

Hammorama at Emory's Cannon Chapel Saturday Afternoon, February 24th at 3 p.m.



After two years, the ever-popular Hammorama is back...and at a new location! It's one of our most anticipated programs of the year, and we're excited to be welcomed by Emory University for this very unique event featuring a stellar lineup of talent.

ATOS Atlanta member Randy Elkins wears many hats, including those of Director of Music and Organist at Virginia-Highland Church and Chapel Organist at Emory University's Candler School of Theology. It was the latter which opened the door for discussion regarding a program centered around a most unique find on the Emory campus – a pristine vintage Hammond C3 organ in the magnificent Cannon Chapel. Who would have ever guessed?!? (Hammorama continued on Page 2)

Closing Chord – Wanda Carey Fields

It is with sadness and yet with many wonderful memories that we say good-bye to our dear Wanda Carey Fields, who passed away on Thursday, January 25, at the age of 90. Wanda had been a chapter member for decades – her name appears on the original incorporation papers for the Atlanta Chapter – and she was recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award. She was a phenomenal but humble musician and a fixture at chapter meetings and national conventions for decades.



Wanda was born in Arizona where, at the age of eight, she began piano lessons and almost immediately began playing piano for her church. She was sent east to Sevierville, Tennessee to attend high school at the Church of God Bible Training School and College, where she continued her piano lessons. There she was discovered by representatives of the largest Church of God in the denomination at that time, who persuaded her to move to Kannapolis, NC and become their pianist. She completed her high school education there while playing church services, rehearsals, and for a daily radio broadcast. After graduation, she was hired to work at the Church of God publishing house and moved to Cleveland, TN, where she began to take organ lessons.

Her teacher taught theatre organ style and introduced her to the Wurlitzer at the Tivoli Theatre in Chattanooga. A few years later she moved to Atlanta to work for Stein Printing and in 1956, began her 47-year tenure as organist for the Mount Paran Church of God. She continued organ lessons and her teacher introduced her to what she always called “the theatre organ club,” our Atlanta Chapter, in the early 1970’s.

A memorial service for Wanda will be held on Thursday, February 8th at 2:00. Mount Paran Church of God, 2055 Mt. Paran Rd NW, Atlanta, GA 30327.

Many members of the chapter have special memories of Wanda and we invite you to share these for inclusion in a special tribute in our March newsletter. Please send yours to Larry Davis (acatos@earthlink.net).

[Click to hear Wanda play selections on Big Bertha](#)

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In addition to some of our favorite Hammorama performers, we're delighted to showcase students from the Candler School of Theology in the program. Performers include organists and pianists Erica DeLooney and Marcus Larivaux, and guitarist/bassist Chuck Beatie. Ayisha "Lady Joi" Shields, Director of the Candler Gospel Choir, will be a featured vocalist. They will perform songs from Duke Ellington and many others.

There are two important notes. First, **this is a Saturday afternoon program** (not our standard Sunday afternoon). Second, parking at Emory is only assigned lots and decks. **See the map on page 4 for parking details and directions.** Parking in any of these areas during the program is **free**. The preferred parking area for ease of access is the Peavine lot.

Special thanks to Emory University's Candler School of Theology and our hosts Randy Elkins and Ayisha "Lady Joi" Shields for making this very special event possible. We look forward to sharing the fun and entertainment with you!

President's Message



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 - Ken Double
Vice President - Tim Stephens
Treasurer - Rick McGee
Secretary - Bill Thompson
Newsletter Editor - Elbert Fields
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis

Ads or announcements for this newsletter:
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
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We know Ron Carter Birmingham, and some private and a host of installations in Atlanta.

organists present our chapter-owned Allen More news! We are working on a GW IV at Marietta's four-concert season series of events, new Strand Theatre on a to ACATOS. By combining the Gray and regular basis. Hills events, with a Ron Carter event at

Audiences get to hear the Strand, and a soon-to-be-announced Mighty Mo more concert on the Page in September, we will have a "season-ticket" series of which to be very proud.

than 120 times a year with Rick McGee and yours truly presenting the great pipe organ. Our Grande Page is getting better and better as we continue upgrades, rebuilds and more, ready to present David Gray in April, and Richard Hills in June.

Finally, the initial meetings have begun as the chapter begins planning for the ATOS Annual Convention in 2020.

What an event that will be, with a plan to

exceed the success of 2013! Lee Lanier and Tim Stephens are the co-chairs. I And now, there is so much more on the fear we are working poor Tim to a horizon, in the planning stages, on the frazzle! schedule, or in our dreams.

See what I mean? Tim Stephens is

The ATOS Summer Youth working on a great year of chapter Adventure (SYA) is the week-long "camp meetings, including Hammorama in -like" experience for talented young February. To that end, sincere thanks to organists. In its 11th year, its graduates Jay Mitchell for a GREAT show on the include Justin LaVoie, Nathan Avakian, Page last month. Lush sounds, wonderful Donnie Rankin, and a host of talented selections, and great to enjoy Jay at the young players who comprise the "Next console again. Generation" of great players.

