

**OCTOBER MEETING — MIGHTY MO AT THE FOX
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24TH, 2:00 PM**

Through the generosity of the management of Atlanta's Fabulous Fox Theatre, especially Adina Erwin and Shelly Kleppsatell, the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS will be holding its October meeting there on Saturday, October 24 at 2:00 pm.

We will hear two artists share the bench, Larry-Douglas Embury, who has been the Organist-in-Residence at the Fox Theatre since 2003. And we will also hear Rick McGee, who as a student of Bob Van Camp, played Mighty Mo many times, and has been heard recently filling in for Larry-Douglas.

Of course, there will be open console time, and an opportunity for many who play to "get their



mits" on one of the greatest theatre organs every created.

PARKING: On-street meter parking is available on Ponce de Leon alongside the theatre, and in the parking lot on Ponce de Leon across the street.

ENTRANCE: We will enter the theatre through the side entrance on Ponce de Leon, right next to the Stage Door.

AS A COURTESY: We will sit on the Main Floor – NO access to the balcony. The doors will open at approximately 1:30 pm. The meeting begins at 2:00 pm. We will be wanting to depart the Fox no later than 4:30 pm. There will be no refreshments available at this meeting.

See you **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 2:00 PM** at the Fox Theatre!



**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE...**

"It is not our part to master all the tides of the world, but to do what is in us for the succour of those years wherein we are set."

Those are the words of J.R.R. Tolkien. What he says so elegantly is that we cannot control the past and we cannot control, future but our responsibility lies in doing what we can in years that we live to further our cause. And the cause we have undertaken is to preserve our wonderful instruments and the music that is made on them. What

happened in the past we cannot help; we cannot control what will happen in the future, but we can further our cause during the years wherein we are set and try to put into place strategies that endure when our years are past.

I am waxing philosophical because we have lost two great treasures in the past month – two friends - and the lives and work of both of them wonderfully illustrate the maxim above.

Gordy Johnson made his first great contribution to our chapter when he rescued, renovated and installed the Imperial Theatre Wurlitzer that became known as the

"Naughty Marietta" in his home in East Cobb. This was after the days of the "warehouse," so for those years, Gordy and Linda's residence, and the Carter's across the county, were focal points of chapter activity. But more than that, when Gordy originally saved the Wurlitzer, it provided the opportunity years later for the organ to be returned to its original home in Augusta. One day, it will play again in the Imperial Theatre and when it does, it will be one of two Georgia organs in their original theatres. He is not only an

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important part of the history of our chapter, he left behind him the potential for future generations to enjoy the organ in its original home, an important part of the musical history of our state.

Kenn Fields was always an enthusiastic supporter of our chapter, and hosted meetings at the Allen organ in his home. Behind the scenes, his financial support helped to make the Strand organ a possibility, and he provided the money to purchase the keyboards that are now on the Grande Page. When we acquired them, we believed them to be permanent, even though they were modified from church keyboards. They took us through the convention and through the dedication but because of the financial success of that convention, we have been able to commission the building of theatre organ keyboards especially designed for the Page. Kenn's original donation enabled us to have all the wonderful programs we have already had at the Page and insures that the organ will a first-class instrument for the future. His investment has paid off royally for the chapter, the school, the community and the theatre organ world. And more than his financial contributions, he provided great encouragement in our efforts and, may I say, to me personally.

These two men did what was in them for the times they lived and left behind them a legacy that will always be remembered. I thank them and I will miss them both.

Larry's Photo Album



The Wurlitzer returns to Augusta's Imperial Theatre, December 2005, with Gordy and Linda Johnson and then-board chairman Paul Brewer.



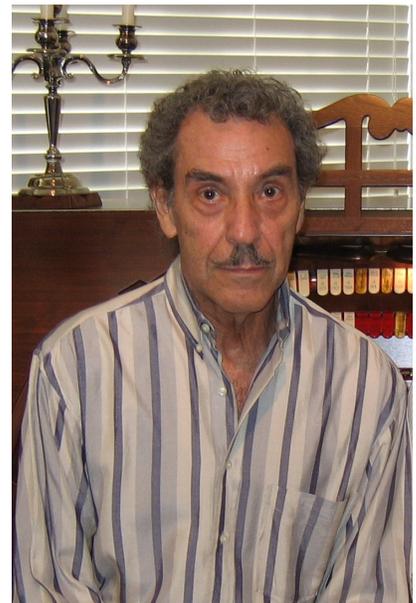
New keyboards specially made for the Grande Page Organ.



Nathan Mullins joined us at our September chapter meeting and had his first opportunity to play a theatre pipe organ.



For the first time in their history, the Chattanooga Symphony used the Tivoli Wurlitzer as part of the symphony when they performed Respighi's "The Pines of Rome" on September 17.



Kenn Fields at an Atlanta Chapter program in Bucky Reddish's home on June 19, 2005.

