## *Off to Bucky's for the Bash*
## *Saturday September 13th at 2 pm*

By Ken Double

Leave it to Bucky Reddish to figure out a way to celebrate his birthday for a whole month!! Although the ACATOS chapter schedule had something to do with it as well.

Saturday, September 13th, we will gather in Butler, GA to enjoy Bucky's Walker Theatre Organ in its new and glorious sounding surroundings, and as it so often is at Bucky's, we will have a stellar cast of performers.

Our own chapter artists John McCall and Ken Double will be featured, and we will also enjoy the artistry of Jelani Eddington and Donnie Rankin. Jelani was with us last winter for the dedication of the Page organ, and has been a "regular" at the Bucky Bash's. And his former student, Donnie Rankin, has made a name for himself on the concert circuit with his refreshing style that incorporates so much jazz and more into his playing.

The music will begin at 2:00, which will give everyone plenty of time to make the drive down to Butler (see directions in this issue), and plenty of time to get back home.

We strongly suggest that friends among you in the chapter carpool if you can. Parking will be available, but somewhat limited at Bucky's home.

Y'all come on down to Bucky's in Butler for another bombastic bash!!

Photos by Nancy Peacock

## *Directions to Bucky's*
## *10 Willow Street, Butler, GA 31006 — Phone 478-862-3479*

By Mike Hutcherson

Butler is halfway between I-75S and I-85S in south Georgia. Coming from Atlanta, the shortest route is to come down Hwy 19S. It's four-lane all the way from Atlanta to Butler. (Drive time from the State Capital Building in downtown Atlanta to Bucky's is a little over 2 hours under normal traffic conditions.) Here's the directions:

**Take I-75S / 1-85S from Atlanta.**

On the Southside of Atlanta you'll past under I-285. Continue south. You'll see signs for the State Farmer's Market and a Rooms To Go Store on the left side of the interstate.

**Exit onto Hwy 19S/ Hwy 41S to Griffin.**

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

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***Thanks for the Donation***

***Robert Soule***

## *Closing Chord*
## *Mrs. Martha Price Thompson*

Long-time Atlanta Chapter ATOS member Mrs. Martha Price Thompson, age 86 of Vidalia, died Saturday, June 14, 2014 in the Meadows Regional Medical in Vidalia after a sudden illness. She was a lifelong resident of Vidalia, served in the Army Air Forces Reconnaissance during World War II, and was the last surviving member of the Vidalia Civilian Air Watch Service from World War II. She was a 1944 Graduate of Vidalia High School where she was also Salutatorian. She was a 1948 Graduate of Bessie Tift College in Forsyth, earning a Bachelor's Degree in Math, Music, and History. Since 1948, she was owner-operator of Pearl Price Florist in Vidalia, and was one of only ten florists in Georgia that was a member of FTD for fifty years. In 1998, Mrs. Thompson was chosen by the National Park Service to help decorate the White House in Washington at Christmas, and in 2009 was named by Governor Sonny Purdue as Georgia's Outstanding Senior Business Person of the Year. She was a 1974 Charter member of Atlanta's "Save the Fox Theater Foundation", which became dear to her as she had once played the pipe organ there. She was a member of the American Theater Organ Society and the American Guild of Organists. She was a member of the Vidalia Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Vidalia, where she served as organist, music director, and children's choir director from 1950 until 1971. She was preceded in death by her husband, Esley Thompson in 2008; parents, Jake and Pearl Price; and a sister, Helen Price Akridge.

Mrs. Thompson is survived by two sons, Andy Thompson of Vidalia, and Thad Thompson and wife Gloria of Augusta; one sister, Nora Price NeeSmith of Vidalia; three grandsons, Jason Thompson and Jonathan Thompson of Augusta, and Jacob Thompson and wife Tamra of Wichita, Kansas; and one great-grandson, Sawyer Thompson.

