

Meeting September 16th, 3 P.M. Byron Jones (Welsh Wizard) at the Petway/Lacefield residence

Our September meeting will take place at the Petway/Lacefield residence in Sandy Springs on September 16th at 3:00 P.M. featuring Byron Jones on the Allen TO5 Quantum organ. (Directions below.)

About the artist...

Byron was born in 1949 in Risca, Gwent, South Wales - hence the name of The Welsh Wizard. As a child, he showed great promise on the piano, and then later on the organ. He played in a local church, and developed his style over the years. Whilst still at school, Byron played at the local chapel, and then progressed to the working men's clubs of Wales when he was a teenager, and accompanied many of the big stars who came to Wales appearing in cabaret - Donald Peers, Ruby Murray and many more. He later progressed to the larger clubs, where he would be engaged to play for artistes straight from the London Palladium. Since then, and over the last twenty years, Byron has played for many Summer Season Spectacular shows, made countless radio broadcasts and made many televi-



Byron Jones

sion appearances, as well as making his own records and tapes. Byron has his own Music Society of some six hundred members, and is very well patronized at all of his performances.

Byron's main work is playing for organ societies the length and breadth of Britain, but he also plays for many dance venues for ballroom and sequence dancing. Also his organ expertise is much sought after for performances at organ festivals.

For the past twelve years Byron has produced his own music festivals each year.

About the instrument...

The TO5 Quantum is the largest Theatre organ made by the Allen Organ Company. It is a 25-channel instrument of 55 digital ranks, various tuned percussions and special effects. This instrument was voiced by none other than Walt Strony and sounds magnificent in the Petway-Lacefield residence.

Mike and Billy purchased this home about two years ago after losing their Alpharetta home in a fire which also destroyed their Allen GW4 theatre organ. The home is exquisitely decorated and the organ speaks into a large two-story music room from three divisions.

The Quantum series of instruments also features the latest in sound disbursement technology with Allen's patented Acoustic Portrait digital reverb and delay and Real Expression which duplicates the expression of real pipe organ swell shades opening and closing.

Directions to Petway-Lacefield residence, 120 Trowbridge Rd., Sandy Springs (770-394-2577)

1. Go north on Roswell Road from its intersection with Abernathy Road. Trowbridge Road is the intersection at the third traffic light north of Abernathy. There is a Walgreen's on the far left corner of this intersection. Turn left at Trowbridge Road traffic light and pass Walgreen's on your right. You are entering Princeton Falls subdivision. 120 is the third house on the left.
2. The driveway is past the house. Pass this driveway and go a few feet to the next one on your left. This is the tennis court/pool parking lot. Park here until full, then street parking after that.
3. Coming via interstate/freeway take I-285 to GA 400 North and exit 5B Sandy Springs which will put you on Abernathy going west. Go Abernathy to Roswell Road, turn right on Roswell Road and proceed with Step 1 above.
4. From Roswell/Alpharetta or north, take Georgia 400 South to Abernathy exit. Go right (west) on Abernathy to Roswell Road and turn right. Now proceed with Step 1 above. BON VOYAGE!!!

**Atlanta Chapter,
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**AT LAST!!
The Recording You've
Been Waiting For...
THE FABULOUS FOX
ORGAN WEEKEND**

It has been a long three-year road, but through the efforts of several people over the past year, the Fabulous Fox Organ Weekend CD is now available. From several hours of concert performances over the weekend of Memorial Day 2004, Simon Gledhill has selected an outstanding repertoire that showcases the unique sound of the Möller. This is a two-CD set and the price is \$25. Our chapter will share in the profits from this CD so your purchase not only provides you a great and historic recording, it supports the endeavors of our chapter. We are very fortunate that the Fox Theatre has assumed responsibility for marketing and selling these recordings.

They may be obtained at the Fox, through their website or at our chapter meetings.

***The Atlanta Chapter, ATOS has
members (families) in 10 states.***

Paid Members (families)

AL 1, FL 3, GA 85, MO 1, MS 1,
NC 11, NY 1, SC 2, TN 2, TX 2

Honorary Members

GA 2, NC 1

Lifetime Members

GA 2

***Childers and Childers
Conquer Carrollton!!***

On Sunday, August 19, 2007, at Carrollton First United Methodist Church, we were treated to a varied and entertaining program by organist Tony Childers. He had a surprise for us after the intermission.

"A Pompous March" (by well-known composer Gordon Young) was the opening selection and gave a great introductory sample of the organ's resources. Next up was the concert favorite, "Le Coucou" demonstrating the variety of flute voices in the organ – nice contrast between several varieties of flutes. This was followed by the "Festive Trumpet Tune" from composer David German. This selection gives the various trumpet voices a chance to be heard.

Next was what the artist termed the "Jesus Section" and featured selections with an obvious theme – after all we were in church! "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" featured nice solo reeds. "Schönster, Herr Jesu" featured flutes and solo voices with mutation-rich tonalities to give a Baroque-by-way-of-Paris touch. The following three were presented in an inventive programming device – a choral prelude setting and the related hymn (the hymns being sung by the audience – showing the capability of the instrument to lead singing). They were: "Three About Jesus: *When Morning Gilds the Skies; Jesus Shall Reign; and My Jesus, I Love Thee.*"

A "Festival Toccata" written by former NBC staff organist and well known theatre organist Rex Koury concluded the first half of the program.

