



RON CARTER AND FRIENDS AT THE STRAND
SUNDAY AFTERNOON — NOVEMBER 15TH AT 3 PM

The November Atlanta Chapter Program will feature the fabulous musical variety show that Ron Carter has presented for the last three years. This year the Earl Smith Strand Theatre has invited the Chapter to have its meeting and the show at the theatre as part of a community open house!!

Don't worry, Ron and Donna will still host chapter-only programs at the Carter Center for the Performing Arts, but this is a unique opportunity to showcase the Chapter's Allen GW-IV and introduce hundreds of folks to the theatre organ!!

As in previous years Strand singers Catherine Moulton, Joe Arnotti, Taj Stephens along with special guest Cassi Costulas (Strand General Manager), Abby and Jake Carter, Nathan Peace and newcomers Shelbea Owens, Sterling McClary, Arianna Shropshire, harmonica player Harper Harris, and Carley Vogel will entertain us with



You'll Be There (from the film Pearl Harbor), the Inkspots, vocal solos to include You Raise Me Up, If I Loved You, That Lucky Old Sun, My Way and many others.

Organ solos and duets by Ron, Nathan Peace, Jake Carter and other instrumentals with the trumpet (Abby Carter) and even the Harmonica!!! Ron will also accompany a cute 6-minute video about the blind date of a theatre organist! The show will end with the grand finale of all singers on stage singing an inspiring musical number!

Parking is free and available on the Marietta square or in the parking deck across the street on the east side of the Strand (Cherokee Street) less than a block away.

Come early and have lunch at one of the many restaurants on the square and of course the Strand concession stand will be open for your enjoyment. This is an event you do not want to miss!!!!

music from the great American songbook all accompanied by Ron on the Allen.

Musical numbers will include a tap dancer number from 42nd Street, songs from Bye Bye Birdie,



**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE...**

At the Fox, I asserted what I called "President's Privilege," which I am sure is not in the bylaws but I used it anyway. And I will do the same in this message to talk about a very special member and an important personal friend: On October 20 in a Tallahassee hospital, **Fred Boska** passed

away. John McCall eloquently writes about Fred elsewhere in this newsletter and I'm sure we'll have an opportunity to tell stories as we gather together and there are many stories. But I have some personal thoughts. Fred was one of those people who encouraged me and supported me both in my music and my roles in the chapter from the very beginning. I experienced his wisdom during planning for the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend

where I began to get to know him, and the one thing that I wanted when I first became president in 2005 was to have Fred on the Board of Directors. I stayed in his condominium in Tallahassee in the spring as I have each year recently and had the chance to hear his marvelous artistry on the organ once again. He was a true master musician and he stepped into an important position –

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A “Deluxe” Occasion

The ritual was once common – theatre organ enthusiasts from throughout the area congregating on a Saturday at the stage door entrance of the Fabulous Fox Theatre, to bask in the sights of Atlanta’s premier movie palace and the sounds of its famed 4/42 Möller Deluxe organ. Decades later, such visits occur only occasionally, and the afternoon of October 24th just happened to be one of those much anticipated occasions. A large crowd of members gathered under the twinkling stars and drifting clouds (yes, both Brenograph projectors were working perfectly!) for a memorable afternoon celebrating the very theatre and instrument responsible for the existence of our Atlanta Chapter.

The afternoon kicked off with the unmistakable jazzy sounds of Larry-Douglas Embury and his rendition of “Lullaby of Birdland”. Larry came to the Fox in 2002 and was quickly appointed Organist in Residence. Since then, he has played countless engagements, from pre-shows to full productions, in his unique improvisational style. Filling

President’s Message (Continued from page 1)

house organist at the Rylander – at a critical time when he was needed. He was a unique person and as I wrote in the last newsletter, he leaves a legacy: he set the stage for those who follow him on the Rylander Möller by setting a standard and an expectation, and by presenting his Allen to the Maguire Center in Tallahassee, he insures continuing music there by those who come to play. More than that, he was a friend, an encourager, a mentor. I will miss him.

Please express your gratitude to the Fox Theatre for their extended their gracious hospitality for our October meeting. There was a time we thought such a day could never happen again but it did, and there is hope for the future.

A special highlight of the day was the return of **Jay Mitchell** to the console. Between the passing of Bob Van Camp and the coming of Larry-Douglas Embury, Jay and Walt Winn were the two organists that kept the tradition of organ music alive at the Fox. We owe Jay our thanks for those years and it’s great to see him back.

We have a lot to be thankful for as Thanksgiving Day approaches. I look back with gratitude on those we have recently lost for their friendship and for their contributions. I’m thankful they were a part of my life.

