



ATOS ATLANTA

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



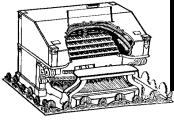
November Chapter Meeting
Sunday, November 17 - 3:00PM
Ron Carter and Friends Returns!
Carter Center for the Performing Arts
219 Lake Somerset Drive, NW - Marietta, GA 30064



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



Mailing Address:
Lee Lanier

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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 - Eddie Hulsey
Vice President - David Yackman
Treasurer - Lee Lanier
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
Membership Director - Lee Lanier
Board members:

Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Ken Double
Randy Hendry

Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow

Dear Friends,

It is almost incomprehensible that we are nearing the end of another year. With the race to Christmas poised to begin, we should take a deep breath and pause. Thanksgiving Day is sometimes called the “forgotten holiday”, but it remains a special time of reflection for me. We, in the Atlanta Chapter, have so many reasons to be thankful.

First, we should be especially thankful for the friendship and fellowship fostered by the Chapter. Common interest and fascination aside, some of my closest and most impactful friendships are with members of the Chapter. While the music is important, we care about people. That is reason for our existence.

Second, we should be thankful for the many opportunities we have for the theatre organ to be shared with a vast concourse of people in Georgia. Unlike many chapters, our instruments are presented to the public on a regular basis. There is not a single month that lacks usage of at least one organ, and the audiences love to hear that magic sound. The area has, during October, seen a vast array of silent film presentations. At Ron Carter’s stellar scoring of “Nosferatu”, members of the Plaza’s audience flocked to pick up informational cards about the Chapter and upcoming events. I helped distribute the cards, and I didn’t “push” a single one on any person. As the audience exited, people were clamoring and grasping for the information. It was euphoric.

The third, and most important, reason to be thankful is our audience. While numbers may be in decline in many places, we have fields that are harvest ready. At the event I mentioned earlier, the majority of the audience was young. Most had never been to a silent film before. Nearly every person, with whom I spoke, asked for the date of the next silent film presentation. If we can tap into this audience, think about where we as a Chapter may go! It may take some marketing strategies that are new. It may require thinking outside the proverbial box. Is it worth the effort? Most certainly!

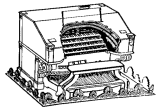
As we prepare for the changing of officers in the new year, please be supportive of your leadership. Be open minded about seeking new ways to engage an intrigued potential membership base. Invite others to the November meeting.

There is no better, nor more hospitable, spot than the “Carter Music Palace” for someone to have that “wow” moment we all have experienced.

I am thankful for each of you; for your friendship; and for the opportunity to have served as your President.

Sincerely,

Eddie Hulsey



In Memory of Our Great Friend, John McCall



McCall Memories

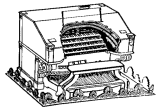
What kind of person was John McCall? If you were at the memorial service or have watched it online, you have heard many wonderful things said already. My introduction to John was quite by accident, or better said, by my own ignorance. I joined the chapter in April of 2003. In the summer of that year, the chapter held a meeting at the Allen Organ Studios with an organist I had never heard of but whom I thought was pretty good, a certain Walt Strony (yes, you can laugh now!).

Afterwards, a group of chapter members, including John, whom I did not yet know, gathered in a nearby room, and I joined them, not realizing it was a meeting of the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend planning committee. No one made any comment to me about being there including the chairman, Mr. McCall. I listened, made notes and wrote down some ideas - four pages of thoughts and suggestions – and made a few comments during the meeting as well.

What was John's response? Was it to remind me that I was a guest? Or was it to politely brush me off? No, he took my notes, looked at them later, called me and said, "As of now, you're on the committee." It was a remarkable response and one that had some fortuitous results. All because John was open-minded, perceptive, and welcoming. And that involvement with the FFOW led to John and Ron advocating that I become chapter president beginning in 2005 – I had been a member for only about a year and a half.

Next time, I'll share some stories that you may not know that will demonstrate the fun that one could have with John, and his great creativity. I'm sure there are others with special memories of John, and you should share yours with all of us.

