



ATOS ATLANTA



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

Our Next Chapter Meeting:

A RANKIN RETURN TO ATLANTA

Donnie Rankin Headlines at the Grande Page July 20th

The July Chapter Meeting is Sunday, July 20th at 3 p.m.
Stephenson High School, Stone Mountain
On the Grande Page Theatre Organ



David Marsh – Page 3



Rick McGee – Page 6

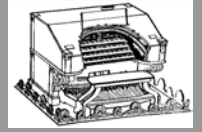


Donnie Rankin – Page 5

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



Mailing Address:

Lee Lanier
Atlanta Chapter, ATOS
220 Dunwoody Creek Circle
Sandy Springs, GA 30350
404-790-5400 www.atosatlanta.org
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 – 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

A Letter from your President

Hi Atlanta Chapter ATOS Members,

What a fantastic June we had! David Marsh's performance on our beloved Grande Page at Stephenson was just pure, unadulterated joy, and it was great to experience it with so many of you in attendance.

This month, we're excited to welcome **Donnie Rankin** to the Page organ console for another incredible theatre organ performance!

We're still looking for a few volunteers to help make July's chapter meeting a success. If you're available on **Saturday, July 19th and/or Sunday, July 20th** to lend a hand, please reach out to Ken Double or myself to learn more. Your help makes a big difference!

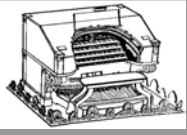
For those attending, don't forget the 2025 ATOS National Convention in Milwaukee kicks off right after our meeting, from July 21st to July 27th. Have a wonderful time!

See you on the 20th!

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Yackman".

David Yackman



A DELIGHTFUL DAY WITH DAVID AND THE PAGE David Marsh Brilliant in Whirlwind Trip to Atlanta

Those who travel a lot will get it. Those who don't will at least appreciate it. The "it" is the difficulty of flying across the country; body clock totally disrupted; allowed about two hours of rehearsal time; and then play a wonderful concert showing off the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS' Grande Page Theatre Organ; only to dash back to the airport to fly back across the country to get home. Thank heaven he's young; he can handle these things.

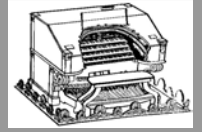
With that in mind, David brought the white and gold Page console up with *Too Busy*, a most appropriate console-riser (he WAS busy on this trip!), the first of some 18 selections that delighted the 40 chapter members and guests at the meeting. David moved smoothly from selections such as the haunting *Here's That Rainy Day*, to a lively *Tico-Tico*, to the familiar *Tea for Two*, which led to one of the many demonstrations of his outstanding skill at improvisation, morphing into *Chopsticks*, of all things!

One of the highlights of the wonderfully varied program was a group of songs made famous by Judy Garland, including *Over the Rainbow*, *The Boy Next Door*, and closing the trio of tunes with *The Trolley Song*.

He captivated the audience with a gorgeous ballad very seldom heard, a song from the pen of Erich Korngold titled *Love for Love*, a magnificent melody from the great film composer that – among many of David's selections – highlighted the fantastic voicing of the Grande Page.

David sprinkled in two "finger-buster" novelty tunes, *Hot Dog*, made famous by British legend Sydney Torch. And *Roller Coaster* was brilliant, and generated this comment from a certain local organist who played the piece at his concert in April, "Well, I'll be retiring THAT from my repertoire!" David's extensive piano training put his amazing technique on full display!

The final selection paired two hymns, favorites of his grandparents, but played in a most theatrical style. However, he opened these pieces with an untrem'd French Horn playing a single melody



line from the right/solo chamber, answered by the left/main chamber's glorious clarinet. This was just one highlight of his skills at registration, and his ability to take an instrument he does not play often, but instantly find the organ's high points, and show them off.

