



# ATOS ATLANTA

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



**January Chapter Meeting  
Sunday, January 22 - 3:00pm  
Strand Theatre  
Bob Gullledge**

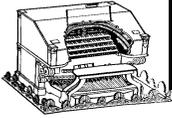


**House Organist at the Byrd Theatre  
Richmond, VA**

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



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

Chapter President - Ken Double  
Vice President - David Yackman  
Treasurer - Paul Beavin  
Secretary - Larry Davis  
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless  
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis  
Membership Director - Janis Beavin  
Board members:

Kerry Bunn  
Ron Carter  
Rick Clear  
Randy Hendry  
Eddie Hulsey, Jr.  
Lee Lanier

Strand Project – Ron Carter  
Page Project – Jack Sandow

### **WE BEGIN THE NEW YEAR AT THE STRAND! The Byrd Theatre’s Bob Gulledge at the Allen GW 4**

The Atlanta Chapter of ATOS already has some exciting events in store for 2023 – remember to write THAT if you still even write checks! – and it gets underway with the entertaining Bob Gulledge performing at the Strand Theatre on the square in downtown Marietta. Read all you need to know about the man who has performed at the famous Byrd Theatre in Richmond, VA for many years.

We enjoyed a lovely December meeting at Stephenson High School with the Grande Page in great form. Lovely despite the less-than-lovely rainy weather that kept a few of you at home. Thanks to Ron Carter, Eddie Hulsey, Jr., and Larry Davis for joining me in making some holiday music magic.

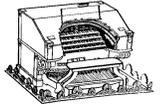
We have a “new” board of directors leading the charge for the chapter, with thanks to outgoing members John Tanner, John Alford and David Tuck for their dedicated service on behalf of our group of theatre organ lovers.

While it was insanely busy – as always – during Christmas with endless shows to enjoy at the Strand Theatre; and the Fox; and the Plaza Theatre, things will not slow down too much as we start the New Year. Ron Carter keeps track of the calendar for your Editor Debbie Chambless, so do plan to support those theatres that support our music.

As we get set to enjoy Bob Gulledge at the Strand, we will have another special event in February with the amazing Scott Foppiano at the Page in February. April will find us presenting a full concert at the Page marking the return of ATOS President Tedde Gibson in a special performance also featuring the choirs of Stephenson High School.

And something to consider for long-range planning. The ATOS Annual Convention. It is set for early July in the greater Chicago area, and will feature some of the most famous, and largest, and most exciting theatre organs in the world. Chicago has not hosted since 1996, and Taylor Trimby and his group of co-hosts are planning a great event. Details in your Theatre Organ journal, or online at [atos.org](http://atos.org).

See you soon at the Strand, and I hope the New Year is off to a grand start for all of you!



**IT'S 2023! THE NEW YEAR, AND MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

Happy New Year everyone! Your Atlanta Chapter of ATOS already has some very exciting programs and concerts lined up for 2023.

Support for these programs comes from you membership dues, which can be renewed for as little as \$35 (Students \$17.50), plus many members renew at different levels of funding to help support the chapter, and those dollars added to the basic dues are vital to our overall operations.

You can send a check made out to ACATOS. The address is on the masthead of the newsletter. Or, it is simple to renew online at [atosatlanta.org](https://atosatlanta.org).

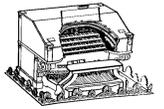
Don't delay! Stay with us and support the music of the theatre organ. Better yet, bring someone new to our group and help us grow!! Thank you for your ongoing support!

# Happy 101st Birthday to Jack Sandow!!

We couldn't let January slip by without celebrating our own Energizer Bunny on his 101st birthday! What an influence he has had on our Grande Page installation.

Jack, we wish you many more years of health and happiness!





## Bob Gullledge - Byrd Theatre

A native of North Carolina and relocated to Richmond in 1965, I was converted as a life long "Richmonder". It was that Easter season of 1965 I had my first exposure to the theatre organ. Attending a first run screening of "The Greatest Story Ever Told", I had never been in such a movie theatre. A grand palace with a Wurlitzer Theatre Organ rising out of the orchestra pit with Eddie Weaver making a grand entrance. I was surrounded by the most wonderful sound, I could feel the bass notes vibrating the floor. I was hooked. After months of begging for lessons and being told to keep up my piano lessons, Eddie gave me a shot as his student. I was disappointed to be told my lessons would be at the Miller and Rhoads Tea Room, but the opportunity to learn from Eddie was an honor. After the first year we moved to the Byrd for Saturday morning lessons. My history with that organ goes back over 50 years. I was appointed the House Organist in March of 1996, and I still enjoy the audiences at the theatre.

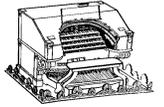


I also served as the House Organist at the Loew's Theatre in Richmond from 1971 until the original organ was removed in 1973. I was the organist at Parker Field in Richmond for the Richmond Braves, the farm team of the Atlanta Braves. I met Hank Aaron there, when he was the General Manager of the Atlanta Braves, and many of the players who moved on to Atlanta to exceptional careers.

