

***JIM WINGATE AT STEPHENSON HIGH SCHOOL
JANUARY 18TH 2015 — 3 PM,***



Our January 2015 program will again be at Stevenson High School in Stone Mountain GA. This program will be at 3 pm on Sunday, January 18th featuring James Wingate.

About the artist... James has been a staff member in a number of churches, serving as Choirmaster/Organist and Minister of Music. In New York City he worked at the Manhattan Baptist Church, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church (Brooklyn Heights) and in Atlanta, GA. at the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church.

He has been playing the pipe organ in churches and theaters for many years. During this time he has also been involved in music administration and management, choral and orchestral conducting and arranging and teaching. He also worked as a recording engineer and as a record producer in New York City.

Organ teachers have been Carl Burkel, Jefferson City, MO; Mildred Andrews (University of

Oklahoma) Norman, OK; Dr. Virginia Reese (Oklahoma Baptist University) Shawnee, OK and Philip Malpus (Southern Seminary) Louisville, KY.

As a studio musician, Jim has appeared on numerous sacred and secular recordings, often using the studio Wurlitzer at the Radio City Music Hall. Jim played organ Intermission shows in Louisville KY, at the United Artist Theatre (where he was house Organist), the Beacon Theatre and the Radio City Music Hall in NYC. Additionally he has played programs on the WHAS studio organ; the Brown Theatre in Louisville KU.; the Delacose Theatre at Lincoln Center; the Cool Jazz Festival in NYC and at the Brooklyn Paramount.

He has appeared as an organist on the NBC-TV Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Rockefeller Center and in a CBS-TV Christmas Eve Service at the United at ions Church Center. As senior music editor for the Macmillan Publishing Company in NYC, he supervised the development and production of a textbook Music/Art series. The Spectrum of Music included textbooks and teacher's manuals with 80 records. He also has choral arrangements published by Warner Brothers and has published articles in *The Church Musician*.

Jim plays horn and is a part of the French Horn section of the Atlanta Concert Band. He also plays horn with the North Avenue Presbyterian Instrumental ensemble in Atlanta

His career has also been in the field of education, having held teaching positions in New York,

Kentucky and Georgia. His private school experience includes teaching math, robotics and computer science as well as serving as Director of Educational Technology at the Berkeley Carroll School, The Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn, NY and at The Lovett School in Atlanta, GA. At the University level he taught piano as an instructor in piano at the Baptist Seminary in Louisville, KY.

Jim is an active ham radio operator. He was a radio communications volunteer during the 9/11 crises in NYC in 2001 and during the Katrina hurricane disaster in 2005 and is an active member of the United States Army MARS.

He has continually sponsored ham radio clubs in schools since 1975 and is presently the trustee of radio station KF4OVF (The Lovett School).

He is a member of Musicians Union - Atlanta Local 148, ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Services), CERT (Cobb Emergency Response Team), SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network) and Georgia Army MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio Service). He holds a BM (Bachelor of Music Degree - Organ Performance) from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma and a MSM (Master's of Sacred Music) from Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

Jim has four children, eleven grandchildren and eight cats. His hobbies include computing, camping and restoring pipe organs. (He is presently installing a four manual Möller pipe organ in his

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**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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www.atosatlanta.org
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*AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under
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Chapter President - Larry Davis
Vice President - Ken Double
Treasurer - Rick McGee
Secretary - Randy Cobb
Newsletter Editor - Elbert Fields
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis

*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
elfields@yahoo.com*

BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2015

The following previously-nominated Atlanta Chapter Board members were confirmed at our December 14, 2014 meeting in accordance with our By-Laws.

