



ATOS ATLANTA



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

Our Next Chapter Meeting:

**ON THE ROAD TO TENNESSEE, TO VISIT BERT AND ANN ALLEE!
Manchester, TN, RSVP Required**

Saturday, October 11 at 11 AM CDT (12 PM EDT)

Directions to the Allee home are on page 7.

For those who wish to car pool/caravan, meet at the Town Center Mall off I-75.

Find the mall parking lot area behind **THE VARSITY** restaurant.

Meet there at approx. 9 am, and we can travel as a group. See p. 7 for the rest of the trip.

RSVP REQUIRED so Ann knows how many to expect for lunch!

Reply to Ken Double, (404) 790-5400 or email at MoPlayer2020@gmail.com



Tom Helms – Page 3



A Roadtrip to Tennessee! see Pages 5, 6 & 7

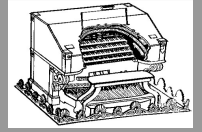


Mark Herman – Pg 4

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

Hi, Everyone!

I missed the Tom Helms chapter event!

Yeah, I know, I know . . . Unfortunately, my "paying gig" pulled me out of town for a previously scheduled commitment. I'm told it was a fantastic performance, and I hope all of you who were able to attend thoroughly enjoyed it. A huge thank you to Tom for a great program.

Now, on to October! We have a couple of can't-miss events coming up.

First, get ready for a special out-of-town trip to Tennessee to visit the amazing theatre organ installation at the home of Bert and Ann Allee on Saturday the 11th. All the details are a few pages down in this newsletter.

But that's not all! **This year marks the 100th anniversary of the silent horror classic, *The Phantom of The Opera***, and we have a special opportunity to celebrate. The Fabulous Fox Theatre in Atlanta will be screening the film on the evening of **Wednesday, October 29th, at 7:30 p.m.**, with live theater organ accompaniment by our very own Ken Double at the console of our beloved Mighty Mo! It's going to be a truly spectacular night. You can purchase tickets directly from the Fox Theatre's website, and I hope to see you there!

Best Regards,

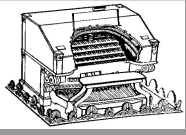
David Yackman

Mailing Address:

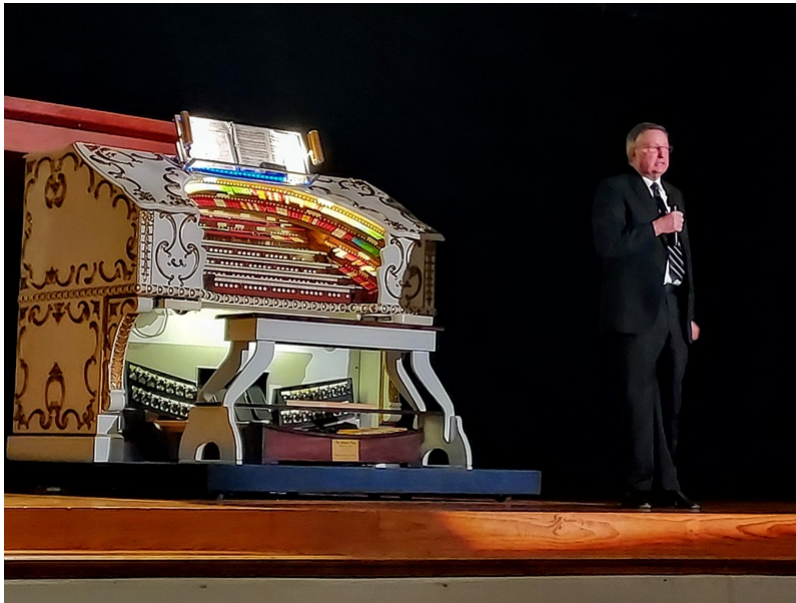
Lee Lanier
Atlanta Chapter, ATOS
220 Dunwoody Creek Circle
Sandy Springs, GA 30350
404-790-5400 www.atosatlanta.org
www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta

ACATOS is recognized as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501.c.3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Chapter President – David Yackman
Vice President – Ken Double
Treasurer – Lee Lanier
Secretary – Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor – Brady Born
Chapter Correspondent – Larry Davis
Membership Director – Lee Lanier
Board Members:
Brady Born
Ron Carter
Ken Double
Randy Hendry
Eddie Hulsey
David Tuck
Strand Project – Ron Carter



HELMS A HIT AT THE GRANDE PAGE



A September Smash from our Pensacola Performer

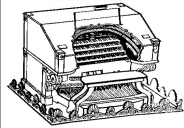
From the opening selection, *Put on a Happy Face*, Tom Helms put our happy faces on with big smiles, presenting a wonderful and varied program Sunday, September 21st on the Grande Page Theatre Organ at Stephenson High School. And we were delighted by the presence of nearly a dozen Alabama Chapter Helms fans that drove over from Birmingham!

A delightful 1929 rendition of *I'm Yours For Tonight* was followed by a sumptuous *Stormy Weather*, which transitioned to thoughts of nicer weather via Strauss' *Voices of Spring*.

A medley of popular TV themes had us guessing which tune went with which program, which preceded another medley starting with George Gershwin's *Embraceable You*; then a hint of a George Wright-ian *South; Stars Fell on Alabama*, which certainly had our Birmingham friends' faces happy; concluding with *Alabama Jubilee*.

Tom's most generous program included *Somewhere Over the Rainbow; Valse Mirage*; some favorites associated with the great Lee Erwin; a wonderful Happy Birthday wish for Mona Jones, Gary's mom who celebrated *in absentia* her 91st birthday (the wishes extending to our own Sid Disher); and concluding with thrilling music from *Finlandia*.

Tom Helms has built a tremendous reputation as a brilliant silent film accompanist; a fine organ builder; a magnificent performer with music degrees from prestigious universities and studies



abroad in Paris. What is interesting to note is we don't often hear him in full concert mode. He performed on Mighty Mo at the 1978 ATOS Convention in Atlanta; played the Page a couple of times in Walt Winn's warehouse installation; and there was far too long a break in between for us to enjoy his great music. As is always the case, the best artists find a way to create new, distinctive and wonderful sounds out of our Page that we have not experienced before. It was a glorious Sunday afternoon in Stone Mountain. Thank you, Tom!

We will look forward to a much sooner return to Atlanta for our friend from Pensacola!

Happily submitted with a smile on my face,

The "other" Chamber Mouse

* * * * *

A VERY SPECIAL TREAT IN NOVEMBER

Mark Herman Plays the Grande Page Sunday, November 9th

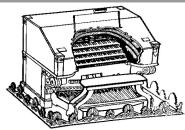
As the saying goes, Mark Herman "cut his eye teeth" on a Grande Page theatre organ. Mark grew up in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and fell in love with the theatre organ at the glorious Embassy Theatre there, hearing and playing their 4/15 Page that fills that theatre with great music.



He has risen to the top of his field as one of the finest and most popular players of these great pipe organs, and he is looking forward to playing OUR Page in Stone Mountain.

Make your plans, and absolutely bring your friends for what will be a spectacular, full two-hour performance.

Admission is FREE, with donations requested for this special concert on Sunday, November 9th at 3 p.m. at Stephenson High School, 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA.



A Tennessee Adventure



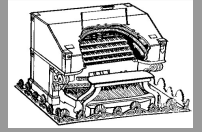
**The Residence of Bert and Ann Allee
1205 Meadowlark Place, Manchester TN**

Saturday, October 11 – ~11:00 AM Central Time (*noon EDT*)

Lunch will be provided!

Bert Allee first became associated with the Atlanta Chapter during his time as a student at Georgia Tech when he would travel up to 660 Peachtree to assist Joe Patten in the restoration of the Fox Möller. The journey of his life eventually brought him to Ann, and to their beautiful home in Manchester, Tennessee, where he began the installation of his own home pipe organ. In the days of the Atlanta Chapter's legendary "Cave Crawls," trips to Tennessee, Bert and Ann's home became a regular stop on the tour.

