

***Meeting - January 17 at 3:00 pm
Open House II at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre on the Marietta Square***

By Phillip Allen

As you might recall, this past February our organization held a chapter meeting that was a complete and rousing success! A broader awareness of who we are and what we're all about was greatly enhanced as over 400 people filled the Strand to enjoy one of our chapter meetings. The program was very well-received and people left entertained by the music and magic that a theatre organ can produce. The common comment that came from so many happy people and smiling faces after this past event was, "please let us know when you plan to do this again!"

Well, guess what... *Let's do it again!* This coming January 17 at 3:00 pm (Sunday) get ready for **OPEN HOUSE II!** This will be a fantastic "entry point" event for the public to join us and enjoy, once again, a very fine program in the theatre and then let them "have the run of the house" to wander and explore the beauty and mystique of this "*jewel of a theatre on the Marietta Square.*" We would be very pleased and excited to have 100% attendance of our own chapter members to "seed the audience" and be such wonderful theatre organ ambassadors that we'll have folks wanting to join our chapter. Also, help us get the word out to every single family member you have, as well as your many friends, neighbors and acquaintances regarding this open event.

During this past year's event, we learned a great deal; some things we won't try again and others worked very well. We will have a pre-printed generic name badge for every chapter member that simply says "Please ask me about the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS and the Theatre Organ!" These easy-to-peel badges will let everyone know that



you can help them know more about our love, interest, support and enthusiasm for our most favorite musical instrument in the world. We can draw attention to you from the stage for folks to easily meet, turn to you with your happy smile and easily meet a new friend... it's all about building interest and NEW MEMEBERS on a personal one-on-one basis!

Just like the last Open House event, the concession stand will be open for everyone to enjoy. We'll have the information table open before and after the program for folks who are looking to learn about us, as well as having the truly wonderful FFOW (Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend) CD's available for purchase.

This year, we are very honored and quite privileged to have a celebrity from among our own chapter membership to host as our emcee. None other than the great and entertaining John Moore, formerly of WSB-750 Atlanta radio fame! As he deftly uses his great talents on stage building rapport with the audience at the "front of the house", three of our very own will be waiting down in the pit, to rise majestically, in turn, on the new organ lift seated at the Allen MDS-317EX Digital Theatre Organ, prepared to delight, dazzle and entertain.

With the specifics of the program still being fine-tuned, we'll have the opportunity to enjoy the artistry of Larry Davis, Ron Carter and myself as we put "the old girl through her paces." I can promise that there will be lots of great surprises, guest cameo musical appearances as well as the much-in-demand silent "comedy short" movie... all with the theatre organ at the center of the music-making entertainment.

Following the program, the console will be open with a member of the *Strand Organ Staff* standing by to assist anyone who wants to both play and take a ride on the new organ lift while seated at the console. Great fun for one and all!

Please mark your calendars now... "start spreadin' the news" about this event which will start the new year of 2010 off in an exciting way... let's fill each and every one of the 531 seats and have an SRO (standing room only) crowd for this exciting "entry point" event.

QUICK NOTE: Our upcoming February chapter meeting at the wonderful apartment of Mr. Joe Patton, who lives at The Fabulous Fox Theatre in downtown Atlanta, will be open to active chapter members **ONLY**. This is due to space limitations and out of courtesy to Joe, his warm hospitality and the folks at The Fox.

So, please let me urge you – **DON'T DELAY** – get those 2010 membership dues paid ASAP, as in **NOW!** (Membership form on Page 4). You don't want to be left out of this upcoming meeting because of a simple dues oversight!

Happy New Year

**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
Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

Chapter President - Bucky Reddish
Vice President - Phillip Allen
Treasurer - Wanda Carey Fields
Secretary - Larry Davis
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
Organ-Project Donations**

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Ron Carter asked that we remind you of the continuing requirement for your financial support of 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 and your donations are needed to meet this ongoing obligation.

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

**The Alabama Jubilee in
Birmingham was a great
success!**

Atlanta Chapter Members comprised almost one-third of the attendance. The photo on the right shows almost all of the 31 Atlanta Chapter members who attended at least one performance.



