Volume 55, Number 11 November 2021

# ATOS ATLANTA

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
## FOR THE NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING
## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21—3:00 PM
## STEPHENSON HIGH SCHOOL

John McCall and Larry Davis go toe to toe in presenting a wonderful concert of organ/piano music. This dynamic duo will inspire you and hearing the Chapter's Page organ again after almost two years will be a delight for all!

Please renew your ATOS Chapter membership if you haven't done so.

| Level | Base | Cap |
|---|---|---|
| Student | $17.50 | |
| Basic | $35.00 | |
| Donor | $36.00 | $99.00 |
| Contributor | $100.00 | $199.00 |
| Sponsor | $200.00 | $299.00 |
| Patron | $300.00 | And up |

# A Letter from your President

## WE'RE BACK AT THE PAGE IN NOVEMBER!

With hats off to our indefatigable crew of volunteers at Stephenson High School, led by David Yackman, with John Tanner, Bob Haag, Randy Hendry, Larry Davis and Rick McGee handling most duties over the past several months (I ONLY provide donuts and comic relief as they very wisely keep me OUT of the chambers!), we will enjoy a chapter meeting on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, with reason to give thanks that we can meet and hear the Page organ for the first time in nearly two years.

Sunday, November 21st at 3 pm, we will gather at Stephenson High School and enjoy the musical artistry of John McCall at the organ, and Larry Davis at the piano (playing the late Bob Fountain's grand piano which was donated by a chapter member to the school's music department), and hear the glorious sound of that fantastic pipe organ once again. Our most sincere thanks to Stephenson High School principal Dr. Michael Jones, and Director of Music Mr. Quentin Goins for allowing us in the school.

PLEASE NOTE: We are guests of the DeKalb County Schools, and **masks will be required for attendance**.

Recent work on the Page includes attention to some power supply issues; completing some upgrades to the console; a new chest and regulator for the French Trumpet; the addition of the Krumet rank – which by the way is absolutely gorgeous in the ensemble of the organ; and other general work. There is some rebuilding to be completed on the toy counter and percussions; some other what I might call "odds and ends," and my hope is we can declare the major installation work and upgrades COMPLETE in time for a "hoped-for" celebration of Jack Sandow's 100th birthday in January. That means future work will be general maintenance and tuning, and I will tap dance on the stage of Stephenson High School the day we can make that declaration!

For those who do not know, the amazing Jack Sandow originally opened the door with officials at DeKalb County Schools back in 1995, when Stephenson High School was still on the drawing boards. Jack convinced the superintendent to add pipe chambers to the design of the auditorium, thus was born the Page transplant to the school.

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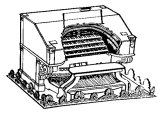
ACATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Chapter President - Ken Double
Vice President - Ron Carter
Treasurer - Paul Beavin
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
Membership Director - Janis Beavin
Board members:
John Tanner
Eddie Hulsey, Jr.
Larry Davis
Randy Hendry
Lee Lanier
Rick McGee
David Yackman
Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow



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Then, Jack joined the work crew and "busted his behind" day in and day out to help get the organ installed. The convention concert in 2013 was a major event; bringing the likes of Jelani Eddington; Richard Hills; David Gray; Nathan Avakian for concerts that were great events Jack could proudly celebrate. The visit by Carlton Smith and Clark Wilson for a full week of tonal finishing work took the Page from good to FANTASTIC in terms of its overall sound; and now we will enjoy Sunday, November 21st, and stay tuned for more information on a January celebration.

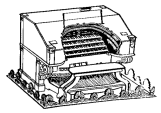
Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find information on organ activities at the Strand Theatre in Marietta; Mighty Mo and More – the free holiday concert at the Fox Theatre is set for Tuesday night, December 21st; and look for news of a special event coming January 9th as part of a program hosted by the Fox Theatre Institute for its "Friends of the Fox" group to which we are invited.

Also, you will read a note about nominations for Officers and Board Members for 2022. The list included here is a slate of those who have thus far agreed to run. Members may nominate others for board positions with the understanding that anyone being nominated has agreed to run and serve – no surprises, please!

On a personal note, you will also read about our October meeting and concert at RiverCenter in early October. It was one of the most thrilling concert events I have ever been privileged to play. What a night, and what an opportunity for bringing the music of the theatre organ to a new audience.

See you at the Page November 21st!

Ken



## THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS WILL TAKE PLACE AT OUR DECEMBER CHAPTER MEETING

As per the bylaws of the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS, elections are held in December of each year. Our practice has been to prepare a slate of candidates, and thus, see the list of those who have agreed to run for the upcoming year.

