

ATOS Atlanta

Official Newsletter of The Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society



Get Ready For Tedde! Saturday, February 23, 3 p.m. on the Grande Page Pipe Organ

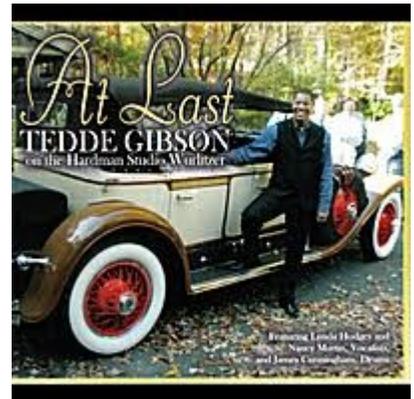


Tedde Gibson is probably one of the most eclectic musicians we've ever hosted for a concert. His chosen instrument is the organ: classical organ, theatre organ, and Hammond organ – and he excels on all three. Tedde also enjoys playing gospel, jazz and classical piano. In mid 2011 he released two recordings which introduce the listener to a few of his favorite styles: *At Last* and *Let There Be Praise Volume 1 & 2*, both on the 4/38 Hardman Studio Wurlitzer in Great Falls, Virginia. Both recordings incorporate the wonderful sounds of this instrument in a unique mix of music from gospel to hymns to jazz.

A native of Tacoma, Washington, he began playing piano at four and organ at 16. He has studied with many renowned instructors including theatre organ with Jonas Nordwall. He moved to the Washington DC area in 2003 and became organist/musician in residence at *First Baptist Church* of Highland Park in Landover, Maryland; as well as Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian Catholic Church and Capitol Hill Seventh-Day Adventist Church, both in DC.

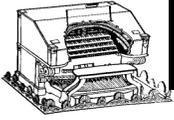
In addition, for the past four years, Tedde has presented silent films as a regular performer at the Seattle Paramount Theatre on the original 4/20 Publix Wurlitzer.

Tedde always incorporates the influences of many genres in his playing. It is harmonically creative and exciting. He endeavors to dare his audience to delve into his non-traditional way of playing, using the theatre organ as his medium thereby attracting new listeners to this amazing instrument!



[Click to hear Tedde](#)

Tickets for the Tedde Gibson concert are available online at the Atlanta Chapter website, atosatlanta.org. Tickets are \$18 at the door; \$15 in advance; free for students.



A LETTER FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

IT'S PAGE CONCERT TIME ONCE AGAIN!

As you have already seen, it's time again to head to Stone Mountain and Stephenson High School and thrill to the sound of our Grande Page pipe organ. On Saturday afternoon – and yes, Virginia, ALL of our concerts will now start at 3 p.m. – February, 23rd, we will get to enjoy the wonderful and various stylistic talents of artist TEDDE GIBSON.

Just as the promo and poster states, Tedde is a concert player of many and varied musical skills.

He has been a successful church organist for many years; he performs the silent film series at the Paramount Theatre in Seattle; and he plays terrific gospel music; terrific jazz music; and can present the best in our traditional theatre organ style. It will be a wonderful, and refreshingly different concert.

Add in Mr. Quentin Goins and his Stephenson Concert Band, and we have a great Saturday afternoon ahead of us. You can secure discount-priced tickets online at atosatlanta.org, or simply get your tickets at the door.

Meanwhile, please look at the calendar in this newsletter and you will see the upcoming schedule of silent films at the Strand; three new dates for films at the Plaza Theatre; and other events of interest involving the Mighty Theatre Organ.

Vice President Randy Elkins has a great lineup of monthly meetings in store, including the annual Hammo-rama concert again at Emory coming up in March.

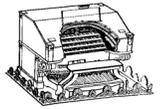
I hope many of you are thinking about attending the ATOS convention, July 1-4 in Rochester and Buffalo, NY. Not unlike our own Fox and the Moller, the great Wurlitzer at Shea's Buffalo Theatre is unmatched in richness, beauty and musical thrill. The two concerts there alone make this a great convention. Add in the great Wurlitzer in Rochester's Auditorium Theatre; the historic Riviera Theatre Wurlitzer; and the thrilling Marr and Colton/Wurlitzer at the Clemens Center in Elmira, NY, and the lineup of instruments it stellar! If you are debating; wondering; considering?? You should go. The music from these instruments will be fantastic! The attendance numbers early on look strong. Guarantee ya I'm gonna be there!

