



ATOS ATLANTA

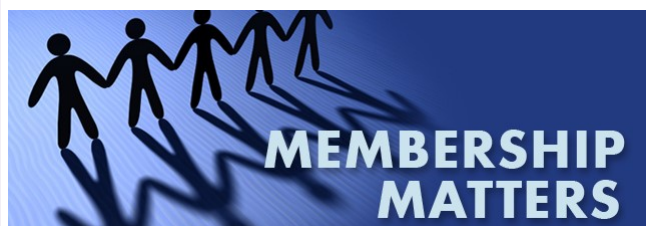
Official Newsletter of The Atlanta Chapter of the
American Theatre Organ Society



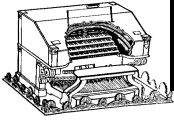
January Chapter Meeting
Ken Double to Accompany the Silent Film:
“Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans”
Saturday, January 25 - 7:30PM
RiverCenter for Performing Arts



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

Happy New Year & A Note on Silent Films

Greetings fellow theatre organ enthusiasts! As we embark on a new year, I'm thrilled to assume the role of Atlanta ATOS Chapter President, following in the capable footsteps of our departing president, Eddie Hulsey. My sincere thanks to Eddie for his dedicated service.

Exciting times lie ahead! Vice President Ken Double is working on curating a fantastic schedule of events, beginning with two captivating silent film experiences from 1927:

- ◆ January 25th (Saturday, 7:30PM): "Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans" at RiverCenter in Columbus, GA, featuring live accompaniment by Ken Double on the Allen GW IV theatre organ dubbed "The Wave" by RiverCenter.
- ◆ February 23rd (Sunday, 3:00PM): "Metropolis" at The Strand Theatre in Marietta, with a live performance by rising star Brett Miller at the console.

These are just the beginning! We're exploring more silent film collaborations with venues like The Plaza and The Strand.

Why Silent Films?

- ◆ A Shared History: The theatre organ's very existence is inter-twined with silent films.
- ◆ The Authentic Experience: Silent films were meant to be experienced with live organ accompaniment.
- ◆ A New Audience: Partnering with silent film events introduces the theatre organ to a broader audience, fulfilling our mission to preserve and promote this magnificent instrument.

While the "talkies" threatened to silence the theatre organ, its resilience continues to shine to this day. Radio stations, pizza parlors, restored movie palaces, private collectors, and organizations like ATOS have ensured its survival. The resurgence of silent film brings the theatre organ back to the forefront, and our chapter is proud to play a leading role.

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Mailing Address:

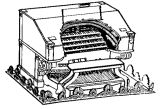
Lee Lanier
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www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

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

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

Brady Born
Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Ken Double
Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey
David Tuck

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow



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How Can You Help?

- ◆ Attend! Come enjoy the shows and engage with fellow enthusiasts.
- ◆ Be an Ambassador: Share your knowledge about the theatre organ with newcomers in attendance at these movie events. Answer their questions, spark their curiosity, and invite them to learn more about our chapter and our mission to present and preserve the theatre organ.
- ◆ Renew Your Membership: For as little as \$35, your annual membership dues support our chapter's vital activities, including concerts, educational programs, and the preservation of our chapter instruments like the Grande Page organ.

Stay tuned for updates on upcoming chapter events! From my family to yours, I wish you all a Happy New Year!

See you at the movies!

David Yackman

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.

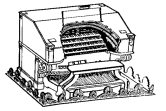
When you are ready to pay your dues, we urge you to use the online payment route at www.atosatlanta.org. It is quick, easy, and safe, unlike mailing a check (the issues with the various post offices continue, as you may have read). Those who still wish to mail a check, send it directly to:

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



My Memories of John McCall: Final Installment

John was keenly interested in getting young people involved with the theatre organ. At every chance he would speak to my grandchildren and encourage them to continue their interest in music. Because of Jake Carter's playing at a Chapter program at age 10 (he had to slide around on the bench to reach the pedals), John took a special interest in him. John was a true friend of the Carter family. He loved Donna, me, John, Julie, Abby, and Jake.

Donna and I will be forever grateful when John said he was coming to our 50th Wedding anniversary, even though there was an important theatre organ event that same night that he would not have wanted to miss. At the end of our hundreds of phone calls over the years, John always asked about Donna. They had a very unique relationship because Donna had her ideas about interior decorating and John had his!!

I will always be thankful for the painting that John did of me sitting at the Strand console, as a gift from the Atlanta ATOS Chapter. He was an excellent artist and this painting has been prominently displayed in the Strand lobby with a copy in my Marietta home, both beautifully framed.

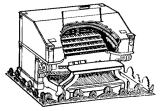


I will always cherish sitting next to John at the many theatre organ concerts we attended. He was absolutely engrossed in the music. I have so many wonderful memories of ATOS Conventions, concerts, dinners and trips. John was always the life of the party and what a contagious laugh he had! He regaled us with his many stories about his family and growing up in South Georgia.

