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ATOS Atlanta

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

THE SWINGIN' PAGE PLUS VOCAL VARIETY NOVEMBER 3rd at 7:30
Ken Double, Daniel Mata and Tommie Macon In Concert!

Using the Grande Page Theatre Organ as a swingin' jazz band, and with the vocal variety of Daniel Mata and Tommie Macon and her GENTLE MEN of Jazz, the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is presenting a most distinctive show on Saturday evening, November 3rd at 7:30 at Stephenson High School in Stone Mountain, GA, your next chance to thrill to the sound of the Grande Page organ.

The organist will be Ken Double, who has toured the country and around the world performing variety shows on the theatre pipe organ, and happens to be one of the organists who regularly presents Mighty Mo to Fox Theatre patrons.

This concert will focus not only on the grand music of the Grande Page Theatre organ, but will feature vocalist DANIEL MATA, Lassiter High School graduate, Hearst Scholarship winner attending Belmont University in Nashville, *Stars of Tomorrow* contest winner, and Fox Theatre performer appearing with Ken Double again. Daniel's thrilling, rich tenor voice is an audience-pleaser!

The second half of the performance will feature Atlanta's jazz sensation **TOMMIE MACON AND THE GENTLE MEN OF JAZZ,** who have been featured in concerts and club appearances all across Atlanta. Tommie could often be heard with the late Bob Fountain at McKinnon's on those wonderful Wednesday nights, and her presentations of the jazz greats and the Great American Songbook are nothing short of sensational!

It's a real Triple Treat, with Ken Double, Daniel Mata and the great Tommie Macon and the Gentle Men of Jazz at the Stephenson High School auditorium on Saturday night, November 3rd and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available in advance online at www.atosatlanta.org, and are just $15, $10 for students. Tickets will also be available at the door at Stephenson High School, 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA for $18.

Tommie Macon Biography

Tommie Macon called the "songbird of the south" is originally from Washington D.C. Her voice is as lovely and full of delight as springtime in Atlanta; once you experience it, others fade in comparison.

She has gathered a powerful, talented quartet in the Gentle men of Jazz. Each musician is accomplished and as a group they have become possibly the best combination of jazz talent in the South. The band has repeatedly earned a place in the prestigious Atlanta Jazz Festival.

A Letter from your President

WHAT A NIGHT WE'VE PLANNED ON NOVEMBER

Technically, we at the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS figured that with the Silent Film Comedy Festival at the Strand, coupled with Bob McKoon's event in Newnan, Saturday October 27th at 3 pm – The Sounds of the Silents - provided ample opportunity for chapter members to enjoy a lot of theatre organ music in the months of September and October. And with a big concert set for early November, we decided, "Hey! Let's focus on THAT!!"

We are inviting you to come to Stephenson High School Saturday night, November 3rd at 7:30 for a very special concert. After having heard the thrilling music of David Gray and Richard Hills from the UK, and Walt Strony from Sacramento, CA, we opted for somebody a tad closer to home.

Yours truly LOVES to put together variety shows, where there is plenty of pipe organ, but also plenty of other great music that might appeal to a wider audience, many perhaps hearing the theatre organ for the very first time.

Thus, DANIEL MATA will bring his spectacular voice to the stage at Stephenson. It is hard to believe that the young man who won the first-ever *Stars of Tomorrow* contest will soon graduate from Belmont University in Nashville. Daniel has a magnificent voice, and a special manner of connecting with an audience. He and Ken will be featured November 11th in Chattanooga, as well.

And the Triple Treat night also features the amazing TOMMIE MACON AND THE GENTLE MEN OF JAZZ. Tommie and her quartet were often heard with our dear Bob Fountain, and those Wednesday nights when she showed up at McKinnon's were incredibly special. She is fantastic, and it will be wonderful to fulfill a dream I have had for years of presenting a concert along with her and her talented quartet.

Ticketing information is listed here in the newsletter. We are inviting the music students in band, orchestra and chorus to attend as our guests. And we know there will be great interest in hearing what should be a terrific show at Stephenson.

After that, the chapter will enjoy its regular November meeting at the Strand Theatre with a host of your favorite chapter players presented on the GW 4.
And we will soon be announcing a dedication concert date for the Allen LLQ 324 at the Plaza Theatre now that the organ is installed and sounding wonderful!

Lots going on with the chapter, and we hope to see you November 3rd!

Ken Double

Double Helping of Ken and Daniel !

Sunday, November 11, 4 p.m.
The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN
A Veterans' Day Concert featuring Ken Double at the historic Austin Organ; vocalist Daniel Mata; and the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra
This concert is free and open to the public.

STRAND ORGAN EVENTS!!

John McCall to play organ pops pre-show at the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand for the screening of **FRIED GREEN TOMATOES** on Friday evening, 7:30pm September 28th.

GIRL SHY a great **Harold Lloyd** feature length silent comedy will be screened at the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre on Sunday afternoon, September 30th at 3pm. **Ron Carter** house organist will accompany this classic silent on the Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. Great organ pops-preshow by organist **John McCall** starts at 2:30 pm

This is a fantastic comedy that will have you on the edge of your seats as Harold Lloyd steals cars, horses, wagons and even a Los Angeles streetcar to stop the wedding of his girl friend. All the stunts are in real time and done by Harold himself.