***Directions to Bucky's*** *(Continued from page 1)*

When you come into Griffin you'll see North Griffin Square Shopping Center on the right. It contains a Belk store. Continue south. You'll past Wal-Mart on the right. Just past Ryan's on the right stay straight. If you exit to the right you'll go to downtown Griffin and out of the way. You're on the Griffin Bypass. Just before the second traffic light, on the right side of the road you'll see St. John's Lutheran Church and Ingles.

**Exit onto Hwy 19S at the traffic light heading to Zebulon**
**Go through Zebulon and stay on Hwy 19S to Thomaston**
**Go through Thomaston and stay on Hwy 19S to Butler**

As you enter Butler the speed limit starts dropping quickly down to 35 mph. This is the speed trap area. **Slow Down !!** (Just ask Grumpy) Continue south into Butler. You'll soon see a Piggly Wiggly, Subway, and Ameris Bank.

**Turn left on Edgewood Drive**
**3rd Street on the left - turn left on Pine Ave.**
**1st Street is Willow Street - Turn Right onto Willow**

Bucky's house is the first house on the right. Its gray with a front porch.

## *"McAlpin Makes Marietta Music"*

Sunday, August 17th, 2014, at 3:00 pm, members of the Atlanta Chapter of A.T.O.S. gathered at the theatre of Marietta High School to hear the recently-installed chapter instrument – an Allen Lyn Larsen 3/24 Quantum theatre organ and a chance to hear it put through the paces by member and deluxe organist – Mr. Dolton McAlpin.

President Tim Stephens greeted us and updated us on recent activities and future events and then introduced Ron Carter. Ron gave us a report on Strand activities and the future events planned for the Strand and its' Allen GW-IV organ. Ken Double told us of the upcoming event for the Tivoli, Chattanooga theatre and the 90th birthday celebration of the Wurlitzer pipe organ installed there. Next he introduced Mark Patterson – the new director for the Theatre operations at Marietta High School, then information about the upcoming trip to the Butler, Georgia residence of Bucky Reddish in September. Next, taking on the role of emcee, he introduced our special artist for the day – Mr. Dolton McAlpin.

Dolton offered us a program of favorites, special tributes, and reflections from his musical past, and the Bar Exam and legal career did not affect his playing at all !!

The opener set the tone with the question "Is It True What They Say About Dixie?" It is !! Remembering a chapter program he played for us in 1971, at the Atlanta FOX Theatre, we were told about what happens "In the Still of the Night." Then, for member James Thrower, he presented a George Wright – inspired "Back Bay Shuffle." Next, a short two-tune medley about clandestine heart moves - "I'll Follow My Secret Heart" and "My Secret Love." Recalling a concert appearance of Lyn Larsen at the FOX, he offered us "Atlanta, GA" – from a musical film featuring the only duo appearance of Fred and his sister Adel Astaire. From the works of the great Irving Berlin, we were treated to two works - "Say It Isn't So" and "What'll I Do." These were in tribute to recordings made by fellow organist Jim Riggs. "I'm Beginning To See the Light" followed, and set the mood for the next selection, a haunting composition by organist Lyn Larsen - "There's a Place in My Heart for You." As the afternoon progressed, we were told what would happen "About a Quarter to Nine," one of the great tunes from Harry Warren. Then, as Dolton said, one of the great love songs of all time, "Ah, Sweet Mystery of Life." A closing song from the great Vera Lynn (still alive - now 91) and a wish for the future (or should I say a guarantee) that "We'll Meet Again!" Dolton left us with the word of the day – there is "Good News" all around !!

Dolton, great program, and you allowed us to hear many facets of the new Allen – especially that really realistic RAIN effect and the super SCHOOL BELL effect – however did you do that ?? Come back - SOON !!!!!!!

Open Console followed the program and members took the chance to try out the new organ in its brand new home.

A short board meeting followed, and there were goodies in the lobby for refreshing the attendees.

Offered by **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear! Remember, the curtains / stage / rain chamber and console have ears !!!!!!

