

Meeting at Rick McGee's Residence
Ken Double, Bob Fountain and Rick at the Allen TO-5Q
October 19th, 3 pm



The instrument is an Allen Quantum TO-5Q. It has fifty-five digital ranks, five manuals, and twenty-five channels of audio. The Main 'chamber' is overhead left and consists of two rows of five HR100 cabinets, the Solo 'chamber' has two rows of five HR100 cabinets, the Ancillary division has two HR50 cabinets that are at the rear and side-mounted to face back towards the organ console. There are three SR5 subwoofers around the room – one for the 32' Contra-Violone, one for the 32' Contra-Diaphone, and one for the 32' Contra-Tibia Clausa.

The room is roughly 20' wide by 26' long with an 8' ceiling and a low roof profile above. The speakers are on the rafters above, facing up to the roof, and since no surfaces are parallel, the sound has a chance to 'wander' around before falling to the room below. Subwoofers are around the room, so there is quite a bit of sound motion in the room.

Not having a tall ceiling, this

is an installation that is very different and Rick hopes you will like the result.

Only rudimentary voicing has been done at this time – rank volume level terracing mostly done. Future final voicing is soon to be done. The 'out-of-the-box' results were a pleasant surprise !!

About the artists (in alphabetical order)...



Ken Double fondly recalls his two years as the hockey "Voice of the Atlanta Knights" team back in 1992-94, and has often stated publicly "I never should have left." Last August, the Chicago native who had been living in St. Petersburg, left Florida and moved back to Atlanta and has been smiling ever since. He performs once again at the Reddish Walker Organ for the April meeting, marking an anniversary of sorts as Ken joined the Atlanta chapter after a Reddish performance in 2006, and later recorded the instrument with a CD titled *Double Southern Comfort*.

After making his career as a sportscaster for some 32 years, Ken left that profession to take on the

role of President and CEO of the American Theatre Organ Society, where he is leading the way in fund-raising, public awareness and special projects. Locally, it has not taken Ken long to get involved in the Atlanta chapter, having been elected to the board while making many weekend trips to Stephenson High School to help with the Page project.

As a performer, he has toured the nation, performed in England and Canada, and has made four different tours throughout Australia. Ken just finished his 13th recording, *Teach Me Tonight* performed on the 4/18 Wurlitzer at Babson College in Wellesley, MA. The recording will be out in time for this summer's convention in New England.



Bob Fountain began life in North Augusta, South Carolina. At a very early age, he went with his mother to the Imperial Theatre in Augusta, Georgia. While there, he had his initial introduction to the Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. Seeing the console in the pit, lights on, no organist present, and within

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**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
404-725-1155

www.atosatlanta.org
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

*AC/ATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under
Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.*

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Vice President - *Ken Double*
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Newsletter Editor - *Elbert Fields*
Chapter Correspondent - *Larry Davis*

*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or
elfields@yahoo.com*

NOTICE !

Bring your Chairs

Rick has only 2 folding chairs and his normal setup is a combination of easy chairs and sofas. Therefore, if you have any folding chairs and would bring them to our October program at Rick's on the 19th it would ease the seating situation.



***President's
Note...***

It's been a busy year for ATOS Atlanta and our members! We've recently focused on our newest installation at the Marietta Performing Arts Center – a partnership with Marietta City Schools which opens up a world of new possibilities for outreach, education, and entertainment. We then brought silent cinema back to Chattanooga's Tivoli Theatre with Ken Double's accompaniment of *The General* to a large, enthusiastic audience – including many lifelong residents of the area who had never seen or heard of the Mighty Wurlitzer. With all of these happenings, we haven't talked much about the Page Project at Stephenson High School and some folks have asked what's going on out there.

With focus on our other projects and just busy schedules in general, it was a somewhat quiet summer for our crew in Stone Mountain. Then just a few weeks ago, floor refinishing in the theatre took priority. But the organ has been played regularly since our last program there in May, and she's sounding great and holding tune pretty well. John Tanner has been working away at the new chests needed to accommodate the additional ranks and reports that they're coming along very well. John already has much of the pipework ready to drop in once those chests are in place and winded. So, the doughnuts are soon to be flowing as the crew swings back into gear on making what's already an incredible instrument even better. For long-term planning, you can go ahead and

mark December 14 on your calendar for our Christmas program at Stephenson on the 4/16-plus Grande Page.

Ahead of the year-end holidays, the fall is always a busy time for ATOS as members across the country organize silent film presentations focused on the horror classics. Our area is certainly no exception, as we've got films lined up at the Strand Theatre in Marietta, the Tivoli Theatre in Chattanooga, and the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham. I hope that you will not only join us for one or more of these events, but that you will help spread the word and invite folks along. Silent film accompaniment is a great introduction to the theatre organ and helps to bridge the gap for those who tend to steer away from an "organ recital". New members and new interest is the only way for these instruments and our organization to survive in the long run.

