

Dual Organs — Classic and Theatre
Allen Organ Studios
Sunday Afternoon, January 26th at 3:00 pm



38-Stop Touring Organ



LL-324Q



The January 2014 meeting is scheduled for 3 pm Sunday, January 26 at the Allen Organ Studios, 3321 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, GA 30341, Phone 770-455-6885, www.allenorganatlanta.com.

We are planning a "dual" program. One half of the program will feature organist Bruce Clark of Chattanooga. Bruce will be playing the new Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Allen "touring" organ. The other half of the program will be performed on the Allen LL-324Q "Lyn Larsen" model three-manual theatre organ, and John McCall will be our featured artist and show off this instrument - donated to the chapter and soon to be installed in a permanent home (to be announced at the meeting).

The three-manual, 38-stop Allen "touring" organ was a gift from the McKoon family to the Atlanta Symphony in memory of Bob McKoon's cousin, Doug McKoon. The Community programs department of the ASO will use the organs in community concerts for instrumentalists and choirs around Georgia and the

southeast. The Atlanta Symphony is most excited by this generous gift.

We're planning to use both the Allen LL-324Q that we're shipping from Panama along with the classical/symphonic Allen Organ in a mixed concert - part theatre organ and part classical organ, with maybe a joint number or two.



Bruce Clark, is a native of Michigan. Growing up in the Phoenix area, he studied music at Arizona State University. Bruce attended High School in Escondido, California, and then to Chicago attending Sherwood Music School. His organ skills were further developed studying at Andrews University. Bruce moved to Chattanooga in 1969, and has been the organist at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga,, for 33

years. He also works with Jeff Ayers and the Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta and has been associated with Allen organs since 1971. He is well known in Tennessee not only as a superb musician, but as a friend to so many. Bruce is a caring individual that is always helping others in so many ways. He and his wife Peggy (a local pediatric nurse) have three children.



John McCall, a native of Vidalia, Georgia, got his first taste of the theatre organ through the HI-FI record "George Wright Encores at the Mighty Wurlitzer". By the time his family relocated in Moultrie, Georgia in 1960, he had a fairly extensive library of theatre organ recordings and was hopelessly hooked. Early sightings of silenced organs in Georgia's Albany and Fox theatres heightened his interest in movie palaces and their musical "soul". In 1969, he finally heard his first theatre organ live at the Atlanta Fox with Bob Van Camp at the helm. He promptly joined ATOS and the Atlanta Chapter.

McCall's theatre organ training has been self-taught. His teaching tool was a two-manual pipe organ console graciously supplied by

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**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

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*AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under
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Vice President - *Ken Double*
Treasurer - *Rick McGee*
Secretary - *John Alford*
Newsletter Editor - *Elbert Fields*
Associate Editor - *Wanda Carey Fields*
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Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
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Notice!

Our February program is scheduled earlier in the month than usual. It will be on the second Sunday, February 9th, only 2 weeks after the January meeting. Consequently, there will be a short interval following an early publication of the newsletter.

It will be at the Hudson residence in Mableton, but the artist has not been announced.

Keep February 9th open and check the February newsletter for details.

President's Note



While 2013 has come to an end, marking a spectacular year for ATOS Atlanta, the momentum continues as we gear up for an exciting and eventful 2014! We've talked about the many achievements of the past year, but one that hasn't been discussed very often is membership. At the close of 2013, our membership roster included over 130 households – quite possibly the highest in our organization's history! With membership numbers of other chapters on the decline, our growth is something to take great pride in.

However, we're all about making the best even better, which is why we're introducing a membership promotion to start off the new year, aimed at taking our roster and organization to the next level. With this promotion, new members can join for only \$20 and past members who aren't current can renew their membership for only \$20. More importantly, we're also extending the offer to current members to renew for \$20 if they help sign up at least one new or past member. It's a win-win for all members, new and old, as well as the Atlanta Chapter. Further details and forms will be in your mailbox soon.

