



ATOS ATLANTA

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



**February Chapter Meeting
Brett Miller to Accompany the
Silent Film: "Metropolis"
Sunday, February 23 - 2:30PM
Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA**



For February, we are gathering at the Strand Theatre on the Square in Marietta, on Sunday afternoon, February 23rd, at 2:30 P.M, in partnership with the Strand Theatre, for the screening of the legendary silent film *Metropolis*, with the acclaimed young organist Brett Miller at the keyboards of our own Mighty Allen Theatre Organ.

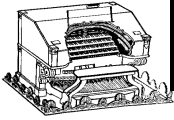
We have the opportunity to participate in the screening of this film every few years and it always comes close to selling out. This presentation will be different with Brett at the keyboards, presenting his interpretation and orchestration of Gottfried Huppertz monumental score.

This is a ticketed event! Tickets are available through the Strand Box Office, either in advance, or on the day of the film (if tickets remain). Instructions for obtaining tickets through the box office appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please renew your ATOS Chapter membership if you haven't done so.



Level	Base	Cap
Student	\$17.50	
Basic	\$35.00	
Donor	\$75.00	\$149.00
Contributor	\$150.00	\$249.00
Sponsor	\$250.00	\$499.00
Patron	\$500.00	And up



A Letter from your President

February Brings Silent Film Classics to Atlanta!

Our 2025 kicked off beautifully with Ken Double's accompaniment of *Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans* at RiverCenter. This February, we're thrilled to continue our silent film series with several cinematic masterpieces.

First, experience the grandeur of Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* at the historic Strand Theatre in Marietta. Brett Miller will provide the perfect soundtrack on the Strand's Allen GW IV organ on Sunday, February 23rd at 3:00 pm. Tickets make a wonderful Valentine's Day gift for the film lover in your life!

The Strand also has a special Valentine's Day treat: screenings of both *Casablanca* and *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, each featuring pre-show music on the theater organ. And for even more silent film magic, join us at The Plaza on February 13th for the 1920 silent classic *The Mark of Zorro* with Ken Double at the console of our chapter's LLQ 324 Allen theatre organ.

We're also excited to announce the upcoming Graham Jackson Memorial Concert in April at Stephenson High School. Stay tuned for more details!

Lastly, have you renewed your 2025 membership? Don't delay! Renew online at atosatlanta.org/membership or send your check to the address on the front page of this newsletter.

Get ready for a fantastic February filled with classic films and incredible organ music! We look forward to seeing you at the movies!

David Yackman



Mailing Address:

Lee Lanier
Atlanta Chapter, ATOS
220 Dunwoody Creek Circle
Sandy Springs, GA 30350
404-790-5400

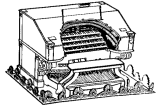
www.atosatlanta.org
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

ACATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Vice President - Ken Double
Treasurer - Lee Lanier
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
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Brady Born
Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Ken Double
Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey
David Tuck

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow



Membership Renewal Time!

Hi, all! It's time to renew your membership. We are successfully avoiding the sweep of inflation affecting everyone else thanks to the generous donations in time and money from the many members who are able to provide a little extra, your dues remain at \$35.

When you are ready to pay your dues, we urge you to use the online payment route at www.atosatlanta.org. It is quick, easy, and safe, unlike mailing a check (the issues with the various post offices continue, as you may have read). Those who still wish to mail a check, send it directly to:

Lee Lanier
220 Dunwoody Creek Circle
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

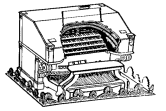
Do not ever send cash in the mail!!

If you renew with cash, *be sure to place it in an envelope with your name* before you hand it to Lee. If Lee is not available at a meeting, you may hand your envelope or check to Larry Davis. Please direct any question you may have to either one of us and we will provide an answer.

Lee Lanier, Treasurer & Larry Davis, Secretary

Year-End IRS Contribution Form

If you need an IRS Contribution Form for your charitable donations to the Atlanta Chapter ATOS, please contact Lee Lanier by email at: l.lanier@comcast.net or by regular postal mail at the address above.



