

***Sunday May 26 at 3:00 pm — John Lauter  
on the Grande Page at Stephenson High School***

Our May 2013 meeting at 3:00 pm on Sunday May 25th will be a pre-convention program featuring our newly-reworked, enhanced Grande Page pipe-organ installation. Our guest artist will be John Lauter, who last performed for the Atlanta Chapter on Bucky Reddish's Walker in March of 2010. This will be a great opportunity to experience the Page in a more intimate setting prior to the convention.

***About the artist...***

Detroit native John Lauter began his organ/piano/music studies at age 14, he has studied with Marie Connors, Betty Mason, Fr. Jim Miller and Gary Reseigh.

He made his public debut playing at the Redford theatre at age 16. Hundreds of movie preludes later John can still be heard there. John has presented concerts in Detroit, Toledo, Grand Rapids, Boston, San Francisco, Phoenix, Denver, Wichita, Chicago, Cleveland, Atlanta, Thomaston CT, Toronto and Kingston Ont. Lauter was a featured performer at the 1995 and 2009 conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society. (Editor's note: John received a spontaneous standing ovation following his performance at the Cleveland Grays Armory during the 2009 convention.) In July of 2010 John was invited to England to present concerts at Tywyn Wales and at the Saltaire complex in Bradford, that performance being the final concert of the 2010 Cinema Organ Society's convention. Lauter was the sole American presented.

John has been on the staff of the Detroit Fox theatre since the 1988 reopening, and was staff organist of the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor for 17 years. In February of 2010 Lauter was heard playing the Fox theatre's massive Wurlitzer organ on NPR's "Prairie Home Companion" Host Garrison



Keillor said of Lauter "the man has unerring taste"

As a silent film score composer/performer Lauter has scored over 27 titles, 12 of these are original scores. John has accompanied films at The Redford theatre-Detroit, Baldwin theatre-Royal Oak, Palace theatre-Marion Ohio, Ritz Theatre-Tiffin, Ohio and Casa Loma-Toronto.

The Henry Ford museum IMAX theatre contracted John to compose/perform/record a short silent film accompaniment that is part of an IMAX short subject film shown before every presentation at that institution.

Lauter has been the organist/accompanist for the Unity church of Lake Orion since its inception in 1997 and is currently the pianist with the 18-piece Swing City Big Band.

John lives in Farmington Hills, Michigan with his wife Amy and children Benjamin and Maryanna.

***About the organ...***

by Larry Davis

The Page Organ—Moving forward rapidly—The history of the WHT Page Organ has been presented in the newsletter on several occasions, most recently in August of 2008 (also see article on

page 38 of the *May-June 2013 Theatre Organ Journal*) but here we chronicle changes. In January of 2011, the Chapter premiered the renovated 4-manual console of the Page Organ and for the first time since it was placed in the high school, members were able to see the console as it will be and to hear some selected ranks from the solo chamber, playing for the first time in twenty years. That January day was a milestone in the current incarnation of the Page Organ.



**New console lighting**

For the crew working on the installation, it was both an exciting day and a revealing day. We were able to hear for the first time the result of the fruits of our long labor but clearly showed us the work yet to be done and the corrections and adjustments yet to be done. Strategically for the purpose of maintenance and organization, the console wiring needed to be redesigned and reinstalled. Programming of the computer relay was preliminary and much work was left to be done. In the chambers, there were still notes not playing, entire ranks not playing, and swell shades not working (the solo swell shades were propped partway open during that January program).

Since that day, an immense amount of progress has been made on the organ as we ready it for a new premiere as a part of the 2013 convention. The console has been completely rewired and significant progress has been made on program-

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***Directions to  
Stephenson H.S.  
on page 2***

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Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or  
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***Thanks for the  
Donations***

***General Fund***

Bert & Ann Allee  
Michael & Melinda Garrett  
Norma Simmons

***Turn the Page Fund***

There have been quite a number of "Turn the Page" responders and we should be able to post a list of names in the next newsletter. At this point, however, we simply want to acknowledge the generosity of our membership. With your continued support we are making great strides in being able to complete the Page fully after the convention.

***ATOS Convention Garage Sale***

With the 2013 Convention approaching, you have an opportunity to clean out your garage, attic, office, spare bedroom, or wherever and dispose of salable items such as CD's, records, books, magazines, and other collectibles that you no longer want but that convention attendees might want to acquire. If you have anything that you will consider donating, please get in touch with me and we will make arrangements to make it a part of our inventory.

***Larry Davis***  
770-428-4091  
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***The Page is Really Singing!***

Our chapter's Page Pipe organ is going to get a good workout even before the convention.

Dr. Ada Coleman, choral director at Stephenson High School, and band director Quentin Goins, are both going to incorporate the Page into their school-year-ending programs.

The Main Chamber's eight ranks are playing beautifully, and the Solo Chamber is making great progress. And it all will get a great "shake-down" when John Lauter comes visiting from Michigan to play for us at the May chapter meeting. Compared to our last chapter gathering at Stephenson more than a year ago, you will not recognize the Page. She is sounding great and will be a huge hit at the convention!

