



ATOS ATLANTA

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



Welcome Fall!



To kick-off the Fall season,
join the Atlanta Chapter ATOS
for a special concert at the Plaza Theatre!
Saturday September 18th — 11:00am at the Plaza

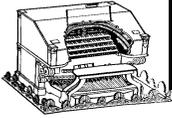


Larry Davis, John McCall, Brady Born and
Ron Carter are scheduled to play.

Please renew your ATOS Chapter membership if you haven't done so.



Level	Base	Cap
Student	\$17.50	
Basic	\$35.00	
Donor	\$36.00	\$99.00
Contributor	\$100.00	\$199.00
Sponsor	\$200.00	\$299.00
Patron	\$300.00	And up



A Letter from your President



Atlanta Chapter,
 American Theatre Organ Society
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 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 - Ken Double
 Vice President - Ron Carter
 Treasurer - Paul Beavin
 Secretary - Larry Davis
 Newsletter Editor - Debbie Chambless
 Chapter Correspondent - Larry Davis
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 Randy Hendry
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 David Yackman
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 Page Project – Jack Sandow

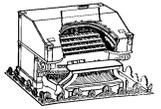
ACATOS IS STAYING BUSY ON MANY FRONTS

If time flies when one is busy, then we must be very busy because where has 2021 gone to already?

There are lots of little things going on, and a couple of big things on the calendar:

- Ron Carter has lined up a great chapter meeting for us September 18 at the Plaza Theatre, with our veritable “potpourri of stars” lineup of our chapter’s best players. Read all about it right here in the newsletter.
- On Saturday, October 2, RiverCenter in Columbus, GA will premiere the Allen GW4 with yours truly at the organ. This will be the chapter meeting. You can read all about this, including details on the free tickets for chapter members, here in the newsletter.
- The Page Organ crew has worked 11 of 13 Saturdays as of August 28th and simply been fantastic in making the Page better than ever. As soon as the effects of this round of COVID issues settle, we will get the “green light” to get back to the school, and enjoy hearing this great pipe organ once again.
- The GW 4 at the Strand is heard....and heard....and heard as theatre Executive Director Andy Gaines continues to showcase the organ for audiences attending performances at the Marietta theatre. It is a fantastic partnership that continues to grow.
- We had a great time at our August trip to the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham, and John McCall has the full lowdown on those “goings-on”.
- In the not-too-distant future, there will be another theatre organ coming on-line in Georgia – in fact, the first Wurlitzer to be heard in this state in many years. The A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Co., via a contract with SCAD, is renovating the Wurlitzer for installation in the beautiful Lucas Theatre in Savannah. There is still a long way to go before we get to hear this instrument, but the work being done looks magnificent, and it is exciting to see the Schlueter firm in Lithonia getting a strong hold in the world of the theatre pipe organ.

Make your plans for the Plaza and a late Saturday morning of great music on September 18th. On a personal note, I will be on the road with concerts in suburban Chicago and in Ft. Wayne at the Embassy Theatre, and will miss the festivities. But it will be fun, and our thanks to Chris Escobar, Richard Martin and everyone at the Plaza for their great partnership with us, and their hospitality.



IT'S A GRAND OPENING NIGHT IN COLUMBUS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2!!

There is a wonderful multi-theatre arts complex in the heart of Columbus, GA known as RiverCenter. There are three theatres under one roof, and now one Allen GW 4 theatre organ ready to be heard in any and all of the different venues.



The 2200-seat "Broadway-style" venue is The Bill Heard Theatre. Opened in 2003, the architectural design is most definitely sumptuous with a "movie palace" feel to it. Most importantly, the acoustical environment defies most modern theatres, in that instead of need for more speakers everywhere for voice and music to be heard, they don't really need any speakers because the room is so "alive."

This is the new home for an Allen organ that sounds as realistic and authentic as any Allen installation I have ever heard. And I am privileged to play the opening concert on this installation on Saturday night, October 2nd at 7:30 p.m. Let me state that whoever might be on the bench, it is worth the two hours from Atlanta simply to see this theatre, and experience the most amazing surroundings imaginable, and enjoy the Allen GW 4.

This event will act as our "chapter meeting" for the month of October, and we encourage you to drive down. To make it more appealing, ACATOS members

can get tickets at **NO COST!** This is in large part due to our wonderful partnership with Norm Easterbook, Executive Director at RiverCenter (and former chief at the Rylander Theatre, where Norm grew to love the music of the theatre organ).

This organ was donated to our chapter by Dr. Marie Jureit-Beamish, whose late husband Cal Jureit was a big fan of the theatre organ. She and her husband Bill Beamish will be in attendance to thrill to Cal's beloved GW4 in its gorgeous new home. Better yet, her daughter, international touring artist Lindsay Garrison, will be part of the concert performing on the Steinway grand piano.

This will be an unforgettable night of great music, great celebration, and the start of a great partnership with this fabulous theatre, and its great manager, Norm Easterbrook. We on the ACATOS Board of Directors are thrilled, and we encourage you to make the trip.