# *New Home of an Old Treasure*

By Larry Davis

On a chilly day in early 2005, a group of chapter members gathered at the home of Charles Walker in Griffin to assist in transferring the 4-manual console of the Piccadilly Theatre Kilgen organ to a new owner. The console had been acquired by chapter member Clay Holbrook and placed in his home to control the pipes that he had collected from such diverse places as the Piccadilly, Atlanta's Capitol Theatre and the Chattanooga Soldier's and Sailor's Memorial Auditorium. At Clay's passing, the organ came into possession of the chapter. Knowing that the massive Kilgen console was far too large for a then-planned installation at the Strand in Marietta, the decision had been made to sell it to John Cornue of Lake Geneva, WI. John, his father, and his son had come down to receive the console. John and Charles had a long conversation about John's plans, which included maintaining the organ with its original console action. Then we set about moving the console from the trailer where it was stored into John's truck and off they went to points north.

Last month, I made a trip to Chicago for a family event and took the opportunity to drive north to Wisconsin to see the status of Mr. Cornue's project, and it is certainly exciting to see. The console is completely dismantled and opened up as the restoration project proceeds and is moving forward. In the meantime, Mr. Cornue has installed three blowers to power the many ranks that he's installing behind shutters that once released the sound of the mighty Chicago Stadium Barton. Among his pipe ranks are Tibia pipes from that organ, pipes from the Denver Auditorium Wurlitzer, and an entire Barton Organ that forms the core of the already-playing 15 ranks of the Solo Chamber – playing from a temporary 2-manual Barton console. A crew of members of the Dairyland Chapter come weekly to the warehouse where all this is housed to help with the installation. And Charles Walker visited the location once on his way to – of course – a carousel convention and pronounced it a wonderful project. Like our Page project a few years ago, this one is on its way and in a few years there will be wonderful music being made from a truly historic console.

Photos by Larry Davis

## *President's Message…*

In last month's note, I briefly touched on a few highlights of this year's ATOS Convention in Indianapolis. However, I failed to list one of the greatest highlights for me – the daily compliments and accolades from those who had attended the 2013 Convention in Atlanta. Folks truly had a great time throughout our week of events in Georgia, Alabama, and Tennessee. Our hard work and efforts not only paid off financially, but they helped spread the word that the theatre organ is as alive and well here in the friendly South. Looking back now, it's hard to comprehend where we would be had we not played host to the world in 2013. We were cautious and hesitant at times, but the outcome was greater than we had ever imagined.

The Atlanta Chapter has accomplished so much in the past few years, but it wouldn't have happened without the incredible support from our members and friends. Nor would it have happened without us being pushed outside of our comfort zone. Success doesn't come without some kind of risk. We've methodically planned and weighed the risks, and our Chapter has been able to reap many rewards along the way.

The most recent case was our 90th Anniversary Celebration of the Tivoli Wurlitzer in Chattanooga. With recent movie presentations at the Theatre yielding poor results, we were unsure what to expect. However, if we didn't showcase the Wurlitzer in a public presentation, who would? We were amazed when the doors opened an hour ahead of show with a lobby full of ticketholders. A brief 30 minutes later, the box office line extended beyond the corner of the block as over 700 attendees witnessed the first silent film at the Tivoli in decades, with Ken Double and the Wurlitzer front and center. The event was a success on every level – from a profitable bottom line to raising over $1,500 for the Mighty Wurlitzer. Again, it would've never happened without us stepping outside of that comfort zone.

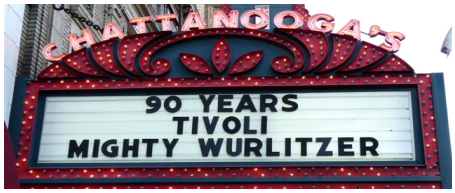
So here's a "Thank You!" to those who push us in new and different directions (Ken Double is a great pusher!) and to those who support those efforts, whether financially or by volunteering your time or expertise. The response was so great that we were able to announce the next silent film – *Phantom of the Opera* – on Saturday, October 18. ATOS Atlanta is spreading its reach and promoting the theatre organ to more people than ever, and that's something to be very proud of!