Nominations are open. If a member wishes to nominate someone, this can be done with the nominee's permission, and by submitting the name to Chapter Secretary Larry Davis or nominating from the floor at the December meeting. The current slate of candidates:

**Officers**

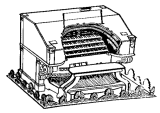
President: Ken Double
Vice President: Ron Carter
Secretary: Larry Davis
Treasurer: Paul Beavin

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Chambless
Membership: Janis Beavin
Website/IT: Tim Stephens

**Board Members (alphabetical order)**

Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey
Lee Lanier
Rick McGee
John Tanner
David Tuck
David Yackman

Note: Our bylaws purposely have no limits on the number of board members, sage advice from the late attorney Bob Foreman. If YOU, dear chapter member, have an interest in helping our chapter, we would welcome the ideas and energies of anyone truly interested to serve and assist. Do not hesitate to nominate yourself for a board position!



## WE'RE INVITED TO A SPECIAL CONCERT AT THE STRAND!

The Fox Theatre Institute is staging a special concert at the Strand Theatre on Sunday, January 9th at 3:00 p.m. This event is especially for the "Friends of the Fox" members, in appreciation for that groups work and support. And heaven only knows we at the Atlanta Chapter are definitely friends of the Fox!

The concert will feature the fantastic Carrollton Jazz Orchestra, with a 2:30 pre-show on our Allen GW 4 with Ron Carter on the bench. It is a ticketed event, and we will have full details in both the December and January newsletter. What great fun; great music; and a wonderful way to celebrate our great relationship with the Fox Theatre Institute and its wonderful Director, Leigh Burns – who loves Mighty Mo as much as we do! Stay tuned for details.

**Musical Triumph on the River**
**Old Friends, New Friends and Music on Broadway**

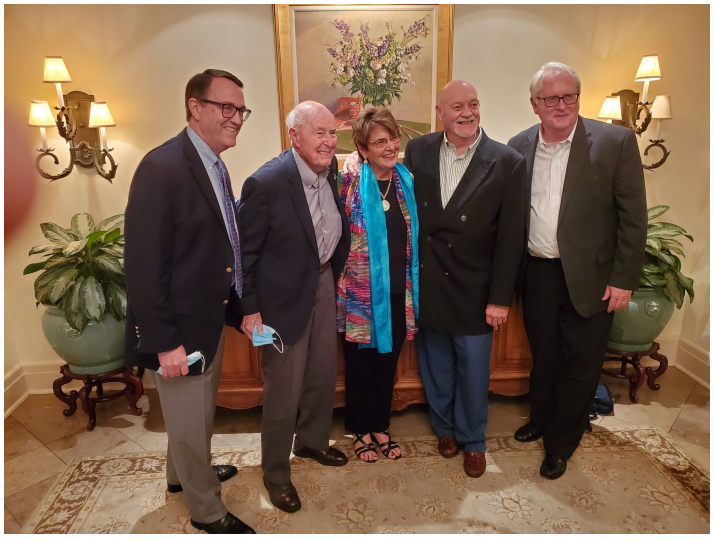
The house lights dimmed in the great golden palace of the arts on Broadway. A fanfare of music began, from the very walls it seemed, followed by applause, and from that fanfare and through the applause, the notes of a song emerged.

Renewed applause spread across the auditorium from the rear – the most elevated seats – as for the very first time, the great white and gold theatre organ console came into view as it rose from the pit, and the applause was renewed again when it came to rest at concert level.

It was an event that has occurred many times in the past. And many times on Broadway. But an event that has not happened in a good while anywhere, and never on Broadway in Columbus, Georgia. But that was the experience of the audience at the glorious RiverCenter for the Performing Arts in downtown Columbus, only a short walk from the Chattahoochee River.

Before such a moment can occur, some would say that the stars must be aligned just right. If only it were that easy. The entire story would fill a book, but with respect to this particular instrument, it began with – well, in a sense with the Allen Organ Company and the development of the Renaissance GW-4 Digital Organ, the story of which has been told many times. And the organ that is the center of our story is the very first one they built, Opus 1, and a very special instrument it is, with what is known as the "Fox Package," console decoration based on that of the San Francisco Fox Wurlitzer.

Some years after its creation, Opus 1 found its way to the home of one of the great enthusiasts of the theatre organ, Cal Jureit. In their home, he and his wife Dr. Marie Jureit, herself a musician and musical educator of note, hosted what became a legendary concert series featuring the most famous and accomplished organists from across the world. The sad and untimely passing of the well-beloved Cal did not bring an end to the series; his wife, joined later by her new husband Bill Beamish, continued presenting concerts in their home for many years. But eventually the time came to find a new home for this storied instrument.



Left to right: Ken Double, Bill Beamish, Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish, John McCall, Norm Easterbrook

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And that is where John McCall comes into the story. John had been looking for a worthy instrument for a venue that he had identified in the town of his residence and Dr. Jureit-Beamish expressed her willingness to donate Opus 1 for that purpose. The organ came to Atlanta and was temporarily placed in storage, but before it could be moved into the target venue, the offer to host it was withdrawn. So, word went out that a grand organ was available for a venue in Georgia.