Stay in touch,,

Larry Davis



Larry-Douglas Embury Rick McGee

a couple of requests, Larry presented “Look for the Silver Lining” and “Happy Days are Here Again”, with a nod to Streisand’s hit version of the song. Then it was all tremolos off for the Shaker classic “Simple Gifts”.

When the Fox Theatre opened its doors to the public for the first time on December 25, 1929, patrons were introduced to Mighty Mo by famed organist Iris Vining. Rick McGee opened his portion of the program with the very song Vining opened with 86 years ago – “Rainbow Round My Shoulders”. Rick is certainly no stranger to the Möller Deluxe and serves as staff organist at the Theatre, opening for Broadway shows and playing for special events. Knowing that he

could not leave the bench without paying tribute to Bob Van Camp, Rick launched into a medley of “Summer Samba”, “Shangri-La”, and “Michelle”, all with their signature registrations. Then it was Hector Olivera’s “Suzette”, honoring another organist who has been long-associated with Mighty Mo. The magnificent sounds were bouncing from each side of the stage during “Tara’s Theme” from *Gone with the Wind*, and he concluded with excerpts from Lee Erwin’s “The Eagle Overture”.

The moment many had been waiting for had finally arrived – the rare opportunity for open console. As Larry Davis proceeded through the sign-up sheet, there were many familiar names and some not-so-familiar that took to the bench for their chance at the legendary instrument. But all were surprised when the name “Jay Mitchell” popped up on the list, and it was thrilling to hear organ and organist reunite once more, if only for a few tunes. Special thanks to Ken Double, Shelly Kleppstattel, and Adina Erwin

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Review: The Man Who Laughs... Will Have You Crying!

By John Clark McCall, Jr.

Sundays at the Strand, Marietta, have reached a new pinnacle with our own Ron Carter and his masterful score for Victor Hugo's *The Man Who Laughs*. Under the capable hands of Universal's Paul Leni, this film can stand with the original silent version of *The Phantom of the Opera* any day. And it features *Phantom's* female lead, Mary

Philbin, in a convincing role of a blind girl who falls in love with a man {portrayed by Conrad Veidt} purposely disfigured when a mere child...walking the earth smiling... even when when flooded with tears of dire unhappiness. It is a memorable film—enhanced by the musical interpretation of Erno Rapee's original score--adapted and illuminated by Mr. Carter. Many of you will remember that Rapee was the conductor of Roxy's Capitol Theatre Orchestra, writing notable silent film themes, including *Charmaine*.

In addition to the film itself,

lets discuss its *presentation* by the Strand staff. The pre-show by this writer ended promptly at the advertised 3:00 pm, the Allen descended into the pit, Ron Carter rose on the lift, the vintage Universal logo {with the aero-plane circling the globe} flashed on the house curtain, and as it rose, the house lights dimmed and the film's credits rolled. This is the way it is done! Or rather, it's the way it *should* be done.

At intermission, Mr. Carter had already received a hearty acknowledgement by the audience. By the

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Closing Chord Dr. Fred H. Boska

By John Clark McCall, Jr.

Fred H. Boska, theatre organist, pianist, professor, and music instructor died Tuesday, October 20, 2015 in Tallahassee, Florida.

Dr. Boska was named House Organist at the Rylander Theatre, Americus, Georgia shortly after the theatre's restoration in 1999. Dr. Boska played the theatre's 3/11 Möller for numerous on-stage performances and in concert. He performed for the Carter Center Nobel Awards Recognition Celebration attended by former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Roselyn at the Rylander. He also joined fellow ATOS member John McCall in duo piano/organ concerts on the theatre's Steinway grand piano and at other ATOS and privately sponsored venues. He was named House Organist Emeritus at the Rylander when this writer assumed duties as house organist. He was an active member of the Atlanta Chapter ATOS and the national organization, often recording concerts by noted organists. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Atlanta Chapter in 2010.

Born in St. Augustine, Florida in 1936, Fred Boska showed an early interest in music, especially brass instruments and piano. In 1951, at the tender age of 15, Fred had organized The Fred Boska Trio. He later pursued formal



studies with a relative of Carmen Cavallaro, noted pianist and recording artist. Boska's "top end" on the piano immediately bore an unmistakable reflection of the Cavallaro style.

Boska retired as Professor Emeritus of Education at Georgia Southwestern State University, Americus, Ga., where he taught from 1970-1993. He also held Bachelors, Masters and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from the Florida State University.

