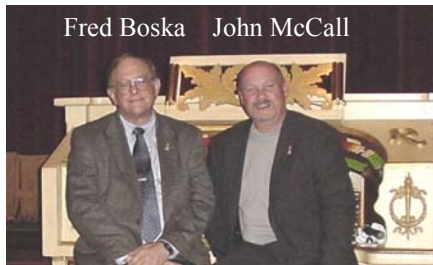


## August Meeting - 27th & 28th Rylander Weekend Americus, Georgia

Our August meeting will be a special opportunity to enjoy the versatility of the Frank Sheffield Memorial Möller organ played by our own member artists: Fred Boska, Ron Carter, John McCall and James Thrower (in alphabetical order). For more information on the instrument see article on page 3.

The venue is the beautiful Rylander Theater at 310 W Lamar St. in Americus, GA, a comfortable 3-hour drive from Atlanta.

Checkout [www.rylander.com](http://www.rylander.com) for more on the theatre, local attractions, and a map.



### Schedule of Events:

#### Saturday, 2 P.M.

Afternoon concert featuring **Fred Boska** and **John McCall** at the Rylander Möller, highlighting a piano/organ duet on the Rosalyn Carter piano.

#### Saturday, 6:30 P.M.

Introductory music by **James Thrower**.

#### Saturday 7:00 P.M.

**Ron Carter** presents "Ben-Hur", the 1925 silent film.

#### Sunday 10:00 A.M.

Open console at the Rylander for Chapter members and friends.

### The Artists



**Fred Boska** serves as House Organist at the Rylander Theatre. He performs before all films and programs as well as organ concerts throughout the season. He has performed as a pianist and organist with many dance bands and show touring companies such as Follies on Ice and West Side Story and, as a resort, dinner club and hotel entertainer. He was staff organist at WCTV in Tallahassee where he now lives. Fred retired Emeritus Professor of Education from Georgia Southwestern State University where he taught from 1970 to 1993. He holds Bachelors, Masters and Doctor of Philosophy Degrees from Florida State University. He is active on the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and the Atlanta Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society.



**Ron Carter** has been playing musical instruments since the age of 7. He began with the piano-accordion and at age 10 began taking organ lessons. He became the church organist at the ripe old age of 13!

While attending the University of Georgia, Ron became choir director and organist at Friendship Presbyterian Church in Athens, Ga. His full-time interest developed into a career in public law enforcement and Criminal Justice and was one of the first four graduates with a degree in Criminal Justice. He continued his education at Georgia State in the masters program and in 1971 took another church job as organist and choir director at Maple Ave United Methodist Church, where



### Important !

All parking is on the street in front of the Rylander or in the city lot across the street.

**Absolutely no parking in back.**

Monroe's Restaurant next to the Rylander owns the lot immediately in back of the restaurant in front of the stage door to the Rylander and is having violator's cars towed. You have been warned!

**If you would like to attend this event, but transportation is a problem, or if you can help with transportation, please contact either Larry 770-428-4091 or Bucky 770-948-8424.**

he has been for 33 years.

Ron became interested in the theatre organ when he heard his first theatre organ recording by Bob Van Camp at the Mighty Möller. Ron began playing the organ at Showboat along with Bob Van Camp, Jay Mitchell, Walt Winn and Rick McGee.

Ron has developed his own unique style of playing crafted around the styles of George Wright, Lyn Larsen and others. He has fine tuned his silent film accompaniment skills and is now a sought-after silent film accompanist.

Presently, Ron is the theatre organ consultant for Allen Organ Studios of Atlanta and the house organist for the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center.



**Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society**

P.O. Box 657  
Marietta, Georgia 30061-0657  
770-428-4091

[www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/](http://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 – Larry Davis  
Vice President – Bucky Reddish  
Treasurer – Wanda Carey  
Secretary – Liz Fields  
Newsletter Editor – Elbert Fields  
Contributing Editor – Ron Carter

*Ads or announcements for this newsletter:  
Contact Elbert Fields at 770-435-7340 or  
e.fields@mindspring.com*



**John McCall**, a native of Vidalia, Georgia, got his first taste of the theatre organ through the HI-FI record "George Wright Encores at the Mighty Wurlitzer". By the time his family relocated in Moultrie, Georgia in 1960, he had a fairly extensive library of theatre organ recordings and was hopelessly hooked. Early sightings of silenced organs in Georgia's Albany and Fox theatres heightened his interest in movie palaces and their musical "soul". In 1969, he finally heard his first theatre organ live at the Atlanta Fox with Bob Van Camp at the helm. He promptly joined ATOS and the Atlanta Chapter.

McCall's theatre organ training has been self-taught. His teaching tool was a two-manual pipe organ console graciously supplied by Atlanta Chapter members Edd and Norma Simmons. This pipeless console and recordings helped McCall to develop organ technique.

In 1986, he played for his first real audience prior to a screening at Chicago's Music Box Theatre. Shortly after, he was invited to play for an American Guild of Organists' cocktail reception at their national convention in Charlotte, NC. His second appearance in a theatre was not until June, 2000, when he played for the screening of *Singin' In the Rain* at the Rylander in

Americus, where he followed with his first concert appearance with ATOS members Fred Boska and James Thrower, July 1.

