

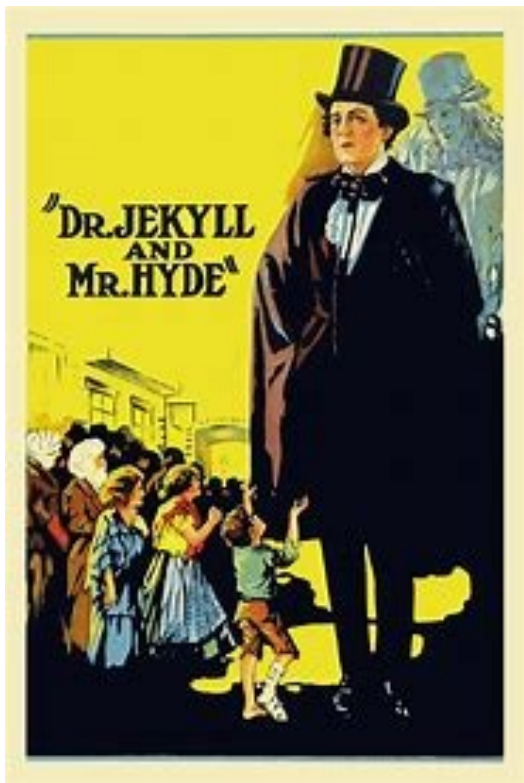


ATOS ATLANTA

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



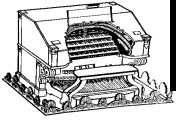
**October Chapter Meeting
Sunday, October 20 - 3:00PM
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Accompanied by Ron Carter
The Strand Theatre - Marietta, GA**



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



Atlanta Chapter,
 American Theatre Organ Society
 P.O. Box 426
 Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426
 404-790-5400
www.atosatlantia.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

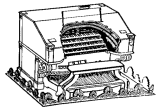
Dear Friends,

We have a great deal for which we should be thankful. There are exciting opportunities for us to experience the sounds of the theatre organ in venues throughout the area. From the Plaza to the Strand, there are silent films which will allow the public to hear the instruments as they were originally intended to be used. Go and enjoy this unbelievably fun time-and invite some friends to come along! You may be the benefactor of the “wow” moment which can change your friends forever, and bring them into the fold.

I am very thankful for all the wonderful friends I have made in our Chapter and throughout the world. When one in the circle of friends is taken away, that spot can never be filled. Such is the sense of loss we all feel with the passing of John Clark McCall, Jr. John was a great musician, historian, and chronicler of our art-form. He truly was a renaissance man because his pursuits and achievements extended far outside the realm of the theatre organ, but no cause was closer to his heart. He used his artistic gift to create the tribute to our own Ron Carter which graces the lobby of the Strand. As talented as John was, his greatest gift was in being a true friend. He was always full of encouragement and support. If you were a friend of John’s, you had a cheering section and advocate second to none! I never heard him say a critical or unkind word about anyone. Since John’s untimely passing, several occasions have caused me to pick up the phone to share news or a fact of interest. Stark reality then sets in when I realize I cannot make the call. As I have contemplated the empty spot in the circle, my resolve is to try and be more like John. To be a friend in the manner and style that he was. To focus on others and not self. If we reach out to make that same difference in the lives of others, we will have honored John’s memory in the greatest possible manner.

If Theatre Organ Heaven were to exist, I can see my friend holding forth on the greatest golden ornamented “Mighty Wurlitzer”, not having the need of a transposer, with an ear to ear smile. Jesse Crawford, Dick Leibert, Everett Nourse, Bob Van Camp, and Larry Douglas Embury would be seated around, all drawing straws to see which one was going to tell John that this first round of open console was over - and none wanting the short straw! Until next month - be safe and be good to one another.

Eddie Hulsey



In Memory of Our Great Friend, John McCall



Tributes from Around the World

These comments from the Who's Who of the theatre organ world appeared on Facebook pages following the announcement of the passing of John McCall.

