

**SEPTEMBER 25, SUNDAY, 3 PM AT STEPHENSON H.S.  
DOLTON MCALPIN ON THE GRANDE PAGE**

The Atlanta Chapter of ATOS ville, Mississippi, for the last forty Carter residence in Marietta and at will be meeting at Stephenson High years. Dolton's interest in the pipe the Polglase Residence in Augusta; School, on SUNDAY, SEPTEM- organ dates from early childhood in Birmingham at the Alabama BER 25th at 3:00 pm for an after- when he would climb into the choir Theatre; in Memphis at the Orpheum noon of great music on our Grande loft every Sunday at First Baptist Theatre; in Beaumont, Texas at the Page pipe organ. The artist for the Church in Jackson to watch the or- Jefferson Theatre; in his home state day will be our good friend from ganist play the postlude on the large at the Temple Theatre in Meridian, Starkville, Mississippi, DOLTON E. M. Skinner pipe organ. the Jeff B. Seale Studio in Laurel, MCALPIN, who has not played for When Dolton was a student at and the Garner residence in Jackson; us since he premiered our Allen Or- Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge in the 1960's he discovered a leans, Mobile, Pensacola, and Hat- gan Center two years ago. Make your recently-restored Robert Morton tiesburg. plans for a great day of great music theater pipe organ in the Paramount Dolton's wife Martha is an R. on the last Sunday in September.



*"About the artist...* Dolton McAlpin is a native of Jackson, Mississippi, and has resided in Stark-

Theater there, and beginning in 1966 N., and they are the parents of two he played the Paramount's Robert children, Emily, who is a Speech/ Morton organ regularly for intermis- Language Technician, and Greg, sion performances. During his who is an engineer for Toyota. Mar- years as house organist for the Para- tha and Dolton are heavily involved mount Theater he recorded two re- with church activities at the Episco- cord albums on the Paramount pal Church of the Resurrection in Robert Morton: "Thoroughly Mod- Starkville, where Dolton sings in the ern Morton" and "Hey Look!" choir and substitutes as organist.

Though Dolton's day job is practicing law, he has traveled widely, performing in Atlanta, Georgia at the Fox Theatre, the Excelsior Mill, and the Walt Winn Warehouse; the

**Note**

School address is 701 Stephenson Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087

**A Closing Chord for Dale Parrott**

It is a sad occasion once again to have to report to the chapter the passing of one of our treasured members, a loss that is a personal as well. Dale and Susan Parrott first became friends when we held our Augusta Organ Crawl back in 2005. It was there that Walt Strong performed in their home on the newly installed Allen GW Renaissance 319, and Dale and Susan welcomed a host of people who crowded in for the show. Over the years, I had the occasion to visit Augusta on many occasions for medical symposia and they always invited me to share dinner, to visit, and to play the organ and piano. I found Dale, with his engineering mind – he was a Virginia Tech graduate – to be a person always full of visions and ideas and both he and Susan seemed much younger in body and soul than their years. One of Dale's most often-discussed visions was that he would retire and build a home in the North Carolina mountains. It was a vision he accomplished and I visited there twice in their magnificent residence.

Dale was a theatre organist but he was also an avid bicyclist. On August 9, he passed away in Asheville, NC from injuries suffered in a tragic bicycle accident. All of us who knew him were stunned that a person of such energy and life had been taken from us so unexpectedly and too soon. I will miss him, as we all will. Please keep his wife and family in your thoughts and prayers.

*Larry Davis*

## **Atlanta Chapter, American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426  
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426  
770-428-4091  
[www.atosatlanta.org](http://www.atosatlanta.org)  
[www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta](http://www.facebook.com/ATOSAtlanta)

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**Chapter President - Larry Davis  
Vice President - Ken Double  
Treasurer - Rick McGee  
Secretary - Randy Cobb  
Newsletter Editor - Elbert Fields  
Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis**

*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:  
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or  
elfields@yahoo.com*



President's Note...

## Random Thoughts, Some Important...

*The Grande Page:* A few weeks ago on one of our workdays at Stephenson, I stayed after everyone had left as Ken Double spent some time at the console. After playing for a while and ending up with a particularly grand finale, he sat at the console just looking around at it and shaking his head. Discerning his thoughts, I remarked, "This is a very great privilege, that we have such a phenomenal instrument and that we have easy access to it." Ken quickly agreed with me and subsequently called both Carlton and

Clark to rave about the magnificence helping Jack at the Page – knowing about our Page. We are incredibly privileged to have a theatre organ of the absolutely nothing about a pipe organ – magnificence of this one and the ready and with the encouragement of Messrs. access to it that we have. There are so McCall and Carter, eighteen months many chapters who don't have any- after I joined, I was elected president thing close to this or nearly so easy to for the following three years. The other access. Don't miss an opportunity to day at the board meeting, I looked come and hear or to come and play! around the table and thought how greatly privileged we are to have the

*LarryD What?:* Biz E. Body vast amount if knowledge and experience couldn't seem to pin down which once that resides in the minds of your "Larry D" that I am. Well, when I first board of directors. With the level of started going to the Alabama Theatre, quality and capabilities among the an issue developed when they would board, the chapter management is not a call for "Larry" and both Larry huge burden. But as much as we value Donaldson and I would answer. Modification of that to "LarryD" didn't work either so he (being senior at the thing into the chapter, not just come Alabama) became LarryD1 and I am and enjoy meetings." We need those LarryD2. That works for me! And now who can get ready to replace some of you know. us who are not getting any younger.