A Grande Page and a Double-Great Artist



Sunday, September 13th, 2015, at 3:00 P.M., the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society met at Stephenson High School for a program of significance !! This was our last chance to hear the Page in its current configuration. The console is coming apart (the last time – I have been promised!!) so the stoprail and backboard can be realigned to accept the new trumpet rank, and a few modifications to unification to better use the added ranks. New manuals have arrived to replace the current ones so we can offer world-class performers a worthy interface to the organ. The remaining ranks are being installed, tremos and regulators matched to the ranks, and relay reprogramming to accommodate all of this. At the first of the new year, Clark Wilson and Carlton Smith will be here for the tonal finishing of the organ, and then in March, Richard Hills will do his best to break the Page in – and he is well qualified to do this !!! (I'm already tired !!!!)

President Larry Davis greeted the attendees, making announcements of events and future happenings, a few of the upcoming programs, and announcements concerning two long-time members – Gordy Johnson (recently deceased) and details for his memorial service, and Ken Fields in hospice (and has now passed.) Ron Carter updated us on events forthcoming at the Strand, and then Larry introduced our guest artist... Mr. Ken Double !!

Riding the lift up and bringing the console into view, the tune “With Plenty of Money and You” set the pace for the great selections to follow. Next, a not-oft’ heard tune, “You Turned the Tables on Me” and then a great Tony Bennett favorite “If I Ruled the World.”

A great novelty selection “Frim-Fram Sauce” offered the chance to hear the colors of the Page’s ranks, and then a couple of selections for recently passed member, Gordy Johnson, “Chicago” and “My Kind of Town, Chicago Is.” Thanks for these. I told Linda (Gordy’s wife) about this and got a big smile!!

Next, an Operetta medley from the great Sigmund Romberg selection “The New Moon,” let the lush and orchestral voices parade before us in great form.

A ‘Sugar’ medley came next in preparation for the goodies awaiting us in the commons area: “When I Take My Sugar to Tea,” “When I Walk My Sugar Down the Street, All the Birdies Go Tweet – Tweet – Tweet,” and we were all sweetened - and some of us need all we can get !!!

Ken then offered congratulations to Ron Carter and his successful presentation of “Wings” at the Strand, and thanks to John ‘Grumpy’ Tanner, Rick McGee, John Alford, Jack Sandow, Bob Haag, and the rest of the Page crew for work done to date and future !!

To close the program, a special selection “Rock-a-Bye Your Baby with a Dixie Melody” for Bucky Reddish, who was able to make the trip and be with us.

A great program and artist made for a special afternoon of music!!

Open console featured first-time visitor Nathan Mullins (and his parents) from Social Circle / Madison Georgia. This was Nathan’s very first time to play an actual pipe organ, and I think he liked it. Hopes are high he will join us and be back as often as he can! John McCall also delighted the group with his smooth stylings.

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

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- **Saturday, October 24 — 2:00 PM— Atlanta Chapter October meeting at the Atlanta Fox Theatre (see Page 1)**
- Saturday, October 24 – 7:00 PM – ALABAMA THEATRE : “The Phantom of the Opera” (1925) Silent Film starring Lon Chaney with Tom Helms accompanying at the console.
- Sunday, November 1 — 3:00 PM—Board of Directors Meeting - Rick McGee's residence
- 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 below)**



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 October 25th at 3 pm** with organ pre-show at 2:30. **The Victor Hugo 1928 silent classic THE MAN WHO LAUGHS!** Released in 1928 at the very end of the silent film era, directed by Pal Leni and starring Mary Philbin (Christine in Phantom of the Opera), and Conrad Veidt with original story by Victor Hugo (Les Miserables). When a proud nobleman refuses to kiss the hand of the despot King James, he is cruelly executed and his baby son sold to criminals and his face is surgically and permanently disfigured. A wonderful story of love conquers all and good wins out in the end!!! Ron Carter has created an emotionally moving score to accompany this incredible silent masterpiece. Tickets are only \$10 or \$9 for Seniors, Students and the military and are now on sale at the Strand Box Office by calling 770-293-0080, or in person M-F from 11 am to 6 pm and 9 am to noon on Saturdays or on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org.
- **Sunday afternoon November 15th at 3 pm Ron Carter and Friends** and for this year, at the EARL SMITH STRAND THEATRE on the Marietta square!! For the fourth year in a row Ron will bring together a group of very talented vocalists and musicians who will present music from the great American songbook. Last year there were 115 in attendance at Ron and Donna's home, so to accommodate more folks this event has been moved to the Strand Theatre and made part of a free Strand open house to the entire Atlanta community!! This is also the Atlanta Chapter ATOS November Chapter program!! Some of the very same vocalists will perform as in previous years and of course Jake and Abby will be back to entertain you. Ron says there will also be some "new" surprises and talent showcased. This event is FREE! Let's fill all 531 seats.



Closing Chord

We are saddened to report the loss of two long-time Atlanta Chapter members. Gordy Johnson and Kenn Fields died within a few days of each other, both in hospice care, Gordy on September 11 and Kenn on September 16. They will both be missed.

See President's Message on Pages 1 and 2 for additional information.