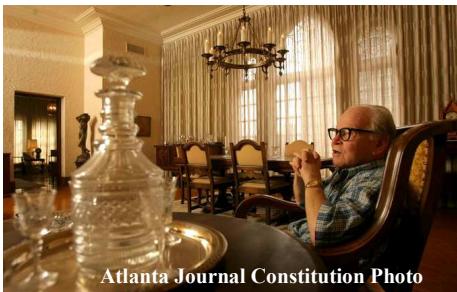


**Sunday, February 14th, 3:00 pm
Hamm-O-Rama at Joe Patton's Apartment in the Fox
featuring Lloyd Hess — Members Only**

**A VERY SPECIAL FOX
THEATRE EVENT
“MUSIC IN THE JOE
PATTEN RESIDENCE”**

By Larry Davis



In June 2007, the Atlanta Chapter was privileged to return to the Fox Theatre for a program on the great Möller theatre organ and in May 2008 for a meeting in Joe Patten's apartment. On February 14th, we will be at the Fox again, this time for a very special musical event. Our Hamm-O-Rama for 2010 will again be held in the apartment of Joe Patten in the Fox. A visit to Joe's magnificent residence is always a special treat, and at Joe's invitation, one that we will all have an opportunity to experience on February 14th.

The Instruments – Joe's apartment is home to a fascinating collection of personal and Fox memorabilia. For the purposes of our meeting, it is also the home of a Hammond RT3 organ and a Chickering reproducing grand piano. The Hammond includes percussions, a Leslie speaker, a 32-note pedal-board, and a 32' pedal tone. A reproducing piano is more than a player piano; it is an instrument that accurately reproduces the playing of a great piano artist using rolls that include variations in touch and

pedaling. Joe has a large collection of piano rolls for this very special musical instrument, which is the same model as that in the concert hall of the International Piano Archive in Maryland.

The Program – We will begin promptly at 3 pm. Because of accessibility issues, we respectfully ask that you arrive early enough to be in the apartment by our start time – and you are welcome to arrive early (see below for issues and instructions). We will begin by introducing **Mr. Joe Patten**, and ask him to tell us a little about the residence. Our musical program will feature music by **Mr. Lloyd Hess**, who has entertained us at our Hammond-centered programs in the past. He will take us back to a time when the smooth, cool, jazzy, cocktail, Lenny Dee, Jimmy Smith sound was heard everywhere. A native of Canada, Lloyd studied piano at the Toronto Conservatory of Music, and this musical study laid the foundation for his organ and accordion proficiency. While living in Texas, he was an accordion player for several German restaurants. He has been a church organist here in Atlanta for many years, but on our special Sunday afternoon, he will show us once again that he is a master of the smooth Hammond sound. After Lloyd's program, we trust that some of our other Hammond artists will take to the bench to entertain us on Joe's wonderful instrument. There may even be piano-organ duets... reproducing piano rolls... it is going to be an entertaining and varied afternoon.

Parking and Accessibility – The Fox Theatre is located at 660 Peachtree Street at the corner of Ponce de Leon Avenue (PDL). Since we scheduled the meeting, we have learned that *Mama Mia* was booked with a matinee performance at 1 pm and an evening performance at 6:30 pm on that Sunday; therefore, parking may be tighter than it might otherwise be. However, there are parking lots all around the Fox, including at the Georgian Terrace Hotel directly across from the theatre and a lot directly across PDL from the entrance to Joe's apartment. Please tell the attendants that you are attending an event at the Fox and you may get a special rate. We will enter Joe's apartment through a private door on the Ponce de Leon side of the theatre not far from the stage door. There will be someone there to welcome and direct you. Because of parking issues and accessibility, please give yourself plenty of time to park and get to the apartment before 3 pm.



Lloyd Hess



**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
770-948-8424

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

AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under
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Vice President - Phillip Allen
Treasurer - Wanda Carey Fields
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Newsletter Editor - Elbert Fields
Associate Editor - Wanda Carey Fields
Chapter Correspondent - Rick McGee

Ads or announcements for this newsletter:
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
elfields@yahoo.com

**Thanks for the Strand Theatre
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*Our sincere condolences to Denson Buttrey on the death
of his mother Anne Buttrey of Nashville, TN who was
born on June 27, 1923 and passed away peacefully on
January 18, 2010.*

It is time to renew your membership for 2010.

**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 2010 dues of \$35 (student \$17.50) now and don't miss out on any of the outstanding things our chapter has to offer. Members who joined during the last quarter of 2009 are deemed members for 2010. Those who have not renewed by the end of February may be dropped from the newsletter distribution list.

Please make check payable to: *Atlanta Chapter, ATOS* and mail to
Wanda Carey Fields, 413 Concord Rd SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509
or simply use the membership application below.