There are so many funny stories I could tell about John, but I will end with this one. When his organ became a permanent fixture at the Strand, a Strand Trustee approached me and asked what could be done to feature the organ more prominently. It was then sitting on a two foot high platform in the orchestra pit and could barely be seen. I told him we needed a lift to bring the console up to stage level. He asked me to meet him at the theatre to show him what I was talking about. I did meet him and all he asked was "how much". I replied around 16K plus installation. He immediately said "get it, I'll pay for it, the organ is important to the success of the theatre". The lift arrived and was placed in the pit. James Thrower and I found a lift control module that would just fit next to the left of the accompaniment manual and James wired the controls to the lift motor and electric panel. Several chapter members were present when we were ready to try out the lift for the first time. John immediately exclaimed "I want to be the first organist to ride the lift up from the pit!" So up on the bench he goes. Little did we know that the lift being an industrial model, its speed up was very, very fast! John pressed the up button and in a flash the lift took off like a rocket with John holding on for dear life. He was attempting to play a big loud console riser so he had set a BIG registration. As the lift reached the 2nd stage (it is a double scissor lift) the platform swayed a little bit causing John to panic and grab the keyboards with both hands and the pedal board with both feet. With John's registration settings at full and the volume pedals wide open, it was a horrendous sound which scared all of us. James Thrower exclaimed "Oh My God we have a Grand CIPHER".



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The look on John's face as he leaped off the bench onto the stage as the lift reached its utmost stopping point was priceless. He was white as a sheet!! After this incident, Chapter member and electronic wizard Don Eckles added a special control module to the lift motor that allows us to set the upward speed of the lift.

John, you will forever be in my and many other's memories of all those who knew you. We miss you dearly and I want to say to Mitch, John's loving partner that we are here for you. Thank you Mitch for the tremendous support you gave John all these years as he pursued his love of the theatre organ. He often spoke of how the both of you loved great music!!

Lastly, in his later years John spoke to me of his relationship with God and his thankfulness for God's involvement in his life. I know that John is up in Heaven, playing those glorious theatre organs and shedding a tear when he is overcome by a particular musical passage.

Ron Carter

A Very Merry Ken Double & Friends Christmas

A magical Christmas concert delighted our chapter on Saturday, January 21st, as four incredibly talented theatre organists graced the stage at Stephenson High School. Jay Mitchell, Larry Davis, Ron Carter, and Ken Double each took turns at the console of the Grande Page organ, thrilling the audience with their masterful interpretations of holiday classics.

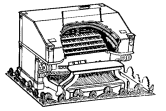
The concert opened with a thrilling console-riser performance of "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town" by Jay Mitchell. Ron Carter delighted us with his lush renditions of traditional carols, while Larry Davis showcased his virtuosity with lively and energetic Christmas tunes. Ken Double brought the concert to a spectacular close with a dazzling display of his musical prowess, including a delightful rendition of the seldom-heard "Mele Kalikimaka," a classic made famous by the Andrews Sisters and Bing Crosby.



Following the main event, several chapter members treated us to additional Christmas tunes during open console time. The festive atmosphere was further enhanced by the delicious refreshments and holiday goodies provided by Mark and Maggie Goodman.

A heartfelt thank you to Jay, Larry, Ron, and Ken for generously sharing their talent with us. We are also grateful to Mark and Maggie Goodman for their hard work and hospitality. This truly was an unforgettable Christmas event and a wonderful end to a great year of chapter events for the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS!

David Yackman



UPCOMING ACATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS

Here is some information on Atlanta Chapter of ATOS meetings coming up:

Saturday, January 25, 7:30 pm RiverCenter in Columbus

A screening of the silent film classic **SUNRISE** with Ken Double at the console of the Allen GW IV at the magnificent Bill Heard Theatre. As this event is our chapter meeting, there is NO AD-MISSION CHARGE for ACATOS members and our guests. Support RiverCenter's incredible commitment to what's known as THE WAVE, the impressive sounding theatre organ in sumptuous surroundings.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES!

Come early to enjoy THE WAVE Saturday at 4:00 p.m. Open console time with our friends from the Columbus area AGO chapter; special guests of our friend Norm Easterbrook; and fellowship and camaraderie in the glorious Bill Heard Theatre at RiverCenter.

We are exploring a special room rate, and a special ACATOS group reservation for dinner at Houlihan's at the Marriott Hotel (a five-minute walk from the theatre!). This will make it convenient to meet, enjoy a chapter social, dine, and see **Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans** on the silver screen! Details to come in an email message soon. Mark your calendars for January 25 with THE WAVE at RiverCenter in Columbus, GA.

Sunday, February 23, 3:00pm The Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre in Marietta

Another classic returns to the Strand! A sci-fi classic, **METROPOLIS** returns with young artist Brett Miller at the console of the Allen GW IV. Miller performed for us a year ago at the Page; is a graduate student in music and conducting at the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY; and is a serious student of silent film accompaniment earning rave reviews for his work.

The chapter, in partnership with the Strand Theatre, will receive a portion of the proceeds from this event, thus, it's in our best interests to spread the word far and wide, and fill the house!

Other events being planned for 2025:

March meeting - TBA

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

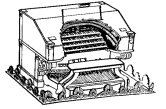
May - TBA -

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
Pre-Shows by Strand Organists**

Thursday, January 23 Anastasia - 6:30PM Pre-show Organist TBD @ 6:00PM

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

Other Opportunities to Enjoy Great Organ Music

Thursday, February 13 The Mark of Zorro
The Plaza Theatre