Another great outreach has been the annual Silent Comedy Shorts program at the Strand Theatre. This will mark our fifth year hosting the event, and I hope you'll mark your calendar for Sunday, September 28 for an afternoon filled with laughter. And we may be a little late to the party, but Bucky's Big Birthday Bash is just two weeks away. Jelani Eddington and others will take to the bench of the Walker RTO-335 in its new home in Butler, Georgia for one grand celebration (Bucky said that it was #39, but I think he also said that the last time!). I look forward to seeing you on the 13th and the 28th!

*Tim Stephens*

## *Tivoli Wurlitzer 90th Birthday*

By Larry Davis



It is truly impossible to convey in a few words, and maybe in many, the feeling of seeing the tables of the hosting organization the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS, the Chattanooga Music Club, the Tennessee Valley Railroad Museum all in the lobby of the Tivoli Theatre in Chattanooga as people began to stream through the doors. There were our members and living historians in Union and Confederate garb taking up donations and a reported line that stretched down the block and around the corner – to see a silent film. And then to see the incredibly enthusiastic response of the moviegoers, most of whom were experiencing a silent movie for the first time, with musical accompaniment from the fingers of the immensely talented Ken Double. It was a truly triumphant night for the theatre organ, for the Tivoli, and all that we work for could be summed up in the cheers, and applause and the concluding standing ovation. There's more to the story – much more - but let's begin with these few words and our thanks to all those whose efforts made this great night a success.

Photos by John Tanner

## Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- **September 13, 2 pm, meeting/program at the Bucky Reddish residence, 10 Willow street, Butler, GA. Artists: Ken Double, Jalani Eddington, John McCall, Donnie Rankin**
- **October 19, 3 pm, meeting /program at the Rick McGee residence. Artists: Ken Double, Bob Fountain & Rick McGee**
- **November 16, 3 pm, meeting/program, Ron Carter and Friends at the Carter Performing Arts Center**
- **December, meeting/program at Stephenson High School. Schedule and 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.*

- 9/5 **TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD** 8 pm; organ pre-show 7:30 pm Organist Larry Davis
- 9/12 **THE WIZ** 8 pm; organ pre-show 7:30 pm Organist Ron Carter
- 9/13 **SOUND OF MUSIC** 8 pm (**Sing-a-long version)** organ pre-show 7:30 pm Organist Phillip Allen.
- 9/28 **SILENT COMEDY SHORTS**; 2:30 pm organists Ken Double, Ron Carter, Larry Davis, Misha Stefanuk, Rick McGee. Special MC John Moore former WSB Radio personality
- 10/24 **THE BIRDS** 8 pm; organ pre-show 7:30 pm, organist Larry Davis
- 10/26 **THE CAT AND THE CANARY;** Organ pre-show 2:30 pm Halloween silent classic with Ron Carter at the console.

Info on **SILENT COMEDY SHORTS:** For the 5th year the Atlanta Chapter of ATOS is partnering with the Earl Smith Strand Theatre to screen four (4) great silent comedy shorts accompanied by four different theatre organists all with different playing styles. Films will feature "The Little Rascals, Harold Lloyd, Buster Keaton, Charlie Chaplin and more! Long time Chapter member John Moore, former WSB Radio personality will MC this great event that showcases the theatre organ and the Atlanta Chapter

Info on **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!!

## *Sacred Heart Cultural Center, Augusta, GA.*

**Ron Carter to accompany THE BIG PARADE on Friday September 26 th 7:30 pm at Sacred Heart Cultural Center, Augusta, GA.** This is Ron's 12th year accompanying silent films at Sacred Heart on the custom Allen Organ. The BIG PARADE was director King Vidor's first monumental success and stars John Gilbert and Renee Adoree. The WWI film is one of the most moving and impactful depictions of war. The film fiercely captures the heroism of the ordinary foot soldier struggling to survive and return to the French village and the village girl. Completely restored print and presented in Blu-Ray Ron's score will bring this film to life!