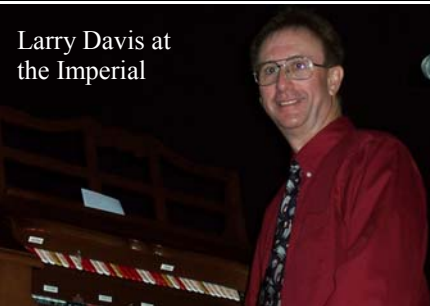


## NO AUGUST MEETING - STEPHENSON H.S. NOT AVAILABLE

Due to conditions beyond our control, we were unable to schedule the August meeting at Stephenson High School as planned. However, we are hoping to have our September meeting there. The actual venue for September will be announced in the September newsletter.



### President's Message...

How could I write a message this month and not speak of the thrilling developments at the Imperial Theatre in Augusta? You all know the story of the Imperial's Mighty Wurlitzer: brought here, resurrected from the dead by Gordie and Linda Johnson and placed in their home; removed and returned to the Imperial Theatre last year through the efforts of this chapter. The time had come to begin the endeavor to actually get the organ playing in the theatre once again and, as mentioned last month, Bob and Amanda Polglase hosted a reception and concert in their home that truly lit a fire in Augusta with respect to the theatre organ. Well, the flames were fanned for sure the first week in July. On June 30th, the ever-generous Jim Ingram transported the Allen 311 to the Imperial, and we installed it there for a July 8th screening of *Wings*, with the proceeds to go to the organ fund but also to show an Augusta audience what it means to have a theatre organ in a movie palace.

The "show" actually began on Wednesday, when by a fluke of a schedule change, I was able to drive over to Augusta and play the organ before the screening of that week's "Indies at the Imperial" film. I was acutely aware as I was playing that it was the first time an organ had been played for the public in that theatre in over forty years, and for me it was a great privilege. On Thursday, courtesy of Randy Magnuson, the organ was played by computer. I returned on Friday to play live for the film screen-

ings, and for the Saturday afternoon screening of the film *Bambi* for the younger set (I must say the children were the most enthusiastic group about the organ, as is true at the Macon Capitol, something we as a theatre organ community *must* notice and take advantage of).

Then on Saturday night, a wonderfully large crowd came into the theatre for the first screening of a silent film there since the 1920's, and it included children, teens and others from every decade of life, including one woman who had seen silent film at the Alabama Theatre decades before. We opened the show with a few minutes of a video made by Rick McGee and Bob Fountain: a chamber tour of the Wurlitzer when the organ was in the residence. Ron's accompaniment of *Wings* was as powerful and poignant as ever and there was laughter, applause and tears at various places in the film. One young man was reported to have broken down sobbing during the death scene. Ron could easily have taken a curtain call had he wished, so persistent was the standing ovation at the end. We spoke to many enthusiastic people before and after the show and at intermission about the organ and showed people aspects of the console in the lobby. Lara Plocha, theatre manager, had located the original advertisement for *Wings* when it first premiered in Augusta in 1928, and that was on display, as well as the Wurlitzer book, photographs of the organ, and the Atlanta Chapter banner displayed in the lobby. The theatre received several hundred dollars in donations over and above the ticket sales to help with the effort. More important was the publicity and interest generated that evening.

The Allen remains in the theatre for anyone to play for any of the shows there and will stay until used in mini-concert by John McCall when the Imperial unveils its new marquee on Friday, August 18.



Alice & Tom Robertson at the Imperial Theatre

We are progressing in this history-making endeavor and partnership in Augusta. I want to thank the following people for their help in making all our efforts successful, our members **Randy and Kim Magnuson, Dale and Susan Parrott, Bob and Amanda Polglase, Tom and Alice Robertson, Ron and Donna Carter, and Michael Mixon.** From the theatre, we have to once again acknowledge the members of the **Imperial Board of Directors**, especially Board President **Paul Brewer.** In particular we have to thank the staff of the Imperial Theatre who were very gracious as their theatre was invaded by us theatre organ people and our voicing, practicing, piston-setting, dressing-room-occupying ways. Theatre Manager **Lara Plocha** was delightful as always and even recruited her husband to help install the Allen. Not only that, she mounted a monumental publicity campaign to promote the event. I couldn't go anywhere in Augusta without seeing *Wings* posters. House Manager **Jessica King** was helpful at every point. But most especially, I want to thank **Krys Bailey**, the theatre's technical director, who welcomed us and helped us with everything, from hauling the Allen speakers up to the organ chambers, to putting up our banner – well, I could go on and on. It was truly great to work with such a professional and friendly gentleman. Thanks, Krys.