Officers

President: Larry Davis
Vice President: Ken Double
Treasurer: Rick McGee
Secretary: Randy Cobb
Newsletter Editor: Elbert Fields
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Bob Fountain - Randy Hendry - Lee Lanier - Tim Stephens - David Tuck

Director Emeritus:

Bucky Reddish



**President's
Note...**

President Roosevelt said that being elected a second time is more gratifying than the first because it means that people liked you and what you accomplished in our first term. To be elected back into the position of president ten years after the first time is truly humbling. We have a lot to do – we always have a lot to do – and with a great board of directors and all of you working together, we are going to make a lot of progress in the next year towards our goals of preserving these wonderful instruments, and presenting them to people who love to hear them and people who don't yet know that they love hearing them.

When I started writing the president's messages in 2005, I made it a practice each month to recognize chapter members and others for their contributions to the chapter. In this new term, the first choice is an obvious one and I'm sure all of you will join me in congratulating and commending **Tim Stephens** for his service over the past few years. Tim came out of nowhere, seemingly, a few years ago, and has since become an indispensable member of the chapter. He assumed the presidency at a time when great things were developing and has steered the ship effectively and with skill and grace. Under his leadership, we have made phenomenal progress, achieved some truly great things, and our reputation as an important organization has increased exponentially. Make sure you take a moment to greet Tim and thank him for all he has done – and I assure you will continue to do – for our chapter.

Now, down to business. Let's talk about membership. When you read this, membership dues are, well, due! And due before March 1. Our long-suffering treasurer reports that dues dribble in throughout the year as people remember to send them in (I have to confess I have been guilty of



Outgoing President Tim Stephens on right passes the Atlanta Chapter President's Pipe to incoming President Larry Davis

this). He has been very accommodating with respect to all of us and since we are like a family, we don't want to lose anyone. But this year, let's get back to the way it's supposed to be in order to provide him with some relief. I've already complied by giving Rick my dues in advance – and you can hand yours in person to Rick, send us a check by mail, and soon, Tim will have provided a means for you to pay dues online.

The second part of my membership message concerns the American Theatre Organ Society – that is, our national organization. I encourage those of you who are not members of ATOS to join us and become part of our nationwide efforts this year. In Atlanta, we have a very strong chapter with significant resources, talent and participation, but that's not true everywhere. The national organization provides both an nationwide network and resources for a variety of efforts across the country that are directed at preserving these treasured instruments and our art form. Your membership is not just an issue of financial support. And it's not just receiving a magazine every two months as some people have suggested. It demonstrates to the entire music world and to historic preservation interests that we are a strong organization with significant support and participation from around the world. If you have questions about what we are doing, what we hope to accomplish, and how you can be a part, please talk to me or talk to Ken Double. Come join us!

Stay in touch,

Larry Davis

A Unique Christmas Present

By the Chamber Mouse

Having been informed that Biz E. Body is unexpectedly indisposed this month, the Chamber Mouse is glad he was hidden away in the Main Chamber of the Grande Page Organ so he can file this substitute report from the December meeting. He declares that there is no way he would lurk in the Solo Chamber during a program because of a fear of instant destruction from use of the Post Horn.

If there is one word that characterizes the music (and the personality) of John McCall, it is *unique*. His style of playing and his registrations are unlike anyone else in the theatre organ world and his playing is immediately recognizable. One might also mention the creative use of his left extensor indicis muscle in implementing modulations.

But for the purposes of this review, the focus is on the musical selections. Most appropriately for December, the selections were related to Christmas, winter, holidays. There were certainly a few of the more recognizable compositions but for the most part, the music consisted of lesser known and yet very beautiful and entertaining music. Who but John McCall plays Christmas music composed by Brian Wilson or Mickey Rooney?



The program began with a romp: *Happy Sleigh Ride*, and the sleigh was perhaps the only transportation method that would fulfill the accompanying promise, *I'll Be Home for Christmas*. Following that came *You're All I Want for Christmas*, a 1940's song first recorded by Frankie Lane.

If we didn't already know, *The Holiday Season* reminded us what we were celebrating, though after January 2014, none of us would have celebrated being *Snowbound*, even though the music was certainly entertaining.

We then learned musically Mr. McCall's Christmas wish: *I'd Like to Hitch a Ride with Santa Claus*, *That's What I Want for Christmas* in his next two selections. And then Mr. McCall told us that *I'll Have a Blue Christmas Without You*. Fortunately, we were present and the blues were certainly absent.