Bert and Ann also became associated with the organ at the Tivoli Theatre and for many years, Bert has been the team leader for the group of volunteers who keep that organ playing. Ann always joins him and says, with a twinkle in her eye, "I've played every pipe on that organ," since she frequently holds notes for tuning. More than that, Ann always brings a lunch spread for the volunteers and for the theatre employees who are on site. The success of the Tivoli Wurlitzer in



the years before the renovation began was due in large part to Bert and Ann and their long labors.

The organ in the Allee residence, is, as Bert says, “Not a theatre organ, not a classical organ. It is a home organ,” and those who have heard it know that it is perfect for the environment.

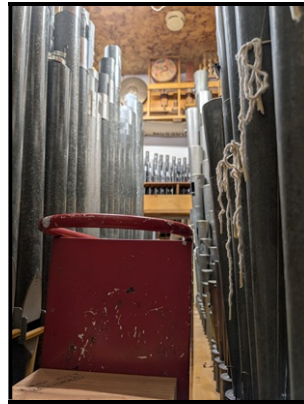
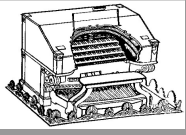
Bert writes, “The basis of the instrument is the 10 rank Estey, Opus 3187, originally installed in the First Presbyterian Church, Union, SC, on July 19, 1951 by Greenwood Organ Co. I purchased and removed it in August 1974. It had unit chests and was “romantically” voiced, so it seemed that it would be possible to create a reasonable theatre style home organ installation with it. Over the years I have added the Sax (wooden labial), Clarinet, Vox, French Horn, Tibia, VdO, VdO Celeste, 16’ extension, 16’ Diaphone, and the various tonal and non-tonal percussions. An original Dulciana was swapped for the VdO Celeste. The additional ranks came from various sources if they fitted the basic spec I had come up with. The original instrument, the VdO, and the VdO Celeste are all on 4 inches pressure. The Sax, Clarinet, Vox, and French Horn are on 5”. The Tibia is on 9”. The Diaphone and percussions are on 10 inches. A single-phase Spencer Orgoblo with 12 inches static replaced the original Spencer to provide the required higher wind pressure and volume.” The four-manual console is a Klann with a lot of history that has been converted by Bert and Ann from a straight-rail to a curved-rail console.

It should be pointed out that there is a lot more at the Allee’s home than the pipe organ. There is a reproducing piano, a Hammond spinet, and... and... and... on and on. There are a lot of surprises and a lot of music in those rooms.

Since I have played this organ on quite a number of occasions, I have offered to begin the music of the day with a short program, and then there will be plenty of time for an open console in a friendly environment. Come and enjoy this rare opportunity to hear and play a wonderful instrument (and a lot more).

And Ann is providing lunch, as she always does! (Information on travel on the next page.)

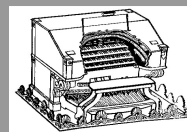
Larry Davis



DIRECTIONS TO THE ALLEE'S HOUSE

1205 Meadowlark Place, Manchester, TN 37355 (931) 728-4806

1. Take I-75 to Chattanooga where it connects to I-24
2. Take I-24 towards Nashville
3. Stay on I-24 to Exit 111. Take exit and turn left across divided Highway 55 median toward Tullahoma.
4. Continue on Highway 55 to Oak Drive and turn left at light (third traffic light from interstate, McDonald's on left, gas stations on other 3 corners).
5. Proceed down Oak Drive to second street on the right, Meadowlark Place, and turn right.
6. Meadowlark runs into McCord Drive. Turn left and then back right on Meadowlark.
7. Including the house on the corner, we are the 3rd house on the left. A dark brown brick with a concrete block façade on the front of the attached garage. We are the only house with the garage in front. *(See the house photo above and look for a bunch of poorly parked cars – Editor)*



IT'S ELECTION TIME FOR THE ATLANTA CHAPTER OF ATOS

This is the official notice to all members of the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS for the upcoming election of board members and officers to lead the chapter in 2026.

As per the chapter bylaws, notice is being sent announcing that nominations are open.

Any chapter member is welcome to run for a board position or an officer position, and is requested to submit their name to the chapter secretary, Larry Davis.