Finally, if you have not yet renewed your membership, you will soon see a letter in the mail with a reminder, return envelope included. Even stamped already!!! Keep our chapter strong, and stay with us. it's vital for today, and tomorrow! See you at Stephenson on the 23rd!

Ken Double

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A Newnan Magnolia Remembered !!

Sunday, January 27th, 2019, at 3:00 P.M., the town of Newnan was invaded by a hearty group of folks coming to enjoy the afternoon's music, and to pay tribute to a True Southern Magnolia (as she was called) picked too soon from our garden of friends.

Ken Double, President of the Atlanta Chapter, greeted all and welcomed visitors, told us of upcoming events and major concerts ahead. Ken Then he introduced our opening artists for the afternoon, John McCall at the organ and Larry Davis at the piano. Well, at least that is where they started !!

"Begin the Beguine" set the pace for the remainder of the afternoon. Next, Ken Double took his place at the organ and treated us to a Jesse Crawford-style favorite of Ms. Elsie – "When the Organ Played at Twilight." John McCall returned to the organ and gave us another Magnolia-favorite – "I'll See You in My Dreams." Larry Davis moved from the piano to the organ and offered a remembrance by way of "Can I Forget You?" – and to answer this question – NO WAY !!

John McCall told us about the love affair between Ms. Elise and music of Latin America, and offered us a medley of her favorites: "Cha Cha d'Amour," "I Wish You Love," "Amor," and "Market Day in Wally World." The Latin heritage of this last selection is still to be authenticated !!

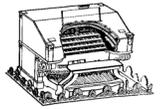
Now, technology is one thing, but this – well – it is something other !! John McCall and Larry Davis sharing the organ, Bob McKoon as technical operator, and the piano roll player as the musical partner in a reprise from another time, "Margie." This Trio has a future !!

A special guest was in attendance – Elizabeth Speers. If the name sounds somewhat familiar to the theatre organ folks from Atlanta, it should. She is the Sister-in-Law of Jimmy Beers, first Vice-President of the Coca-Cola company and organist at the Atlanta Fox in the early 1930s. Jimmy composed a song titled "Cargo of Love" and Larry Davis just happened to have a copy, so it was offered as a tribute to Jimmy and Elizabeth. A high point of the afternoon.

A duo-artist medley of John at the organ, and Larry at the piano with a medley of selections from the film "Singing in the Rain" including: "Singing in the Rain," "Make 'Em Laugh," "All I Do is Dream of You," "Fit as a Fiddle," "Beautiful Girl," "You Were Meant for Me," "Broadway Melody," "Broadway Rhythm," and "Would You?" led to the introduction of the fourth artist of the afternoon – Randy Elkins. Randy offered a favorite of Ms. Elsie – the Toccata from the Fifth Organ Symphony of Charles Marie Widor. Not only showing the classical chops of the artist and instrument, but leading to stories of the time when international artist Hector Olivera resided with the McKoons and was under the strict supervision of Ms. Elsie !!

Closing the program – another duo from "*McCall & Davis*" – "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White. A fitting end to the afternoon's musical portion.





Larry's Mystery Photo – the Answer



Our mystery man is Jay Mitchell, and the organ is the Wurlitzer at the Alabama Theatre.

And the winner is Larry Donaldson, though he disqualified himself for reasons that will become clear below. The picture had no description on it but I would recognize that Tuba Mirabilis anywhere so that told me that it was Bertha. (Thanks to Gary Mull making a thoughtful and well-reasoned attempt to identify the individual and organ – just not the right answer)

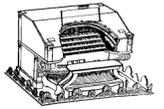
Corky provided me with this photo without telling Jay which one he had sent. When Jay saw it in the newsletter, he sent me the following fascinating history (which is what these photos are all about). From Jay:

That picture was taken by Larry Donaldson, sometime around 1969 or 1970. On the end of that stick I'm holding is a broom, and I'm sweeping off the coal dust stuck to the ceiling and walls of the Solo chamber of the Alabama Theatre. Those wood resonators behind me are the low octave notes of the 8' Tuba Mirabilis. There's a funny story behind this....