February's Chapter Meeting & A Movie – *Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans*

On the evening of Saturday, January 25th, RiverCenter in Columbus, GA, recently transported audiences back to the golden age of cinema with a screening of F.W. Murnau's 1927 silent masterpiece, *Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans*. Accompanied by the masterful theater organ accompaniment of Ken Double on the mighty Allen GW IV, affectionately known as 'The Wave' by RiverCenter, the film offered a captivating blend of visual artistry and musical brilliance.

Prior to the screening, a chapter meeting and open console session introduced two young local musicians to the theater organ for the first time. Their excitement was palpable as Ken Double guided their exploration of the Allen GW IV's vast array of stops and pedals, their faces beaming with wonder as they coaxed forth a symphony of sounds. Witnessing their enthusiasm was truly inspiring, and it gave a glimpse into the future of this unique art form.

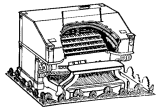
But, back to the film... *Sunrise* unfolds as a poignant tale of a farmer ensnared by the allure of a seductive city woman. Her scheme to eliminate his wife through a staged boating accident sets the stage for a dramatic and emotionally charged narrative. Murnau's masterful use of cinematic techniques, such as the expressive use of shadows and the innovative tracking shots, created a visually stunning and emotionally resonant experience.



Ken Double's organ accompaniment seamlessly integrated with the film, elevating the emotional impact of each scene. His music subtly underscored the characters' inner turmoil, heightened the suspense during pivotal moments, and provided a touch of whimsical humor during lighter scenes. The interplay between the film's visual language and Ken's dynamic score created a truly immersive and unforgettable cinematic experience.

Following the film, Ken gifted the audience with a touching rendition of "Let There Be Peace On Earth," followed by a Q&A session that sparked lively discussion and left the audience of over 200 people with a renewed appreciation for the artistry and enduring power of silent film.

David Yackman



Metropolis and Miller – A Marvelous Match

One of the joys of being involved in ATOS is the opportunity to watch promising young artists develop and become respected musicians. The Atlanta Chapter has had many such opportunities and Brett Miller is one of the latest. We first met Brett here when we hosted the ATOS Summer Youth Adventure in 2018, and again the next year. At age sixteen, he received significant acclaim when he accompanied *Metropolis* on the Möller Organ at the Trenton War Memorial in New Jersey, the story told here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lra_PRM6BRc.

Since then he has accompanied *Metropolis* a number of times, and is becoming, at his young age, one of the foremost exponents of accompanying silent film. In 2021, he was appointed Music Director, and now is the Artistic Director, of the Empire Film and Media Ensemble, an organization that advocates for the education, performance, and production of film music. Brett shares a close relationship between the ensemble and the Beal Institute of Film Contemporary Media at the Eastman School. His recent scores have been recorded with organizations such as the Eye Filmmuseum, the Friedrich-Wilhelm-Murnau Foundation, and Kino Lorber Classics. He has been featured at various film festivals and has played events in conjunction with film preservationists from the Library of Congress and the George Eastman House. He accompanied *Nosferatu* to sold-out audiences at Verizon Hall in conjunction with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the same film, once again, at Boston Symphony Hall.

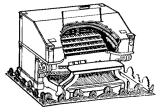


Having studied theatre organ with Jelani Eddington, film accompaniment with Bernie Anderson and Ben Model, and having completed his undergraduate degree in music, he is now pursuing his Masters Degree in Orchestral Conducting at the Eastman School of Music. Brett played a memorable program for us last year on the Grande Page and we are happy to welcome him back to Atlanta for this special public event.

What about the film? What can I say about *Metropolis* that I haven't said before. The magnum opus of Director Fritz Lang, filmed in Germany between the World Wars, exploring the relationships between social classes, workers and production, exploring themes as relevant today as they were at the time of its filming. The film, originally at 152 minutes, was significantly cut within weeks, and when Paramount acquired it for release in the U.S., it was cut even more, until little more than 60% of the film remained. Nonetheless, it remained a film of legend, with extant photographs of unavailable scenes that intrigued the science-fiction and film communities for decades. In the 1990's the Murnau Foundation and Kino worked to collect all the available fragments of the film and reassembled a 124-minute film. Our chapter presented this film at the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend in 2004, with Clark Wilson at the keyboards, which was, as far as anyone has determined, the first time since the 1920's that the film had been presented with organ accompaniment. Fortunately, the original Gottfried Huppertz score remained available. A few years later, a print of the complete film was found, and the missing footage was added so there are now only about 5 minutes missing from the film.