"Oh heavens, no. A gracious and generous man, a tragic loss." – Bob Gullledge, Organist, Byrd Theatre, Richmond VA

"This is a shock. He was a wonderful man. A fine man who was always fun to be around. He will be missed by many." - Ben Forsthoffer

"So sorry to hear this! A wonderful gentleman and strong supporter and friend to so many." – Clark Wilson

"He was a great gentleman. He visited at Berkeley and was in contact with me when he was writing his book on the Center Theatre. His many books are treasures. He will be sorely missed." – Chris Nichols, San Francisco, CA

"Very sorry to hear this news...the world has become a smaller place." – Arthur Schlueter

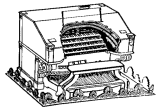
"Very sad to hear this shocking news about John. He was absolutely the quintessential Southern Gentleman and a man with so many talents as a decorator, historian, and of course, a musician! We will be raising a glass to John this evening on the west coast." – Mark Herman

"Terrible news. John was a dear man, full of kindness and compassion." – Don Walker, Joliet, IL

"Extremely sad news. When I last visited Atlanta, quite a few years ago, John attended one of my performances. I was familiar with his work, and articles he had written in the Theatre Organ journal over the years. He was very kind and easy to talk to — truly a Southern gentleman. Always enjoyed seeing his artwork and automotive posts on Facebook as well. Rest in peace, John." – Justin Lavoie

"What terrible news. John was a great supporter of my shows and readily gave me copies of his recordings. We had hoped to meet in person some day. RIP John, and my deepest condolences to all who knew him personally." – Stephen Ashley, UK, Hot Pipes Theatre Organ Radio

(continued on next page)



(continued)

"This is horrible news. The theatre organ lost one of its biggest supporters. I've known him for a long time, and remember when he invited me to perform on his residence organ on Amelia Island. He picked me up in a stretched Cadillac, and asked someone else to drive, so we could sit in the back seat to converse! That was around the time that "the book", as he called it..."Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" had just been published (1994). He inspired me to buy it, and not long after I found myself in Savannah doing a week of performances, one of which he attended. On one of those trips, I even visited his (then) home in Valdosta, GA and saw buildings designed by his father, a respected architect. This is major loss for the theatre organ in the SE and for many of us, his friends." – Walt Strony

"Oh, I am so saddened to hear this. John was an ever-present positive source of support for the theatre organ in Atlanta and an all-around wonderful person." – Jelani Eddington

"What a terrible loss! John was a big supporter from the first time I met him and always such a wonderful person to be around!" – Donnie Rankin

"I am so sad to hear this. I met John when he volunteered last minute to drive me from Atlanta to Fitzgerald for my convention concert in 2013, when I was still somewhat new to the concert scene. He was so caring and supportive. Such a genuinely warm person." – Nathan Avakian

"I'm so sorry about John. He was so keenly interested in the restoration of the Howard/Paramount Style 260." Jeff Weiler, Chicago [John wrote two books on the history of the Howard/Paramount]

"Total shock! A personified Southern gentleman. He once made a comment about Bucky Reddish that 'you won't find a bigger fan of the theatre organ'. It actually applied to John too. I could spend the next 45 minutes reiterating some of his famous quotes. He will be missed." – Danny Brooke

"Carrie and I have John to thank for constructively pushing us to do more with our music than we would have done otherwise. He was a great positive influence!" – Mark Renwick

"Oh dear, that's so sad, I can't imagine Atlanta without John." – David Johnston, OAM, Melbourne, Australia

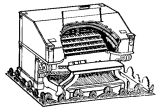
"I'm very saddened to hear this. John was a one of a kind; an exuberant and tirelessly upbeat person. I will always affectionately remember his kindness, support and effort to welcome me whenever I visited Atlanta. Not to mention his endless knowledge of all things organ and theatre. My thoughts are with you all." – David Gray, The Royal Academy of Music, London

"I so share your sadness. John was one of a kind and a sincere friend. He will be greatly missed for a long time. Our hearts are heavy." - Bud Blubaugh

"Oh no. This is such sad news. A huge loss." - Brett Valliant

"A true southern gentleman, so kind and gracious. He taught me so much. My heart is broken." - Debbie Chambless