***Closing Chord
James Gleeson***

James Thomas Gleeson, 66, passed away July 20, 2007. He was a native of Bronx, New York, but considered Atlanta his home after moving here with his wife in 1966. In addition to being a successful family and business man, he also had a great love for life. He enjoyed and collected musical instruments of all sorts and supported countless outreach organizations and charities. He provided generous support to the Atlanta Chapter Page Organ Project.



As stated in last month's newsletter, this organ was recently installed by A. E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Co. Pictured left to right are Art Schlueter, III and John Tanner, who were involved in this installation, and artists Cheryl and Tony Childers.

The second half revealed a unique resource of this organ – spare hands and feet!! These were willingly supplied by Cheryl Childers – wife of Tony, and a very capable organist in her own right.

"The Stars and Stripes Forever" was performed as a duet and showcased some of the romantic and orchestral voices of the organ. Even the piccolo people were represented. Next up was a calming selection called "Evensong" and contained "All Through the Night" mid-song. The chimes were also featured in this work.

As a closer, the "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" of J. S. Bach showed the organ's baroque and classical abilities and lung-power.

This program contained something for everyone and did the artists and organ proud. Carrollton has gained another mark for musical quality!!

All comments and observations provided courtesy of **Biz E. Body**, a completely unbiased ear — remember, the walls and pews have ears!

Welcome New Members

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President's Message...

Larry Davis examines plans for the Strand..

Four and a half years ago, when I joined the chapter, I said to myself, "Self, you don't need to just sit around and enjoy the fruits of the labor of others, you need to contribute something." On the first page of the bulletin was a note about work sessions on the Page organ. I made a phone call and in short order could be found spending my Saturdays in Stone Mountain under the supervision and tutelage of the infinitely-patient Jack Sandow.

Then came the FFOW and I wrote an email with a couple of suggestions to John McCall and found myself duly drafted (in the military sense) to help with that great event. Hardly had the FFOW ended before I was faced with a two-sided assault from John and from Ron Carter informing me that I should be the next president of the chapter,

starting in 2005. All my objections were eventually overcome; I agreed to allow them to place my name in nomination and, in an act of something between faith and reckless abandon, the chapter elected an unknown newcomer to the post.

I found out two things: one is that the term is for one year with the chapter holding an option for a second year – and a third (I feel like a baseball player). Secondly, that the presidency of the chapter is not merely an honorary position but requires a lot of work.

In the three years since I took office we have concluded the transaction to sell the Kilgen console, acquired a new console for the Robert Morton, reacquired the Lucas Wurlitzer, revised the bylaws, created an archive to pass from president to president, made available chapter ID badges, printed new chapter flyers, issued our first Lifetime Achievement Awards, returned to the Fox Theatre for a chapter meeting, and issued the FFOW CD. We have had some outstanding programming. Our Page project and the effort to place an organ in the Strand continue to move forward. Most importantly, I think, we saved the Imperial Theatre Wurlitzer from being lost and returned it to Augusta, where we are spearheading efforts towards getting that organ put back in to its home theatre. Each one of

these things was accomplished, as all such things must be, through the efforts and commitments of many.

Now as the end of my third year option approaches, I am ready to "stop and smell the roses" as they say; spend some time just enjoying the world of theatre organ without the constant pressure of responsibility that the chapter presidency carries with it. I want to focus on the Page and Imperial projects that are both dear to my heart, and on making music with my friends. To those ends, I have informed the Board of Directors that I wish not to be included in the nominees for office for the upcoming year.

This also means that the Board and Nominating Committee are going to be asking new people – and certainly some younger people -- to join them in serving the chapter in different ways. The chapter belongs to all of us and anyone can take part in directing the present and future course of our organization.

It has been a source of immense pride for me to be introduced as the president of one of the very best ATOS chapters and I will always treasure the trust that all of you placed in me when you elected me three years ago.

Stay in touch,

Larry Davis

STRAND THEATRE ORGAN UPDATE

As most of you know the Atlanta Chapter for the last several years has been working with the Friends of the Strand for the installation of one of the Chapter's theatre pipe organs in the Strand Theatre on the Marietta Square in Cobb County. The Friends of the Strand have been working extremely hard to raise the 3.8 million needed for the building's complete renovation to include construction provisions for the theatre organ. Unfortunately, because their fund raising efforts have not been as successful as had hoped, the Friends will not be able to provide the funds for the theatre organ's restoration and installation. The Friends of the Strand desperately want a theatre organ in the theatre but at this time do not anticipate having the funds to renovate and restore an instrument. Your board after considerable discussion has made an offer to the Strand to provide and install a theatre pipe organ in the theatre (much like we have done at Stephenson HS) if the Friends of the Strand would agree to make provisions for the installation of a theatre pipe organ in the building to include: the construction of four chambers (double-stacked) on both sides of the auditorium according to our specifications and dimen-

sions; the running of 14-inch, 24-gauge windline to the bottom chambers on each side of the Proscenium Arch (this has just been completed and the windline was upgraded from 24 to 20 gauge), the provision of all electrical service for a blower, the construction of a blower room (this has already been completed and is under the stage on the left side), provide for a double-scissors console lift and storage area for the console, and run all conduit for the wiring of the control systems from the console to the chambers. The Strand Board has agreed to these conditions with a cost to the Strand of approximately \$75,000. This demonstrates to your board that the Friends of the Strand are committed to working with us to install and use a theatre organ in the theatre for all public performances.