I have a degree in Business Administration from the University of Richmond. I have a working career in transportation, pharmaceuticals, industrial supply, tooling/supply chain and institutional sales of organs and pianos. I have two grown children who have wonderful careers and of who I am very proud. I am grandfather to three terrific grandsons. I taught them music at a very early age and they all play an instrument of their choosing. One the cello, one the violin and one the piano. It is a great joy to attend their concerts, when I can, and their sports events. I've reached an age where I'm perfectly satisfied to be a proud grandpa.

## Bob Gullledge





Ron Carter  
Strand Theatre Events  
Pre-Shows by Strand Organists

**FLESH AND THE DEVIL**  
Sunday, February 12 - 3:00pm



Flesh and the Devil is an MGM romantic drama, a silent masterpiece released in 1926 at the end of the silent film era. It stars Greta Garbo, John Gilbert, Lars Hanson and Barbara Kent, and directed by the famous director Clarence Brown, originally a native of Knoxville, Kentucky. It has been selected for preservation in the National Film Institute. and registered in the Library of Congress as being historically, culturally and aesthetically significant.

This is the film that made Greta Garbo a star. A story of two friends who both become romantically involved with Garbo, who is married to a wealthy count. A pistol duel sends one to Africa for five years and his friend then falls in love with Garbo. This pits the two friends against one another, who have been close since childhood, and results in another climatic pistol duel with a surprise and very unusual ending.

Critics have stated that this is one of the most beautifully photographed silent films with scenes and shots that are epic. Another stated that Flesh and the Devil created a Romantic glue seldom seen in sound pictures.

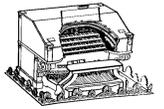
Garbo and Gilbert's romance was very real and they fell deeply in love at the beginning of the film. In one of the love scenes, they were so engaged with one another, that the Director turned out the lights and had his staff leave the area!

This was a film that was ahead of its time. Ron Carter, silent film theatre organist, has composed a musical score rich in themes and harmony that will have the audience forgetting that the actors talking cannot be heard. The theatre organ will do the talking for them.



The Mighty Allen at the Strand has been very busy in 2022!

**53** preshows  
**6** full length silent films  
**5** private events and demos



## “This Is What We’re Supposed to Be Doing”

What does it take to make a wonderful musical event that turns out to be even more successful than expected? Well, it starts with a capable impresario who knows both show business and his audience. Add to that a magnificent venue, a grand musical instrument, and a handful of talented musicians and you have the ingredients for a memorable day.

In the case of RiverCenter in Columbus, GA, we can start with the instrument, the mighty Allen GW4 Opus 1 that with the “Fox Package” is as impressive to see as to hear. RiverCenter for the Performing Arts is the magnificent venue, with its three auditoriums and the expansive and soaring lobby. The impresario for this fabulous facility is the knowledgeable, enthusiastic, and more important, creative Norman Easterbrook, who incorporates the organ into the facility’s programming in unusual ways. The final ingredients were the five talented organists from the Atlanta Chapter willing to offer their abilities to provide the people of Columbus with a special experience.

The event was billed as *Christmas with the Wave*, the Wave being what RiverCenter calls the organ – appropriate considering the wave of sound that emerges from the banks of speakers. It was brilliantly scheduled on the day of the Columbus Christmas Parade that fortuitously ended right in front of RiverCenter, and it was combined with a display of gingerbread art, a wondrous and delightful exhibit. Add to that the chill in the air and folks who were gathered near RiverCenter came inside for warmth, warm drinks and light snacks, the gingerbread exhibit, to their surprise, Christmas music on the grand organ positioned in the lobby for that purpose.



To provide the music, organists came from all over: John McCall from Palmetto, Eddie Hulsey from Tallapoosa, Debbie Chambless from Gorham’s Bluff in northeast Alabama, Ron Carter and Larry Davis from Marietta. It was a round robin of playing, each person for a few minutes with the next organist taking the ending chord of the previous organist, so the music was never interrupted (thanks, John McCall for the inspiration for that one).

Left to Right: Norm Easterbrook, Ron Carter, Debbie Chambless, Larry Davis, John McCall, Eddie Hulsey

The plan was for a walk-through event, organ music playing while people got some coffee and looked at the exhibit. But what happened was that people began to pull up seats and benches and gather around into an unplanned audience and once that trend was recognized, facility staff began to bring seating for the ad hoc concertgoers.

As the event came to a close, the enthusiasm and applause of those present reflected the overwhelming success of the event. One of the organists remarked, “This is what we’re supposed to be doing,” that is bringing the music of the theatre organ to new audiences, this time, with thanks to Norm Easterbrook for his visionary planning through which we fulfil our mission.