At DragonCon a few years ago, in a seminar on the "Ten Greatest Science Fiction Films," all the panelists and critics agreed that, even these many years later, *Metropolis* remains the best and most important of all science fiction films.

Larry Davis



Strand Theatre Box Office Information

The February meeting is a ticketed event, which our chapter is sponsoring in partnership with the theatre. We will share the profits from this event with our friends at the Strand.

Tickets are available through the Strand Box Office:
By phone at 770-293-0080. You will find Jackie to be very helpful.

In person at 117 North Park Square, Marietta, GA
(the Box Office is open from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm Tuesday through Thursday and
12:00 pm - 6:00 pm Friday, and 2 hours before events.

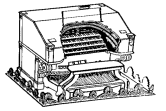
Online at www.strandmarietta.org
Click on "Buy Tickets,"
Scroll down to Metropolis, click on "Learn More"
and when the page comes up, click "Buy."

The direct link is below:
<https://thestrand.my.salesforce-sites.com/ticket/#/events/a0SPs000003EJSTMA4>

PLEASE NOTE:

**THERE ARE ONLY A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE
AS OF THIS WRITING**

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!



UPCOMING ACATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS

February 23 - Sunday at 2:30pm - *Metropolis* at the Strand Theatre

March - TBA

April - TBA - 3rd Annual Graham Jackson Memorial Concert, Ken Double at the Grande Page

May - TBA

June 22 - Sunday at 3:00pm - an afternoon with the Grande Page and Tom Helms in concert

July 13 - Sunday at 3:00pm - Justin LaVoie at the Grande Page, a great young artist from Detroit

November 9 - Sunday at 3:00pm - Mark Herman at the Grande Page at Stephenson High School

Further details on more meetings to come soon!

**Ron Carter
Strand Theatre Events**

Friday, February 14 Casablanca - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis @ 7:30PM

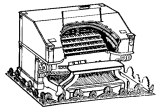
Friday, February 14 Rocky Horror Picture Show - 11:59PM Pre-show Organist TBD @ 11:30PM

Thursday, February 20 To Kill A Mockingbird - 7:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis at 6:30PM

Sunday, February 23 Metropolis - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist Ron Carter at 2:30PM

Other Opportunities to Enjoy Great Organ Music

Thursday, February 13 The Mark of Zorro - 7:30PM Organist Ken Double
The Plaza Theatre



Michael Burkhardt, Organ Improvisation and Hymn Festival

- 📅 February 8, 2025
- 🕒 7:00 pm
- 📍 Druid Hills Presbyterian Church
- 📄 Choral/Vocal
- 🆓 Free Event

SAVE THE DATE!!! Saturday, 8 February Michael Burkhardt in Atlanta!

Druid Hills Presbyterian Church and the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists are sponsoring master composer - improviser – organist, **Michael Burkhardt**. Nationally recognized choral and organ composer and worship leader, Michael Burkhardt comes to Druid Hills Presbyterian Church to lead an ecumenical, city-wide Hymn Festival! **Saturday, February 8th, 2025 at 7:00 pm**. He is also leading a **Master Class on Improvisation at 10:30 am at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church**. Both events are free and open to the public.

Organists at all levels are encouraged to attend the **Improvisation Master Class at 10:30am on Saturday, February 8th**. Michael's highly esteemed creativity and enthusiasm will inspire and motivate organists of all ages.

Reserve your place and your choir singers' places for singing in the Hymn Festival Choir. Sign-up at: william_frierson@comcast.net for details and to receive you copies of the choir music. Druid Hills Presbyterian choir space holds almost 100 singers. Reserve your place as soon as possible. **Festival Choir Rehearsal is Friday night, February 7th at 7:30 pm**.

Don't miss this week-end of exciting music in Atlanta! Invite everyone you know who loves hymns, singing and superb organ leadership and creativity.

Parking space is available in the main front lot to the left of the Sanctuary and in the back lot behind the church. **DO NOT** park in the lot to the right of the church, because it belongs to **The Summit**, and you will be towed.

Happy 2025!

Cliff Frierson, organist

DRUID HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1026 Ponce de Leon Avenue, NE
Atlanta, GA 30306