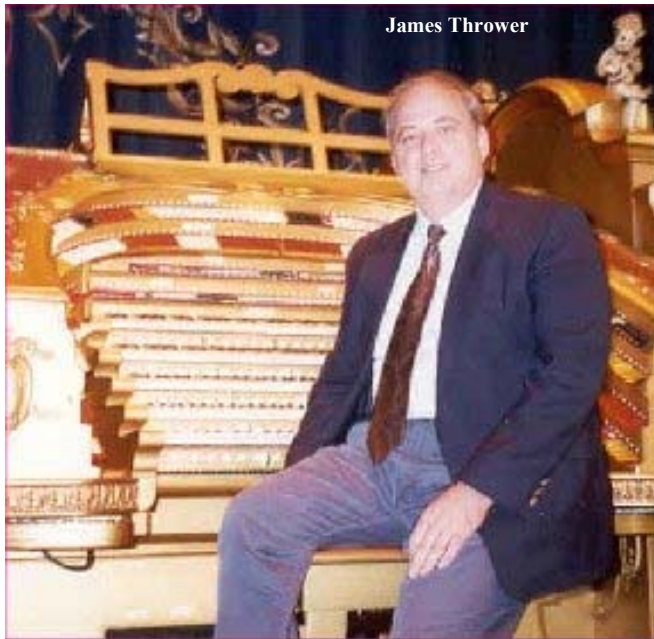


**MEETING - MARCH 18TH AT 3 P.M.  
JAMES THROWER AT THE JOHN TANNER RESIDENCE**



At age 16, Mr. Thrower 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.

We are pleased to announce that our March meeting will be at John Tanner's residence in Lithonia on March 18th at 3 P.M. with James Thrower at the console of John's Wurlitzer.

**About the artist...** 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 by Tom Brumby, head of the Department of Music at Georgia State University, to study piano at the college level. Brumby also held the position of organist and choir director at St. Phillip's Episcopal Cathedral in Atlanta. With this connection, James became a member of the Cathedral's Men's and Boy's Choir and began studies in rehearsal technique and classical organ.



**About the instrument...** John Tanner's Wurlitzer organ opus 1826 was shipped from the factory on 1/13/28 to the First Baptist Church in Bamberg, South

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Directions to John Tanner's**

- From Atlanta take I-20 eastbound, cross I-285 (or if you are coming around 285 get on I-20 eastbound.
- Take the Turner Hill Exit - 4th exit out I-20 (past 285 about 8 miles). Turn left onto Turner Hill, go to the
- 4th traffic light approximately 3 miles and turn right onto Pleasant Hill Road. Go about 2.5 miles. The
- Sierra Highland Subdivision will be on the left. Turn left onto Sierra Passage. Go to Boulder Cove about
- 0.1 mile and turn left. 1761 Boulder Cove is the first house on the right. Park along street or in the
- driveway.

Telephone 770-918-1116

**Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society**

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770-428-4091  
[www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/](http://www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/)

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

**Thanks for the Donations**

David Burud  
J. D. Buttrey  
Bob McKoon  
Bucky Reddish

**Memorial for Verlon Davis**

Donna & Ron Carter

***President's Message...***

For our February meeting, we did something different when we visited Trinity Methodist Church. Last year, we had programs at the Macon Capitol and at the Rylander in Americus, as well as the Hamm-O-Rama. Why do we do different kinds of programs in unusual places? There are several reasons. First, spreading out our meetings in different venues keeps us from needing to ask our

hosts to accommodate us too frequently. Secondly, it keeps our programs interesting so that we're not doing the same thing over and over. Thirdly, it allows us to support venues like the Capitol and the Rylander and endeavors like the Trinity Austin restoration, certainly a worthy fulfillment of our goal as a preservation organization.

I realize that not everyone can or will be able to attend every meeting, but I encourage you to

***STRAND SAVED!***

The Friends of the Strand have reached their first goal of raising 2.3 million dollars to save the 1935 Art Deco theatre on the Marietta, Georgia square. Renovations will begin in early summer to restore the theatre to its Art Deco glory. An additional \$2.7 million must be raised to furnish the theatre, install the theatre pipe organ, and create an operating endowment.

All ATOS members are encouraged to contribute to this very worthy cause since one of the Chapter's theatre organs currently in storage is to be installed in the theatre. So far, there have been over 300 seats sold for the Grand-for-the-Strand fundraising campaign. But, there are 300 left to sell! If you can contribute any amount, please do so now. Checks can be mailed to Friends of the Strand, PO Box 4186, Marietta, GA 30061 and credit cards can be used by calling Christy Rosell at 678-569-1321. We still have a lot of work to do to make this restoration happen!

*Ron Carter*



join us for these events that are different in content and location. You'll find that we have some of our most memorable and fun moments when we do something out of the ordinary. We've talked about reviving the old Tennessee Organ Crawl, joining the Alabama Chapter in Birmingham, going back to Augusta for an organ crawl, and other things. Do YOU have any ideas or suggestions? Let your Board of Directors know. We are here to serve you and the interests of the Chapter.

Thanks to Kevin Cartwright, Bruce Wynn, and the Trinity UMC family for hosting us this past month for the first – but not last – of our “different” programs of 2007.