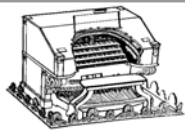
Add in his delightful, somewhat "scatter-brained" approach to communicating with his audience, and one quickly understands that despite little sleep and a hectic schedule, an afternoon of music in the Marsh style is an afternoon well spent, as evidenced from the loud and long most positive reaction from those in attendance. BRAVO once again to an Atlanta favorite, David Marsh!

Respectfully submitted by Dizzy Gil Espy



Larry's Mystery Photo

Contained in this single photo is some important and almost forgotten history of our chapter. So, here is the mystery. Who are all these people? Most all of you will recognize Jack Sandow in the center. But who are the other two gentlemen? And where are they? What organ? I'm guessing there are two or three in our chapter who will be able to supply the information. Send your answers to acatos@earthlink.net . I'll post the answers and the names of the respondents next month.



ACATOS WELCOMES BACK DONNIE RANKIN



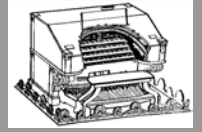
During those heady days of the "Bucky Bash," those wonderful events hosted by the late Bucky Reddish on his beloved Walker theatre organ, it seemed Donnie Rankin was buzzing down to Atlanta on a regular basis. But, it has been awhile, and now he's coming back to entertain us at the July meeting at Stephenson High School.

Donnie hails from Ravenna, Ohio, not far from Cleveland. He heard his first theatre organ at the tender age of three! It was the Mighty Wurlitzer at the Civic Theatre in Akron. In 2007, he began studies with Jelani Eddington, and quickly came to the attention of theatre organ lovers who realized there was real talent in this "newcomer."

Rankin was the overall winner of the ATOS Young Theatre Organists Competition in 2007, and just last year was named the ATOS Theatre Organist of the Year, one of the organization's highest honors.

With a lot of jazz in his music and in his soul, Donnie brings a most refreshing approach to his theatre organ stylings and it will be fantastic to be entertained by this terrific musician once again, this time at the Grande Page Theatre Organ at Stephenson High School.

Come hear Donnie Rankin (and bring your friends!!) on Sunday afternoon, July 20th, back at our normal time of 3 PM in Stone Mountain. It will be great to see and hear Donnie again!



Closing Chords

Farewell to Steve Fitzgerald

Ron Carter reports the passing of theatre organist and enthusiast Steve Fitzgerald. Steve was part of what we called our “North Carolina Division,” theatre organ enthusiasts who had relocated from Jacksonville to Franklin, NC, and who joined the Atlanta Chapter. As many of you may remember, for many years this group could be relied upon to drive down for all of our meetings and special events. Steve was full of memories, stories of theatre organ adventures and artists, from earlier days of the theatre organ enthusiast movement.

Larry Davis

SOME NEWS OF LONG-TIME CHAPTER MEMBER RICK MCGEE

Organist, former officer and board member of the chapter Rick McGee is struggling with some serious health issues, and chapter member John Alford has made us aware of efforts to provide some assistance.

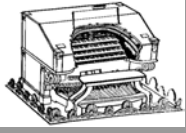
Rick is currently at the Cherokee Center for Nursing and Healing in Canton, and insurance is no longer covering the daily costs of care and rehabilitation.



Friends from Rick's church have set up a GoFundMe page, enlisting help from other friends and associates. Below please find the link for this page, and if you are so moved and can provide some support, it would be greatly appreciated. We all know this type of daily care is expensive.

The link for the GoFundMe page is:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-rick-mcgees-medical-recovery>

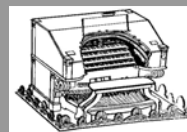


**The Big Parade, a silent film at The LeFont Plaza
With Live Organ Accompaniment by Ken Double**

Your editor drove to Atlanta's Plaza Theatre on 12 Jun 25 to watch the subject film played by the subject organist. "The Big Parade" is a 1925 2.5 hour behemoth produced by King Vidor, one of premier directors of one of the all time great silents, and filmed on a scale unknown at the time. The US Army's 2nd Division and Air Service Units contributed 200 trucks and 100 airplanes bringing the scope of the film to a far higher level than initially planned or previously experienced. Interestingly, it's two young stars, John Gilbert and Renée Adorée (left photo), were both deceased within ten years. The film is set in 1917.