The Atlanta Chapter in the next 30 to 60 days will move our two pipe organs (The Lucas Wurlitzer and the Capitol Robert Morton) to a warehouse in Marietta, five blocks from the Strand, provided free of charge by Roger DeBoy, the construction manager for the Strand Project. The organs will be inventoried and inspected. Depending on the condition of

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

these two instruments a recommendation will then be made to Chapter members whether to combine these instruments by taking the best of both for installation in the Strand, or to sell one or both depending on their overall condition and using those proceeds to locate a suitable instrument that is in better condition that can be installed in the Theatre at less expense.



These photos show the Strand's progress. Please note the 14-inch metal windline coming from the



blower room, going to the left and right chambers.

In any event our Chapter is beginning a strong, heartfelt fund raising campaign for monies to restore and install an instrument in the Strand. Chapter members are being asked to purchase a key, stop tab, piston, or pedal key in honor or memory of someone. These will sell for \$100.00 each and a large console display will be constructed to place the names of these individuals on them for permanent display in the Strand. With a re-specified modern four-manual console we can raise over \$60,000 in this manner. This opportunity will be offered to all ATOS Chapter members and to the general public by press releases in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, the Marietta Daily Journal, radio and on both our and the Strand web sites. We also will be asking for larger contributions for naming opportunities. As an example, for a \$100,000 contribution the entire organ can be named in honor or memory of an individual, organization or company. For a contribution of \$25,000 we will name an individual pipe chamber in honor or memory of someone, so noting this with a brass plaque inside the particular chamber and behind the Proscenium Arch closest to the chamber. The blower and blower room, console lift and console garage may be purchased for \$15,000 ea., totaling \$295,000.

This figure is what we estimate as the total cost for a professional organ company to do the job. Depending on our

In summary our fund raising program is as follows:

Purchase of individual manual and pedal keys, stop tabs, pistons	\$ 65,000
Naming rights for the Entire Organ	\$ 100,000
Naming rights for pipe chambers (\$25,000 ea x 4)	\$ 100,000
Naming rights for Blower Room and Console lift	<u>\$ 30,000</u>
Total	\$ 295,000

fund raising success, chapter members may be asked to help do some of the renovation and installation work as part of the Strand organ crew. We hope to contract the majority of this work out, but this depends on the success of our fund raising campaign. There will be a photo shoot and press release in both the AJC and MDJ in early September to kick off our efforts. We need your financial support and prayers as we begin this tremendous project. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to have a real theatre pipe organ in a real 1935 art deco theatre that will be accessible to the chapter for concerts and open console to members on a regular basis. The Strand sits next to a 7-story parking deck that is free to the public after 5 p.m. each week day and free on all holidays and weekends. The Marietta Square is a thriving village with many restaurants, shopping, community theatre and dance studios all within walking distance of the theatre. The park directly across from the theatre hosts concerts, weddings, and arts and crafts shows throughout the year. With over 1000 new homes being built within 5 blocks of the theatre, this is a tremendous opportunity to showcase the theatre organ by chapter organists!

Please support this effort by your financial contribution, your seeking out potential donors, and just spreading the word. A separate account for the Strand Theatre Organ Project will be created and administered by Wanda Carey Fields, Chapter Treasurer. All of your contributions are tax deductible. If you have any questions or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact me at any time.

Thanks,

Ron Carter

770-428-4809

Upcoming Meetings & Events *(Mark your Calendars)*

- **September 16th, 3 P.M., Meeting, Byron Jones (Welsh Wizard) at the Petway/Lacefield residence**
- **September 16th, 2 P.M. CDT, Dolton McAlpin at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham**
- **October 21st, 3 P.M., Meeting, Ron Carter & James Thrower, organ & piano at the Carter residence**
- **November 18th, 3 P.M., Meeting, Mark & Carrie Renwick at the Bucky Reddish residence**
- **December 2nd, 3 P.M., Atlanta Chapter, ATOS Annual Membership Meeting followed by open console on the organ and piano at the James Thrower residence**
- **December 16th, 3 P.M., - Hector Olivera in Concert at Grace United Methodist Church, 458 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA, Schantz/Widener organ**
- **December 18th, "Christmas at the Fox" — Atlanta Fox Theatre with Larry Douglas Embury**
- **December 21st, 7:30 P.M., "Christmas Pops" with John McCall at the Frank Sheffield Memorial Möller, Rylander Theatre, Americus (see our August 2007 newsletter for more info.)**