You are also encouraged to join our national organization. In doing so, you will receive *Theatre Organ* magazine to learn more about what's going on in the theatre organ world and be eligible to attend our conventions.

There are several membership categories available including Regular - \$40 and Student (under age 24) - \$25. See www.atos.org/membership for more information regarding additional levels or call 714-773-4354. Make check payable to A.T.O.S. and send along with your name and address to: Jim Merry, Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 5327, Fullerton, CA 92838.

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

Renew your membership for 2010 now (If you haven't paid since Oct. 1, 2009)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

Do you own an organ? _____ If so, description _____

Meetings are held monthly, usually on the 3rd Sunday afternoon. Annual membership dues \$35 (Student \$17.50). Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**. Note "Dues" or "Membership" on the memo line and mail to:

Wanda Carey Fields, 413 Concord Road SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509



Happy 1st Anniversary to the Earl Smith Strand

Sunday, January 17th, 2010, at 2:15 pm the doors opened to the second annual open house and variety show at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre, on the square, Marietta, Georgia.

This is our second such chapter presentation at the theatre, and the public was given an open invitation to come for entertainment beginning in the lobby provided courtesy of James Thrower and Rick McGee on the digital piano.



Shortly before 3:00 pm, the doors to the theatre auditorium were opened and a crowd of over 450 people almost filled the theatre to capacity (581 total seats).



Our own John Moore (formerly of WSB-Radio Atlanta fame and chapter member), serving as emcee, welcomed guests and chapter members and introduced the opening artist for the afternoon festivities — Mr. Larry Davis. The console rose from the depths of the

pit on its new lift and Larry presented a fine selection of solos on the Allen 317 digital custom theatre organ. Then, an old-fashioned Sing-A-Long presented the audience with an opportunity to vocalize and that they certainly did!!

Larry then disappeared into the pit and John Moore returned to the stage to introduce the next artist, Mr. Ron Carter. Ron presented several solos of a different style and then accompanied a short feature (originally aired with sound) of a modern day organist attempting a date with a prospective female. The opening track gave way to the Allen for the organ-portion in the virtual theatre in this English-made feature called "Blind Date."

Ron then called to the stage his granddaughter, Miss Abby Carter, who sang the standard favorite "*Look for the Silver Lining*" (with the rarely-heard verse) accompanied by Ron and the Allen. Mr. Harper Harris (from The Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History ... home of the REAL locomotive: "General"), performed the song *Georgia on My Mind* on his harmonica, accompanied by Ron. Lastly, Abby returned to the stage to offer the Charlie Chaplin composition "Smile."

John returned to the stage and introduced the last organist of the show - Mr. Phillip Allen. Beginning with *Waiting for the Robert E. Lee*, and a medley of southern-flavored tunes, Phillip put the Allen through its paces. Next, Phillip accompanied a vocal duet by Mr. Thom & Mrs. Nicole Gray performing *The Song That Goes Like This* (from the 2005 Broadway Show Comedy: *Spamalot* – based on *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, a trumpet solo by Mr. Kevin Lyons (of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra) – *The Carnival of Venice*, and a vocal solo by Miss Cassi Costoulas (staff member of The Strand Theatre), *I'll Be Seeing You*.

Then, to honor the initial reason for this type of instrument's very existence, the Allen provided the voice for the 1920 comedy/short silent movie *One Week* (starring Buster Keaton). Nicole came back to the stage and performed *The Man Who Played the Theatre Organ* (1937 novelty/comedy waltz from Australia). Thom Gray then offered the world-premiere of the song *We're Off to The Strand!* (2010 song written for The Strand by Mr. Ken Double, in collaboration with Mr. Phillip Allen) and now the official song of the Earl Smith Strand Theatre, Marietta, GA.

Much thanks to Strand Technical Support (behind the scenes) . . . Mr. Chuck Polasky . . . whose help was absolutely pivotal and crucial to the success of the entire event / occasion – ESPECIALLY since he was a "new hire" and only on the job for a mere FIVE DAYS at The Strand !! And, working with us with such a great

(Continued on page 4)



Ron & Abby Carter, John Moore, Kevin Lyons, Harper Harris, Thom & Nicole Gray, Cassi Costoulas, Larry Davis, Phillip Allen

(Continued from page 3)

attitude and easy-going nature - Mr. Earl Reece, the Executive Director of The Strand Theatre, whose enthusiastic support made this day possible.

fast-moving event! (Our goal was an hour-and-a-half, but John Moore's wonderful audience rapport and the length of the silent movie pushed us into over-time a bit. BUT, nary a single complaint since we kept the

As said by Phillip Allen "So, looks like we covered almost all of the musical style bases yesterday . . . ballad, march, classical, Broadway, Hollywood, <grin>)" comedy, waltz, novelty, a newly written song, old standard music, an old-fashioned sing-a-long, silent movie, international music (England, Australia and the USA) . . . all within an hour-and-forty-five-ish-minute

program moving ever-forward with no dead time! Certainly the crowd got their money's worth. <wink>

All comments and observations provided courtesy of **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear - remember, the walls have ears!