Strand Organ Activities by Ron Carter

The Allen MDS-317EX is going to be used for both the Black Tie Broadway Show gala on Saturday night, January 9th, and for the Gift to the Arts show on Sunday afternoon with Larry Davis, Phillip Allen and yours truly at the console:

THE ATOS CHAPTER ALLEN IS TO BE USED FOR ALL THREE DAYS OF THE STRAND THEATRE'S GRAND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!!

In addition to the silent film screening of *The General* on Friday, January 8th, the Allen will be used at the Black-Tie celebration Saturday evening, January 10th, beginning with an organ pre-show by Ron Carter at 7:30 pm and a silent short by Phillip Allen during the show. Tickets are \$50.00, and include a live 2-hour Broadway stage show and dessert reception.

On Sunday afternoon, January 10, beginning with a 2:30 pm pre-show with Larry Davis at the console, the Allen will be featured as part of the Strand's Gift to the Arts show. This show will feature talent from Kennesaw State University, Dance Company, Cobb County Center for the Performing Arts, Dance Studio and others. Tickets are \$8, \$7 for Seniors.

We HOPE THAT ALL OF OUR ATOS MEMBERS WILL COME TO ONE OF THESE GREAT EVENTS!!!

The Rest of the Story.....

Somehow your Editor omitted the second half of Biz E. Body's excellent article on David Johnston's program at the Burud residence. My sincere apologies to Biz E. Body and here is "the rest of the story"

Jo-Ann left her post behind the camera and took command of the Allen for a great rendition of "Whispering Hope" to round out the Sunday Set. Not at all bad for someone with 'NO MUSICAL TALENT' (in her own words.)

Our own Larry Davis took to the piano and joined David for a duet of the Australian tune "On the Road to Gundagai." David explained that the tucker is lunch, and a tuckerbox is what you keep it in. On the road to Gundagai, a miner went missing and his dog kept watch, sitting by/on the tuckerbox. Celebrated in Australian folklore, poetry, and song, the Dog on the Tuckerbox, a monument to the pioneers of the Riverina region, has become an icon of Australia's past.

David then presented a musical wander trip. He calls this the "Organist's Nightmare." This is what happens when you lose concentration while playing a formal selection like the Toccata in d-minor of J. S. Bach, and your mind sends you down musical roads other than the composer intended. We have all been there – Tune 1, Tune 2 – bridge to Tune 2 (somehow becomes the bridge to Tune 3) and all of a sudden – MEDLEY !!

To conclude, David provided his own interpretation of the Air from the Suite in D of Bach (subtitled "Air on the 'G' String").

A great, energy-filled performance, an instrument up to the challenges, and a host and hostess (and FOOD) to be proud of made for a memorable afternoon. International relations made a great stride forward this day !!

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

Christmas in Atlanta!

Our gathering happened on Saturday, December 12th at 3:00 pm. The chapter members and guests converged on the Reddish residence for a Musical Variety program featuring members of the chapter and a couple of special guests.

After a short group of announcements and other business matters, the program was launched in grand style. Chapter member (a relative 'NEWBIE' to the chapter and also to theatre organ playing) Phillip Allen led the way with an opening medley of "Trim Up the Tree" and "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch." Next followed a great medley of selections from "The Nutcracker" showing the orchestral side of the organ. Christmas carols were next: "What Child Is This" and "We Three Kings of Orient Are." A medley of Christmas novelties was the last offering – after "Grandma Got Run (RAN?) Over by a Reindeer," we were reminded that "All (we) Want for Christmas is (our) Two Front Teeth." "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas" was the wished for gift next, and then we realized that "I'm Gettin' Nothin' for Christmas."

Phillip turned the program to player number 2 – Rick McGee. As a tribute to Christmas programs past with Bob Van Camp, he would offer 'presents' to particular people. The first gift was "The March of the Toys." The second gift was the Christmas standard "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." If the weather predictions are true, this may be an actual occurrence. Then the horses were loosed and the "Sleigh Ride" was under way – complete with a full audience of



Back: Larry Davis, David Gray, Rick McGee, Ken Double. Front: Phillip Allen, Wanda Fields

"whip cracks" being added!! To close this portion of the program, an improvisation on the carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" led to a classical / theatrical climax – "the Angels are coming, the Angels are coming!!!"