Speaking of upcoming events, we always have a detailed listing in each month's newsletter, but we also have an events page on our website at www.atosatlanta.org. It's updated continuously and features links for detailed maps to the events along with links for purchasing tickets online (when applicable). This month's Chapter Meeting brings us to the beautifully-remodeled home of Rick McGee and his new (and quite unique) Allen TO-5Q installation. If the incredible home rebuild doesn't blow you away, I know the organ will! I look forward to hopefully seeing you at least a few times this month!

Tim Stephens

Two-Manual Estey Reed Organ with full pedals.

Free to a good home, not for profit preferred but not required. Dark oak finish with non speaking facade on top. Small blower enclosed in baffle box. Frank Brown is assisting the owner and can be reached at fbrownatl@comcast.net or call 770 -262-0838.

“Bashing Butler with the Best”

Saturday, September 13th, 2014, members of the Atlanta Chapter of A.T.O.S. and locals from Butler, and environs began gathering at the residence of Bucky Reddish in Butler Georgia, as early as mid-morning. The “Bucky Birthday Bash” had begun. There was food, drink, munchies, and friends from the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, (who knows where else from) !!!

The appointed hour arrived, and A.C.A.T.O.S. President Tim Stephens greeted us, giving news of recent and upcoming events. He then introduced Ken Double, who introduced our first guest artist for the party, Mr. John McCall....

John set the mood of the day with “Lucky Day,” then offered his own setting of one of the Jesse Crawford favorites, “I’m Confessin’.” Next, “Will You Love Me Tomorrow?” and then, as if we should “Take It on the Chin” (from the musical ‘Me and My Gal’) asked a question and provided the answer. Then John offered a tribute to the great Buddy Cole with “Every Time I See You.” “Lady Picking Mulberries” (from the George Wright LP ‘Flight to Tokyo’). We were reminded that Bucky called this selection “. John then introduced the second guest artist, Mr. Ken Double.

Ken opened with a surprise - “I’m Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter” (a selection from ‘Dinner Music for People Who Aren’t Hungry’ via Spike Jones – as a vocal solo with accompaniment from the Walker and a pre-recorded track! Next, up “For Once in My Life,” and then a Steve Lawrence favorite, “Portrait of My Love.” A selection from an unlikely source (the film ‘Slapshot’ – referencing Ken’s alternate life as a sports-caster,) the tune “Lady of Spain.” “Let Me Try Again,” (from the



Ken Double introduces John McCall



Ken Double, Bucky Reddish,
Jelani Eddington, Donnie Rankin

Frank Sinatra album ‘Old Blue Eyes is Back’) was next, and then the song-of-the-day – “Happy Birthday!” We had multiple celebrants – John McCall, Fred Dove, Randy Anderson, and especially BUCKY REDDISH !!! Ken concluded his segment with “I’ve Heard That Song Before” in the style of band leader Harry James.

Intermission – and time for all in attendance to intermiss – and there were over forty in attendance, so ‘intermissing’ was a cozy experience.

Ken then introduced Jelani Eddington, who then introduced our third guest artist, Mr. Donnie Rankin....

“Just One of Those Things” was a great way to try to state the reason for the day event. Next, a surprise duet of “Varsity Drag” with Donnie on the Walker organ, and Jelani on the piano – just like old times!! Next, Donnie concluded his segment with “Bess, You is My

Woman Now” (from Gershwin’s ‘Porgy & Bess’) performed in the great styling of George Wright, and then introduced our fourth and final guest artist, Mr. Jelani Eddington....

“Get Happy” (as arranged by Chris Gorsuch) got this section off to an energetic start. “Le Petite Waltz” (as arranged by George Wright) kept the flow, and a great, not often heard “Not While I’m Around” from the musical ‘Sweeney Todd’ (by Stephen Sondheim) was offered. “Things are Looking Up” (George Gershwin) was next, and, then an unplanned tie-in to the first guest artist, “The Sun Has Got His Hat Off” – another tune from ‘Me and My Gal’!! A whole-hearted rendition of the Judy Garland favorite, “Over the Rainbow,” and a full-blown orchestral recreation of “Bacchanal” from ‘Sampson & Delilah’ (Saint Seans) led to a well-deserved encore call. The selection - “Root Beer Rag” (Billy Joel.)

All to soon, the musical concert was over. Time for more ‘intermissing’, grabbing grub and open console concluded the event, allowing attendees the chance to try out the Walker organ in its new home.

A group ,who just could not get enough, gathered at Justin’s restaurant for dinner before the trek back to our various homes and day was done !!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Bucky ! Thanks for all the great memories of bashes past, and please, have many more birthdays!!!

Good food, great home, Walker installation with really GREAT sound, and many friends present – a day to be remembered!!

Offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the chambers, console, and every room in the house have ears !!!!!

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arm's reach, the opportunity to reach across the rail and press the closest stop tabs down simply could not be passed up. This served to 'infect' the young organist-to-be with "the bug," and to generate a surprise ("reprimand") later, at home.

In later years, some piano study was in order. Bob's grandparents had some records by someone named Jesse Crawford. Young Bob liked the sounds of these recordings, although not really sure why. The bug, now dormant, would surface its head and then he would know why. Lessons were applied to the organ. As any good musician-in-the-making will do, this led to trips to the local church (usually unknown to anyone - particularly the organist) for secret sessions. As Bob grew up, he had the opportunity to come to Atlanta with his grandparents, and found a way to hear the organ in the theatre close to the hotel (this being the Roxy). He even managed to make friends with some of the theatre staff. This resulted in his being able to return to the theatre, staying up all night, playing the organ. During high school, Bob played organ for functions such as pep rallies, parties, etc. Playing current favorites was to form the basis of his future (as yet unknown to him) career.

After high school, Bob came to Atlanta to attend Georgia State University, pursuing a degree in marketing. During this time, Bob was able to supplement his school expenses by playing evenings in a restaurant (a temporary fill-in job that became full-time). Bob would become manager of the Thomas Organ Center in Atlanta. When the playing jobs proved to be more lucrative than retail, Bob made the move to his current occupation - the bug had surfaced! Bob continued to play and play and play!

Bob originally used a

Hammond (painted high-gloss white), later (replaced with a Thomas Palace 900 series three-manual theatre organ with an external glockenspiel and four z Leslie speaker cabinets. This instrument is still in use today.

During the 1960's, Bob Fountain met Bob Van Camp, local radio and television personality (WSB) and organist for the Atlanta Fox Theatre. Due to the fact that Bob Fountain had been playing the "newer" music for parties and such, he was able to persuade Bob Van Camp to try some of the new sounds on the 4/42 "Mighty Mo" at the Fox. Evidence of this collaboration can be found in the selections on "Here With The Wind," as recorded by Bob Van Camp at the Fox. This recording featured titles such as "Don't Sleep in the Subway," "Winchester Cathedral," "Georgie Girl," and "Michelle," as well as more traditional fare.

Bob Fountain is a charter member of the Atlanta Chapter, American Theatre Organ Society (known at that time as the 'SouthEastern' chapter) and has played concerts for the chapter, from time to time.

Bob's local theatre organ experience as been varied: The Music Grinder Pizza Emporium - Marietta, Georgia - 3/24 Wurlitzer; The Excelsior Mill, Atlanta, Georgia - 3/23 Wurlitzer; Winn Sound Warehouse - Atlanta, Georgia - 4/17 Page. Bob has utilized vocalists and guest instrumentalists in his playing jobs - many being his regular customers featured in their own one-hour Cabaret Showcase. Dancers are also a steady feature wherever Bob is playing. He currently maintains a mailing list of over 1,200 households that are his 'regulars.' He is one of the very few organists able to maintain his livelihood playing organ in this setting. The events at

Winn Sound were usually for performances of the local amateur theatre company called "TrisPro," the Saturday night jam sessions, and ATOS parties. It has been said that if Bob were to open on the moon, his customers would stack their cars bumper-to-bumper until they got there - night after night.



Rick McGee, an Atlanta native (well, almost), having served as accompanist for local theater productions, and as organist / pianist / keyboardist for several area churches. Currently, he serves as Church Musician (organist and pianist, and director of the senior adult choir) for St. Andrew United Methodist Church, Canton Road, Marietta, Georgia.

From May of 1978 to February of 1985, there were three different incarnations of the pizza & pipes format restaurants in the Atlanta - Marietta area. Our artist served as solo artist / entertainer at each of these: The Music Grinder Restaurant (Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ); Showboat Restaurant (Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ); and, The Excelsior Mill (Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ.)

On-going musical activities

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include concert solo performances at the Alabama Theatre, Birmingham, Alabama and the Tivoli Theatre, Chattanooga, Tennessee, on their Wurlitzer pipe organs, as well as Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, Atlanta, Georgia, on the Aeolian pipe organ installed in the former Candler mansion. Also, accompanied a silent film presentation of the 1922 film "Ben Hur: A Tale of The Christ" for a joint production of the Callanwolde foundation and the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society. Accompanied several National / International artists on various

occasions, on both piano and theatre pipe organ.