Mark your calendar now for 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3 as we dedicate our Grande Page organ at Stephenson High School in Stone Mountain. We're very

pleased to announce that Jelani Eddington will be performing for the occasion and collaborating with the band and choral programs for a "Grande" celebration. Meanwhile, your Page work crew is hard at work getting everything ready for the event. The relay control system upgrades are in the process of being installed, the percussions are receiving some much-needed attention, and we're hoping to have several more ranks in place for the concert. There's no question that it will be a historical evening for ATOS Atlanta, and I hope that you'll make your plans to attend.

And then we're literally "waiting for our ship to come in" on another project we've been working on. When Harold Clementz made the call looking for a home for his Allen LL-324Q theatre organ, Ken Double and the Atlanta Chapter answered. The only caveat – the organ was located in Panama City, Panama. For the past few weeks, the organ has been on a sightseeing journey across the Atlantic, making its way from Panama to Savannah by way of Valencia, Spain (I'm not kidding). So, should our "ship come in" on time, we're looking forward to a wonderfully unique program at the Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta this month. Our very sincere thanks to Jeff Ayers and his incredible team for making the program possible and welcoming us with open arms. I look forward to seeing you on the 26th!

Jim Stephens

“Double-Billed at Stephenson”

Sunday, December 15th, 2013 at 3:00 P.M, the Page pipe organ received visitors !!!

This was our Christmas meeting and we were treated to a great program by our own Ken Double – chapter member and President of the American Theatre Organ Society!

Tim Stephens welcomed us, greeted and recognized visitors, gave updates on the Page project as well as on some up-coming meetings. The slate of officers and board members was presented and voted to accept as offered. Principal Officers: Tim Stephens – President; Ken Double – Vice President (or is it President of Vice ;) John Alford – Secretary; Rick McGee – Treasurer. Next, we had a review of the year and its numerous events and the success of the convention. Then he introduced our artist for the day, Mr. Ken Double.

The program offered a wide variety of styles and color to showcase the capabilities of the Page, and it succeeded!! The opener was “Come Back to Me” (from ‘On a Clear Day’) followed next by “Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow.” Then, the big bands arrived and we were reminded to “Enjoy Yourself – It’s Later Than You Think” (featured by Guy Lombardo).

A departure – a sonic tone poem that would make great underscore for a film: “Winter Storms” (composed



Ken Double at console. Insets top to bottom: John McCall, John Baldwin, Bud Blubaugh & Rick McGee. Photo of Seth Sorano not available..

by Julius Fucik – also composed “Entry of the Gladiators” – the old Barnum & Bailey circus march.)

Back to Christmas!! “Santa Baby” was next and then a trio of selection by Jerry Herman (all from the musical ‘Mame’): “Mame,” “We Need a Little Christmas,” “If He Walked Into My Life Today.”

Showcasing a different tonal aspect of the Page - “You’re Sixteen, You’re Beautiful, and You’re Mine” presented on the Page Hammond B-16 for member Bob Fountain!

A grand closer, “Let There Be Peace on Earth” brought the formal part of the program to a GRANDE PAGE conclusion.

Food! The tables were literally covered by many wonderful choices of goodies provided by members and the gross weight of the chapter increased admirably !!! Thanks to all who provided – a feast for all, indeed!!!

Open Console was the next order of the day and participants were John McCall, John Baldwin, Bud Blubaugh, Rick McGee, and Seth Sorano.

A great ending to a GREAT year!!! Now, watch for the formal dedication concert on April 3 with artist Jelani Eddington at the rails.....

Offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the walls / chambers / console pit have ears!!!!!!

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Atlanta Chapter members Edd and Norma Simmons. This pipeless console and recordings helped McCall to develop organ technique.

