



ATOS ATLANTA



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

DOUBLE TAKE - - TWO CONSOLES; ONE ORGAN

Our Next Chapter Meeting:

Sunday, January 18th at 3:00 PM E.S.T, 2:00 PM Central Time

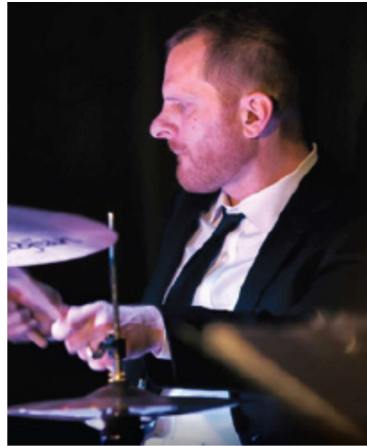
We join the Alabama Chapter in Birmingham to hear

Donnie Rankin, Nathan Avakian, and a drummer. See Pages 4 & 5!

ADMISSION IS FREE FOR OUR ATOS ATLANTA MEMBERS! (Join Now!)



**Jay Mitchell at the
Plaza - Pages 3 & 4**



**Donnie Stults
Jan 18 – Pages 4 & 5**



**Donnie Rankin,
Jan 18 – Pages 4 & 5**

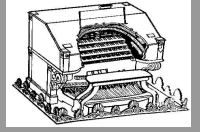


**Nathan Avakian
Jan 18 – Pages 4 & 5**

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

As I write this during a surprisingly warm Christmas week, it's hard to imagine the winter chill - but as you read this, we've officially arrived in 2026. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for a magnificent year of music.

January marks the start of my second year serving as your President. It has been an honor to lead this chapter, and I hope I've done the position justice so far. I am thrilled to share that our elected officers and board members have all agreed to continue in their roles for 2026. I want to extend a huge thank you to this team; they do the tireless "behind-the-scenes" work that keeps our chapter a shining star in the ATOS community.

We're kicking off the year in style! I hope to see everyone at the Alabama Theatre this month for the Nathan Avakian and Donnie Rankin concert. It's the perfect beginning for what's to come. Our Vice President, Ken Double, has been working diligently to secure a world-class lineup for 2026, including artists like Richard Hills, Barry Baker, Juan Cardona, Rosemary Bailey, and Ben Forsthoffer.

To keep bringing in artists of this caliber, we rely on the heart-beat of our chapter – our members. Your dues and donations. If you haven't had a chance to renew for 2026 yet, there's no time like the present to help us keep the music playing!

Warm Regards,

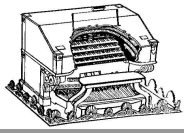
David Yackman

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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 – Brady Born
- Chapter Correspondent – Larry Davis
- Membership Director – Lee Lanier
- Board Members:
 - Brady Born
 - Ron Carter
 - Ken Double
 - Randy Hendry
 - Eddie Hulsey
 - David Tuck
- Strand Project – Ron Carter



AND THEN THERE WAS ONE...

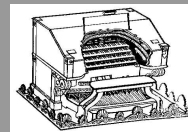


A Jay Mitchell Christmas at The Plaza

What began as a planned potpourri of chapter organists transformed into a solo holiday tour de force led by the intrepid Jay Mitchell on Saturday, December 20th. Stepping up to the console at Atlanta's Plaza Theatre, Jay didn't just fill the slot; he delivered a veritable Christmas juggernaut.



Jay truly "pulled out all the stops," navigating a repertoire so vast it would be easier to list the carols he *didn't* play. From the keys of the chapter's Allen LLQ 324, he blanketed the theater in holiday cheer with an exhaustive program of classics, including:



- *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*
- *Toyland*
- *No Place like Home for the Holidays*
- *Frosty the Snowman*
- *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*
- *Jolly Old Saint Nicholas*
- *Silver Bells*
- *I'll Be Home for Christmas*
- *Have a Holly Jolly Christmas*
- *Winter Wonderland*
- *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*
- *White Christmas*
- *The 12 Days of Christmas*
- *O Christmas Tree*
- *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*
- *Sleigh Ride*
- *Jingle Bells*
- *Joy to the World*
- *O Come All Ye Faithful*
- *Away in a Manger*
- *Silent Night*
- *We Three Kings*
- *I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day*
- *O Holy Night*

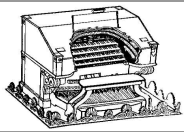
... plus a few more that even the most attentive listener might have missed! Santa's sack could hardly hold a set-list this generous. A huge "Thank You" to Jay for stepping into the spotlight and



ALABAMA WINDLINES January, 2026

DOUBLE TAKE! -- TWO CONSOLES, ONE ORGAN

On January 18, 2026 at 2:00 PM, we will be presenting **Nathan Avakian** and **Donnie Rankin** using two consoles on the Alabama Theatre Mighty Wurlitzer organ, along with **Donny Stults** on drums.



JOIN US FOR MORE HOLIDAY FUN ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 AT THE ALABAMA!

Double Take!

WHEN: January 18, 2026 @ 2pm CST

WHERE: The Alabama Theatre,
1817 3rd Ave. N., Birmingham, AL 35203

WHAT: On January 18, the Alabama Theatre hosts an unprecedented event: two organ consoles controlling the same instrument. Organists Nathan Avakian and Donnie Rankin join forces with special guest drummer Donny Stults for **DOUBLE TAKE!**—a celebration of music featuring dual-console arrangements, captivating solos, and genre-blending surprises. They'll fill the historic movie palace with a new and refreshingly unexpected energy.

The program will feature music by John Williams, Dave Brubeck, Gustav Holst, Britney Spears, and Billie Eilish, to name a few. Whether you're a longtime theatre organ fan or brand new to the sound, you've never experienced the Mighty Wurlitzer quite like this!