And answering the call was a gentleman well-known to the Atlanta Chapter. Norman Easterbrook, Executive Director of the RiverCenter for the Performing Arts in Columbus, is no stranger to our world, for he was the manager of the Rylander Theatre in Americus when the Möller that resides there was installed and dedicated. Following that dedication, Mr. Easterbrook oversaw a concert series that brought many of the same artists to that theatre who performed in the Jureit home. John McCall, Ron Carter, Ken Double, and Larry Davis made a trip to Columbus to investigate the magnificent RiverCenter and the decision was made to place Opus 1 there. From a safe storage location, the console and speakers can be moved into any of the three auditoriums that are part of the venue.

With the approval of the chapter's board of directors to expend the necessary funds, Ron Carter took the lead to see that the organ was brought in to first class condition prior to transport to Columbus. In the process, we turned once again to one of the great treasures of our chapter, Jim Ingram, who just happened (!!) to have a set of rolling carts he had constructed to hold the speakers of an Allen GW4. On the appointed day, Jim drove to Atlanta, bringing the carts, picked up the console and the wiring harnesses, and transported them to Columbus where they were unloaded. On subsequent visits, Ron, Ken and John completed the tonal finishing of the instrument.

Meanwhile Norm Easterbrook had decided to open the RiverCenter season with the organ dedication, and word went out across town of the coming of "The Wave" as the organ was named.

Then came the appointed evening, and the stars did come together. At a special reception for honored guests were most of the principal figures in making the evening happen; Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish, her husband Bill, John McCall, and Ron Carter. In the spotlight was Norm Easterbrook fulfilling emcee duties, possibly the only theatre manager in a very long while to preside over the dedication of two different theatre organs in different venues. At the keyboards, Ken Double, known to Georgians as organist at Atlanta's Fox Theatre, was the artist chosen to perform for the dedication concert. Along with these, there was a very special guest: internationally known concert pianist Lindsay Garritson, who has heard this organ many times, since she grew up in the home that was its home. Miss Garritson is the daughter of Dr. Jureit-Beamish, and in her, the family's musical interests and talent have been raised to new heights.

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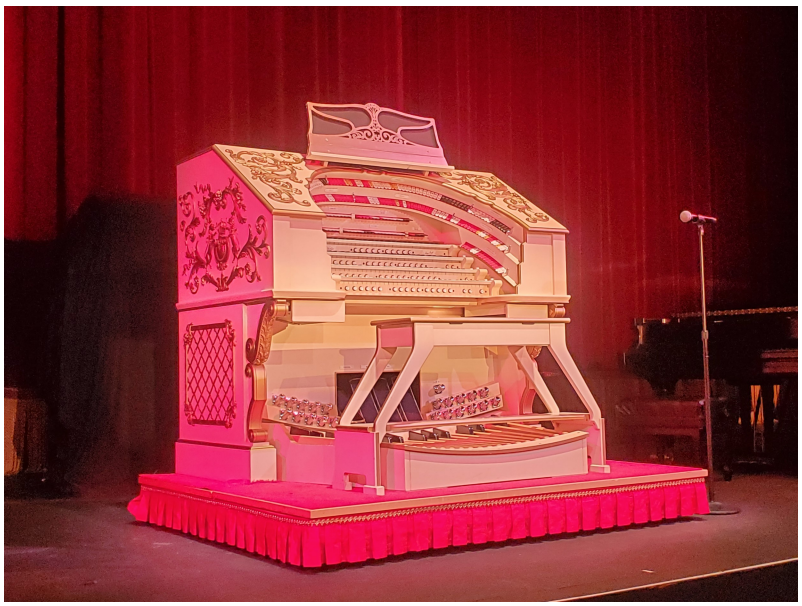
So the organ rose into view with Julie Styne's *Everything's Coming Up Roses,* followed by an apt sentiment, *I Love Being Here with You*. Ken then offered a classical work, *Voices of Spring* by Johann Strauss. With Jesse Crawford in mind, *So Beats My Heart for You* followed. Then came a medley of – dare we say – more recent popular songs, *Up On the Roof, Under the Boardwalk, If,* concluding with the Four Seasons' *Sherry.* Staying up to date, *All I Ask of You* from Webber's *Phantom of the Opera* came next. After that powerful work, a toe-tapping, percussion-laced Latin work, *El Cumbanchero,* with a brief nod to *Tico-Tico.* To conclude the first half, a grand rendition of a grand song *That Lucky Old Sun.*

Then the opportunity came for a delightful and very special interlude when Dr. Jureit-Beamish came to the microphone to tell the story of the organ and her family – it is certain that the late Cal Jureit would be thrilled to see his instrument in its glorious new home.