In 1986, he played for his first real audience prior to a screening at Chicago's Music Box Theatre. Shortly after, he was invited to play for an American Guild of Organists' cocktail reception at their national convention in Charlotte, NC. His second appearance in a theatre was not until June, 2000, when he played for the screening of *Singin' In the Rain* at the Rylander in Americus, where he followed with his first concert appearance with ATOS

members Fred Boska and James Thrower, on July 1.

John was instrumental in securing the 3/11 Möller organ for the Rylander Theatre in Americus, Ga., where he now serves as house organist. He has played for countless productions of the Sumter Players and has been featured with Mickey Rooney and President Jimmy Carter and his first lady Rosalynn.

He earned a degree in journalism from Georgia State University where he worked as administrative assistant to the chairman of the Department of Music. While there, he produced the first "Keyboard Colossus" at the Atlanta Fox. The

concert raised more than \$9,000 toward the "Save The Fox" effort. His monograph on the theatre, "Atlanta's Fox Theatre: Mecca on Peachtree Street" went through several printings and raised more than \$70,000 toward the "Save The Fox" campaign.

In addition to being an honorary member of Manasota ATOS and an active member of the Atlanta Chapter, he is a lifetime member of England's Theatre Organ Club and the Lancastrian Theatre Organ Society. His recordings, "Alabama Album" and "Walking the Walker" have been featured on ATOS Theatre Organ Radio.

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- **January 26, 3 pm, dual organs at Allen Organ Studios, Bruce Clark and John McCall**
- **February 9, 3 pm, Pam and Billy Hudson residence, artist to be announced**
- **April 3, 7:30 pm, Dedication of the Page Organ at Stephenson High School, Jelani Eddington**
- **April 27, 2 pm CST, Donna Parker for a Spring 2014 show at the Alabama Theatre**



Come support the Earl Smith Strand Theatre as it features the Atlanta Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. Contact the Strand Box Office at 770-293-0080, in person Monday-Friday from 9 to noon and 1 to 4, or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org.

- Jan 9,10, 11, 16, 17, 19 at 8 pm and Jan 12 and 19th at 3 pm: **Little Shop of Horrors. Tickets are only \$15 for the opening show on Jan 9th** (other dates are \$25). A great musical produced by the Strand and directed by Earl Reece.
- January 25th 8 pm **Paradocs In Concert**— a 15-piece band of Doctors and Nurses from Wellstar/Kennestone Hospital. Organ pre-show by Ron Carter at 7:30 pm and organ will play with the band for some pieces. Tickets only \$12.
- February 28th, FRIDAY NIGHT 8 pm with organ pre-show and sing-a-long at 7:30 pm Blue Ray Atlanta Premier of Harold Lloyd's great silent comedy **SAFETY LAST** accompanied by Ron Carter. Special ATOS Ticket price of only \$5.

Upcoming movies at the Strand (All show times are 8 pm with organ pre-show sing-a-long at 7:30)

- January 24th The Princess Bride—organ pre-show by Larry Davis
- Feb 7th Citizen Kane—organ pre-show artist TBA
- Feb 8th The Godfather—organ pre-show by Misha Stefanuk
- Feb 14th Casablanca—organ pre-show by Larry Davis
- Feb 15th Breakfast at Tiffany's—organ pre-show by Larry Davis

Atlanta Chapter Membership Renewals Due by March 1st

Calendar-year 2014 dues are now due. Article VIII, Section 2 of our By-Laws states "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 2013, you are considered a member for 2014.

See *President's Note* on Page 2 for information on a membership promotion being offered this year. As stated there, "Further details and forms will be in your mailbox soon"

Board Members for 2014

President: Tim Stephens - Vice President: Ken Double - Secretary: John Alford - Treasurer: Rick McGee
 Newsletter Editor: Elbert Fields - Strand Project Chair: Ron Carter - Page Project Chair: Jack Sandow
 Directors at Large
 Larry Davis - Bob Fountain - Randy Hendry - Lee Lanier - Bob McKoon - James Thrower - David Tuck
 Director Emeritus – Bucky Reddish