



***Saturday, August 22, 2009,
4 pm to 9 pm Drop-In at the Reddish Residence
Bucky's Big Birthday Bash***

*See page 2
for directions
and parking
information.*

Our August program will be celebrating Bucky Reddish's 60th birthday with a fantastic array of theatre organ artists at his home. This will be different from our usual meetings in that it is later on a Saturday, instead of Sunday, and it will be a **"drop-in/come and go"** between 4 and 9 pm instead of the typical 3 to 5 program. This difference is important as Bucky has invited many other friends not associated with ATOS; consequently, the crowd will be much larger than our usual meetings. So, come and stay long enough to enjoy all of the outstanding artists at this momentous occasion, then make room for others. Stay a while, then come back later if you wish.

We will be entertained on the outstanding Walker RTO 335 by at least four nationally-known artists (in alphabetical order): Ken Double, Christian Elliott, Larry-Douglas Embury, Dave Wickerham and possibly other surprise guest artists. These great artists will be playing many short segments in rotation throughout the afternoon and evening rather than one continuous performance. So, join us at "Bucky's Big Birthday Bash" for some great refreshments, lots of warm fellowship and truly fantastic theatre organ music!



Ken Double



Christian Elliott



Larry-Douglas Embury



Dave Wickerham

Ken Double (ATOS President/CEO) was last with us for a program at the Carters in May 2007. Chris Elliott performed at Bucky's in March of this year. Larry-Douglas Embury gave a concert at Bucky's in June 2005 and conducted a "Playing the Stops" seminar at Bucky's in April 2008. Dave Wickerham presented our June 2007 program at the Atlanta Fox Theatre.

Chicago-born **Ken Double** got paid to have fun in two different professions, organist and sportscaster and spent more than 25 years on radio and television, and at the console of great theatre pipe organs, providing entertainment for his audience. (See the May 2007 newsletter.)

Christian Elliott is one of today's prominent concert organists. Equally at home performing literature of the church or theatre, he is also sought after as a scorer of silent films. A native of Santa Ana, CA, Chris graduated with honors from Vanguard University of Southern California. (See the March 2009 newsletter.)

Larry-Douglas Embury is best known to us as Resident Organist at the Atlanta Fox Theatre. He was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and at age 3, sitting in church, fingered notes being played by the organist. When he was only ten, Larry started to perform publicly as a soloist. (See the June 2005 newsletter.)

Dave Wickerham was born in Encino, CA. He began playing the electronic organ at age four and had his first pipe organ experience at age 10. His musical education started at age 7. He moved to Arizona in 1976 and became Associate Organist at the Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson. He attended the University of Arizona on a full scholarship. (See the June 2007 newsletter.)

Please respect the needs of neighbors and public safety responders. Park on one side of the street only so as to give emergency vehicles room to get through. If we are parked on both sides of the street, it would be impossible to get any sizeable emergency apparatus through the space that was left. Ready access for emergency crews can be a matter of life and death so let us all respect that. Younger, more active members can park further away to insure that older or less able members don't have so far to walk. See page 2 for directions and further parking instructions.

Note: all referenced newsletters are available at <http://theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/newslett.html>

***** Bucky says, "No gifts please — Your attendance is your gift" *****

**Atlanta Chapter,
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 426
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770-948-8424

www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/

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

Chapter President - Bucky Reddish
Vice President - Phillip Allen
Treasurer - Wanda Carey Fields
Secretary - Larry Davis
Newsletter Editor - Elbert Fields
Associate Editor - Wanda Carey Fields
Chapter Correspondent - Rick McGee

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

Closing Chord
James A. (Jim) Loftin

Long-time Atlanta Chapter member Jim Loftin died Sunday, July 12th. Although Jim rarely attended our programs in the past few years, he continued his support and interest in our activities. Memorial contributions may be sent to the American Cancer Society, 3011 Kelly Drive, Ste 3, Peachtree City, GA 30269.