CLASS IN SESSION WITH "PROFESSOR" JAY MITCHELL

Chapter members and a few guests gathered again at the Plaza Theatre on Ponce de Leon Avenue, and this meeting was distinctively different. Organist Jay Mitchell, whose background includes much church music and his vast experience with the theatre organ, did "pinch-hitting" duties for Jeff Harbin, who simply has not been able to shake the health bug keeping him down. We will enjoy Jeff at a meeting soon, when he is back to 100%

Jay's presentation was aimed at education. He spent nearly an hour exploring the differences between church organs and theatre organs, with an aim toward suggesting to the church organists what to do when sitting at one of these confounding horseshoe consoles with tabs instead of draw knobs.

What was particularly interesting was Jay's discussion of the many similarities of voices, i.e. both instruments have strings, flutes, diapasons, and reeds of varying color and power. And he began by demonstrating how he uses stops to "build" his registrations for theatre organ playing, offering tips and hints on how to make proper use of the theatre organ stops.

From "splitting your hands" - i.e. one hand on the Great keyboard the other on the Accompaniment keyboard - and where to split them - i.e. one on top of the other (around Middle C) in 8' combinations, to a different "split" when using 16' stops in combinations, it was an excellent primer for those who play and those who don't in terms of learning more about exactly what an organist is doing at the console.

Equally brilliant was his time spent building from a quieter combination, up through a full organ combination. His use of the Tibia stop as an agent of connecting and bonding registrations as opposed to purely a solo or melody stop was most interesting.

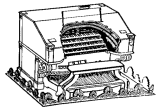
Jay is uniquely positioned - and most generous - to share some of his trade secrets, and it was a fascinating meeting in most unusual way. Following our stop at the Plaza Theatre, we walked across the street and visited the Druid Hills Presbyterian Church, hosted by music director and organist Cliff Frierson. We heard the magnificent G. Donald Harrison Aeolian-Skinner 4/44 pipe organ, recently restored/renovated by the A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company. Cliff demonstrated the sumptuous voices of the instrument, followed by two wonderful selections played by Bill Calloway. Chamber tours followed to complete a wonderful day of music for the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS.



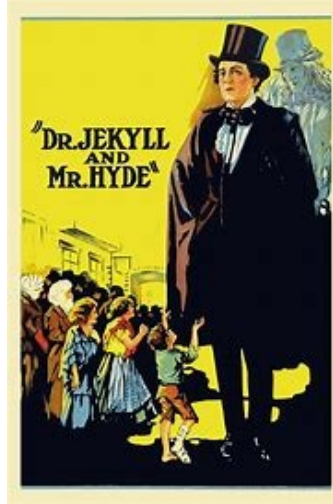
Our thanks to Chris Escobar, Plaza owner, and Richard Martin and the Plaza staff; and thanks to Cliff Frierson for the wonderful cooperation and accommodation in allowing us to enjoy these two marvelous venues right across the street from each other.

Respectfully submitted by,

E. Weakly Smalls, who likes both manner of pipe organ presentation



October Chapter Meeting
Sunday, October 20 - 3:00PM
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Accompanied by Ron Carter
Organ Pre-Show at 2:30PM - Eddie Hulsey



Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde is a 1920 American silent horror film produced by Famous Players–Lasky and released through Paramount/Artcraft. The film, which stars John Barrymore, is an adaptation of the 1886 novella *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson. John S. Robertson directed the production, and Clara Beranger wrote the screenplay, based on the 1887 stage play by Thomas Russell Sullivan that in turn was based on the novel. Set in late Victorian London, the film portrays the tragic consequences of a doctor's experiments in separating the dual personalities he thinks define all humans: one good, the other evil.

A SPECIAL CELEBRATION FOR ORGANIST JOHN MCCALL

There will be a special social time in honor of Chapter member and our dear friend, John McCall, at the Marietta Strand Theatre, after the screening of the silent film *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* on October 20th beginning at 5:00pm.

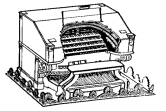
Since this is our October Chapter Meeting, Chapter members are also invited to attend the film (free of charge) beginning with an organ pre-show by organist Eddie Hulsey at 2:30pm.