I am sorry that these films are not better attended but Mr. Double did a masterful job. That is 2.5 hours of continuous improvisation and playing. The comedies are perhaps better scaled in terms of time spent in the depiction. But each of these surviving classics is a valuable record of the evolution of film and our ATOS group, specifically with Mr. Double and Mr. Carter, certainly does its part in keeping the live experience "as it once was". I was glad I attended.

Brady Born
Editor

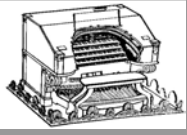


ATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS

July 20, 2025	Sunday at 3:00 PM	Donnie Rankin at the Grande Page, a great young artist from Ravenna, OH
August 16, 2025	Saturday at 11:00 PM	Author Esther Morgan-Ellis, Professor of Music History at the University of North Georgia, with a presentation on her book EVERYBODY SING, a History of Community Singing in the Movie Palace. Location The Strand.
September 21, 2025	Sunday at 3:00 PM	Tom Helms at the Grande Page
November 9, 2025	Sunday at 3:00 PM	Mark Herman at the Grande Page
TBD in October, 2025	Sunday at 7:30 PM	Silent Film: <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> at RiverCenter, Columbus GA, accompanied by Ron Carter on the GW-4

STRAND THEATRE EVENTS

Sunday, July 6	Wings	2:30 PM, Pre-show Organist: Eddie Hulsey, 3:00 PM, Film Accompanist: Ron Carter Film intro by TCM's John Malahy and a special talk by Brad Hawkins from the Aviation History Center on the planes used in the film
Wednesday, July 9	Ratatouille (2007)	1:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 12:30 PM, Randy Elkins
Sunday, July 13	Gone With the Wind	3:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 2:30 PM, Eddie Hulsey
Wednesday, July 16	Toy Story 3 (2010)	1:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 12:30 PM, Randy Elkins
Wednesday, July 23	Incredibles 2	1:00 PM, Pre-show Organist TBD
Wednesday, July 30	Inside Out	1:00 PM, Pre-show Organist TBD
Sunday, July 23	Incredibles 2	1:00 PM, Pre-show Organist TBD
Friday, July 18	Jukebox Giants	8:00 PM, Jukebox Giants is a live stage show production of songs from the 1950s with live pit orchestra.
Saturday, July 19, 26	Jukebox Giants	3:00 PM and 8:00 PM, All pre-show organists TBD
Sunday, July 20, 27	Jukebox Giants	3:00 PM, All pre-show organists TBD
Thursday, July 24	Jukebox Giants	7:30 PM, All pre-show organists TBD.



ATOS Atlanta

For Sale: Allen ADC 3-manual VTPO Project

Acquired in 2018 for a computer based home organ and not pursued. Includes:

1. 1985 Allen 3-manual ADC console with bench and pedals. No computer boards. 110 working stop tab action. Only suitable for converting to a MIDI controller.
2. Three Crown CTs600 Amplifiers
3. Three Allen Large Spkr cabinets with three 12" spkrs and two tweeters
3. Three Allen Bass Cabinets with two 15" speakers.
4. A second Stop Rail with 30 additional Allen SAM units
5. A copy of the older free version of Hauptwerk sufficient to play item #6
6. A copy of the Paramount 310 three manual Virtual Theatre Pipe Organ

What you do not get is the amount of work it will take to wire this console with the hardware required to convert it to a four division VTPO controller. I can assist with moving and have documentation regarding several choices for hardware.

Price is \$600 for all the above. Just hit REPLY to respond to Brady Born, Kurzweil33@gmail.com