Strand Organ Project Update

By Ron Carter

Work on the organ continues this summer between vacations and the ATOS Annual Convention. All of the large 16' wooden offset pedal pipes, (Tibia, Diaphone, Flute) have been cleaned and given a coat of shellac. Almost all of the Robert Morton pipe work has been cleaned and repacked. The reed pipes (boots, etc.) still need to have the oxidation removed. There will be quite a bit of repairs needed to the metal pipe work. All of the swell shade motors have been re-leathered and the blades cleaned. We are waiting on the Strand to install the console lift and the chamber ladders before we move any of the organ into the theatre. The organ crew spent one morning cleaning all four of the organ chambers which still had a lot of construction debris, dust and dirt. John Tanner has inspected and measured the chambers and will be completing a diagram for the installation. His recommendations on what chests and pipe work to use are crucial to the success of the project. As soon as this has been decided, we will complete a final specification for the organ. We are exploring whether to have an auto paint shop paint the console shell instead of doing a lacquer finish. Rick McGee would then do the trim detail and art deco design and install work.

We currently have about \$8500.00 in the Strand Organ budget and need \$50,000 in additional funds to complete this project. Please contact me if you have any possible donors.

***Board votes to purchase the John McCall
Allen MDS 317EX Digital Organ***

By Ron Carter

The Atlanta Chapter Board has voted to purchase the John McCall organ for use in the Strand and as a possible future chapter organ, to use at venues that have no organ for chapter and public concerts, silent films and as an instrument for teaching theatre organ. The purchase price was \$18,000 to be paid over a 5-year period at \$300.00 per month with no interest. The organ was appraised to sell on the open market for \$27,000-\$35,000 by Dunne Music Company. Included in the purchase price is the Allen Smart Recorder and Ensemble Division II. This is a big but important step by the Atlanta Chapter. If you would like to contribute to this purchase please send your donation to Wanda Fields, 413 Concord Road SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509. Checks should be made payable to Atlanta Chapter, ATOS.

DIRECTIONS TO BUCKY'S, MABLETON, GA
5370 Vinings Lake View Dr. SW — 770-948-8424

From I-285 take Exit 12, US-78/US-278, Hollowell Pkwy (formerly Bankhead Hwy). Go West (outside the Perimeter toward Austell) for about 4.5 miles. Turn Right on Cooper Lake Road, which is the 2nd light past Lindley Middle School. Travel about 1/2 mile to The Retreat at Old Vinings Lake Estates entrance, on the right. Follow the main road and the house is at the corner on the left. **Please respect the neighbors and park on one side of the street only. Please do not park on the main street into the subdivision. Carpool if possible.** Additional parking is available at the clubhouse by the tennis courts, located to your right when you reach Bucky's street, then down the hill on the left.

The Atlanta Chapter, American Theatre Organ Society Performing Everywhere and Recognized Everywhere

By Larry Davis

This is an exciting time for the Atlanta Chapter, ATOS. For several years, we've been recognized as having some of the best programming among all of ATOS, and unlike many chapters, our major events are held free of charge and open to all comers. But in the past few months, and particularly at the ATOS convention, Atlanta has been recognized as a chapter exporting talent and being in the forefront in promoting the ATOS goals.

We can start with David Burud who, out of many competitors, was awarded third place in the Amateur Theatre Organ Competition by three formidable judges, all famous organists in their own right. Hey, David, if you can go on the national stage and win a competition, I think it's time for you to do a program for your home chapter. How about it?



Photo by Richard Neidich

Then there is John McCall, who regularly appears as the house organist at the Rylander Theatre. In the Spring, John was engaged to play for private events held at the home of Bob and Amanda Polglase in Augusta during the Masters Tournament. Then John was asked to play during the ATOS

Convention banquet in Cleveland, OH. The banquet was held on the stage of the huge State Theatre, and the organ was an exquisitely voiced Walt Strony Edition Allen. John's music was perfect for the dinner and with the organ speaking towards the auditorium and the sound bouncing around the room before arriving at the stage; the indirect sound was wonderful and perfectly balanced for eating and listening. As an Atlanta Chapter member and a friend, it was very gratifying to hear the many positive comments made around the room with respect to John's artistry. John is achieving national recognition and it is well-deserved.

Here in Marietta, the Strand Theatre has become a performance center for the theatre organ. Under the direction of Ron Carter, about whom more will be said below, Rick McGee, Phillip Allen, Ira Pittman, and I have all performed for various shows and tours at the theatre. It is exciting to have people crowded around the rail to see the organ being played and to have enthusiastic participation in the sing-a-longs.

Meanwhile, in May I was privileged to be asked to play a program for the Manasota Chapter in Sarasota, FL, on the absolutely magnificent Forker Memorial Wurlitzer, a 4/32 instrument that is one of the finest installations in the world. I was honored to have both John McCall and Ken Double present both to hear and then to participate in the program. It was an exciting day.