Since these engagements, McCall has played at the Alabama Theatre for three engagements, and in Sarasota at the Forker Memorial Wurlitzer for two concerts. His first commercial recording, *A Paramount Idea* received a "highly recommended" rating in a review appearing in *Theatre Organ Journal*. In 2002, McCall was awarded first place in the ATOS National Hobbyist Division competition.



**James Thrower**, an Atlanta native, began piano lessons at age five under Mary Lee Marlowe and studied with her until he was eleven. During that period, he first heard the magnificent Möller organ in Atlanta's Fox Theatre and became an immediate devotee of the theatre organ. Although only twelve, James was accepted to study piano at the college level. He became a member of the Cathedral's Men's and Boy's Choir and began studies in rehearsal technique and classical organ.

At age 16, James was appointed student organist at the Lovett School, and in his junior and senior years, he played for six services weekly in Alston Memorial Chapel. In his college years James played for weddings, receptions, and parties and developed an interest in popular music.

Today, James performs regularly at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center, and for various chapters of the American Theater Organ Society (Including concerts at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham and at Lake Brantley High School's Wurlitzer near Orlando).

James is featured every year with organists Fred Boska and John McCall at the Rylander Theatre, Americus, in a Fourth of July Extravaganza. This Möller organ was given to the Rylander by Mr. Thrower and has been played by almost every eminent professional theatre organist in the world.

He presently holds the position of Music Associate at Maple Avenue United Methodist Church in Marietta, Georgia.

***Coming Soon...***

*California HERE WE COME!!*

Observations of attending the ATOS National Convention celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ATOS by Ron Carter.

***Hotels***

Ask for ATOS Rylander Weekend rate

- **The Windsor Hotel** (across the street from the Rylander) \$71.00  
[www.windsor-amicus.com](http://www.windsor-amicus.com)  
(1-888-297-9567)
- **Pathway Inn Bed and Breakfast** (in the historic district 1/2 mile from the Rylander) \$89 - \$125  
[www.1906pathwayinn.com](http://www.1906pathwayinn.com)  
(1-800-889-1466)
- **Hampton Inn** (1.3 miles) \$85.50 - \$120  
<http://hamptoninn.hilton.com>  
(1-800-HAMPTON)
- **Holiday Inn Express** (1.3 miles) \$72 - \$120  
[www.hiexpress.com](http://www.hiexpress.com)  
(1-800-315-2621)

***You are Invited...***

Rylander volunteers will be hosting a reception for Atlanta Chapter members following silent film. If you are planning to attend, please tell **Larry 770-428-4091** or **Bucky 770-948-8424** so we can give them an estimate of attendees.

***Welcome New Members***

Ted L. Barnett  
404-876-0563

536 Montgomery Ferry Rd  
Atlanta, GA 30324-5132  
[tlbarnet@bellsouth.net](mailto:tlbarnet@bellsouth.net)

Bill Irwin  
480-380-5250  
7864 East Natal Ave.  
Mesa, AZ 85209-6161  
[billirwinmusic88@cox.net](mailto:billirwinmusic88@cox.net)

***Change of Address***

Dr. G. Van Greene  
678-684-3816  
600 Springhouse Circle Rm. 600  
Stone Mountain, GA 30087-6719

## President's Message...

The success of our recent Augusta organ crawl has encouraged us to take advantage of some of the other out-of-town venues that are available. This month, we take a trip to the Rylander Theatre in Americus. For those of you who have not yet visited the Rylander, this is an opportunity to hear a wonderful theatre pipe organ in the able hands of our own concert artists, John McCall and Fred Boska, and to see *Ben-Hur* accompanied by our own film organist Ron Carter. The Rylander has a new manager who is not just organ-friendly but organ-enthusiastic. We are opening all performances to the general public free of charge and inviting the members of our sister chapters in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida. Our hope is that not only will this be a wonderful weekend for theatre organ enthusiasts, but that it will also spur local interest in the both the Rylander and its Möller organ.



By now I'm sure you have noticed that I like to include a note of appreciation each month to someone who supports our chapter endeavors. I do this for two reasons. First, this musical life that we have embraced is as much about the people involved as the instruments we love. Second, our continuing success as a chapter is the result of the contributions of individual members. As an example, we are enabled to progress with our special projects as a result of direct financial gifts that we receive from time to time. We are truly grateful for all contributions, but this month I want to specifically acknowledge two substantial donors: **Kenn Fields** for his donation to the Strand Project and **James Gleeson** for his donation to the Page Project. Their gifts have enabled us to take significant steps to move these projects forward. Gentlemen, thank you!

Stay in touch,

*Larry Davis*

## The Frank Sheffield Memorial Organ At the Rylander Theatre

The Rylander Theatre is one of two theatres in Georgia equipped with an authentic theatre pipe organ, the other being the Fox Theatre in Atlanta.