Dr. Boska played organ and piano for dance bands, touring shows, and in resort and hotel venues while also serving as a band instructor and conductor. He later purchased an Allen 317 theatre organ where his talents continued to flourish. His theatre organ style developed from a solid background of both instrumental and keyboard pedagogy. In a review of a concert from 2006 at the McKoon Allen, this writer commented:

Boska's approach to the organ underscores his extensive background in working with dance bands, his prodigious piano technique, and his

respect for music played correctly, accurately, and honoring the composers' musical intentions.

An early open house/open console event at the Rylander Theatre afforded Dr. Boska--an unknown to fellow theatre organ enthusiasts at the time--to take the Möller on an impressive musical journey. ATOS member and theatre organist James Thrower, after hearing Fred, said: "Quick! Lock the doors. I don't know who this is, but we've found our new House Organist."

And Dr. Boska obliged, playing for almost every on-stage performance at the theatre—especially in its first years of development as a cultural center for the fine arts in Southwestern Georgia.

After moving to Westminster Oaks, Tallahassee, Dr. Boska donated his Allen organ for installation in the retirement community's Maguire Center for Lifelong Learning. He was a principal sponsor and organizer of numerous events featuring the organ, including guest appearances by Ken Double, vocalist Daniel Mata, Larry Davis, John McCall and a silent film event fund-raiser for young organists of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, of which Dr. Boska was an active member. He was also a lifetime member and past officer in the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

He leaves a legacy of great musicianship, mentoring, and support for our art form.

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- Sunday, November 8, 2:00 pm Central Standard Time — ALABAMA THEATRE : Chapter Meeting with Juan Cardona at the console. Nationally known organist from Newtown, Conn. Short business meeting and Phantom report to follow.
- **Sunday, November 15, 3:00 pm** — Atlanta Chapter November meeting, Ron Carter and Friends at the Strand Theatre (see page 1)
- Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 pm — The Annual Chattanooga Music Club Holiday Program at The Solders and Sailors Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN featuring KEN DOUBLE at the historic Austin Organ, with special guests The Metropolitan Bells hand bell ensemble University of Tennessee-Chattanooga Chamber Singers Holiday music, plus silent movie fun Free Admission - Donations requested



Strand Movies with organ pops pre-slows. Come support the Earl Smith Strand Theatre as it features the Atlanta Chapter's Mighty Allen GW-IV Theatre Organ

Tickets may be purchased by calling the box office at 770-293-0080 or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org.

- **EARL SMITH STRAND CELEBRATES 80th Birthday** featuring the Chapter's Mighty Allen Theatre organ played by Chapter Organists and guests!!
- **Sunday afternoon November 15th at 3 pm Ron Carter and Friends** at the EARL SMITH STRAND THEATRE on the Marietta square!! . This event is FREE! Let's fill all 531 seats. (See Page 1)
- November 27th, Friday night **SOUND OF MUSIC SING-A-LONG** with organ pops pre-show at 7:30 pm by Phillip Allen.
- December 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20 all shows at 8 pm except on the 6th, 13th and 20th which are at 3 pm - **A CHRISTMAS TRADITION** live stage show with theatre organ pre shows and sing-alongs 30 minutes prior to show time by Strand organists. A wonderful song and dance Christmas review by 20 singers on the Strand stage. The theatre/lobby and organ will be decked out for Christmas. Come early and have dinner or lunch on the square and then attend this wonderful show. Reserved seating. Tickets are only \$25 with special prices for military, seniors and students by calling the Strand box office at 770-293-0080 or in person M-F from 11 am to 6 pm, or Saturdays 9 to noon or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org. Also, box office opens 2 hrs before show time.

A "Deluxe" Occasion (Continued from page 2)

for securing the date; thanks to Larry-Douglas Embury and Rick McGee for making the music; and thanks to everyone for making it an afternoon to remember. Sounds which had not been heard in many years returned to the Fabulous Fox, and hopefully we, too, can soon make a return!

The Foxy Vox

Review: *The Man Who Laughs*

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end of the film, the house rose to its feet cheering not only the organist, but Carley Vogel, who sang the score's main theme on stage in the last frames of the film. Her final notes coordinated perfectly with the film's finis. I can promise that you will be hearing more from this fifteen-year-old super talent. Her formal training is already supporting

a young lady who will go far in the vocal world.

Ron Carter took Rapee's score and often inverted it, placed it in new harmonic frameworks, stopped it dead-away when the drama on the screen demanded such, and interpreted the action with an ever changing registration palette. Of course, our GW-IV Allen was brilliantly up to the task. The film elicited real tears from the audience...even with

Mr. Veidt {aided by an uncomfortable prosthetic device} continued to smile.

ATOS members are reminded that this instrument is *theirs*. I encourage each of you to witness what is being done on a highly professional level to keep the art of the silent film and the theatre organ alive!