Larry Davis



Horror, Music, and Memories

The Chamber Mouse mourns the loss of his dear friend John McCall along with the rest of the theatre organ world, and recognizes that with his passing, we have lost not only a talented musician, but a skilled and wonderful writer and reviewer. Those of us who remain will just have to do our best to live up to his example.

The arrangement that the Chapter has with the Strand Theatre permits us two programs each year at the theatre but scheduling them proves challenging due to the wonderful success of the theatre that keeps its calendar full (and the Allen Organ in use – 100+ days this year alone according to our artist this month). So, looking for an October date for a meeting, it turned out that the theatre was screening the silent film version of *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, with the legendary John Barrymore in the title role and Ron Carter at the keyboards, and that event became our Chapter meeting. And it was a very successful day for the theatre and the theatre organ, with well over 200 people in attendance for the show.

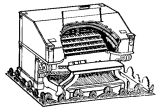
After a season-appropriate opening on the organ by Larry Davis, featuring horror and science fiction music, Strand Theatre Development Director Taylor Rambo hosted a contest of “Little Known Facts about Halloween” with audience members supplying the odd facts. The best one was that originally a vegetable (turnip) rather than a fruit (pumpkin) was used at Halloween.



Taylor introduced film expert and author John Malahy, who presented some background on both the film and the actors involved before introducing House Organist Ron Carter, who brought the console up with a show-stopping arrangement of Andrew Lloyd-Webber’s *Phantom of the Opera*.

Then it was time for the film and the great acting of the legendary Barrymore – and plenty of opportunity to see the famous profile. Stevenson’s original story was modified for the film, but the tale as told in the movie was very straightforward and easy to follow. And sad.

Ron’s score was, as usual, perfectly suited to evoke the horror and the sadness and the emotion of the film. There were several post-show comments about his use of the piano stop when Dr. Jekyll’s fiancé played the piano, that was perfectly matched to what was happening on the screen. It was the kind of effect that organists notice, the public possibly not because it seems natural, but in this case, the public noticed. Of course, all of Ron’s orchestration made the story of the film very accessible and at the ending, he was rewarded with a well-deserved ovation.



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The Strand's Executive Director, Andy Gaines, had expressed an interest for the Strand to host a memorial for John McCall, so chapter members and friends, including some from Alabama, and most notably John's life partner Mitch Parker, were present to spend time together and share memories and stories. Several people, most notably Jay Mitchell, spent time playing the Allen in the theatre, most remained in the lobby to talk and eat – there was a very nice spread of food catered in for the event. Larry Davis presented Mitch with a gift from the Alabama Chapter: the original transposer button from the Alabama's Mighty Wurlitzer that John played on many occasions. Instead of a formal memorial – that had been held earlier in Newnan – this was a relaxed, fun and more private occasion. It was the kind of gathering that John most liked – friends having fun, eating, telling stories, and making music.

-The Chamber Mouse

My Memories of John Clark McCall Jr.- a true southern Gentleman: PART 1 (By Ron Carter)

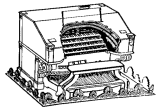


I was dumbfounded when Eddie Hulsey called me concerning the very untimely death of my dear friend John McCall. I had just spoken with him several days earlier and he said he was doing fine. I immediately thought, this just can be true! Not John! I began to think of all the good times we had together at Theatre Organ Concerts, dinners, meetings, and ATOS Conventions. He was always so upbeat and positive about life and his being in the theatre organ playing scene!!

There will never be another John McCall. I met John over 40 years ago at an Atlanta ATOS meeting and he and I developed a kindred friendship. He loved to talk about theatre organs, the artists, and the theatres. And when you were engaging in conversation with John, he gave you his undivided attention. He always made me feel special and that I really mattered to him. Which I truly believe I did! And those stories he would tell. Even though I had heard them many times, his delivery was so fresh and they were still so very funny, and his laugh! Oh my goodness, that laugh was contagious! If John was at a get together, you knew you were going to have a good time!!

John had such a wide ranging interest in so many things, a prolific writer, painter, historian, classic automobile enthusiast, pianist, organist, interior designer and story teller. His love of the theatre organ and its music is what stood out to me. He made a tremendous impact on so many budding theatre organists. He was such an encourager and always full of compliments. If I was a little down about how I played a program or silent film, all I had to do was call John, who would immediately make me feel like I did a great job whether I had or not!!