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NATHAN AVAKIAN



DONNIE RANKIN

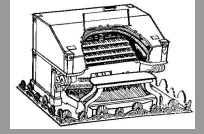


DONNY STULTS



To start the New Year, we will be off to Birmingham for a very special performance at the Alabama Theatre. Not only will Big Bertha be singing forth, but the theatre is going to connect "Frankie," the substitute console engaged while Bertha was getting her makeover. Two consoles and two artists: Donnie Rankin and Nathan Avakian! What a treat that will be! Our board has negotiated a special price of zero, as there are certain to be other costs in making the trip.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, January 18, at 2:00 PM Central time; 3:00 PM Atlanta time, for a unique presentation at the Alabama Theatre. This will be well worth the trip!



ATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

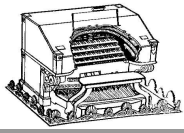
January 18 Sunday, 2:00 PM CST	Nathan Avakian AND Donnie Rankin	TWO professional organists on TWO theatre organ consoles controlling ONE mighty Wurlitzer at The Alabama Theatre , Birmingham, AL (Note - the "start time" is Central Time)
February 22 Sunday, 3:00 PM	Silent Comedy Shorts	Four Silent short comedies with Organists to be announced.

STRAND THEATRE EVENTS

Saturday, January 17	The Shining (1980)	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, TBA
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Closing Chord: John Moore *Reflections by Tim Stephens*

John Moore, a Georgia Radio Hall of Fame inductee and longtime WSB radio personality whose voice defined Atlanta mornings in the 1970s, passed away on November 10, 2025, at age 82 from complications related to dementia. While many remember him for his decades in broadcasting, Moore was an active and devoted member of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society for some 50 years. His love for the theatre organ was not just a hobby – it was a lifelong calling. He frequently volunteered his time to support Chapter events, emcee programs, and cheerfully shared his knowledge of silent films and organ history.



ATOS Atlanta

Moore's connection to the theatre organ world was deeply intertwined with his friendship and mentorship under Bob Van Camp, the legendary Fox Theatre organist and fellow Georgia Radio Hall of Fame member. Van Camp's artistry and dedication to preserving the grandeur of "Mighty Mo" inspired Moore, who often spoke of Van Camp's influence on his own career and musical appreciation. Shortly before Van Camp's retirement from WSB in 1974, Moore succeeded him as the station's morning host.

Beyond his radio fame, Moore cherished his role in keeping the magic of theatre organ music alive. He often emceed silent film series at venues like the Strand Theatre in Marietta, where his enthusiasm for the music and history of the instrument shone brightly. Strand Organist Ron Carter recalls Moore's ability to captivate audiences: "He had such a great public speaking voice, and he knew his stuff about silent films and organs."

Born in West Tennessee, John Moore began his radio journey at age 15 and later graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in electrical engineering. Though he initially considered a career in the space program, his passion for radio won out. His WSB morning show, *Merry Go Round*, became a staple of Atlanta life in the 1970s, earning him celebrity status and a loyal following.



John Moore - 1973

Even after leaving radio in the early 1990s and transitioning to a successful career in software development, Moore never lost his love for the theatre organ. His decades-long involvement with ATOS reflected his unwavering commitment to preserving and celebrating this unique musical tradition.

John Moore is survived by his wife of 55 years, Nancy, and four stepchildren: Laura Fowler, David Crissman, Jennifer Head, and Drew Crissman.



A Letter from your Editor:

The cutie-pie in the picture is the eldest of my nine grandchildren, one of my most major and easiest accomplishments to date. Turns out that grandchildren are far less effort and responsibility than their parents were. Who knew?



My history is a bit light on theater organ. I am a decent Hammond player and can even play some of the basic classics on a straight organ. R & B, Jazz, Rock, and Gospel are my strengths on a Hammond. Learning the art of registration lies between myself and a successful second career as a second-rate theater organist. One day soon perhaps.

So let me tell you of my very earliest exposure to the human voice when presented in a group singing vocal parts. This was probably around 1954 or 1955. I was young enough (six year's old?) that my arm went straight up in order to hold the hand of my minder while walking. I and my brother were being escorted to a Negro church Wednesday night choir practice in a home. My mother drilled into us that this was the correct and respectful term. "Black" was considered rude. We had a colored (the other "correct" term) nanny/maid and were literally crossing the railroad tracks to attend her choir practice. It was a wooden house with a wide porch. In the center was a screened door, behind of which was a tall upright piano which someone was beating the hell out of. All around were people sitting and SINGING. The only thing I remember besides that visual was THAT SOUND! Anyone that has ever heard a Black church gospel choir knows of what I speak. There is a harmony and an energy that, to this day, stands out as special. I didn't hear that sound again for maybe 15 years until 1967. This was when a gospel group named "The Edwin Hawkins Singers" had a cross-over Top 40 hit called *Oh Happy Day*.

To this day vocal harmony groups remain my favorites. My teenage years featured groups such as "The Johnny Mann Singers", "The Ray Conniff Singers", "The Serendipity Singers", and all the folk groups such as "The Kingston Trio", "Peter, Paul, & Mary", "The Four Freshman", etc. as I got older. And when four-part quartet singing gave way to three-part in country and rock (think Vegas Elvis and "The Jimmy Swaggart Singers"), I was totally on board.

I was a bit negative when we used to add vocalists to theater organ. I wanted the pure thing. But I am more open to it these days. I liked some of the more recent organ/vocals of late; Ron Carter and using the Page. I remember Bob Fountain's singers coming to his memorial service with the organ set up like a Hammond because their organist had never played one. Could work for me.

Brady Born
Editor