A special feature came next: Larry Davis on the organ, and Wanda Fields on the piano. Duet arrangements of "Sweet Little Jesus Boy," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" had everyone humming along and regaling in the duet artistry of these two. Larry then stepped aside and Wanda took her place at the Walker. Arrangements from her days as "the Lady on the Organ" at Mount Paran Church of God were the features; "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "He Brought Me Out" roused fond memories of Wanda at Mt. Paran. To close, Wanda offered a staple of the Jessie Crawford school of theatre organ – "So Beats My Heart for You," complete with open harmony and everything!

Special Guest number 1 (and also a chapter member) was next: Mr. Ken Double. Ken offered "The Christmas Waltz" to get us in the mood, and then a Bing Crosby Christmas staple – "Mele Kalikimaka (Merry Christmas)" complete with vocal – the organ (all

by itself!!) accompanied Ken as he sang – who knew !! Ken chose the uplifting selection of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" to close his portion of the program. It's so nice our national CEO / President learned how to play the organ !!

Special Guest number 2 (unannounced and a surprise guest) was none other than David Gray. He drove all the way from Scotland to get here!! David offered "This Could be the Start of Something Big" and it was. Next was a heartfelt rendition of "I Concentrate on You" showing the lyric ballad capabilities of the artist and the Walker. David then moved to the piano and we were treated to a selection by Rachmaninoff – the "Floods of Spring." Piano technique and interpretation were flawless and the audience spell-bound. Back to the Walker and a selection for member Bob Foreman – "Nola" and a tribute to Joe Patten "Georgie Girl" as arranged by former FOX organist Bob Van Camp.

Next came the good stuff – food – enough sweets to crystallize an entire lake!! All good, all not good for you. Do you think that stopped us??

Thanks to Bucky for a home resplendent with Christmas cheer and décor, an instrument to make the holidays sing, and to all who provided the goodies and helped with the preparations to make this annual holiday meeting a great cap to a really great year.

Happy Holidays and a Great New Year to All. GOOD NIGHT !!!

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

Bucky sends a special "**Thank You**" to Ken Double, David Gray and Mike Knight for their help in preparing his house for the December program and to Svetlana Satterly for arranging the wonderful dessert table.

A Special Screening of The Legendary Silent Movie, The General,

at the Strand Theatre on the Historic Marietta Square Featuring Theatre Organist Ron Carter with an organ pre-show and sing-a-long by Phillip Allen, a dance presentation by The Little General Cloggers, special film introduction by Harper Harris, lead interpreter for the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History, civil war re-enactors in period costume greeting the patrons, and a book signing by Russell Bonds of his book "Stealing the General"

Friday, January 8 at 7:00 pm
 Organ Pre-show at 6:30 pm
SPECIAL TICKET PRICE FOR ATLANTA ATOS MEMBERS OF ONLY \$5.00!
 Covered Free parking directly across the street in the Cobb County Parking Deck!

Special VIP tickets are available for \$15.00, which includes a presentation beginning at 6 pm by Harper Harris at the Andrew Raider's room in the Marietta Museum (the Kennesaw House) where the plot by the Yankee spies began. At 6:30 pm these VIP ticket holders will be escorted by Andrew Raider re-enactors in costume to the Strand and to specially reserved seats. There are only 25 tickets available for this special part of the program!

Beginning the Strand's one year Birthday celebration (65 years going back to its original opening in 1935) will be the screening of the Buster Keaton epic

1927 silent film THE GENERAL! Hailed by critics as Buster's best silent film of the twenties! It is considered by silent film buffs as one of the greatest films ever made. Keaton performs many dangerous physical stunts on and around the moving train. The climax of the film includes a spectacular moment where a bridge collapses as the railroad train crosses it!! The production company left the wreckage in the river bed for over 20 years till the start of WWII when it was finally salvaged for scrap.

Our own Ron Carter has developed an exciting accompaniment score based on period music from the civil war era. The Strand Mighty Allen will sing forth for the first time accompanying a silent film on its new double scissors lift in the middle of the orchestra pit! The Strand will be using a new Kino digitally restored DVD with

exceptional restoration and quality!!