Any member may nominate a chapter member for a position, but only with that member's permission.

A slate of candidates shall be published in the November, 2025 newsletter. The election of officers and board members for 2026 shall take place at the December chapter meeting at Stephenson High School, 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA at 3 pm on Saturday, December 20 at 3:00 p.m. EST.

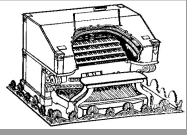
Nominations may be made from the floor at that meeting prior to the actual voting.

If anyone has any questions regarding the election procedures, contact Larry Davis.

Larry Davis' email address is: acatos@earthlink.net

ATOS CHAPTER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

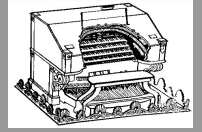
October 11, 2025 Saturday, All day	Larry Davis	Road trip to Manchester, TN and the home of Bert and Ann Allee, and Bert's distinctive pipe organ installation. Depart early; enjoy lunch; and a perfect Fall trip! (see details elsewhere in this newsletter)
October 25, 2025 Saturday 7:30 PM	Ron Carter	Silent Film: <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> at RiverCenter, Columbus GA, accompanied by Ron Carter on the GW-4
October 29, 2025 Wednesday 7:30 PM	Ken Double	Silent Film: <i>Phantom of the Opera</i> at The Fabulous Fox Theatre, accompanied by Ken Double on Mighty Mo
October 30, 2025 Thursday at 7:30 PM	Randy Elkins	Silent Film: <i>Nosferatu</i> at the Plaza Theatre, with Randy Elkins at the LLQ 324
November 9, 2025 Sunday at 3:00 PM	Mark Herman	Mark in Concert on the Grande Page Theatre Organ
December 20, 2025 Saturday at 3:00 PM	A Potpourri of Stars	December Chapter Meeting at the Grande Page Organ at Stephenson, featuring a group of our chapter's favorites
January 18, 2026 Sunday, 2:00 PM	Nathan Avakian AND Donnie Rankin	TWO professional organists on TWO theatre organ consoles controlling ONE mighty Wurlitzer at The Alabama Theatre, Birmingham, AL (Note - the "start time" is Central Time)



ATOS Atlanta

STRAND THEATRE EVENTS

Thursday, October 2	Dark Crystal (1982)	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Misha Stefanuk
Sunday, October 5	Edward Scissorhands (1990)	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Ken Double
Thursday, October 9	Get Out (2017)	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Misha Stefanuk
Friday, October 10	Young Frankenstein (1974)	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, Eddie Hulsey
Weds, October 15	Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Larry Davis
Thurs, October 16	Scream (1996)	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Misha Stefanuk
Thurs, October 23	Night of the Living Dead (1968)	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Larry Davis
Sat., October 25	Hocus Pocus (1993)	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, Misha Stefanuk
Sunday, October 26	Phantom of the Opera (1925)	3:00 PM, Ron Carter Accompanying, Pre-show Organist at 2:30 PM, Misha Stefanuk
Thurs, October 30	Halloween (1978)	7:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 6:30 PM, Larry Davis
Friday, October 31	Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975)	8:00 PM, Pre-show Organist at 7:30 PM, Larry Davis



Music Room Sale

Conn Organ speakers:

From my wonderful old Conn Theatre Organ, model 644, I built a large rolling tone cabinet to house its speaker system. It sounds much better when not installed in the console. This cabinet holds the four main speaker, 15" – 12" – 10" – 6 X 9" plus the Leslie rotating baffle speaker. It also holds the crossover network for all these speakers. All it needs is hooking up to an organ amplifier and two 125 VAC on-off switches to power the Leslie fast and slow rotation motors.

Tone Cabinet Dimensions: 24" D X 26" W X 6 Ft Tall.

In addition, I have duplicate "backup" replacement speakers for this tone cabinet, plus a backup crossover network. Asking \$100.00 but will consider any reasonable offers. (EDITOR: Jay needs it gone. If you can use it, FREE is a distinct possibility.)

Phone: 770 926-2713 (voice mail – please leave a message)

Jay Mitchell email: sousascousin@gmail.com