Kudos to the crew: Jack Sandow, Rick McGee, Bob Haag, John Tanner, Tim Stephens, Randy Hendry, John Baldwin, Ken Double, Larry Davis, John Alford, James Thrower, Ted Barnett and so many others (apologies for omissions!!) who have pitched in for the final push to the convention. Great work one and all!

***Time Running Short for  
Discount Convention Registration***

Many in our chapter have signed up for the convention, and that is great. Since most don't have to stay at the hotel, the expense is not anywhere near as great as it is for those traveling to Atlanta.

However, by May 15th, the "early-bird" \$329 registration fee will increase. So, for our chapter members who want to enjoy all those great concerts at the Fox, two big shows and the Awards Banquet in Birmingham, and hear the concert debut of the Page in its new home, not to mention the Strand GW-IV and the Young Artists competition, sign up soon and take advantage of the discount! You may use the enclosed flyer/registration form.

This is OUR convention, Atlanta Chapter ATOS! Let's make it the best ever!

***Directions to Stephenson High School***

**From I-85 N** - Turn South on Jimmy Carter Blvd. which changes to Mountain Industrial Blvd. and then Hairston at Memorial Dr. Go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> traffic light and turn left on Rockbridge Rd. When you cross the railroad tracks, continue two miles and turn right on Stephenson Rd. Go 1 mile. School is on the right.

**From I-285** - Exit on Memorial and turn East toward Stone Mountain. Turn right on Rockbridge Rd. and continue. When you cross the railroad tracks, continue two miles and turn right on Stephenson Rd. Go 1 mile. School is on the right.

**From I-20 West Side** - Take Exit 74 and go north on Lithonia Industrial Blvd. Turn left on Stone Mt. Lithonia Rd. Go about a mile and turn right at the light onto S. Dishon Rd. Proceed approximately 1.25 miles (past a church on the right) and turn left on Alford which dead-ends into Stephenson Rd. Turn left. The school will be about 1/2 mile on your left.

***School address is: 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087***

## ***Stroble is IN THE HOUSE !! (well at least the basement) !***

Sunday, April 21st, 2013, at 3:00 pm, Ms. Elsie had to loose the dogs to control the crowd that descended on the peaceful residence normally occupied by her and son Bob McKoon !!

The Atlanta Chapter ATOS was on the prowl again, and Newnan, Georgia was the target.

The reason for all the fuss? Gene Stroble was back for another go at the custom Allen 3/17 theatre organ in the McKoon home, and he brought goodies, as well !!!

After a brief welcome by chapter president Tim Stephens, our host, Mr. Bob McKoon, introduced a few guests (including Elizabeth Beers, a relative of Jimmy Beers – organist at the Atlanta FOX in the 1930's and one of Coca-Cola's first vice presidents) and then James Thrower introduced our artist for the afternoon – Mr. Gene Stroble - the MASTER OF MIDI !!!!!

To begin, we were offered a collection of Day Songs: "Unclouded Day," "On a Clear Day, You Can See Forever," and "It's a Good Day."

Then came a visit to the land of Disney: "When You Wish Upon a Star," "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes," "Minnie's You-



Hoo," and "Honor to Us All" from "Mulan."

Then a couple of stylistic diversions: "The Very Thought of You" – in a Hammond jazz style, and "Tea for Two" – featuring a virtual tap dancer / and a virtual drummer on the sticks.

Traveling further south we ended up in the land of the Latin: "Miami Beach Rumba," and "Tico-Tico." Big Fruit Hats for everyone !!!

Then our first round of a varied assortment – featuring MIDI voices and instrumentation. This was titled "Fun I," and featured "Country Gardens" – with the assistance of a novelty band, then "Danny Boy" – escorted by the pipes and drums, and then "England: My Happy Home" – with a full compliment of English Handbells / Choir / Classic Organ to give a grand aura to this selection.

Next, Rodgers & Hammerstein dropped by for a visit with the following offerings: "Nothin' Like a

Dame," "I'm Just a Girl Who Can't Say No," "Poor Jud is Dead," and "My Favorite Things."

Now for Fun II: "Talk to the Animals" offered a barnyard of the animal kingdom via Gene's iPad and a little software called 'DJSoundbox' and we were in the midst of the Wild Kingdom !

For a little more serious segment, "The Lord is My Shepherd" and "The Masterpiece" (Mouret's 'Sinfonie du Fanfare') let us hear the Classical and Sacred side of Gene – he did well.

Patriotism was the theme of the last segment and we were called to attention with Sousa's "Washington Post March," the "Theme from "J.A. G.," and then a "God Bless America" sing-a-long with soloist Mike Marchese.

Thanks Gene – a deluxe entertainer you are and we really appreciated your talent and the great fun you provided.

Afterwards, there was food – and a feast it was – ravaged quickly by the attendees. Locusts don't stand a chance around this group – and our Hostess and Host were more than up for the challenge – and graciously, at that !!!!

