



ATOS ATLANTA

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

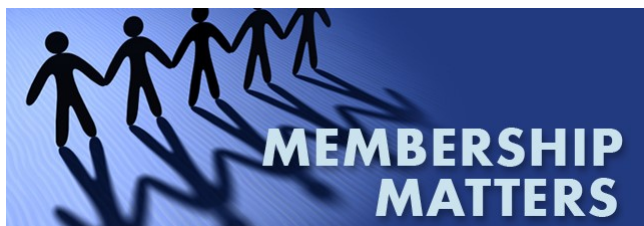


**March Chapter Meeting
Jay Mitchell at the
Alabama Theatre!
Sunday, March 30 - 2:00PM (CST)**

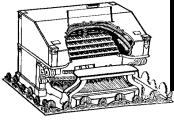


Get a car pool buddy and drive over to Birmingham to support Jay!

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

Hi everyone,

What a fantastic February! From Ken Double's thrilling Mark of Zorro performance at The Plaza Theatre to Brett Miller's breathtaking accompaniment of Fritz Lang's sci-fi classic Metropolis at The Strand Theatre, we've been treated to some truly top-notch theatre organ performances.

Looking ahead to March, we have a special opportunity to join our friends at the Alabama Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society and experience our very own Jay Mitchell at the helm of the legendary Wurlitzer, "Big Bertha", at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham. The Wurlitzer console, meticulously restored by John Tanner and the team at A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company in Lithonia, is a sight to behold. If you haven't seen it in person, this is a trip you won't want to miss! All the details for Jay's performance are inside this newsletter.

And, speaking of newsletters, we have some bittersweet news. After five years of dedicated service, Debbie Chambless is stepping down as our newsletter editor. Debbie has consistently delivered a high-quality publication, and we are incredibly grateful for her commitment and outstanding work. Her contributions have been invaluable. Thank you, Debbie, for everything! This month's newsletter will be her last.

This means we're now seeking a chapter member to take the reins and continue Debbie's excellent work. If you're interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity, please reach out to me at dyackman@atosatlanta.org. Let's connect!

Finally, I'd like to express our sincere gratitude to two generous members who recently donated \$1,500 each to the chapter. These significant contributions allow us to fund extraordinary events like Brett Miller's Metropolis performance and to support our vital April Graham Jackson concert and scholarship program. Thank you for helping us continue our mission to preserve, promote, and present the theatre organ!

Warmest Regards,

David Yackman



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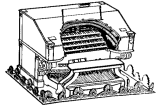
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ACATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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Vice President - Ken Double
Treasurer - Lee Lanier
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
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Brady Born
Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Ken Double
Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey
David Tuck

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow



From Your Newsletter Editor



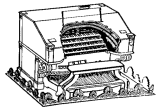
To the Atlanta Chapter:

It has been my honor to serve as your newsletter editor for the last 5 ½ years. I learned much from you and I hope in some small way, I made the public face of our chapter better. A Facebook memory popped up this week that reminded me how far we have come. When Daryl and I were traveling on our boat, we had to send the newsletter to Staples or the UPS store, Uber or borrow a car to pick them up, fold and stuff, and then find a way to get them mailed. Fortunately, we are able to send most of our newsletters via email and hopefully, one day soon, there will be no more snail mail mailings.

Thank you to those I have met at events and those who have come during my pre-show performances. Your words of support and encouragement mean the world to me. There isn't a better group than the Atlanta Chapter and I appreciate your friendship.

The next editor will need a strong background in Microsoft Office applications including Publisher, or Adobe Acrobat to convert .pdf files. I am happy to assist in the transition.

Debbie Chambless



Miller and Metropolis – a Mighty Film and a Magnificent Musical Accompaniment

“I really didn’t do anything except just play the music Gottfried Huppert wrote.” With those self-effacing words, Brett Miller, our phenomenal artist of February, waved away compliments for what is being acclaimed by many as one of the finest afternoons of silent film accompaniment that most of us have ever experienced, with Brett at the keyboards of the mighty Allen at the screening of the mighty film Metropolis at the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre.



“I didn’t do anything except” play an inch-thick complex score from cover to cover – for you musicians, a substantial section is in F# - at the same time timing the notes on the pages to fit the action taking place on the screen, which sometimes jumped from a fortissimo section accompanying exciting action, to a pianissimo section with subdued activity – the film and the music both changing in the space of a frame, and a measure – and Brett was perfect in the coordination. “I didn’t do anything except,” execute amazing orchestration. But then, it shouldn’t have been surprising that a young man who directs orchestras knows how to orchestrate – that is register – a unit orchestra at a high level, and orchestrate he did, utilizing individual stops, but also combinations, some that none of us have ever heard

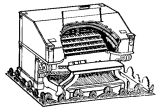
before. His subtlety of his second touch in places was like nothing we’ve heard before. Those of us for whom Metropolis is not new heard it executed differently and in a truly unique way. This was a silent film experience that will live at the top of such experiences of those of us who were privileged to be in the room and to enjoy the stellar music as Brett interpreted it for this important and historic film.

