

*Larry-Douglas Embury at the Hudson Residence
Sunday Afternoon, February 9th at 3:00 pm*

Directions and parking
information on Page 2

Our February program is early in the month, February 9th, second Sunday in the month. It will be hosted by Pam and Billy Hudson at their residence, 1130 Center Street, Mableton, GA 30126-2104. Directions on Page 2.

About the artist... Larry-Douglas Embury, the Organist in Residence for the Fox Theatre's "Mighty Mo" was born in Calgary and raised in Vancouver, Canada. Yearning to be at a keyboard by age 3, his father soon sold the family car to buy him a piano. At age 10 Larry began to perform as a piano soloist and at 13 he started organ lessons. He won an international piano competition at 15 and at age 20 was engaged to play at the Seattle World's Fair.

Larry combines his natural talent for improvising with formal classical studies. He graduated from King's College Academy, studying piano and organ, and studied with Richard Purvis of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral. At Conn Organ Company, Larry worked to develop electronic instruments, including "The Topper" of Carnegie Hall and Virgil Fox's second Rogers touring organ, the "Royal V." He also designed a four-manual Rodgers combination classic



and theatre organ, the first time that the two entirely different tonal palettes had been successfully combined in one electronic instrument.

In the mid--1970s, Larry moved to the Bay Area to become organist of Bill Brewer's "Pizza and Pipes." He recorded several albums on the Daly City organ as well as on a nearby 4-manual, 28-rank Wurlitzer in Redwood City. In 2001, Larry appeared at the Rainbow Room with Bette Midler and Audra McDonald in "Stella by Starlight," celebrating the 100th birthday of the legendary Stella Adler. He has played for artists from Ethel Waters to Tony Curtis to Jennifer Holliday.

About the instruments... The Yamaha Grand Piano was purchased in 1997 and has a beautiful sweet sound. The Allen R311 Theatre Organ has external speakers and a separate subwoofer channel. The subwoofer channel was designed by Jim Ingram. The organ was voiced by Ron Carter. The house was remodeled in 2006 by friends Mike and Jan Smith who knowing Pam's love of music created the perfect space for the piano and organ.

**Mark Your Calendars — 3 Big Events Coming Up
Double and Carter at the Strand — Stephenson Dedication!**

By Ken Double

It's been a while since the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS has enjoyed so much major concert activity as we will enjoy in the next few weeks.

**KEN DOUBLE, DANIEL MATA
at the STRAND
Sunday, February 23rd**

This 3 pm matinee will mark the concert debut of a 17-year-old singing sensation from Lassiter High School and Marietta. Daniel Mata is one of triplets, born in Venezuela. His family moved to Marietta, and his mother Maria works for the CDC.

At the age of 15, Daniel won the very first *Variety Stars of Tomorrow* contest, wowing audience and fellow performers alike with his strong, operatic voice.

Daniel will sing, and Ken Double at the Strand's Mighty Allen Organ will be his orchestra for an afternoon of great music. Those in attendance at the January meeting got a taste of this

young man's skills. He will also perform with his siblings, giving the audience a taste of the Mata Triplets! And an introduction to the theatre organ music we love!

Advanced tickets are \$17; \$22 at the door; \$10 for students 18 and under. (See page 4)

**RON CARTER,
HAROLD LLOYD COMEDY
"Safety Last"
Friday, February 28th.**

Once again, Ron Carter will bring his finely-tuned skills as a master of silent film accompaniment, creating music for the hilarious antics of the great Harold Lloyd.

This film features one of the most famous "stunts" ever seen in film comedy - silent or otherwise - with Harold Lloyd hanging by the hands of that clock atop that skyscraper in downtown Los Angeles. An evening not to be missed! (See pages 2 & 4).

**THE STEPHENSON
PIPE ORGAN
DEDICATION CONCERT
April 3rd, 7:30^{pm}.**

Note this is a Thursday concert night, as JELANI EDDINGTON provides us with the first formal concert on the four-manual Page Theatre Organ.