Year 2010 Officers and Board of Directors Election

During the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS Board meeting on January 24th, the following persons were selected as nominees for the 2010 Board of Directors. Their names, along with nominations from the floor, will be presented to the membership during our February 14th meeting at Joe Patton's apartment for election:

Officers

President: Bucky Reddish — **Vice President/Program Chairman:** Phillip Allen

Secretary: Larry Davis — **Treasurer:** Mandy Allen — **Chapter Correspondent:** Rick McGee

Newsletter Editor: Elbert Fields — **Strand Project Chair:** Ron Carter — **Page Project Chair:** Jack Sandow

Directors at Large

Bob Fountain	Bob McKoon	James Thrower
Randy Hendry	Svetlana Satterlee	David Tuck
Lee Lanier	John Tanner	

Ron Carter asked that we emphasize the continuing requirement for your financial support for our purchase of the Allen MDS-317EX digital theatre organ being used at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta. Our payments are \$300 a month (\$3600 a year) and your donations are required to meet this ongoing obligation. Without your donations, all of the dues received from our typical membership of 100 families would fall short of making these required payments with no consideration of continuing monthly program costs (artists & refreshments) or newsletter publication expenses. Make your checks payable to: "**Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**". Enter "Allen Organ" on the memo line and mail to:

Wanda Carey Fields
413 Concord Road SW
Smyrna, GA 30082-4509

Updates By John Tanner**Rivoli Theatre Photo**

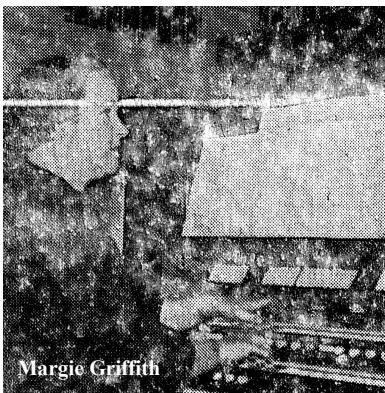
Sometimes when you are trying to organize a mountain of material on any subject, one or two items are bound to slip through the cracks and end up in the wrong file folder.

Such is the case with some unidentified photographs that I have in my collection. I was organizing some photographs I have of the Kimball Organ Company, when I came across a photograph of a room that looked instantly familiar. It was a photograph of the lobby of the Rivoli theatre in Rome, Georgia. I had re-filed this photo several times but since I had not done the research on the Rivoli at the time, it chose to remain a mystery. However, when I found an almost identical photograph in the Rome Tribune, no bells went off until later, when I came across the photo already in my collection.

Here it is: this photo has a ticket chopper in the lobby next to the tapestry of some royal family out for a game of croquet.

More Organists Who Played or Claimed to have Played in the Atlanta Theatres

One of the goals of my research on the organs and theatres has been to find out just who played these instruments. It has estimated, that there were almost 7000 organs built that were installed in theatres. Although many of that number were replacements of earlier instruments, you still had to have a number of organists to play them, some of whom were outstanding and are well remembered today. However, the vast majority of the organists who presided at so many Wurlitzers, Robert Mortons, Möllers, Kimballs, etc. have been largely forgotten.



Margie Griffith



So here are a few names to add to the list of Atlanta Organists: Carolyn Whitehead, Jane Perkins, and Gladys Powell at the Rialto in 1927.

In a 1942 article on Atlanta Organist Margie Griffith who, for the past 21 years, had been organist at the First Church of Christ Scientist, she states that she had started in Raleigh as a pianist in several theater orchestras and later when she moved to Atlanta that she held the post as organist in almost all the big theatres in town.

Upcoming: We head south for some theatre organs in South Georgia.

- Ron Carter, Phillip Allen and Larry Davis will provide pre-show and intermission music for the *Peter Pan* musical at the Tivoli Theatre in Chattanooga on the Mighty Wurlitzer. Show dates and times are March 13th at 7:30 pm, 14th at 2:30 pm, 15th at 9:00 am (school show), 16th at 10:00 am (school show), 18th at 7:30 pm, 19th at 7:30 pm, and the 20th at 1:00 and 7:30 pm.

In order to save money, we are encouraging you to take the option of receiving your monthly newsletter by email in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format instead of "snail" mail. This will not only save on postage expense, but will reduce the reproduction and envelope costs as well. Also, it is in color. Note: These are fairly large files and this choice might not be satisfactory for dial-up internet connections.

If this is your preference, please email elfields@yahoo.com.