Tickets are only $10 and may be purchased 2 hours before show time, by calling the box office at 770-293-0080, on the web at www.earlsmithstrand.org The box office is also open M-F from 11am to 6pm and on Sat from 9am to noon.

DRACULA - The Halloween Ballet…with a bite! Organ preshow 30 minutes before the ballet by Strand Organist **Larry Davis** at the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre Friday Oct 5 at 7:30 and Saturday October 6 at 2pm and 7:30pm Tickets are $15 to $25.
Fangs, coffins, crucifixes, and pointe shoes? Ga Metro Dance Theatre boldly presents Dracula, the Halloween ballet with a bite! Let us transport you to the land of Transylvania where dance and myth mix together in this legendary tale of Count Dracula and his three brides, the misfortunes of Jonathan Harker and fiancé Mina Murray, and the ultimate struggle between good and evil.
THE MONSTER starring **Lon Chaney** in a feature length silent film will be screened at the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre on Sunday afternoon October 28th.at 3:00. **Ron Carter** house organist will accompany this classic silent film on the Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. This film will get you in the Halloween spirit. Organ preshow is 2:30

In this 1925 precursor to the "dark house" style of filmmaking, Lon Cheney is delightfully creepy as the nefarious Dr. Ziska, an early take on the famous "mad scientist" archetype, while hapless aspiring detective Johnny Goodlittle, played by Johnny Arthur, finds himself kidnapped and fighting to save himself and others from the mad doctor's terrible experiments.

RON CARTER AND ORGANIST FRIENDS at the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre on Sunday afternoon November 18th beginning at 2:30 pm. Come hear each of the Strand organists as they play a 20 minute mini-concert on the Mighty Allen Theatre Organ. This is a ACATOS Chapter program and free to all members, family and friends. In conjunction with these mini-concerts the Strand will be hosting an open house as a thank you to the public for their support of the theatre. Organists featured will be Ron Carter, John McCall, Larry Davis, Ken Double, and Misha Stefanuk and there will also be a few guest surprises!!

Some of the organists who accompanied Silent Film Festival at The Strand

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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 - Larry Davis
Treasurer - Rick McGee
Secretary - Bill Thompson
Newsletter Editor - Ted Barnett
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis

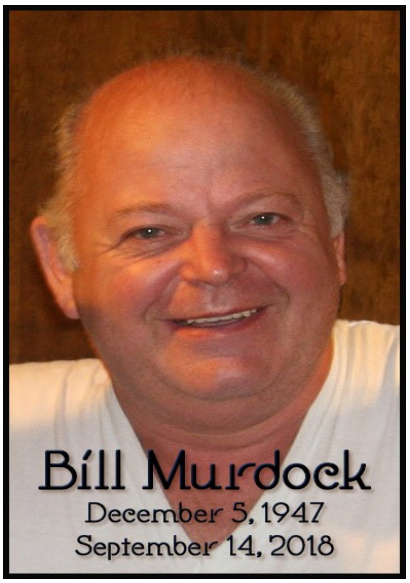
Strand Project – Ron Carter
Page Project – Jack Sandow

A Sad Story

When our beloved Wanda Carey Fields passed away, she wanted her Allen organ to go to someone who could use it. During the estate sale the speakers were inadvertently sold. We have a wonderful 3m organ console, of excellent construction and good quality, 59" wide, 52" deep with pedals, 50" high with an addition 9" music rack. The bench is included. This console is suitable for conversion to a VTPO . Please get in touch with Larry Davis for information.

Who are these pipe organ builders ?

Last Chord—Bill Murdock



I know many people who love the theatre organ. But I have NEVER met anyone who loved it as much as Bill did, and (especially later in life) the louder the better! He used to go to a skating rink that had a Wurlitzer – all out in the open – and was in Seventh Heaven when skating to the organ.

When Bill was still in high school, there were problems at home, and when Bill's parents literally threw him on the streets, he was taken in by John Muri, then a teacher in the public school system in Detroit. Since John was at that time still concertizing quite a lot, Bill would often accompany him for concerts and silent film showings. (That is how I met John and Bill; John was a frequent guest artist at the Rivoli Theatre in Indianapolis on the 3/17 Uniphone organ in the early 1970's.) Also a regular at other theatres around – The Detroit Fox, The Fisher, various theatres in Chicago and northern Indiana, and Bill never got enough of it!

In return for John's incredible kindness/generosity, even at that young age Bill was so grateful that he vowed then to take care of John later in life when that was necessary, and he did so – unwaveringly, though it wasn't always easy. When John had had enough of Michigan winters and wanted to move somewhere warmer, a move south was made, initially landing in Duluth GA in – I believe – the early 1980's. Bill had gotten a job with Bronski Construction and usually worked long days and weekends, so Rick McGee, myself and many others helped out when possible, taking John shopping or to chapter meetings or concerts, as by then John hadn't driven in years, and according to Bill, drove several years longer than he should have.