In addition, you will hear the Stephenson Concert Band, the Jazz Band, and the Concert Choir as part of this dedicatory performance, which is the culmination of years of hard work by the volunteers who have toiled to create this great organ.

Concerts, silent comedy, the Grand Page Dedication, all coming up for ACATOS.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
BRING YOUR FRIENDS!
THREE GREAT EVENTS!**

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
404-725-1155
www.atosatlanta.org
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

*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 - *Ken Double*
Treasurer - *Rick McGee*
Secretary - *John Alford*
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*

Directions to the Hudson Residence, Mableton, GA
1130 Center Street SW, Mableton, GA 30126-2104 770-948-2823

- From I-285 take Exit 12, US-78/US-278, Hollowell Pkwy (formerly Bankhead Hwy).
- Go West outside the Perimeter toward Austell. The road changes names to Veteran's Memorial once you get into Mableton.
- Go through intersection at Floyd Rd (to right) and Mableton Parkway (to left).
- Turn right at next light, Old Floyd Road (at Barnes Store).
- Center Street is 3rd street to the left (street after Mabel Street) between Old Floyd Rd Apartments and BBJ.
- Continue down Center Street to stop sign and turn right on Church Street.
- Parking is on the left across from the front of the church.
- You will be picked up and driven to the Hudson Residence.
- Only handicap parking at the house.

1st Baptist Parking Lot - Hudson Residence Shuttle

If you can volunteer to help shuttle attendees at our May 22nd program from the 1st Baptist parking lot to the Hudson residence (a couple of blocks), please call Billy or Pam at 770-948-2823. Your help will be appreciated

Safety Last—Atlanta Blu-Ray Premier
February 28th, 8 pm

By Ron Carter

With special permission from Sue Lloyd, granddaughter of Harold Lloyd, the Earl Smith Strand Theatre has obtained the rights to screen the newest Blu-Ray version of this 1923 Comedic Classic.

Remember the man with the horn-rimmed glasses hanging 12 stories up on the clock face of a Los Angeles skyscraper above moving traffic? This is one of the most famous images of moving pictures. When premiered in 1923, the film was highly successful and critically hailed as one of the great film comedies of the silent-film era. Lloyd performed his own climbing stunts despite losing his thumb and forefinger in an accident while making a film four years earlier. While climbing the outside of this office tower as a publicity stunt for a local downtown department store, Harold is chased by the police, attacked by pigeons, threatened with a gun, almost bitten by a dog, gets tangled up in the clock's mechanism, among other challenges in unbelievable scenes filmed 12 stories up! No green screen, trick photography or stuntmen for Harold.

In 2012, Ron Carter accompanied the DVD version of this film at the Sacred Heart Cultural Center in Augusta, GA to a sold-out house. The audience laughed, hooted and gasped so loud that he could not hear the organ playing!!

If you want to really escape to the Roaring 20's for an evening come to this one of-a-kind program. Tickets are only \$8 (\$7 for seniors and students) and may be purchased by calling 770-293-0080, on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org or in person at the box office. (See pages 1 & 4)

President's Note



Sometimes the best made plans are no match for a traveling organ with its own itinerary. While we'd hoped to present the Chapter's newest organ at the January program, it continued its sightseeing tour of the Western world with a stop in New York. I hope it packed a fully-charged camera for the journey, because it certainly has a story to tell. An enterprising member suggested an "Organ Arrival Date Lottery" as a possible fundraiser for the Chapter – a great idea, but I certainly don't want to jinx the

situation any more than it already is! As this newsletter is going to print, the shipment is getting ready to proceed through customs in New York before being trucked to Atlanta. We'll hopefully have a happy arrival story to tell in the March edition.

Speaking of "best made plans", many have asked where the mailing is regarding the membership promotion that was mentioned in the January newsletter. Don't worry – your letter hasn't been misplaced. Due to the "too many irons in the fire" syndrome, they're just now getting mailed out. My apologies for the delay, but I'm very encouraged by the

(Continued on page 4)

Silent Drama

By John Tanner

While doing some of my research on the Atlanta theaters, I would occasionally come across a story in the newspaper that showed the development of how music was used to accompany a silent film.