After the film there will be refreshments and a cash bar. The event will be held in the theatre's auditorium where we will have open console, spoken remembrances of John and a display of any photos that you might have. The photos will be placed on the edge of the stage apron for everyone to view. We want this to be an informal get together where Chapter members, John's friends, family and his partner Mitch can socialize in an informal setting.

PLEASE RSVP FOR THIS EVENT NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15!!

Please contact Ron Carter at ronhcarter@msn.com or at 678-905-5944 so the Chapter can plan for the refreshments.

If you wish to attend the silent film (FREE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS), please contact Ron to have the number of tickets you need in your name at WILL CALL.



Upcoming Chapter Meetings

October Chapter Meeting Sunday, October 20 - 3:00PM
The Strand Theatre
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Ron Carter accompanying this 1920 silent film
Organ Pre-Show at 2:30PM - Eddie Hulsey

**CHAPTER MEMBERS WILL BE ADMITTED FREE TO THIS SILENT FILM. BUT -
YOU MUST RSVP TO ronhcarter@msn.com NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15
FOR YOUR NAME TO BE PLACED ON THE COMP TICKET LIST.
CHAPTER MEMBER INCLUDES ALL THOSE IN A HOUSEHOLD!**

November Chapter Meeting Sunday, November 17 - 3:00PM
Carter Center for the Performing Arts
Ron Carter and Friends Return!

Ron Carter Strand Theatre Events Pre-Shows by Strand Organists

Wednesday, October 2 Texas Chainsaw Massacre - 7:00PM
Pre-show Organist at 6:30PM - Misha Stefanuk

Thursday, October 3 Scream - 7:00PM
Pre-show Organist at 6:30PM - Misha Stefanuk

Thursday, October 10 Young Frankenstein - 7:00PM
Pre-show Organist at 6:30PM - Larry Davis

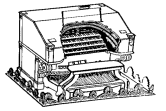
Friday, October 11 Poltergeist - 8:00PM
Pre-show Organist at 7:30PM - Misha Stefanuk

Thursday, October 24 Friday the 13th - 7:00PM
Pre-show Organist at 6:30PM - Misha Stefanuk

Friday, October 25 Rocky Horror Picture Show - 8:00PM
Pre-show Organist at 7:30PM - Jay Mitchell

 Rocky Horror Picture Show - 11:59PM
Pre-show Organist at 11:30PM - Misha Stefanuk

Thursday, October 31 Nightmare on Elm Street - 7:00PM
Pre-show Organist at 6:30PM - TBA



Opportunities to Hear Great Organ Music

- Saturday, October 26 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde - 7:30PM
Accompanied by Ron Carter
RiverCenter for the Performing Arts - Columbus, GA
- Saturday, October 26 Phantom of the Opera - 7:30PM
Accompanied by Kerry Bunn
Emcee - Ken Double
Druid Hills Presbyterian Church
- Wednesday, October 30 Nosferatur - 7:00PM
Accompanied by Ron Carter
Plaza Theatre



October 26, 2024 7:30 PM

Phantom of the Opera

Back by popular demand, organist Kerry Bunn will be playing along the 1925 adaptation of The Phantom of the Opera starring Lon Chaney.

Kerry Bunn, a native of Columbus, GA, began playing by ear at the early age of 3, and by age 6 started taking both piano and organ lessons. He knew that from then on, music was going to be his life's calling. After graduating high school, he accepted an organ building apprenticeship with the Wicks organ company of Highland, IL. In 1990, he earned his BA in organ performance at Samford University of Birmingham, AL. In 2003, he joined the Schantz Organ Company where he was a head voicer and tonal finisher for the next 13 years.

In 2016, he returned to Georgia to become an associate of Schlueter Pipe Organ Company where he resides as their head voicer and tonal finisher. He also serves on the board of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.

The Atlanta Fox presents Mighty Mo Tours; a brief theatre tour that features a 30-minute mini concert and demonstration of the great Moller organ, and concludes with a Q and A session with Ken Double at the console. Usually scheduled for the first Monday of the month, but that is subject to change. Check the Fox website for details.