While Larry and I were cleaning the organ, we removed all the pipe work from the chests and stored them in all the dressing rooms. Cecil Brown, manager of the theatre, came back one night, as we were cleaning, and he observed that there were pipes in the first-floor dressing rooms, pipes in the second-floor dressing rooms, and pipes even in the third floor dressing rooms. (Seeing all those pipes spread all over the place, makes one think...how are they ever going to put this thing back together!) Cecil poked his head in, at the Solo chamber and said to me, "Jay, please! don't get hit by a truck!"

The organ at the Alabama, as well as every other pipe organ in that industrialized city, was full of coal dust. Earlier than this photo, I had helped Mac Watson and Clay Holbrook do various service jobs in the refurbishment stage of the organ. When we got to the relays with a vacuum cleaner, it was almost unbelievable: coal dust had settled in the bottom of the relay boxes a good 1/8-inch thick..

Mac Watson was an exceptionally talented organist, and headed up the Atlanta crew that came over to Birmingham every weekend to work on the organ. When he sat down at the console, he played beautiful, and authentic George Wright arrangements note for note! All those arrangements were picked up by ear, a very difficult thing to do, and have all the notes there, just as if George Wright was sitting there at the console. Mac was a great crew chief, and I learned a lot, working under his direction.



Wurlitzer Alive! By Larry Davis

For the last many years, as most of you know, members of the Atlanta and Alabama Chapters have met regularly to keep the Mighty Wurlitzer at Chattanooga's Tivoli Theatre playing and sounding great, which it does, and it was featured in the 2013 Convention. The Wurlitzer has been seeing occasional use, perhaps six times a year, for Christmas programs, weddings, public demonstrations, and Heartstrings for Hope. In the past month, the Wurlitzer has come alive, being featured in pre-shows for films presented as part of the Bobby Stone Film Series. Movies such as *E.T.*, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *The Big Lebowski* have been screened using brand new state-of-the-art digital projection on a gigantic screen that rivals that of the Fox Theatre. Attendance has been good for a film series just beginning and the organ has been received enthusiastically. Joining Ron Carter and Larry Davis have been Chattanooga organists Grant Wolf and Buddy Shirk, who have been well-received by the Chattanooga audiences who know them. As a result of the organ being used for the film series, the Lookout Mountain Wild Film Festival requested that it be used for their presentations as well, and Buddy Shirk played the house in for their programs. It is an exciting time in Chattanooga for the theatre and for the Wurlitzer.





UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Event Description</u>
2/17	3:00 PM	<u>Cumming FUMC - Cumming, GA</u>	Concert - rising star theatre organist David Marsh, a cameo artist at the 2018 ATOS Convention in Pasadena, plays the Hutchinson Organ - a Hauptwerk digital instrument; admission is free.
2/23	3:00 PM	<u>Stephenson High School - Stone Mountain, GA</u>	Concert - Tedde Gibson presented in concert on the 4/22 Grande Page organ, with a special performance by the SHS Concert Band; tickets \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door, students admitted free
2/24	3:00 PM	<u>Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA</u>	Silent Film - the Strand kicks off their 2019 Silent Film Series with the 1929 classic Pandora's Box, accompanied live on the Mighty Allen GW-IV by Ron Carter; preshow by John McCall
3/16	3:00 PM	<u>Cannon Chapel at Emory University - Atlanta, GA</u>	Monthly Meeting - A Hammorama Tribute to Wanda and Elbert Fields - featuring Matthew Kaminski, organist for the Atlanta Braves
3/27	5:00 AM	<u>Plaza Theatre</u>	Flesh and the Devil (Ron Carter performing)
4/7	3:00 PM	<u>Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA</u>	Silent Film - The Ten Commandments - the epic 1923 film presented with live accompaniment by Ron Carter on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ.
5/19	5:00 AM	<u>Plaza Theatre</u>	The Big Parade (Ron Carter performing)
7/9	3:00 PM	<u>Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA</u>	The Big Parade
7/21	5:00 P<	<u>Plaza Theatre</u>	Ben Hur (Ken Double performing)
8/11	3:00 PM	<u>Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA</u>	Silent Comedy Shorts
09/22	3:00 PM	<u>Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA</u>	Kid Brother
10/27	3:00 PM	<u>Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA</u>	Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

There were some equipment problems at the Plaza when we took member photos for the new member picture book. Problems fixed and we will be at the High School on the 23rd to retake + those who were not at the Plaza.