Stay in touch.

*Larry Davis*

**2007 Dues**

According to our By-Laws, Article VIII, **dues are payable on January 1st and shall be paid within the first two months of the year.**

If you have not paid, your 2007 dues of \$35 (student \$17.50) are **PAST DUE** and **this is your last newsletter.** Please don't miss out on the excellent programs we have in store during 2007. Don't wait. Make your check payable to *Atlanta Chapter, ATOS* and mail it to:

Wanda Carey Fields, 413 Concord Rd SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509.

Carolina. It had continuous service until the early 90's when it was replaced with a new organ.

Evidently this organ was played by a very shy organist and was never driven past full crescendo very many times, and due to the lack of any pollution in the air, and most important no leaks in the organ chamber, this organ remained in good condition.

In fact, the pipework for the organ was in almost mint condition. The chamber was very hard to get into so it remained safe until its removal.

Unlike most church model Wurlitzers, the Console is a nice oak horseshoe style console that looks just like its theatre counterparts. It does not have the side panels that box in lower portion of the console, which rather gave the church models a box type look.

The organ contains 6 ranks of pipes, two of which go to 16' pitch, plus chimes and was prepared for a harp. This instrument is playing all on original leather and through the original relay. A Glockenspiel



has been added to the swell manual. The tremolo has been adjusted to give the organ a more "theatre" sound. Don't let it being a former church organ fool you. It looks, sounds, smells, and is every bit a REAL Wurlitzer Pipe organ. And is (at this time) the only "playing" Wurlitzer in the state.

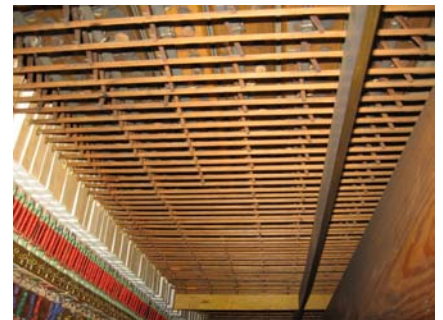
**Where could you go to hear a pipe organ performance** by the first place artist in the ATOS Electronic Theatre Organ Competition, "Helen and Jesse" songs played by a former organist for the pizza venues in Atlanta, and a sing-a-long with the pipe organ? The Fox Theatre? No! How about Atlanta's Trinity Methodist Church on a Sunday afternoon? Our February meeting will be remembered as one of the memorable events of 2007 as chapter members and guests gathered at Trinity to hear the historic Austin Theatre Organ – well, it came close – played by three different organists performing a diversity of organ literature. The program opened with Kevin Cartwright thundering out the "War March of the Priests." Not to be



outdone, Trinity's organist and choirmaster followed with Mulet's toccata, "Tu Es Petra," and Bach's "Jig Fugue." He then accompanied the audience as we endeavored to vocally rediscover Sullivan's "Lost Chord." In a complete change of pace, Rick McGee opened with "That's Entertainment," and continued with Crawford's "Forgotten Melody," and "Masquerade." Then he turned to the hymnbook for a hauntingly beautiful "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need." Before closing with a medley of themes by John Williams, he summoned the chapter president to the piano for organ/piano duets of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners."

After the concert, members were hosted by Kevin in a tour of the Austin unit chest, while others had the rare privilege of playing Atlanta's oldest existing pipe organ.

*The Opera Ghost*



Kevin Cartwright shows guests inside the Austin unit chest.



**Page Update, March 2007**

The Page Organ is coming along faster and faster. It has been a long job – much longer than we anticipated – to remove 77 years of paint from the organ, prepare the wood for re-painting and to find a painter. But the console goes to be painted on March 10 – anyone want to come help, we'll take the help – and will be back on March 12. Some of the interior works of the console have been fitted and test-installed. The plenum above the blower has been removed and Jack is restructuring it so that the solo



side of the organ can be more effectively winded at 15". Randy Hendry is designing the platform for the Page console, and we are planning to install a barrier at the front of the garage under the stage to protect the

console. Repair of the 16' French Horn and Sousaphone pipes is going to be more complicated and expensive than we thought due to the condition in which we received them but they are at Trivo for the work to be done. The glockenspiel has been rebuilt and reinstalled above the marimba harp and now rings nicely, as opposed to the muffled clank that sounded before the rebuild. If you want the opportunity to participate in our efforts, please contact the Project Manager, Jack Sandow at 770-879-6670 or email sandow3318@bellsouth.net.

Upcoming in next month's newsletter —  
 John Tanner's The Theatres of Atlanta and their Organs:  
 "Candler's Capitol Idea," Atlanta's least known movie palace.

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

- **March 18th at 3:00 P.M., Meeting, James Thrower at the John Tanner residence**
- April 7th at 2 P.M., Ron Carter accompanies silent film BEN HUR at the Tennessee Theatre in Knoxville
- **April 8th at 3:00 P.M., Meeting, David Gray (teen-age organist from Scotland) at the Bucky Reddish residence**
- **May 20th at 3:00 P.M., Meeting, Ken Double at the Donna and Ron Carter residence**

**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 Fields, 413 Concord Rd SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509