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I am proud to say that John did his first theatre organ program at our home about 25 years ago. He reminded me often about that program and how nervous he was. He did a great job and it was well received. He recently brought Donna a photo of the two of them standing in front of our Wurlitzer taken that very day! God they were both so young!!! Donna was as much a friend of John's as I was. They had a kindred relationship. I can see them in the kitchen now in deep conversation and both ending up laughing at what I don't know!

I will remember John's first public theatre organ program which was at a chapter meeting at the Alabama Theatre. He was in hog heaven. We knew he loved wine, so Donna prepared a gift bag, including the wine, which was placed in his dressing room in celebration of this concert. John, in fact, loved doing things like this for others. I well remember the dozen roses he gave to Rosa Rio at the Atlanta and Tampa conventions. He was going to just take them to her dressing room but Rosa insisted he present them on stage at the Tampa get together!

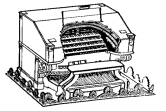
John was an Associate Organist at the Strand Theatre for almost 15 years and loved playing those organ pre-shows before the movies and live stage productions. The audience loved his playing and after he did his set they would burst out in applause as he walked up the aisle to the lobby. Of course it helped that Andy Gaines recognized him from the stage as he did so!! I'm so glad he got to experience this. He told me countless times how fortunate we were to have the organ in the Strand. The Strand staff loved and admired John immensely because of the way he treated them. Many times he and Mitch would spend all day exploring the shops on the Marietta square with John playing the Strand that evening.

When we had the very first exploratory meeting in 2002 of whether the Strand could be restored, I asked John if he would come and speak to a group of county and city officials and "deep pocket, movers and shakers". Well John was there front and center having driven up from south Georgia. He spoke very eloquently of what the Strand could be, the art deco architecture and his experience of what had been done at the Rylander. And speaking of the Rylander it was John McCall who is responsible for the Moller Theatre Pipe Organ being restored and installed there! Being on the Strand Construction Committee, I would consult with John on a regular basis about his ideas concerning the Strand's adaptive/restoration. And of course he was FULL OF IDEAS!!

To be continued

Kerry Bunn accompanying the Phantom of the Opera silent film at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church. Ken Double was the EmCee!





Membership Renewal Time!

Hi, all! It's time to renew your membership. We are successfully avoiding the sweep of inflation affecting everyone else thanks to the generous donations in time and money from the many members who are able to provide a little extra, your dues remain at \$35.

Remember, ***we are terminating our post office box.*** Therefore, this year, when you are ready to pay your dues, we urge you to use the online payment route at www.atosatlanta.org. It is quick, easy, and safe, unlike mailing a check (the issues with the various post offices continue, as you may have read). Those who still wish to mail a check, send it directly to:

Lee Lanier
220 Dunwoody Creek Circle
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

Do not ever send cash in the mail!!

If you renew with cash, *be sure to place it in an envelope with your name* before you hand it to Lee. If Lee is not available at a meeting, you may hand your envelope or check to Larry Davis. Please direct any question you may have to either one of us and we will provide an answer.

Lee Lanier, Treasurer & Larry Davis, Secretary

It's Time To Elect New Board Members

Here are the By-Laws regarding the Board of Directors.

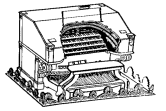
There are two kinds of board members:

1. The elected members, who are the officers and the board of directors.
2. The "ex-officio" members, who are members because of their function, such as the Newsletter Editor, or the Registered Agent or any of the project managers. Those folks are essentially appointed by the Board or are just in that position by virtue of their involvement. The board (not the members at large) determine who these people are and who are eligible. But we present to the membership the officers and the at-large board members.

1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the following:

- a. The Officers of the Corporation
- b. The Registered Agent of the Corporation
- c. The Editor of the Chapter newsletter
- d. Board members at-large (number to be determined by the Board and the Members)
- e. Chairpersons of special projects or committees approved by the Board shall serve as ex-officio members of the Board.
- f. The Chapter's legal counsel, if a Chapter member, may attend and participate in any board meeting.