Mr. McCall then presented a medley of three beautifully performed religious works, *I Saw Three Ships Come Sailing In*,

Rutter's beautiful *Nativity Carol*, and *Little Altar Boy*.

Then came one of the most delightful of all the tunes of the afternoon: Mickey Rooney's *Little Christmas Tree*. That one you can play for us anytime, Mr. McCall.

With the Second War looming on the horizon, Irving Berlin optimistically penned what would become a classic Christmas song, *Happy Holidays*, and it was used in the 1942 film *Holiday Inn*. Following that, Mr. McCall jumped the decades and presented Brian Wilson's *Christmas Day*.

The program concluded with the famous *Toyland*, and then Mr. McCall, in his aforementioned delightfully unique manner, invited himself to perform an encore, *I Wish That I Wish Tonight* from the film *Christmas in Connecticut*.

Unique repertoire, unique style, unique registrations, and a delightfully unique manner – that was John's Christmas present to the Atlanta Chapter and friends. The Grande Page itself is a unique instrument and John truly made it his own for his program.

With respect to the "friends," it is a delight to report that there were more than a dozen visitors who came to hear the Grande Page organ in the hands of a master.

DIRECTIONS TO STEPHENSON HIGH SCHOOL

- **From I-85 N** - Turn South on Jimmy Carter Blvd. which changes to Mountain Industrial Blvd. and then Hairston at Memorial Dr. Go to the 3rd traffic light and turn left on Rockbridge Rd. When you cross the railroad tracks, continue two miles and turn right on Stephenson Rd. Go 1 mile. School is on the right.
- **From I-285** - Exit on Memorial and turn East toward Stone Mountain. Turn right on Rockbridge Rd. and continue. When you cross the railroad tracks, continue two miles and turn right on Stephenson Rd. Go 1 mile. School is on the right.
- **From I-20 West Side** - Take Exit 74 and go north on Lithonia Industrial Blvd. Turn left on Stone Mt. Lithonia Rd. Go about a mile and turn right at the light onto S. Dishon Rd. Proceed approximately 1.25 miles (past a church on the right) and turn left on Alford which dead-ends into Stephenson Rd. Turn left. The school will be about 1/2 mile on your left.

School address is: 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- January 11, 2 pm CST, Rick McGee, Alabama Chapter Meeting at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham
- January 18, 3 pm EST, Jim Wingate, Atlanta Chapter Meeting at Stephenson High School in Stone Mountain



For tickets to all shows, please contact the Earl Smith Strand Box Office at 770-293-0080; or in person M-F from 11 am to 6 pm and on Sat from 9 am to 1 pm or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org.

Movies at the Strand:

- Friday, January 6th, organ pre-show 7:30 pm, *Princess Bride*, organist TBA
- Friday, February 12th, organ pre-show 7:30 pm, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, organist TBA
- Saturday, February 14th organ pre-show 7:30 pm, *Casablanca*, organist John McCall

It's Time To Pay Your Dues — Do It Now, Don't Put It Off

Calendar-year 2015 dues of \$35 per household (Students \$17.50) are now due and payable. Article VIII, Section 2 of our By-Laws state “Dues shall become payable on January 1st of each year and shall be paid within the first two months of the year.”

Although not stated in the By-Laws, we have made it a practice to consider payments made during the last quarter of the preceding year to apply toward the following calendar year; therefore, if you paid during the last quarter of 2014, you are considered a member for 2015. Please use the Membership Application below noting the instructions and address therein.

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

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home). Jim and his wife Susan live in Marietta, GA.

About the Instrument... Information regarding the history of our Grande Page theatre pipe organ is covered in last month's newsletter introducing our December 2014 program, which was also at Stephenson High School. Details are taken from an article written by Larry Davis and used with his permission in earlier issues.

Directions to Stephenson High School are on Page 3.