He also serves as design and installation consultant on several pipe organ installations (also actually rebuilding and restoring the consoles and other components on these installations.) Currently, re-specifying and rebuilding the Page pipe organ being installed in Stephenson High School, near Stone Mountain, the Allen organ installed in the Strand Theatre, Marietta, Georgia, (also one of the staff organists at the Strand,) several digital organs - one in Carrollton, Georgia, one in Shorewood, Illinois, console restoration and enlargement

for an installation near Charlotte, North Carolina, the pipe organ being installed in the Fitzgerald Theatre, Fitzgerald, Georgia, and the pipe organ being returned to and reinstalled in the Imperial Theatre, Augusta, Georgia, restoration and updating of the pipe organ in the Tivoli Theatre, Chattanooga, Tennessee. Also, assisting with the re-specification and new relay programming for the Möller organ in the Rylander Theatre, Americus, Georgia.

Current Treasurer and past officer of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society, and reviewer .

***Directions to the McGee residence in Vinings at
3600 Tanglewood Dr. NW, Atlanta, GA 30339-4226—770-289-5942***

**From Cobb Parkway (US41) just north of the Chattahoochee River, go west on Paces Mill Road
From Atlanta Road, go east on Paces Ferry Road SW
From I-285 Exit 18, go east on Paces Ferry Road SW
Turn south on New Paces Ferry Road SW in "downtown Vinings" east of the railroad track**

If you come up Paces Mill, you will pass the Methodist church and the Paces Pavilion / Vinings Inn buildings. You will come to a traffic light. Go straight through and you are now on Paces Ferry. At the second traffic light, turn left and you will be on New Paces Ferry. If you reach the railroad tracks, you have gone too far.

If you come from Atlanta Road or I-285, once on Paces Ferry – at the bottom of the hill you will pass a QuikTrip, cross over the railroad tracks, and turn right at the first traffic light and you will be on New Paces Ferry.

Once on New Paces Ferry, it is level for a short distance and then goes downhill to a sharp left curve. As you start downhill, look straight out your windshield – Rick's house is directly in front of you. After the curve, Tanglewood Drive is the first right. The driveway is just to the right in the bend of the sharp curve and comes in on the back of the house.

Tanglewood runs south from New Paces Ferry Road SW—Rick's house is at the intersection of the two. You may park on either Tanglewood or New Paces Ferry, but be careful not to block the driveways adjacent to Rick's driveway.

Parking will be limited, and if you park in the Jubilee shopping center diagonally across from the house (in the bend of the curve), stay to the outer edges. Do not park in the parking lot where La Paz / Mellow Mushroom are – their lot is very limited, and could cause towing issues. You can come to the front or back doors – whichever is easiest. There two steps at the front, and no steps at the back.

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- October 5, 2014, Sunday, 2:00 pm CST, John McCall in concert at the Alabama Theatre, 1817 3rd Avenue North, Birmingham, AL. No admission charge.
- October 18, 7:30 pm, Tivoli in Chattanooga, Ken Double on the Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organ and silent film classic "The Phantom of the Opera". Tickets \$10, \$6 for children 12 and under.
- **October 19, 3 pm, meeting /program at the Rick McGee residence. Artists: Ken Double, Bob Fountain & Rick McGee**
- November 8, 2:30 pm, "Your Packard Hit Parade", Edition IV, Manasota Honorary Member John McCall plays the Forker Wurlitzer at Grace Baptist Church, Presented by the Florida Packard Club. All Atlanta ATOS members and their friends are cordially welcomed. There is no admission charge.
- **November 16, 3 pm, meeting/program, Ron Carter and Friends at the Carter Performing Arts Center**
- **December 14, 3 pm meeting/program at Stephenson High School. artists to be announced.**



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

- October 24, Friday, 7:30 pm, Alfred Hitchcock's classic **THE BIRDS**. Organ pre-show 7:30 pm, organist Larry Davis
- October 26, Sunday, 2:30 pm, silent classic **THE CAT AND THE CANARY** accompanied by Ron Carter. Organ pre-show 2:30 pm by Phillip Allen.

More about **THE CAT AND THE CANARY**: " A decaying mansion and a stormy night is the setting for mystery and chaos when a pack of greedy relatives gather at midnight for the reading of a twenty-year old will. But before the West fortune can be handed down, the family must endure a night in the cavernous manor, unnerved by the news that an escaped lunatic is at large! The Cat and the Canary is a milestone of the American horror film and is the one that set the stage for the famous Universal horror films of the 1930s. Great comedic relief and a restored KINO print! Ron will use all of the special effects of the Chapter's Mighty Allen Organ -wind, thunder, crashes and a great accompaniment score to bring the film alive!!

Atlanta Chapter, ATOS - Membership Application

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State/ZIP _____ Email _____

Do you own an organ? _____ If so, description _____

Membership Category (check one): Patron (\$300 and up) Sponsor (\$200 - \$299)

Contributor (\$100 - \$199) Donor (\$36 - \$99) Basic (\$35) Student (\$17.50)

Send Newsletter via email: Yes No

Please make check payable to **Atlanta Chapter, ATOS**

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