All this was written in consultation with Bob Foreman who pointed out that is best for the board to have a good deal of latitude without having to revise the by-laws all the time (to determine the number of members) or to hold mid-year elections to add someone (for instance, if a new project emerges or something changes during the year).



Nominations for 2025 Board Members

Per our by-laws please see the below nominations from the nominating committee for 2025. Any member may submit their name for a position to the chapter secretary, Larry Davis and nominations can also be taken from the floor. These nominations will be announced at the upcoming November 17th Chapter meeting at Ron and Donna's home. The actual election will be held at the December Chapter meeting.

Also, for informational purposes only, listed below are persons mainly responsible for communication with venues where we have Chapter instruments or where the chapter is involved with a location where we have donated an instrument or where theatre organ events are scheduled. They and the Newsletter Editor, Chapter Correspondent and Membership Director are listed below and are not part of the voting process.

Thanks!

Ron Carter
Nominating Committee

President- David Yackman
Vice president- Ken Double
Secretary- Larry Davis
Treasurer- Lee Lanier
Newsletter Editor- Debbie Chambless
Chapter Correspondents- Sebrina Brown
Membership Director- Lee Lanier

At Large Board Members

Kerry Bunn
Ron Carter
Rick Clear
Randy Hendry
David Tuck
Eddie Hulsey

Strand Liaison- Ron Carter
Stephenson Liaisons- Jack Sandow, Ken Double, Larry Davis
Plaza Liaison- Ken Double
RiverCenter Liaisons- Ken Double, Ron Carter
Lucas Liaison- Ken Double; John Tanner
Fox Liaison- Ken Double
Rylander Liaison- John Tanner

The annual Fox Theatre Holiday show is now called

A VERY MERRY MIGHTY MO!

Wednesday, December 18 - 7:00PM

Check the Fox Theatre website for details!



**Ron Carter
Strand Theatre Events
Pre-Shows by Strand Organists**

- December 13 Christmas Traditions - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist Ron Carter @ 7:30PM
- December 14 Christmas Traditions - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist TBA @ 2:30PM
8:00PM Pre-show Organist TBA @ 7:30PM
- December 15 Christmas Traditions - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis @ 2:30PM
- December 17 A Wonderful Life - 11:00AM Pre-show Organist Eddie Hulsey @ 10:30AM
2:30PM Pre-show Organist Eddie Hulsey @ 2:00PM
6:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis @ 5:30PM
9:00PM Pre-show Organist Larry Davis @ 8:30PM
- December 18 Christmas Traditions - 7:30PM Pre-show Organist Misha Stefanuk @ 7:00PM
- December 19 Christmas Traditions - 7:30PM Pre-show Organist Debbie Chambless @ 7:00PM
- December 20 Christmas Traditions - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist Debbie Chambless @ 7:30PM
- December 21 Christmas Traditions - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist Debbie Chambless @ 2:30PM
8:00PM Pre-show Organist Misha Stefanuk @ 7:30PM
- December 22 Christmas Traditions - 3:00PM Pre-show Organist Ron Carter @ 2:30PM
- December 28 When Harry Met Sally - 8:00PM Pre-show Organist Eddie Hulsey @ 7:30PM

**RON CARTER AND FRIENDS RETURN!
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 ~ 3:00PM
CARTER CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS!
219 LAKE SOMERSET DRIVE NW - MARIETTA, GA 30064**

Ron Carter will present a varied program of popular music on the Carter's Allen GW4 theatre organ along with their Kawai Digital Grand Piano, which also plays from the organ! Special guest soloist Barry Lancaster will croon some of your favorite tunes and Donna Carter will serve her delicious hors d'oeuvres, prepared from the Carter's new kitchen addition. As in the past there will be door prizes, open console after the program and great fellowship. Lake Somerset and the fall leaves will offer a relaxing and enjoyable time if you want to sit on the patio, deck or take a short walk to the lake dock. PLEASE remember to park only on one side of the street facing in the correct direction so that emergency vehicles can pass. Parking is also available in the driveway as long as space is available. The music room can seat 70 people with additional seating in the sun room and enclosed porch.