Come early for the organ pre-show and sing-a-long by Phillip Allen and the premier of a new song specially written by ATOS President Ken Double for the Strand and sung by a guest soloist accompanied by Mr. Allen at the organ! An added extra attraction will be Kennesaw's Little General Cloggers who made their debut when the locomotive, the General, was returned to Kennesaw in 1971 performing live on the Strand stage for the first time!!

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

**Letter from Ken Double,
Pres/CEO, ATOS re
ATOS Annual Convention**

Dear Bucky, et al in the Atlanta Chapter,

It was great to gather at your home December 12 and enjoy the chapter Christmas party, and have a chance to participate. Thank you so much for having me.

It was also good to have a chance to "pitch" those in attendance about the possibility of Atlanta hosting the 2013 Annual Convention of ATOS.

As I mentioned, Seattle is set for this summer - Providence/New England area for 2011 - LA/San Diego for 2012. And I hope we might bring ATOS back east for 2013. There are compelling reasons as to why an ATOS convention in Atlanta would make sense, and would work.

First - Atlanta is a great destination city, and the Fox and Mighty Mo are a great centerpiece for a convention. The FFOW (*Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend* held May 28 - 30, 2004) was a hit, and there is strong reason to believe that nine years later (2004-2013), the world of the theatre organ would again love to come to Atlanta.

Second - there is every reason to believe that the Page organ at Stephenson HS should be ready well in time for 2013; the Strand in Marietta will work with either the pipe organ playing, or as a venue for Allen organ; a day trip to the Tivoli in Chattanooga, along with a stop to hear the Austin at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial makes great sense. The idea would be to schedule these things around a possible four dates at the Fox.

Third - the leadership of the convention would be in the capable and experienced hands of Phillip and Mandy Allen; allowing them the great assistance and support of people like Larry Davis, James Thrower, Ron Carter, Bucky Reddish, John McCall, and many other chapter members who were involved in the FFOW to add their

experience to the event.

It can be a GREAT catalyst for bringing specific duties to new members, and make them feel an integral part of the chapter.

Food for thought: as it is impossible to know about the economy, travel, attendance, etc., 3-1/2 years down the road, this potential bid from Atlanta could come in a flexible form, just as Seattle did with its bid for 2010. Puget Sound Chapter prepared for a 3-day...a 4-day...and a 5-day event. By signing flexible contracts for artists, hotel and bussing, the chapter was ready to pull back to a lesser event should it be necessary, thus lowering the risks on the financial side. PSTOS officials waited to see the numbers on Cleveland attendance...and once Cleveland hit near the 400 mark, PSTOS officials announced the full, five-day event, comfortable that the economy did not negatively impact the convention attendance, and they could more comfortably move forward with their plans.

Atlanta could move in a similar fashion, thus prepared to be flexible.

Things to know: the "split" on profits is now 60/40, favoring the host chapter; this change took effect prior to the Indianapolis convention in 2008.

The numbers: Since 1988, ATOS' share of convention proceeds has been approx. \$14,000 on average. 2008-Indianapolis, it was about \$17,000, and last year's Cleveland convention generated to ATOS some \$14,000 in proceeds.

The local share was exceedingly higher. There is NO split on Pre-Glow...After-Glow...and Record Shop profits. All those dollars belong to the chapter alone.

Cleveland/Western Reserve Chapter profits in 2009 - just at \$48,000.

Indianapolis. CIC-ATOS chapter profits in 2008 - a whopping \$52,000.

Cleveland attendance was 460. Indianapolis 510.

Atlanta has an opportunity for a spectacularly successful event which

could help take care of expenses for a Strand organ project...a Page project...or some new venture the chapter might have begun.

The process for applying is fairly simple. Once discussed and voted upon, the chapter writes to either Mike Hartley or me and requests the opportunity to host the convention.

A packet will be sent with specific information needed...supply that info and the process is underway.

As a chapter member, I think this is a wonderful opportunity. I have worked in one capacity or another on all five Indianapolis conventions, and all five have been VERY successful. Atlanta has the leadership and the membership support to handle this task.