I will have another major announcement to share when I write to 15-20, instructors Jonas Nordwall, Donna you in March.

Parker, Jelani Eddington, Chris Elliott and Martin Ellis will host 15-18 young players for a week of intense instruction and a lot of fun. While we cannot simply open these events to chapter members for many reasons, most of which involve the fact this is serious instruction, we can take pride in bringing the "best of the best" young talent to Atlanta to experience the Page, Mighty Mo, Big Bertha in

Meanwhile, take care. Plan to share some love with whomever your favorite Valentine might be. Think about LA and the ATOS convention this summer. It will be fantastic!! And we will see you soon.

Ken Double

[Click to hear Ken at the Fox Theatre](#)

Jay Mitchell Begins a New Page !!

Sunday, January 21st, 2018, at 3:00 P.M. members of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society and a number of guests (and a few ‘surprise’ guests) gathered in the auditorium of Stephenson High School, Stone Mountain, Georgia, for an anticipated concert and some necessary business.

Larry Davis, President of the Atlanta Chapter, greeted everyone and called on Chapter Treasurer Rick McGee for an update of recent expenditures on the Page and a general view of chapter finances. Then Larry introduced a little Page history and welcomed our special guests – Audry Weber (wife of Dick Weber) and her three daughters – Nancy, Sharon, and Cindy. Audry and Dick were responsible for bringing the Page to Atlanta. Next, Tim Stephens, Chapter Vice-President, gave us a list of upcoming events and dates to have on the calendar. Then Larry Davis announced the slate of officers and board members for 2018, an election vote was held, and the elections confirmed. No one was brave enough to volunteer !!

As his final presidential duty, Larry turned the ‘Pipe of Office’ over to incoming president – Ken Double. Ken then told of some major events coming in the near future of the chapter, and introduced our guest artist of the afternoon – Mr. Jay Mitchell !!

“This Must Be the Start of Something Big” was the console riser and a herald of things to come. Jay offered a favorite ballade from the request archives of the Music Grinder days - “There Will Never Be Another You.” He then offered a selection he used at the Alabama Theatre as a console-riser - “Oh, Lady Be Good” from the pen of the Gershwins.

A special selection “True Love” was played for Audrey (and Dick) Weber – this was ‘their’ song. Great memories present here !!

A short trip to the South Sea Islands was made possible with the selection “Poinciana.” We needed the warm breeze !! A medley called “Parades” featured selections “Before the Parade Passes By” from the musical ‘Hello, Dolly!’ and “I Love a Parade” in the great style of former NY organist Don Baker. Some members had to be restrained to avoid marching around the room.

A medley of Blues tunes, “Blues in the Night” (with a featured harmony of Stan Leigh Mallotte – former organist at the Alabama Theatre (and brother of Albert Hay Mallotte – composer of the famous setting of “The Lord’s Prayer”)) and a great theme of the late Judy Garland, “The Man That Got Away” let us hear some wonderful registrations from the Grande Page.

To close the program, Jay featured a selection from the ‘London, Again’ suite of Sir Eric Coates, and offered the “Knightsbridge March.” A grand selection to conclude a great afternoon of a personable artist, a grand instrument and an afternoon of musical delight !!

A wonderful showcase and talent to match ! No wonder we keep coming back each year.

Jay, you will be back soon – yes ??? [Click to hear Jay play selections on Mighty Mo](#)

Offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the walls and chambers have ears!!

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

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

Membership Category (check one): Patron (\$300 and up) Sponsor (\$200 - \$299)

Contributor (\$100 - \$199) Donor (\$36 - \$99) Basic (\$35) Student (\$17.50)

Send Newsletter via email: Yes No Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**
Mail to: Atlanta Chapter, ATOS, Attn: Treasurer, P.O. Box 426, Marietta, GA 30061-0426

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

- February 24, 3:00 p.m. – **Monthly Meeting – Note Saturday Date** – the ever-popular Hammorama returns, with new artists and an all new location – Cannon Chapel at Emory University, 515 South Kilgo Circle, NE, Atlanta, GA 30322.
- February 27, 8:00 p.m. – Silent Film – *The Gold Rush* – Ron Carter accompanies this Charlie Chaplin classic on the theatre's original Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ – Carolina Theatre, 310 South Green Street, Greensboro, NC. Tickets \$7 for adults, \$6 for students, teachers, seniors, and military.
- March 11, 3:00 p.m. – **Monthly Meeting** – Vinings Revisited! – a makeup of our December program featuring Rick McGee and Friends at Rick's wonderful TO-5Q theatre organ installation in the heart of Vinings.
- March 25, 3:00 p.m. – Silent Film – *King of Kings* – see the 1927 masterpiece on the big screen, accompanied live by Ron Carter on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ. Tickets \$10 online or at the box office.
- April 14, 4:00 p.m. – **Concert** – David Gray makes his debut performance on the 4/22 Grande Page at Stephenson High School. Additional details coming soon!
- June 23, 4:00 p.m. – **Concert** – Richard Hills makes his triumphant return to 4/22 Grande Page. Further details coming soon!