Theatre Organ Christmas at the Tivoli

by Larry Davis

This Christmas season was a good one for the theatre organ at the Tivoli. The Mighty Wurlitzer opened the Grace Academy Christmas program for the third year in a row. This time the artist was Chattanooga's own Grant Wolf, who has joined the team of organists entertaining the theatre's audiences.

On Tuesday, December 15, the combined choirs of the schools of Signal Mountain – two grammar schools, the middle school, and the high school – joined for a giant, sold-out, Christmas program at the Tivoli. Director Robert Cirlot organized and managed what would almost seem an impossible event: the staging of multiple choirs and singing groups, and organizing the activities of children of all ages on and off stage. Mr. Cirlot not only succeeded, he triumphed in bringing a truly entertaining program to the audience.



Mr. Cirlot decided to use the organ at the Tivoli for his program this year, so Bert and Ann Allee came down from Manchester and I came up from Atlanta and tuned and made adjustments to the organ the day before. Ann brought food that was enough for our lunches on one day and a quick meal before the program on Tuesday.

Ron Carter and I opened the evening program with thirty minutes of Christmas music. We also provided music for several intervals as staging and performers were being changed behind the curtain. Ron Carter accompanied the Middle School Chorus in two selections from *Messiah* and then joined in the grand finale of *White Christmas* – and it was grand, especially with him at the console!

The organ was received enthusiastically by the audience, and by the directors and the performers. Once again, it was an exciting evening for the theatre organ and another triumph at the Tivoli.

Strand Theatre — The General

The General has been rescheduled for SUNDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 14th, with the pre-show starting at 2:30 pm. ATOS Member tickets are only \$5.00 and all tickets for the cancelled January show (the snow and ice storm) will be honored!! Come hear special guest soloists, an old fashioned sing-a-long, The Little General Cloggers, Harper Harris (and his harmonica), Russell Bonds and Ron Carter with a wonderful orchestral score accompanying a newly restored Digital Print!

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- February 12 (Friday), 8:00 pm — *Singing in the Rain* at the Strand. Organ pre-show featuring organ pops solo, a sing-a-long, special guest vocalists starting at 7:30 pm
- **February 14 (Sunday), 3:00 pm — Chapter Meeting**, members only — See article on page 1.
- February 14 (Sunday), 8:00 pm — *Casablanca* at the Strand. Organ pre-show featuring organ pops solo, a sing-a-long, special guest vocalists starting at 7:30 pm
- February 20, (Saturday), 3:00 pm — *Concert at Spivey Hall* (Pre-Concert Talk: 2:00 pm), www.spiveyhall.org, featuring Mr. Hector Olivera at the 3/79 Ruffatti. Famous for his colorful virtuosity, organist Hector Olivera is a passionate and gifted musician whose personal interpretations of both classical and popular music have amazed and delighted audiences around the world. Tickets: \$30 (Artist link: www.hectorolivera.com)
- February 28, (Sunday), 4:00 pm — *Concert at the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts at Emory*, www.arts.emory.edu, featuring Mr. Todd Wilson, one of today's finest concert organists, at the 3/65 Jaeckel. Mr. Wilson is professor of organ at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music and winner of numerous contests, including the Grand Prix de Chartres in France. He has performed at Symphony Hall in Birmingham, UK; Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles; Verizon Hall in Philadelphia; and Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. Tickets: Free Admission
- March 13-20, Tivoli Theatre, Chattanooga, Humble-Swan Productions presents *Peter Pan*, featuring the sets and flying team from Cathy Rigby's touring production. The Wurlitzer will open for each show and play at intermission. Organists Grant Wolf, Ron Carter, Phillip Allen, Larry Davis.
- **March 21, (Sunday), 3:00 pm, Chapter Meeting — Theatre Organ Music from Michigan**, featuring renowned national theatre organ artist Mr. John Lauter at the Reddish Residence at the Mighty Walker RTO-335.
- April 10, (Saturday), 3:00 pm — *Concert at Spivey Hall* (Pre-Concert Talk: 2:00 pm) featuring Mr. Richard Morris at the 3/79 Ruffatti. No one knows Spivey Hall's magnificent Fratelli Ruffatti organ as well as organist-in-residence Richard Morris. A distinguished concert and recording artist, he commands a rich repertoire. His brilliant performances, punctuated by the inimitable wit of his commentary, are a high point of every Spivey Hall season. Tickets: \$30
- **April 18, 2010 (Sunday), 3:00 pm, Chapter Meeting and Concert — Music Heard 'Round the World** at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Marietta on their custom five-manual Allen Organ (with full-blown pipe additions), featuring International Artist and Composer/Arranger/Orchestrator Mr. John Innes, Organist for the Billy Graham Crusade Organization for over forty years (artist tentatively confirmed at press time).