The theatre's Möller is a baby brother to the Fox's mighty Mo. Since reopening in the fall of 1999, there have been several organ concerts and screening of the silent movie, "Wings," with organ accompaniment. Events have been well attended.

The M.P. Möller Co. of Hagerstown, MD built the Rylander Theatre's Frank Sheffield Memorial Organ in 1928 for the Riviera Theatre in Scranton, Pa., at the cost of \$8,500. James Thrower of Marietta donated the organ to the Rylander Theatre. Americus native Anne Sheffield Hale now of Atlanta, daughter of the late Mr. Frank Sheffield of Americus, and her husband Bradley Hale funded the restoration, reconditioning and installation of the organ. For more than a year, John B. Tanner and a team from the A.E. Schlueter & Sons, Lithonia, meticulously restored the console and chamber pieces. David Becton, an Americus craftsman, refinished the exterior.

Initially used to accompany silent films in the 1920s, the instrument is an opus 5351, which means this is the 5,351<sup>st</sup> organ built by Möller. It has three manuals, or keyboards, plus the pedal and had seven sets of pipes or ranks at the time it was built, but was prepared for 11, which have been acquired by various owners and now installed at the Rylander.



There are 875 pipes; the tallest is almost 18 feet, the largest nine feet six inches high and 12 inches by 14 inches deep. The smallest is five eighths of an inch. The pipes are made of various materials depending on the tone qualities and are sugar pine, rolled zinc, tin and some from a combination of lead and tin. In addition to the 11 sets of pipes, the organ has tuned percussion — chimes, xylophone and orchestral bells, bass drum, snare drum, cymbal, sleigh bells, tambourine, tom-tom, Chinese block, Persian cymbal, Chinese gong, castanets, slap sticks and triangle. In addition, the sound effects include wind, thunder, doorbell, siren, songbirds, a model-T Ford horn and steamboat whistle.

**Wanted...** Information on the early Atlanta theatres of from 1900 to 1940. This includes any items from the theatre, photographs, memories, or whatever. If you have any information on any of the organs, that will be helpful also. Contact John Tanner at home 770-918-1116 or email frump1@mindspring.com. Information on other theatres in Georgia from this period will also be welcomed.

*A personal note from Ron Carter about supporting the Rylander weekend.*

Chapter members, I so hope that all of you will make a special effort to attend this wonderfully planned weekend event. Americus is a neat town and your Board has worked hard preparing this meeting for you. The Atlanta Chapter is being welcomed with open arms by the Rylander management and the entire Americus Cultural Authority thanks to Fred Boska and Larry Davis. The Möller Deluxe sounds fantastic in this venue. We had 30 for our Augusta trip and there is NO REASON why we shouldn't have at least 50 for this weekend.

Plan on going to the Telephone Museum, the Jimmy Carter historic Plains High School, which is run by the National Park Service and maybe attend President Carter's teaching of Sunday School. Americus is also the Headquarters of Habitat for Humanity. Plan on staying in the Historic Windsor Hotel, which is only a block from the theatre, and sit out on the second floor balcony sipping a cool one while watching the locals.

If you have ever wanted to play a real theatre pipe organ in a real theatre this is YOUR opportunity.

See you there!!

*Ron Carter*

*Excerpt from a recent Rylander Press Release...*

**“Theatre Organ Enthusiasts and the General Public Meet at the Rylander Theatre, Americus for August Organ Crawl and Silent Film Screening!**

“On August 27, organ enthusiasts and the invited public from all over the southeast will gather in Americus at the Rylander Theatre to hear the magnificently restored 1928 Möller theatre organ! At 2 p.m. on Saturday, Rylander House Organist Fred Boska and famed Rylander organ evangelist, John McCall, of Moultrie, Ga., with present a program on the Möller organ and the Rosalyn Carter Steinway grand piano. ....”

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

- **August 27-28 Meeting - Rylander Theatre in Americus** (See Page 1)
- **September 25, 3:00 P.M. Meeting...** To be announced (Page organ at Stephenson High School not available as planned)
- **October 23, 3:00 P.M. Meeting...** Ron Reseigh at the **Bucky Reddish** residence
- **November 20, 3:00 P.M. Meeting...** Rick McGee at the **John Tanner** residence
- **January 7, 2006, 2 P.M. Richard Morris**, organ & **Scott Thornburg**, trumpet at **Spivey Hall**
- **January 20, 2006, 8:15 P.M. Hector Guzman**, organist, at **Spivey Hall**
- **March 5, 2006, 3 P.M. Paul Jacobs**, organist, at **Spivey Hall**
- **April 1, 2006, 2 P.M. Bradley Hunter Welch**, organist, at **Spivey Hall**
- **April 29, 2006, 2 P.M. Hector Olivera**, organist, at **Spivey Hall**

### **Atlanta Chapter , ATOS - Membership Application**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E mail \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own an organ? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, description \_\_\_\_\_

Annual membership dues \$35 (Student \$17.50). Please make check payable to *Atlanta Chapter, ATOS*. Meetings are held monthly, usually on the 3rd Sunday afternoon. Mail this application and your check to: Wanda Carey, 4135 Brookwood Dr., Austell, GA 30106-1237.