Following the interval, Ken returned to the console to open the second half with *Hard Hearted Hannah.*

Ken then introduced a very special part of the evening, and we all had the pleasure, one could even say "the experience," of hearing dynamic virtuoso Lindsay Garritson at the grand piano. She opened with the mighty *Rhapsodie Espagnole* of Franz Liszt, and followed that with a marvelous work of her own composition, a riveting transcription of Astor Piazzolla's *Oblivion.*

Ken Double then returned to the grand organ and presented a medley from the great Broadway show *Oklahoma,* including the title song, *Oh, What a Beautiful Morning, The Surrey with the Fringe on Top,* concluding the selections with *People Will Say We're In Love.*

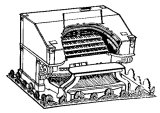


In a nod to the great George Wright, he then launched into the tour de force *Roller Coaster.* In honor of Cal Jureit, he then played one of Cal's favorite songs, *I Left My Heart in San Francisco.*

To conclude the evening of music, Ken chose a most appropriate song, grand music and a equally wonderful sentiment, *Let There Be Peace on Earth.* Called back for encore, it had to be and it was *Georgia on My Mind.*

And so the music of Allen Organ's GW4 Opus 1, Cal Jureit and Marie Jureit-Beamish's treasure, began in its new home, where it will continue for years to come. Walking out of RiverCenter that evening and looking up, it was clear that that the stars had indeed come together to signal a new era in theatre organ in the city by the river.

Larry Davis

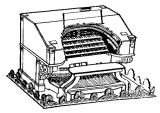


## Ron Carter
## Chapter Programs for the Remainder of 2021

I have been busily scheduling programs and artists for the remainder of 2021 so that our members can get these dates and locations on their calendar. My appreciation to all those that continue to host the Atlanta Chapter!!!

- November 21st 3:00 pm — John McCall and Larry Davis and their dynamic organ and piano duo at Stephenson High School on the Chapter's Page Organ.

- December 12th 3:00pm — Chapter Christmas party at the Carter Performing Arts Center with Ron Carter, Larry Davis and special musical guests! Donna Carter will have a delectable display of Christmas Goodies!!



## STRAND THEATRE EVENTS

- November 19—**TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD** with organ preshow at 7:30pm - Misha Stefanuk
- November 28—**SOUND OF MUSIC SING-A-LONG** with organ preshow at 2:30pm - Phillip Allen

**Christmas Traditions with organ pre-shows each night.** This is a high energy show with live orchestra and performers singing your favorite Christmas music.

- December 10, 11, 17, 18 at 8:00pm
- December 18 and 19 at 3:00pm
- December 22 and 23 at 7:30pm

- December 21- **It's a Wonderful Life Marathon** with Larry Davis and others doing organ pre-shows: 11:00am, 2:30pm, 6:15pm, and 9:15 pm

## OPPORTUNITIES TO HEAR GREAT ORGAN MUSIC!

- Sunday, November 7— 7:00pm Ron Carter accompanies Harold Lloyd's **SAFETY LAST** at Central Presbyterian Church, 1404 N Boulevard, Anderson SC.
- Sunday, November 14— 4:00pm Ron Carter accompanies **BEN HUR** at Vine St UMC, Macon GA.
- Saturday, December 4—2:00pm ***A RiverCenter Christmas***: John McCall at the Allen GW-4 with Crystal Clarke-Reid Vocalist, RiverCenter for the Performing Arts, Columbus, GA. Tickets at River.Center.org.
- Monday, December 6—7:30pm ***The Monday Night is Music Night Christmas Show***: John McCall at the Allen 317 and Bosendorfer Grand Piano. Westminster Retirement Center, Tallahassee, FL. Free admission.
- Saturday, December 18—7:30pm ***The John's Creek Symphony Christmas Gala*** with special guest Ken Double. Information at: johnscreeksymphony.org.
- Tuesday, December 21—7:00 pm ***Mighty Mo and More*** at the Atlanta Fox Theatre.

**Carols by Candlelight:** Marietta First Baptist Church Orchestra and 60 voice choir.

- December 5 with organ pre-shows at 2:15pm and 6:15pm. Our own Ron Carter will be playing the 30 minute pre-show on December 5th.
- December 6 with organ pre-show at 6:15.

These pre-shows are in celebration of the recently restored Reuter console and the addition of 37 digital ranks by A.E.Schlueter which brings the organ up to 83 ranks! It is quite a sound with three 32ft stops!

- Sunday, January 9—3:00 p.m. The Carrollton Jazz Orchestra in concert at the Strand Theatre, Marietta. Presented by the Fox Theatre Institute. Organ pre-show with Ron Carter at 2:30p.m.