Among those in the audience were a group of science-fiction film enthusiasts who had, as they said, no idea what to expect – they know the film, but could not anticipate the experience of seeing it in a theatre and with live accompaniment. They were stunned. Also in the audience, a local community historian, and also a professor of history from Kennesaw State University who has a poster from Metropolis on his office wall. The audience of 324 ticketed attendees represents a more than 10% increase since we screened the film in 2022.



Metropolis was a success in every respect. It was a success in terms of attendance and ticket sales – a financial success for both the theatre and the chapter. It was most certainly an artistic success by Brett Miller, who takes his place among Atlanta favorites and in the opinion of those there, joins the pantheon of the great ones of silent film accompaniment. And it was success with respect to our chapter’s mission to present the art of theatre organ to those who are not part of the theatre organ world, with hundreds having an unforgettable experience for the first time. Metropolis with Brett Miller joins the list of great events in the history of the Atlanta Chapter.

Larry Davis



March Chapter Meeting Jay Mitchell at the Alabama Theatre! Sunday, March 30 - 2:00PM (CST)

It will be another visit to a dear, close relative for Jay, as he returns to "Aunt Bertha", the Alabama Theatre's big Wurlitzer organ. Jay grew up on this organ, learning, practicing, and performing. His earliest performances were rather stiff renditions of jazz tunes he played on the organ for "Teen Time", a regular Saturday morning talent show for teenagers, during the late 1950s.

Pursuing college studies, playing for church services, directing a church choir and opening two organ teaching studios during the 1960s, took him away from the theatre and the organ, but he returned to the Alabama in 1970 to work with the Southeastern Chapter ATOS (now Atlanta ATOS) in refurbishing the organ. His renewed contact with the instrument led to his appointment as curator of the organ, and with two of his organ students, the beginning of the Alabama Chapter ATOS.

During this March 30th play fest, Jay will be looking for some not to be forgotten old tools he and Larry Donaldson used to use working on the organ during their midnight to dawn work sessions a homemade volt meter and a couple of old telephone system headsets ... sure to be found somewhere close by the old relay room.



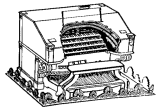
Jay practicing organ lessons in 1956!



Jay as the newly appointed House Organist in 1970!



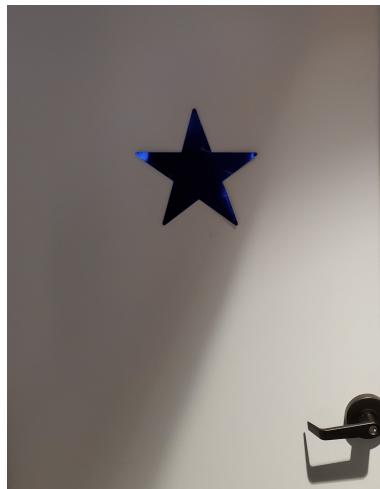
Jay Mitchell on the Alabama Theatre Marquee!

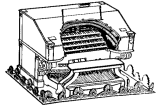


A New Star Rises in the West

On February 2, our friend, immediate past-president, and Strand organist Eddie Hulsey made his first appearance in full program at the Alabama Theatre. The Alabama is where he cut his teeth on theatre organ under the guidance of Cecil Whitmire. I should say, Judge Eddie Hulsey, because at 2:30AM he was called out of bed to perform urgent legal duties. Less than twelve hours later he took his seat at the console of Big Bertha and presented a delightful program. Eddie, as we all know, has an engaging stage personality, but his playing was just as wonderful – and his registrations. Of particular note to many there was his performance of “Stardust.” It was a special afternoon and we look forward to having him play a program for us!

Larry Davis





UPCOMING ACATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS

March 30 - Sunday at 2:00PM (CST) - Jay Mitchell at the Alabama Theatre

April 27 - Sunday at 3:00PM - 3rd Annual Graham Jackson Memorial Concert,
Ken Double at the Grande 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

Further details on more meetings to come soon!

**Ron Carter
Strand Theatre Events**

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|---|
| Sunday, March 23 | - High School Musical | - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist at 2:30 Misha Stefanuk |
| Saturday, March 29 | - Mama Mia | - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist at 2:30 Misha Stefanuk |
| | - Mama Mia | - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist at 7:30 Misha Stefanuk |
| Sunday, March 30 | - Mama Mia | - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist at 2:30 Misha Stefanuk |
| Friday, April 4 | - Legally Blonde | - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist at 7:30 Misha Stefanuk |
| Saturday, April 5 | - The Greatest Showman | - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist at 2:30 Jay Mitchell |
| Saturday, April 5 | - The Greatest Showman | - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist at 7:30 Jay Mitchell |
| Sunday, April 6 | - Sunset Boulevard | - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist at 2:30 Jay Mitchell |
| Friday, April 11 | - Princess Bride | - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist at 7:30 Larry Davis |
| Sunday, April 13 | - The General | - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist at 2:30 Eddie Hulsey |
| Thursday, April 24 | - Toy Story | - 6:30PM Pre-show Organist at 6:00 Misha Stefanuk |
| Friday, April 25 | - Black Panther | - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist at 7:30 Larry Davis |