It was not until the late nineteen teens and twenties that the theatre organ would come to be one of the main fixtures for providing music in the movie theatres. Before that time, the music was usually provided by a small orchestra, piano, or some sort of automated musical instrument.

As the movies became more sophisticated, there arose the need to provide sound effects. Many of the small to medium size theatres had a drummer in addition to the piano player and his job was to provide all the parts of the score, that the piano player could not.

“Chattanooga Comes to Chamblee”

Sunday, January 26th, 2014, at 3:00 pm, Allen Organ Studios were inundated !!!

Our first meeting for the new year was at the Allen Organ Studios in Chamblee, Georgia. We were originally to hear a new classical organ (3-manual/38-rank specification) being given to the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra by chapter members Bob and Ms. Elsie McKoon, as well as the chapters' new Lyn Larsen Allen LL324Q theatre organ. Well, the organ went on a cruise like the three-hour tour for Gilligan and crew, and after leaving Panama (the country – not the city), traveled to Spain, and then to New York. Like most cruises of late, the ship could not dock and just circled in the harbor. So, the classical portion became the major portion and a special surprise ending was in store.

Tim Stephens greeted the group and recognized visitors, introduced the new members of the board, and then turned the meeting over to Ken Double, who told us of upcoming meetings, the official dedication for the Page at Stephenson on Thursday, April 3rd, and then introduced our host – Jeff Ayers of Allen Organ Studios.



Joe Mullen

The position of drummer soon developed into a sort of one man percussion and sound effects department.

The July 5, 1914 edition of *The Atlanta Journal* contains an article by Ward Green about the drummer at the Savoy Theatre which was located on Peachtree Street. The drummer's name is Joe Mullen, not only is he a drummer, but he plays all sorts of musical instruments, percussion, and sound



Jeff greeted us and then told about the Allen we were going to hear, introduced our artist for the afternoon, Mr. Bruce Clark, the Allen Organ Studios representative in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and a seasoned church organist and recitalist. Bruce gave us a program to demonstrate the capabilities of the new Allen, and how it might be used in remote locations by the ASO.

The opening selection – a group of familiar trumpet tunes to demonstrate the various trumpets on the organ. Next, from the collection of Eight Little Preludes and Fugues of J. S. Bach, the “Prelude in d minor” coupled with a different fugue of Bach, “Believe in One God.” Then, using the harpsichord voice on the organ, a favorite choral setting of Bach, “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring.” An arrangement by Paul Manz, “God of Grace” was next, taking us to “Air” from the Suite in D (aka “Air for the ‘G’ string”) of J. S. Bach –

effects. The article describes in detail how Mr. Mullen uses the different instruments and effects to provide the extra touches of sound to the silent drama on the screen.

The article is quite long and there is not enough room in the newsletter to reproduce it fully, but they say a picture is worth a thousand words, so I have included a photograph of Mr. Mullen seated among his instruments. In that photograph you will find just about every instrument that would later make up the tuned percussion, traps, and sound effects section of the theatre organ. All the basics are there: xylophone, orchestral bells, chimes, bass drum, snare drum, cymbals, gongs, all manner of whistle, and all manner of horns, tambourine, sleigh bells, wood blocks, sandpaper, horses hoofs.. all the items needed to put a lot of noise in the silent drama.

demonstrating the orchestral voices on the organ. A full-throated Principal Chorus led in “Come, Christians, Join to Sing,” and then a pastoral composition of Batiste to showcase the orchestral flute stop. Lorenz Publications offered organists arrangements to ‘spice-up’ the service and we were treated to “You Shall Go With Joy” led by other trumpets available on the organ. “Sonata II” was performed to let us hear the oboe and flute stops. A patriotic bow - “Eternal Father, Strong to Save” - demonstrated the tibias and other voices also available to the organist. The popular setting of “Ave Maria” based on the Prelude No. 1 in C Major from Bach’s ‘Well-Tempered Clavier’ and the tune set to it by Charles Gounod rounded out the program. As a final selection to demonstrate the grand sound of the instrument, the famous “Now Thank We All Our God” from a Bach cantata as arranged by Virgil Fox closed the program. Smiles from the donors, dealer and attendees offered approval of the instrument and artist.

