not having to remove a stage floor cover will make using the organ for pre-shows and other events much easier and give organists quick access to the instrument. In addition to the installation of the 14-inch organ wind line, all organ wiring conduits have been installed from the organ blower room to the bottom of the left and right chambers. New roof decking and new roof materials will be completed by mid February to completely dry-in the building. The upper balcony has been framed-in for the administrative offices and technical-equipment booth. Seating will be in the 550-seat range depending on numbers required for handicapped access.

Architect Rick Sibley is working with the Strand historical consultant Lane Green in finalizing the color scheme and finishes for the theatre. Preliminary interior colors chosen are burgundy, gold, silver, beige, and navy with gold and silver highlights and trim. Cherry woods will be used for the backs for theatre seats, wall paneling and other trim work. Beige ceramic tile floors with black diamond inserts will be used in the main lobby, public restrooms and concession areas. Black granite counter tops will be used throughout the theatre thanks to a donation arranged by Chapter member James Thrower. This is truly going to be a first class facility!

**PARADOCS CONCERT
TO BENEFIT STRAND THEATRE**

The Paradocs, a local singing group made up of Cobb County Doctors, will present a concert to benefit the Strand on Saturday evening, February 23rd from 8 to 9:30 P.M., at Cowboys in Kennesaw. Tickets are only \$10.00 and may be purchased from Ron Carter, 770-428-4809.

The Paradocs have a "Lettermen" sound and have performed at many venues in Cobb County, including the Marietta square, Mabel House and various medical functions.

Cowboys is donating the space and all proceeds will go to the Strand.



Hammond Organ, Romance Model 126214... Beautiful walnut finish in showroom condition. Family bought new in 1981. 2 manuals, 13-note pedalboard. Call Leah Wickham, 770-428-5731 or Emily Wickham, 770-428-0545.



DIRECTIONS TO BUCKY'S, MABLETON, GA — 5370 Vinings Lake View Dr. SW — 770-948-8424

From I-285 take Exit 12, US-78/US-278, Hollowell Pkwy (formerly Bankhead Hwy). Go West (outside the Perimeter toward Austell) for about 4.5 miles. Turn Right on Cooper Lake Road, which is the 2nd light past Lindley Middle School. Travel about 1/2 mile to The Retreat at Old Vinings Lake Estates entrance, which will be on the right. Follow the main road and the house is at the corner on the left. **Please respect the neighbors and park on one side of the street only. Please do not park on the main street into the subdivision. Carpool if possible.** Additional parking available at the clubhouse by the tennis courts, located to your right when you reach Bucky's street, then down the hill on the left.

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- Tuesday, February 12th, 7:30 P.M., Georgia Southwestern University *Faculty and Friends Concert*, Rylander Theatre, Americus, with guest appearance by John McCall at the Frank Sheffield Memorial Möller, general admission \$10.00, available at the Rylander Box Office at 229-931-0001 or visit www.rylander.org.
- Saturday, February 16th, premiere screening of the motion picture *Man From Plains* with former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalyn Carter in attendance. John McCall will play the Frank Sheffield Memorial Möller from 6:15 until 7:00 P.M. Film time is 7:00 P.M. with a complimentary on-stage reception afterwards. General admission is \$10.00 (available as listed above).
- February 23rd, 8 to 9:30 P.M., Paradocs concert at Cowboys in Kennesaw to benefit the Strand (see page 3).
- **February 24th, 3 P.M., Meeting, Brett Valliant at the Bucky Reddish residence**
- March 6th - 9th, The Rylander Theatre in Americus will be the venue for a production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The King and I* presented by the Sumter Players, Americus' Community Theater, on March 6, 7 & 8 at 8:00 P.M. and on March 9 at 2:30 P.M. Accompaniment for the performances will be by Tom Hoehn on the Rylander Theatre Organ. To help celebrate this event, the Sumter Players, Inc., are offering up to 25 comp tickets to members and friends of ATOS. Additional tickets may be purchased at group rates. Seating is reserved, so advance reservations are suggested. A call to the Rylander box office 229-931-0001 asking for the ATOS free or discounted tickets is all that is necessary. Please specify which performance(s) you wish to attend.
- **March 9th, 3 P.M., Meeting, Larry Davis at the McKoon Residence (January meeting moved to March) See January newsletter for details.**
- March 30th, 2 P.M. CST, Ron Carter & James Thrower, organ & piano, at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham
- April 5th, 7:30 P.M., Tivoli Theater in Chattanooga, ***Gospel Legends in Concert*** Sponsored by Chattanooga – Hamilton County Rescue Service Starring: The Stamps Quartet, The Blackwood Brothers Quartet, The Blackwood Singers, The Testimony Quartet. Members of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society (Ron Carter & Larry Davis) to play the Wurlitzer 235 Special Pipe Organ placed at the Tivoli Theater in 1925. For ticket information call 423-642-8497 or online at www.etix.com. All seats reserved.

Atlanta Chapter , ATOS - Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/ZIP _____ E mail _____
 Do you own an organ? _____ If so, description _____

Annual membership dues \$35 (Student \$17.50). Please make check payable to *Atlanta Chapter, ATOS*. Meetings are held monthly, usually on the 3rd Sunday afternoon. Mail this application and your check to:
 Wanda Carey Fields, 413 Concord Road SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509