Larry-Douglas Embury, currently hosting the Coca-Cola Summer Film Festival at the Fox, was the subject of a two-page article in the July-August edition of *Theatre Organ*. The article, written by ATOS President and CEO Ken Double is entitled, "Mighty Mo at

Every Show," and describes how the decision to expand the Fox's use of the Möller was directly inspired by Larry's artistry and his ability to entertain audiences.



Photo by Richard Neidich

Ron Carter is directing the organ program at the Strand Theatre – both the live performances and the restoration of the organ – as well as traveling across the South to perform concerts and accompany silent films. His latest appearance was at the Alabama Theatre at the end of May; upcoming in September is his annual performance at the Sacred Heart Cultural Center in Augusta. Ron and Donna have already been recognized by our chapter for their decades of service through the Chapter's Lifetime Achievement Award. Now the recognition is national, for in July at the ATOS Convention in Cleveland, Ken Double presented Ron with the American Theatre Organ Society's Honorary Member of the Year Award for 2009. Ron joins such luminaries as Jesse Crawford (theatre organist), Joe Patten (organ and theatre preservationist) and Gaylord Carter (silent film accompanist), all of whom received this award in earlier years. Ron has brought recognition and honor to himself, to the Atlanta Chapter, and to Georgia.

Last but not least, our Atlanta Chapter President, Bucky Reddish, is serving as a member of the National



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ATOS Board of Directors (2008—2011 term) and is Moderator of ETONES (Electronic Organs).

Also, the following twenty-three Atlanta Chapter members attended the 2009 ATOS Convention in Cleveland, OH:

Phillip & Mandy Allen
David Caron

Ron & Donna Carter
Larry Davis
Ken Double (FL)
Elbert & Wanda Fields
Bob Fountain
Paul Gelslechter (NC)
Mike Knight
John McCall
Rick McGee
Mike Mixon

Dale Parrott
Bucky Reddish
Mark & Carrie Renwick (FL)
Clayton & Susan Cole Shaw (FL)
David Tuck
Brent Wood (NC)

The Atlanta Chapter, ATOS is truly performing everywhere and recognized everywhere!

Wiring Spectacular – A Preview

By Larry Davis

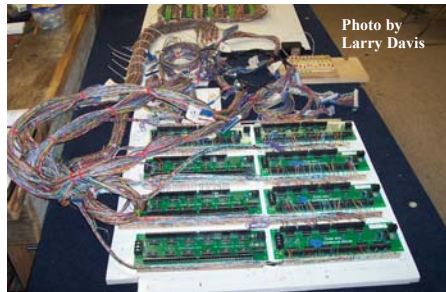


Photo by Larry Davis

Here is a photograph of the “switch” that connects the stoprails, keyboards, and pistons to the computer boards. This is an example of the extensive wiring that is being done on the Page console to get it ready to communicate with the pipe chambers and to make it playable. On September 20, you will have an opportunity to see our progress, and to hear and play a real theatre pipe organ. For those who are new, 7 of the 15 ranks of the Page Organ are playing from a two-manual console while we finish the four-manual console. Actually, the Page as it is now is larger than most of the theatre organs that were originally built. Once an organ console is complete, the opportunity to see the “guts” of it is much more limited, so take this opportunity to come and see how one really works.

Thanks for the Strand Theatre Organ-Project Donations

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(\$100,000 +)

To clarify possible confusion regarding donations:

Checks for the Strand Organ Fund, to be used only for refurbishing the pipe organ for installation in the Strand Theatre, should be made payable to Atlanta Chapter, ATOS with “Strand Organ Fund” noted on the memo line and mailed to P.O. Box 426, Marietta, Georgia 30061-0426.

Checks for the Earl Smith Strand Theatre (not including the organ — not ATOS) should be made payable to Friends of the Strand and mailed to PO Box 4186, Marietta, GA 30061.

Checks toward purchase of the Allen MDS 317EX Digital Organ presently being used at the Strand, the Page Organ project at Stephenson High School, dues, general donations or other items should be made payable to Atlanta Chapter, ATOS with the purpose noted on the memo line and sent to Wanda Fields, 413 Concord Road SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509.

Upcoming Meetings & Events (Mark your Calendars)

- August 22, Saturday, 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm at the Reddish residence. See article on page 1.
- September 20, 3:00 pm (tentative), Meeting — Open console on the Page at Stephenson High School.
- October 18, 3:00 pm, Meeting — Ron Carter and Friends