*Who's in Charge?* Last month in We're putting together names for next writing about the AGO POE at Ste- year's board and we'd like to consider phenson I referred to Keith Williamson some new names, some names of as the Dean. I thought he had been the younger people, some people with their Dean at the time we first talked but not own knowledge, skills and abilities – so. The Dean of the AGO Atlanta and people who are not "yes people" Chapter is David Barber and Keith is a but who will join us in making things member of the executive board. My happen. Do you have organizational apologies to David. I didn't intend to and planning skills? We have a place demote him. Really though, David, you for you. So get in touch with me and should run with it and see if you can let me know!! Come join us for the send some of the work over to Keith. board meeting in November and see That's what I'd do! what we do, and throw your hat into

*Board of Directors:* When I first the ring! We need you and we want joined the chapter 13 years ago (2003), you.

I saw the little note in the newsletter asking for help on the Page project. I said to myself, "I need to put something into the chapter, not just come and enjoy the meetings," so I started

Stay in touch!

Larry Davis

## *Ken Double Cook-out*

Also, jot a note on your calendar for an informal get-together on Saturday, October 1 at the home of Ken Double. It will be a cook-out and just an afternoon of camaraderie and fun. Starting at 12 noon...and continuing til all the burgers are gone! Please RSVP to Ken at [k.double@atos.org](mailto:k.double@atos.org).... or call him at 404-790-5400....so he can know how many to plan for.



## Photo of Metropolitan Theatre, Atlanta

From time to time I like to share items that I discovered on the theatres of Atlanta. This photograph is one that I recently came across of the interior of the Metropolitan Theatre, which was at the corner of Broad and Luckie Streets.

This view is taken from the balcony looking toward the stage. Of note in the middle of the orchestra pit is the console of the 3-manual 25-rank Henry Picher's Sons organ. Photo is from the August 27, 1921 issue of "*Moving Picture World*"

I currently have several articles in the works and, as always, a great deal of research at the University of Georgia Library, as my work will allow. Have found some good documentation as to who was involved with the design of the Fox organ and another theatre in Georgia that possibly had an organ. So, be on the lookout for these future articles.

**John Tanner**

## Bach on Stage

Members are the heart of any organization, and that certainly holds true for the Atlanta Chapter. We're fortunate to have some of the most passionate, talented, and dedicated members in all of ATOS. But just as important as members are other partner organizations which help us in fulfilling our mission to preserve and present the theatre organ. We're proud to call the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists a partner in our efforts, and we enjoy the opportunity to join forces in presenting "The King of Instruments" whenever we can.



**Larry Davis (ACATOS Pres)  
& Dave Barber (ACAGO Dean)**

The afternoon of Sunday, August 21 was one such occasion where the worlds of theatre organ and classical organ came together at the Earl Smith Strand Theatre, and the result was an afternoon of pure entertainment! The bench of the Mighty Allen GW-IV was shared by eight different organists from both organizations, each with his own approach to the instrument. Misha Stefanuk set the scene with a nod to Tony Fenelon's arrangement of "On a Wonderful Day Like Today", followed by America". Next to take the bench was a couple of original compositions in his familiar face to the Strand Theatre, but a



**AGO participants: Randy Elkins, Brian Parks, Tim Stewart, Nathan Jones & David Barber**

unique style and presentation. Misha is organist at Winters Chapel United Methodist Church in Atlanta and is also an associate organist at the Strand. Marking the final day of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, Randy Elkins presented the "Olympic Fanfare and Theme". From there, Randy moved into a whirlwind of Bach in brevity – eight different Bach compositions in under three minutes, followed by Joplin's "The Entertainer". Randy is organist at Virginia-Highland Church in Atlanta, but he appeared to feel right at home on the four-manual console of the Mighty Allen.

