



ATOS ATLANTA



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

AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR THEATRE & CLASSICAL MUSIC

BOTH played by our own RON CARTER

Jeff Ayers will HOST!

Our Next Chapter Meeting

Sunday, March 22nd at 3:00 PM

The Allen Organ Studios location is at 3321 Chamblee Dunwoody Road



Allen Organ Studios
GW-319 Page 5



Jay Mitchell
Page 3



Larry Davis *Hand to
Mouth* Page 6

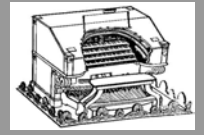


Ron Carter in Concert
Page 7

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

You ever get writer's block? It hit me hard this month. The winter doldrums of February aren't exactly a muse — unless you're into bleak Dostoevsky tomes or the latest tax code revisions.

But right now, it's 72°F outside and the birds are chirping. My heart is filled with foolish optimism that the meteorological prognostications of a certain subterranean marmot were less than accurate. So, I've got that goin' for me, which is nice.

Spring will be upon us soon enough, and we'll welcome its arrival with our chapter meeting at the Allen Organ Studios in Chamblee on Sunday the 22nd. Ron Carter will play for our listening pleasure. We haven't visited our friends at Allen in a while, and it will be great to see the latest examples of their craftsmanship. You can find more details in the "Chapter Meetings" section below.

If you weren't already aware, registration for the ATOS 2026 convention is officially open. I know the convention is months away, but it's never too late to support the convention effort. Click [here](#) for online registration info. And, speaking of supporting ATOS, if you haven't renewed your yearly membership for our local chapter or the national chapter — here's your friendly nudge. There's no time like the present. We can't do it without you!

Regards,

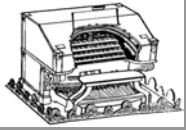
David Yackman

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



FOUR SILENT MOVIES AT THE STRAND WITH FOUR ORGANISTS!

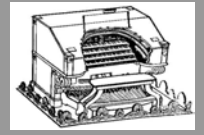


Larry Davis, Ken Double, Eddie Hulsey, Jay Mitchell, and Ron Carter

I must admit that silent comedies are among my favorites of the films that established the theatre pipe organ and the purpose of our organization. The organ was a cost-cutting innovation with the intent of bridging the gap between a piano and an orchestra. For the purpose of accompanying the silent films, of course. Hope Jones is credited with the innovations but Wurlitzer matured it.

Pictured above in #4 position is our own Jay Mitchell, who provided the pre-show at the Strand. We all remember Larry Douglas Embury as the recent house organist at the Fox, Ken's predecessor, but Jay played for a similar stint, about 13 years (after Bob Van Camp), leaving when his pipe organ business began taking too much of his time. The Fox then brought in Mr. Embury.

Jay opened with *Bushel and a Peck*, followed with *Dancing Cheek to Cheek*. Next up was *Wunderbar* and a real jazzy piece similar to some of Ken's swing numbers. He closed out with *That's Entertainment* segueing right into *Strike Up the Band* and *There's No Business Like Show Business*. I have heard Jay play many times but this was some of his very best; lots of key changes and great transitions in the best theatre organ tradition.



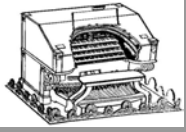
Andy Gaines, The Strand's Executive Director introduced the program, followed by Scott McGee, Senior Director of original programming at TCM (Turner Classic Movies), who introduced each of the four films. He provided a great deal of context and history surrounding each film and its actors.

Larry Davis opened with *Taking a Chance on Love* immediately before launching into the accompaniment of "Hand to Mouth" with Harold Lloyd. For information on the films, please see the February edition. I wrote that one also and am unlikely to improve on it with a second attempt. But I have also heard Larry play many times and yet never heard him do a film. He had a lot of color and variety in what he offered under the antics on the screen. We will probably hear more from Mr. Davis in future events.

Film number two featured Eddie Hulse playing "Coney Island" which starred Roscoe (Fatty) Arbuckle. Buster Keaton had an important supporting role. Mr. McGee explained some of the background for Arbuckle's life. A serious accusation, a court case, and TWO subsequent acquittals still would ultimately destroy his career. Public opinion had more influence back then? Today he could just say that it never happened. His opener was *Happy Days Are Here Again*. Eddie plays well, no contest, and he did what all four of these film accompanists accomplished. He made us forget that there was an organ playing. Have any of you noticed how splendid Mr. Hulse is looking these days? Most of us look a bit rougher each year but Eddie is somewhat defying time. There may be a rough looking painting in his attic.

For our third film, Scott McGee returned to explain Harold Lloyd's "every man" character and how he was the precursor to today's situation comedies. Lloyd was one of the most successful and effective of those early comic characters. Being successful and upwardly mobile was always his goal, both in his character and his personal life. This film also began to illustrate America's love affair with the automobile. The film title, "Get Out and Get Under", referred to jumping out and crawling under your car to get it moving again. Ron Carter played *The Charleston* as his console riser. Of course, Mr. Carter is the master of silent film accompaniment and his depth is notable. He does silent films every few weeks, it seems, and plays pre-shows most other weekends.