Offered by *Biz E. Body*, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the walls / chambers / stairwell, and kitchen all have ears!!



### ***President's Note***

The countdown is on, with less than 60 days until the start of "Here with the Wind" – the 2013 ATOS Annual Convention right here in Atlanta! So many folks are working diligently day-in and day-out to make sure everything comes off without a hitch, and we're extremely grateful for all of the effort being put forth. If you're interested in volunteering and haven't been contacted by our Convention Committee, let me know! We're certainly able to work around your schedule, and we'll make sure that you don't miss out on any of the fun.

Registration numbers are looking great – not only for the Convention, but for the Overture and Finale events, too! As Ken said, time is almost out for the "early-bird" registration price. Additional information and a registration form are enclosed with this newsletter

for your convenience. And the rumors are true – the Awards Banquet is included with your Convention registration! Gary Jones and our friends in the Alabama Chapter are making sure that our visit to Birmingham on July 4 will be an unforgettable day.

It has been a month of great news for ATOS Atlanta, from the Convention to the Page installation and all points in between. If you've received the latest edition of *Theatre Organ*, I hope you were as thrilled as I to see the Page take "center stage" with a front-cover photo, great article, and a host of pictures from then and now. Then add the news of our own Josh Dill being awarded the George Wright Memorial Fellowship to put icing on the cake! Josh is the only Atlanta Chapter member to have received the honor, and is anxiously awaiting July.

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## Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- May 19 (Sunday) 2:30 pm, John McCall in Concert at the Forker Memorial Wurlitzer, Grace Baptist Church, 8000 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, FL 34241. Free Admission. (229-560-7540)
- **May 26 (Sunday) 3:00 pm, John Lauder on the Grande Page at Stephenson High School**



Come support the Earl Smith Strand Theatre as it features the Atlanta Chapter's **Mighty Allen Theatre Organ**. Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 770-293-0080 or on the web at [www.earlsmithstrand.org](http://www.earlsmithstrand.org).

**Bob Fountain** plays organ pops pre-show for the great singing group **THE SOCK HOPS** at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre, Saturday evening July 20th at 7:30 pm.

### *Strand Summer Movies with organ pops pre-show:*

- May 24th 7:30 pm **NATIONAL LAMPOON'S VACATION** with Strand Organist Phillip Allen
- July 11th 7:30 pm **SING ALONG WITH MOMA VACATION** with Strand Organist TBA
- August 2nd 7:30 pm **BRIDESMAIDES** with Strand Organist Misha Stefanuk
- August 3rd 7:30 pm **JAWS** with Strand Organist Larry Davis
- August 9th 7:30 pm **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD** with Strand Organist Phillip Allen

#### *May Meeting (Continued from page 1)*

ming the relay. Thanks to the efforts of our sister chapter in Birmingham, Wurlitzer tremors, offset chests and swell shade mechanisms have been rebuilt. There are none better at working on all things Wurlitzer than the members of the Alabama Chapter as evidenced by the superb condition of Bertha, their Mighty Wurlitzer that will also be a part of the convention.

Under the direction and with

the personal attention of John Tanner and Schlueter Organ Company, all the chests in the Main chamber have been renovated, tested and are back in place. Pipe ranks have been filled out where pipes were missing and necessary repairs, adjustments and voicing has been done to them. Several chests and ranks on the Solo side have also similarly addressed. Work has been done on the tuned percussions, the blower, the organ lift – virtually every part of the organ that there is.

The original 8' Post Horn rank, built by the Gottfried Company, had been removed from the organ and replaced before the Chapter acquired it, but a complete 8' Gottfried Post Horn rank was discovered in the Pacific Northwest and has been acquired by the Chapter for installation.

Much more could be said, but better than telling, our May program is a chance for you to come to see and hear the progress.

#### *President's Note (Continued from page 3)*

We've received great response to our "Turn the Page" fundraising campaign for the Page organ installation at Stephenson High School, including another major donation. For those who have helped us so far – thank you, thank you, thank you! If you've been thinking about sending in a contribution, now is

the perfect time as we wade "knee-deep" into the solo chamber to ensure its readiness for the Convention. I encourage everyone to come on out to Stone Mountain on May 26 to not only hear the tremendous progress we've made since our last program there, but to hear a great organist and a thrilling program with John Lauter. I'll see you at the School!

*Jim Stephens*

### *Dill Awarded 2013 George Wright Memorial Fellowship*

We're proud to announce that ATOS Atlanta's own Joshua Dill has been awarded the 2013 George Wright Memorial Fellowship from the American Theatre Organ Society! The Fellowship is sponsored by ATOS and pays for a young person to attend his or her first ATOS Convention. At age 16, Josh is the youngest member of the Atlanta Chapter, but possesses a contagious enthusiasm for the theatre organ and the silent film era. Josh resides in Leesburg, Georgia, and will be joined by Peter Shilliday from Olathe, Kansas, who was also awarded the Fellowship this year. Congratulations, Josh, on this well-deserved honor, and we look forward to seeing you in Atlanta this July!