Here are the ticketing details:

Tickets are **FREE** to ACATOS members

Tickets **MUST BE RESERVED IN ADVANCE**, so RiverCenter staff can plan for our arrival

To reserve tickets, email or call me: 404-790-5400, or kdatos52@yahoo.com

We will send the list of names and numbers of tickets to RiverCenter

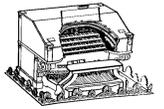
Deadline date for free reserve seats is WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

After that date, tickets can be purchased at the door, or by contacting the RiverCenter box office

If you arrive at the box office October 2 and request your free tickets as a chapter member, you will find out they are no longer available and will be asked to purchase your tickets.

RiverCenter is located at 900 Broadway in downtown Columbus. There is a Marriott hotel across the street, and several hotels nearby should you wish to stay overnight Saturday night.

It's "Opening Night" and the "Dedication Concert" only once in the lifetime of an installation such as this. It will be an exciting night indeed, and one you won't want to miss. Make your plans for the trip to Columbus, Saturday October 2nd for a special night of great theatre organ music in even greater surroundings. Contact me to make your ticketing reservations!



GARY JONES AT THE ALABAMA THEATRE

Have You Met "Sir Jones"?
By John Clark McCall, Jr.

Well, that's the way jazz singer, Anita O'Day used to phrase it when she sang *Have You Met Miss Jones*? Of course, the subject of this discourse is Gary Jones, Alabama Theatre House Organist, and his stunning countenance at the Wurlitzer last Sunday, August 22. This talented man came bounding up in what has to be one of the South's most beautiful movie palaces to the Cole Porter hair-raiser: *From This Moment On*.

I checked with as many of our Atlanta and Birmingham area brethren to validate that the organ seemed to flood us with a warm "gushiness" we've never witnessed. Larry Donaldson and Tom Cronier, who maintain and guard this jewel of a Wurlitzer along with other dedicated personnel, insist that nothing has really been changed. But we do know that this instrument is probably subject to as much ongoing maintenance and perfecting as any theatre organ in the land. And then, it might have simply been Gary Jones' innate understanding of *Big Bertha's* resources.

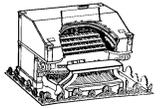
Those resources were harnessed by a set of registrations in delightful perfection. Many of his selections were treated to the use of the organ's *sostenuto*, which allowed Sir Jones to wander all over the three other manuals with glorious and sympathetic embellishments. He also used the instrument's *pizzicato* effects in solo passages, giving a pronounced "bounce" when the music demanded it. And, speaking of music:

A song that always conjures up the great British organist, Sidney Torch: *Butterflies in the Rain* received a lovely treatment using the organ's battery of tuned percussions...on the lighter side reserved for, yes, *butterflies*. A contemporized arrangement of the old, old standard, *Bye, Bye Blackbird* followed.

Other highlights included *One Note Samba*—a composition that is anything but *one* note, and written with an on-going Latin rhythm against pianistic cadenzas that cannot be interrupted or paused. I think Gary would agree when I say that playing this exciting piece is like getting on a train; once you've started, there's no stopping until the next station—or, in this case, the next composition. He played it splendidly—and certainly not timidly. There was a broad smile at completion (which he gives often); perhaps, it was a bit broader in this instance after he played the final "one note," remarking that the tasks at hand in the balance of the concert were all down-hill. (I know that feeling; I actually said an audible prayer at Grace Church before playing a seventeen-minute medley from *High Society!*).

Another high-water mark of an entertaining concert was the artist's selections from Doris Day's last full-scale film musical, Billy Rose's *Jumbo*. Doris' bow-out for M-G-M musicals was memorable. Gary's interpretations recalled the choreography of veteran Busby Berkeley and the antics of Hollywood cast icons like Martha Raye and Jimmy Durante. *This Can't Be Love* received an award-winning treatment. I don't know how many of you veteran theatre organ aficionados ever suffered through John Kiley's LP version on the Boston Metropolitan Wurlitzer, but with that Woolworthian \$1.00 recording in mind, hearing Gary do it was like

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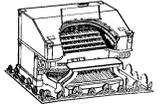
coming into the light from a dark — really dark — place! There was a delightful *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World*, *Little Girl Blue*, and a very special ballad for many of us: *My Romance*. This was our very dear chapter member, Bucky Reddish's hymn tune. No artist that ever played a concert at Bucky's ever got away without including it. I did a bit of quiet weeping; Sir Jones' take on this haunting composition was spot-on.

Our artist did a clever set of selections referring to the geography base of our joint chapter meeting with *Georgia on My Mind* and of course, the anthem of the theatre, *Stars Fell on Alabama*. To start the set, Gary played a piece that is special to many of us; Lyn Larsen used it when Bobby Clark and I financed what we thought might be a final concert on the Möller in those early *Save the Fox* days in the 1970's: *Atlanta, G.A.*

After Gary encoored with Irving Berlin's *They Say It's Wonderful* — then taking Bertha into the depths and making his way into the auditorium, I gave him a bear hug and told him that as far as I was concerned, he could just mount a concert of Cole Porter's music exclusively next go-round. He knows Porter's style and intent. He even knows how to musically hint at the songwriter's omnipresent self-effacing humor. It can be high art on the Wurlitzer, and indeed it was. Romps through the Porter songbook also included the lush *So in Love*.