Bill's work for Bronski was impeccable, doing remodeling in some of the major office buildings in Atlanta and some amazing homes in various parts of Atlanta. On the jobsite and in his truck, there were always CDs of theatre organ music – often recordings of John that Bill had made at the Fox or other locations. Dozens – or more – of his coworkers got an introduction to theatre organ music that they otherwise might not have had.

After John passed away in 2001, and Bronski construction went out of business, Bill sold the building in Inman Park and eventually ended up settling in the small town in Mexico that was home to one of his -time workers at Bronksi, and helped them to start a furniture factory. Bill's woodworking skills were phenomenal, and I've seen some of his work in Chicago that is simply perfect, somewhere between Shaker and some of Frank Lloyd Wright's more traditional pieces.

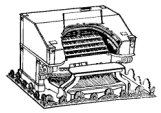
He acquired the former Don Baker Wurlitzer from the chapter in Florida that had attempted to get playing, making some rather unfortunate choices along the way. In the process of removing the organ and getting it packed and shipped – Bill had a heart attack and ended up having multiple bypass surgery, yet he was so driven that he managed to forge ahead with the project and – after major structural updates to the building – got the organ installed in a 16th Century (former) monastery church in Ciudad Hidalgo in the state of Michoacán, Mexico. The organ is still not totally functional, and the fate of that organ is unclear at this time.

Along the way, Bill spent more than a little time during his trips to the US doing construction and other work for friends and clients – including me! He was instrumental in getting my warehouse here in Soddy Daisy to a livable state, putting in a nice tiled shower, a utility room and small but adequate kitchen. He spent nearly two weeks with me in August, and we got lots of small projects done around the place, and even did some preliminary drawings for my organ chambers and even got a materials quote. He said on his next trip up, he'd bring one of his workers from Mexico and we'd get the chambers built on the cheap in a month or so. He called me on the evening of the 13th of September to let me know that despite some car trouble along the way he'd gotten back home to Mexico safe and sound and would get back with me in a few weeks to plan the trip to build chambers. Such, however, was not to be. Barely 12 hours after speaking with him - and him sounding like his usual self - a mutual friend in Missouri called to tell me that Bill had been found on the morning of the 14th slumped over his computer, dead, apparently of another heart attack. He was buried in that town a few days later.

I am devastated at this loss on so many levels. I've lost a good friend of 40+ years, my advisor on matters of construction, and his ability to do pretty much anything around a house or building that needs done.

John Alford

Photo by Dennis Scott



UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS (MARK YOUR CALENDARS)

Date	Time	Location	Event Description
Sept 30 Sun	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Silent Film - Girl Shy - Harold Lloyd's 1924 comedy, accompanied live by Ron Carter on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ; tickets $10, available here
Sept 30 Sun	2:00 PM CDT	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL	Alabama Chapter meeting featuring Gary Jones, house organist at the Alabama, open console to follow
Oct 5 Friday	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	**DRACULA - The Halloween Ballet...with a bite!** Organ preshows 30 minutes before the ballet by Strand Organist **Larry Davis** at the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre Friday Oct 5 at 7:30 and Saturday October 6 at 2pm and 7:30pm Tickets are $15 to $25.
Oct 6 Sat	2:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	**DRACULA - The Halloween Ballet...with a bite!** Organ preshows 30 minutes before the ballet by Strand Organist **Larry Davis** at the Earl and Rachel Smith Strand Theatre Friday Oct 5 at 7:30 and Saturday October 6 at 2pm and 7:30pm Tickets are $15 to $25.
Oct 21 Sun	2:00 PM CDT	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL	Dolton McAlpin in Concert
Oct 28 Sun	3:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	Silent Film - The Monster - the 1925 horror film, with accompaniment by Ron Carter on the Mighty Allen GW-IV organ; tickets $10, available here
Oct 28 Sun	2:00 PM CDT	Alabama Theatre - Birmingham, AL	Silent Film - *Phantom of the Opera* - the tradition continues with the Theatre's 40th showing of the 1925 classic starring Lon Chaney, accompanied by Tom Helms on the 4/32 Mighty Wurlitzer; additional details to come
Oct 28 Sun	7:00 PM	Westminster Oaks Center for Lifelong Learning - Tallahassee, FL	John McCall in concert at the Allen 317 and Bosendorfer Grand Piano - Free Admission
Nov 3 Sun	7:30 PM	Stephenson High School - Stone Mountain, GA	**Concert** - Ken Double featured in concert on the 4/22 Grande Page, along with special guests Tommie Macon and the Gentle Men of Jazz and Daniel Mata; tickets $15 in advance, $18 at the door, $10 students
Nov 11 Sun	4:00 PM	The Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Auditorium, Chattanooga, TN	A Veterans' Day Concert featuring Ken Double at the historic Austin Organ with vocalist Daniel Mata; and the Chattanooga Symphony Orchestra. The concert is free.
Nov 18 Sun	2:00 PM	Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA	**Monthly Chapter Meeting** - Ron Carter and Organist Friends - the annual tradition returns to the Strand Theatre and will feature performances by the talented roster of organists at the Strand