I urge the leadership to move in this direction.

As the President and CEO of ATOS, I think it is important that we maintain a three-to-four year window of lead time for conventions, and this keeps us in that time frame. More importantly, I think it is vital to bring conventions to new locations, and although we've been here before for FFOW...that was not an annual (national) convention, but turned out to be a great success.

Finally, the key, of course, will be the Fox. We have good and "organ-friendly" management in place, and ambassadors on the Fox Board of Directors, who will do what they can to make this happen. That window of opportunity is possibly going to narrow. Joe Patten, Bob Foreman, Larry-Douglas Embury and others will be of great import in this effort in dealing with Allan Vella and the staff at the Fox Theatre.

Let me know how I can be of assistance in this matter, and thank you for your incomparable hospitality, and your interest in this idea.

Sincerely,
Ken Double
Proud member of the
Atlanta Chapter, ATOS

In order to save club money, we are offering you the option of receiving your monthly newsletter in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format by email instead of "snail" mail. This will not only save on postage expense, but 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.

Larry, Carols and Mo What a Show !

By Larry Davis

Where in the country – where in the world - could one find 4000 people attending a theatre organ concert? Certainly nowhere but the Atlanta Fox Theatre at Christmas, with Larry-Douglas Embury at the console of our beloved Möller organ. For the fourth year in a row, all tickets were claimed in only a few short hours for the Fox Theatre's annual gift to Atlanta: a free program that is a benefit for local charities.

A frequent topic of discussion in online theatre organ forums is how theatre organ can be presented to attract wider audiences. To learn the answer to that question, one only need witness the program at the Fox Theatre, where Larry-Douglas was joined by eminent jazz trumpeter, vocalist and band-leader Joe Gransden; and by the Gwinnett



Blackberry photos courtesy of Randy Anderson



Young Singers. The addition of these musicians turned the night into a spectacular variety show, and the program itself opened, not with the organ, but with Joe and his orchestra.

In fact, the show actually began before the program with the Gwinnett Young Singers entertaining in the lobby, while Marines in their dress uniforms collected toys and donations for Toys for Tots and barrels were filled with food for the

needy. Once inside the auditorium, those attending were greeted with the sight of the wonderful sets for the in-residence ballet *The Nutcracker*.

High moments included Larry-Douglas Embury leading the audience in an extended sing-along, with a stunning *Adeste Fidelis* that featured all the “mighty” of Mighty Mo; a stellar presentation of the *Little Drummer Boy* featuring all the Möller's drums; *Do You Hear What I Hear?* joined by saxophone in the balcony, trombone on the orchestra floor, and trumpet on stage; and an unforgettable *Christmas Song* with Larry-Douglas playing the gold piano and Joe Gransden on trumpet and with vocals.

It was an evening of phenomenal music, entertainment and celebration, as it always is, which is why Atlantans fill the theatre year after year.

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- January 8 (Friday) — *Ron Carter Accompanying the Silent Movie “The General”* on the Allen MDS-317EX at The Strand Theatre on the historic Marietta Square. See attached flyer for details.
- **January 17 (Sunday), 3:00 pm, Chapter Meeting** — *Open House II* at The Strand Theatre on the historic Marietta Square, concert and variety show on the Allen MDS-317EX. (See article on Page 1.)
- January 17 (Sunday) 2:00 pm — *John McCall in Concert*, his sixth performance on the Forker Memorial 4/32 Wurlitzer Theatre Organ at Grace Baptist Church, 8000 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, Florida. Free Admission
- January 23 (Saturday), 3:00 pm — *Concert at Spivey Hall* (Pre-Concert Talk: 2:00 pm), www.spiveyhall.org, featuring Mr. Gunnar Idenstam, Swedish Organist. Tickets: \$30 (Artist link: www.idenstam.org)
- **February 14 (Sunday), 3:00 pm, Chapter Meeting** — *Hamm-O-Rama*, featuring Lloyd Hess at the Mighty Hammond Organ, hosted by Joe Patton at his apartment residence at The Atlanta Fox Theatre. (Members only)
- 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 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