Gary has a sophistication in his style that elevates the art form. Our artist insures that the organ is always in a constant stream of consciousness, with ever-changing tonalities and fresh ideas about registration and use of an infinity of resources. You couldn't sleep in a Sir Jones concert even if Central Time had you in disarray. Gary's playing offers a source of sheer movement and great power— but always offered appropriately, sophisticatedly, and most important, *musically*. If you are one of the underprivileged ones not having the pleasure of 'meeting' Sir Jones at the console, I suggest you cue up for his next venue which will assuredly be sometime in the near future!



**SEPTEMBER CHAPTER MEETING
DATE AND TIME CHANGE!!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR
SATURDAY MORNING 11:00 AM — SEPTEMBER 18th
at the Historic PLAZA THEATRE ON PDL IN ATLANTA!!**

Free and ample parking in front and to the rear of the theatre.

Everyone we will not be able to have our program at Stephenson HS in September so the Plaza Theatre has graciously provided their venue for us to hear the Chapter's marvelous LLQ324.

This will be a smorgasbord program of mini concerts by several of our chapter members. Come to hear John McCall, Larry Davis, yours truly and for the first time, chapter member Brady Born!!! And we may have one other organist if his schedule permits!! Of course open console and great fellowship! See you there!!

A Note of Thanks!

July 10, 2021

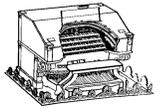
Mr. Paul Beavin, Treasurer
The American Theater Organ Society
The Atlanta Chapter
P.O. Box 426
Marietta, GA 30061

Dear Paul,

I am in receipt of a gracious gift from ATOS - with your signature! It was my pleasure to assist Ken, Ron and John in Columbus. Working with them was most enjoyable while providing technical assistance to their exceptional tonal finishing skills! The River Center project is one of the best theater organ environments (with unlimited possibilities) that I have experienced. Kudos for your continued work as an organization to keep theater organ and quality entertainment alive. I am honored again to be part of ATOS and say THANK YOU to all the members for your gift. I'm looking forward to the October dedication and Ken's musical mastery in the Bill Heard Theater!

Jim Ingram

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim".



Ron Carter Chapter Programs for the Remainder of 2021

I have been busily scheduling programs and artists for the remainder of 2021 so that our members can get these dates and locations on their calendar. My appreciation to all those that continue to host the Atlanta Chapter!!!

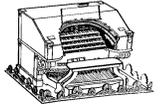
- September 18th 11:00 am—Monthly Meeting and member “sampler platter” concert at the Plaza Theatre.
- October 2nd 8:00 pm — Ken Double on the Mighty Allen GW4 at the Heard Auditorium in the RiverCenter Performing Arts Center, Columbus Ga. All chapter members can attend **FREE!!!**
- November 21st 3:00 pm — John McCall and Larry Davis and their dynamic organ and piano duo at the Bob McKoon Residence on the Mighty 317 Allen and beautiful player piano. Who knows Bob McKoon might do a cameo!!
- December 12th 3:00pm — Chapter Christmas party at the Carter Performing Arts Center with Ron Carter, Larry Davis and special musical guests! Donna Carter will have a delectable display of Christmas Goodies!!

RIVER CENTER PERFORMING ARTS COMPLEX (Columbus, GA) October 2nd — 8:00pm

Mark you calendars and get hotel reservations for the premier concert of the Chapter's recently installed GW4 in the Heard Auditorium by our Chapter President Ken Double. I have been fortunate to be involved in the installation and voicing of this instrument and it truly is a fantastic sound!!! More info in this newsletter and the October edition!!

TICKETS ARE FREE TO CHAPTER MEMBERS!!! This is an event you do not want to miss!





STRAND THEATRE EVENTS

The Strand has been extremely busy in August where chapter organists John McCall, Ken Double, Ron Carter and Misha Stefanuk played pre-shows for all seven (7) of the live Motown/Jukebox shows, and several movies, and a feature length silent film SPARROWS by Ron Carter! The Strand's GW4 is really getting a workout with more to come. There are several more movies with organ pre-shows on the horizon and will be announced as soon as they are scheduled!

September 10th — GHOST with organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Ron Carter

September 11th — PRINCESS BRIDE with organ pre-shows at 2:30pm by Misha Stefanuk; 7:30pm by Eddie Hulsey

October 8th — YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN with organ pre-show at 7:30pm by Eddie Hulsey

October 29th — ROCKY HORROR with organ pre-show at 11:30pm by Misha Stefanuk

October 31st — PHANTOM OF THE OPERA accompanied by Ron Carter and organ pre-show by Eddie Hulsey

Ron Carter