The final film, "Cops", starred Buster Keaton and this was a mature demonstration of how the craft evolved; showing the sophistication of Keaton, also known as The Great Stoneface. He was one of the first "stuntman stars". Mr. Ken Double played an excellent console riser, *If I Had a Talking Picture of You*. It sounded perfect for the venue and the title surely supports that! He then launched into the film accompaniment. I admit that the first time I heard Ken do a silent film, I was surprised and I should not have been. An excellent soloist is often, but not always, also an excellent accompanist. And this we all know to be true due to at least one or two of his al-



bums being collaborations. I think he did one with a trumpeter and another later one with a vocalist. Silent film requires both the accompanist skills plus those of just paying attention to what is going on around you.

Respectfully submitted by,

Brady Born
Editor



Eddie Hulsey – *Coney Island*



Ron Carter - *Get Out and Get Under*
and *NEXT MONTH's ARTIST!*



Ken Double – *Cops*

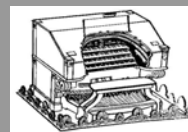
RON CARTER FRONT AND CENTER AT OUR MARCH MEETING

A Chance to Hear Theatre and Church Music at the Allen Organ Studios

Our chapter's March meeting is set for Sunday afternoon March 22nd at 3:00 PM and Jeff Ayers will play host at the Allen Organ Studios.

Ron Carter will be the artist, and the silent film scorer extraordinaire will entertain us not only on the Allen GW319, a fine three-manual theatre organ, but bring his classical and church organ background to the fore as well. It will be an entertaining and diverse affair, and don't be surprised if there isn't a surprise or two incorporated into the program.

The Allen Organ Studios location is 3321 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, tucked just inside the 285 loop in Chamblee. Our thanks to Jeff Ayers for again providing the hospitality and hosting the Atlanta Chapter again.

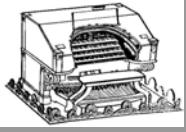


ATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

March 22, 2026 Sunday 3:00 PM	Ron Carter	Allen Organ Studios - 3321 Chamblee Dunwoody Road, Dunwoody. Hosted by Jeff Ayers
April 12, 2026 Sunday at 3:00 PM	Juan Cardona, Jr.	The Grande Page at Stephenson High School
May 3, 2026 Sunday at 3:00 PM	Ben Forsthoffer	The Grande Page at Stephenson High School
June TBD	TBA	The Grande Page at Stephenson High School
July 25, 2026 Saturday at 3:00 PM	Richard Hills	The Grande Page at Stephenson High School

STRAND THEATRE EVENTS

Thursday, March 19	ET	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Misha Sefanuk
Friday, March 20	Chicago	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, Misha Sefanuk
Friday, April 10	Princess Bride	3:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 2:30 PM, Eddie Hulsey 8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, Larry Davis
Sunday, April 12	Ben Hur: A Tale of Christ (1925)	2:30 PM, Pre-show Organist at 2:30, Eddie Hulsey 3:00 PM, Silent Film Accompanied by Ron Carter
Saturday, April 25	Steel Magnolias	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, Larry Davis



**Press Release of Ron Carter - Theater Organ Concert on May 10th
at Harmony Hall, Franklin, North Carolina**



Mr. Ron Carter, principal organist at the Atlanta Strand Theater, performed a lively and well-received concert of show tune music at the Franklin, N.C., Cinnamon Hill Harmony Hall on May 10th. He played on Andy LaTorre's three-manual Allen MDS-317 Theater organ.

It was attended by 29 enthusiastic patrons who thoroughly enjoyed the various show tunes that were played. This was the first Theater Organ concert in the town of Franklin, North Carolina.

Mr. Carter explained the difference between a theater organ and a church organ, playing samples of each. He answered questions from the audience and explained the various functions of the stops and pushbuttons.

Mr. Carter was given a standing ovation at the conclusion of the concert.

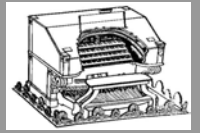


Also, on August 23rd, Mr. Carter once again played the Allen organ for a silent film event. The film was, "Safety Last", a thrilling Harold Lloyd presentation.

It was a successful event and the only Silent Film event in our Franklin, North Carolina town.

Written by Andy LaTorre
Cinnamon Hill Art

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: This was a 2025 event whose publication was delayed due to only the most modest of errors.



Rodgers Organ for Sale

From Larry Davis: a friend has upgraded to a different instrument, and this Rodgers Organ is available for a reasonable price. It has always lived in a climate-controlled environment and presently sits next to his current instrument. This is a Rodgers 321B, in good condition, as you can see, and the organ works and is playable. For those who don't know, it has settable blind combination action. It is at a ground level in the current residence. I have actually played this one. It comes with a bench that has been upholstered based on the bench at the Blackpool Tower. For more information, contact Larry Davis.