Our special surprise, Daniel Mata, 17-year-old winner of the (Atlanta) Fox Stars of Tomorrow program, was accompanied by our own Ken Double in a couple of selections: “I Can’t Help

(Continued on page 4)

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- February 9, 3 pm, Pam and Billy Hudson residence with Larry-Douglas Embury (See Page 1)
- February 15, 3 pm, Misha V. Stefanuk will perform a program of Romantic Valentine Day Theatre Organ music on his touring organ at All Saints Lutheran Church, 722 Rockbridge Rd SW, Lilburn, GA
- March 30, 3 pm, Strand Theatre featuring John McCall
- April 3, 7:30 pm, Dedication of the Page Organ at Stephenson High School, Jelani Eddington (See Page 1)
- April 27, 2 pm CST, Donna Parker for a Spring 2014 show at the Alabama Theatre



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.

Upcoming movies at the Strand (All show times are 8:00 pm with organ pre-show sing-a-long at 7:30)

- Feb 7th Citizen Kane—organ pre-show by Ron Carter
- Feb 8th The Godfather—organ pre-show by Misha Stefanuk
- Feb 14th Casablanca—organ pre-show by Larry Davis
- Feb 15th Breakfast at Tiffany's—organ pre-show by Misha Stefanuk



Flyer by R. B. Coulter

Special attractions at the Strand

- February 23, Sunday, 3:00 pm, *Born to Sing* concert with Daniel Mata, first winner of the Variety Stars of tomorrow, and Ken Double at the Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. (See page 1)
- February 28, Friday, 8:00 pm, Blu-Ray Atlanta premier of Harold Lloyd's great silent comedy *Safety Last* accompanied by Ron Carter, organ pre-show and sing-a-long at 7:30 by Phillip Allen. (See pages 1 and 2)

Biz E. Body (Continued from page 3)



Falling in Love With You" (Elvis Presley version) and "O Sole Mio" gave us a taste of the treat later this year at the Marietta Strand when Daniel headlines a public concert. Plan to attend this!! Daniel's mother Maria was in attendance, and many had a chance to greet this new and rising entertainer !!

A great afternoon of music and wonderful artists. Our great thanks to

Jeff and the crew at Allen Organ Studios for making this available to us, and to the three artists who gave us a music-filled Sunday afternoon.

Offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the walls / chambers / console and Jeff's office have ears !!!!!

President's Note (Continued from page 2)

interest we've seen so far. The basic details are a \$20 membership fee for new or reinstated members, and a \$20 membership fee for current members who help sign up at least one new or reinstated member. Forms and further details are to hit your mailbox this week.

A few folks have inquired about the new name badges. We've ordered over 30 at this point and members have been very pleased. If you'd like one, just shoot a note to teststephens@gmail.com, call 404-725-1155, or let me know in person at one of our gatherings. Pricing is dependent upon the quantity we order, but typically runs between \$7 – 8 per badge. Once we get at least 10 or so in the queue, we'll submit another run.

As headlined in this newsletter, it's a very busy first quarter for ATOS Atlanta. I hope you've got February 9, 23, 28, and April 3 marked on your calendars. You can also keep track of upcoming events via our website at www.atosatlanta.org – just click on the *Events* tab. We're excited to return to the Hudson residence in February with the spotlight on our very own Larry-Douglas Embury. Our sincere thanks to Pam, Billy, and Larry for what will be a wonderful afternoon of entertainment in the heart of Mableton. I look forward to seeing you on February 9th, 23rd, and the 28th!

Jim Stephens