ATOS Atlanta President Larry Davis regularly entertains audiences at the Strand with his preshow performances and sing-alongs, and this afternoon's program was no exception. Larry's console riser was the Willie Nelson standard "Crazy". Thankfully Larry didn't dedicate the selection to anyone in particular, but rather continued into a traditional sing-along, featuring "In the Good Old Summertime", "Take Me Out to the Ball Game", and "God Bless America". Next to take the bench was a couple of original compositions in his familiar face to the Strand Theatre, but a

"first-timer" at the Mighty Allen organ. Brian Parks is a regular on piano in the Strand's Lumière Lounge, but was interested in trying his hand at the theatre's main instrument attraction. Brian and the audience had a great time as he explored the many percussions of the GW-IV. With the trem off and both feet on the pedals, Nathan Jones was next on stage. Starting with Paul Desmond's "Take Five" and then off to Bach, he presented the jazzy side of the organ (no Leslie speaker required). Nathan is organist at the Winder First United Methodist Church, but we're fairly certain this isn't his first encounter with a horseshoe console.

Our host for the afternoon was Ron Carter, who serves as House Organist at the Strand. Ron has been the driving force behind the organ project at the Theatre from the start, and continues to work to present the music and magic to as many audiences there as possible. Ron was joined by talented vocalist Catherine Moulton for "If You Are But a Dream" and "On My Own" from Les Misérables. As the curtains drew back, it was time for the theatre organ to return to its original occupation – silent movie accompaniment. For this occasion, it was one of Buster Keaton's earliest comedies – "The High Sign" from 1921. With the popcorn boxes getting low and the curtains back over the screen, Tim Stewart was next to bring the console up and share the stage. Tim is organist at First Baptist Church Avondale Estates and a familiar face to ATOS Atlanta. He presented an original arrangement and then dove into a compilation of familiar TV themes, including "The Beverly Hillbillies", "Green Acres", and "The Adams

*(Continued on page 4)*

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

- September 18th, Sunday, 2 pm, Alabama Theatre — Open console on Big Bertha, the Mighty Wurlitzer sponsored by the Alabama Chapter.
  - November 6, Sunday, 3 pm, Chapter program at the Strand, an afternoon of music featuring Ron Carter on the Strand's Mighty Allen Theatre Organ and vocalist extraordinaire Catherine Moulton. This will also be a "Strand Open House and Appreciation to the Community" free event. Because of other commitments, this will be more of a theatre organ concert with guest vocalist Catherine Moulton and a few other surprises.
  - December 11, Sunday, 3 pm, Christmas party/meeting/program at Rick McGee's home in Vinings.

## ***Earl Smith Strand Theatre***

- October 23rd, Phantom of the Opera, accompanied by Ron Carter with a special vocal pre-show at 2:30 of selections from Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical Phantom of the Opera.

*Marietta HS Performing Arts Center — Marietta Film Festival*

- September 23rd, Friday, To Kill a Mockingbird — Organ pre-show at 5:30 pm by Larry Davis
  - September 24th, Saturday, American Graffiti — Organ pre-show at 5:30 pm by Ron Carter
  - September 25th, Sunday, Gone With the Wind — Organ pre-show at 2:00 pm John McCall

## *Sacred Heart Cultural Center-Augusta Ga*

September 23rd, THE MAN WHO LAUGHS - Ron Carter accompanies this fantastic German Expressionistic film in a very acoustically live environment at the Sacred Heart Cultural Center. Seeing this wonderful room and million dollars worth of stain glass is worth the price of admission! Melanie Larsen, local vocalist and conservatory of music graduate, will present a pre-show of solos from the great American songbook with Ron accompanied her on the organ at 7 pm. Film screening starts at 7:30. This even is sold out every year so get your tickets now.

## **Bach on Stage** (Continued from page 3)

Family", just to name a few – talk about a trip through time! To close out the afternoon's festivities, ATOS President/Chief Executive and touring artist Ken Double took to the bench. "If You Knew Susie" brought Ken and the console into the spotlight, followed by a most beautiful arrange-

ment of "Portrait of My Love". With the closing measures of "Tap Your Troubles Away", the console descended into the pit for the final time of the afternoon...or, at least until open console time came around. Over 200 attendees came out for the occasion, and nary a one left without a smile on his or her face. Thank you to our free popcorn and sodas). Special thanks to Ron Carter for his vision and coordination in making the event come off seamlessly. And thank you to the Earl Smith Strand Theatre for its partnership and to its employees who are such good friends of the theatre organ. See you next time at the Strand!

*The Foxy Vox*

## *Free Vintage Theater/Classic/Band Organ Recordings Still Available*

Dick Leibert, Ray Bohr, Don Baker, Leon Berry, George Wright, Fred Swann, E. Power Biggs, Carlo Curly and others. 33-1/3 rpm, all in very good condition,. Other sacred/secular choral recordings, even some rare 45 rpm Hammond organ recordings by Lenny Dee and Ethel Smith. All **FREE** to anyone in the metro Atlanta area that can give these recordings a good home. I will bring them to anyone within Atlanta. Outside Atlanta, just pay shipping. Contact: Prosciaorg@aol.com or 770-258-3388 and leave a message.