Stay in touch,

Larry Davis

**Atlanta Chapter,  
American Theatre Organ Society**

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770-428-4091

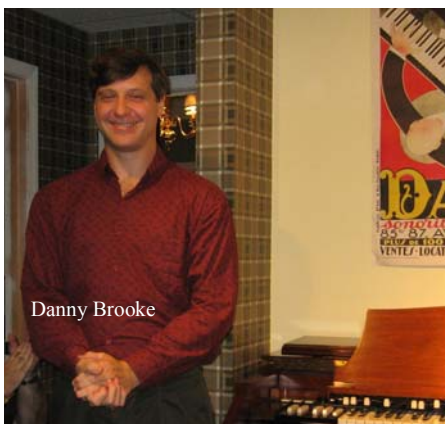
[www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/](http://www.theatreorgans.com/georgia/atlanta/atos/)

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

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

***Hamm-O-Rama: An excursion  
into music from artists with an  
incurable case of  
HAMMONDITIS.***



Danny Brooke

**Round One - DING!**

Danny Brooke was first up at the Hammond D-152 (2 manuals, 32 pedals, Pedal Solo voice unit). This was Danny's first program for the Atlanta Chapter. During this session we were visited by Milt Herth Brooke and Ken Griffin Brooke. Danny demonstrated a whole new sound that the Hammond could produce. The percussive and rhythmic styles were very well presented and offered the listeners a new perspective on what a Hammond could do.



Wanda Fields

Frank Maxwell photo

**Round Two - Gospel Deluxe!**

Wanda Carey (now Mrs. Wanda Fields – CONGRATULATIONS!!) was second and she found an entirely different instrument. Danny must have broken it before Wanda had her turn. Wanda presented a great cross-section of pieces and hymn arrangements demonstrating a variety of gospel stylings. She featured arrangements by Harold DeCou and others by her organ instructor who was secretly teaching her theatre-style playing. When she discovered the theatre organ, she suddenly recognized what she had learned without even knowing it. Also featured were some original stylings and proof that the Hammond could be at home in a Cathedral or a Brush Arbor (for Southern folk!).



Bob Fountain

Frank Maxwell photo

**Round Three – Big DING!!**

The final artist was Bob Fountain – an Atlanta Chapter charter member and local entertainer who has been providing organ music for singing and dancing in the Atlanta area for several decades. Bob found a whole 'nother Hammond! The church had dismissed, the brethren gave way to the party crowd. Selections in the style of Jesse

Crawford, Lenny Dee, Jackie Davis and others just appeared to pop out of the Hammond. There were even a couple of numbers utilizing a duet with piano à la Rick McGee – a Crawford-style arrangement, and even an Ethel Smith – type of styling.



Wanda & Danny

**Epilogue:**

The closing was an arrangement of "Sentimental Journey" that had Bob at the Hammond, Wanda and Danny at the piano. As the selection progressed, Danny abandoned Wanda - just got right up and walked away and proceeded to force Bob off the organ bench. Bob simply walked over to the piano and joined Wanda. After a while, turn about was fair play, and Bob returned and reclaimed the organ bench. Meanwhile, Wanda stayed securely at the piano and was rejoined by Danny. Throughout the entire series of events, the music never stopped.



Bob Danny Wanda

Everyone really enjoyed the variety of music that can be produced on a Hammond – especially from three players who know how to find where it is hidden.

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

**SERVE AS AN ATOS CHAPTER OFFICER OR DIRECTOR**

We need new folks with new ideas and energy to help in providing leadership to the Atlanta Chapter. All Officer positions and Board Directors are up for re-election at the December meeting.

If you are interested in helping move our Theatre Organ Chapter forward in expanding its membership, creating new programs and venues please contact one of the following members of our nominating committee: Ron Carter, Danny Brooke or James Thrower. PLEASE GET INVOLVED!

\*\*\*\*

**What the Atlanta Chapter is all about,** by Ron Carter

We have SO MUCH to be proud of in this chapter. Just as an example, I want to tell you of the time, energy and unselfish efforts of several of our members who made the Imperial Theatre Wurlitzer kick-off such a success.

First, is our very own President Larry Davis. As you know Larry is quick to praise and give credit to "others" for their chapter work but he is also one of the hardest "workers" we have in our membership. Through his efforts on the Imperial organ - from delivering the instrument to Augusta, to working with the Imperial Board of Directors and their Executive Director Lara Plocha, and then helping unload and set up the Allen Organ for the silent film and going early to play it for their movie series.... Well the list of accomplishments where Larry has been involved just go on and on.

Bob and Amanda Polglase were so generous in the offering of their home and GW4 Theatre organ for a meeting of the Imperial Board and several ATOS chapter officers. They supported WINGS to the hilt and helped man the information table in

the lobby. To say the Imperial Board was impressed with the GW4, the Polglase home and John McCall's playing is a real understatement. This one evening gave the Imperial Board a real taste of the professionalism of our Chapter and the seriousness of how we take our mission.

Jim Ingram of Allen Organ Studios: Jim has NEVER TURNED OUR CHAPTER DOWN on any request for help we have made. He loaded the Allen R311 theatre organ in Atlanta onto his specially-equipped trailer and delivered it to the stage door of the Imperial Theatre in Augusta. It was then moved down special ramps (5" off the floor) from the rear stage entrance onto the right side of the stage. We wanted to put the speakers actually in the organ chambers. No problem for Jim Ingram. He had special web harnesses to hoist the speakers (90 lbs ea.) into the chambers (20 feet off the floor and straight up) and then cut over 200 feet of organ cable just for this temporary installation. He and Sarah then returned and supported the silent film WINGS and interacted magnificently with the Imperial Board and Lara Plocha.

Mike Mixon, one of our dedicated Augusta Chapter members this past winter, helped unload the Wurlitzer console when it was delivered to the theatre and spent the afternoon helping unload the remainder of the organ at the museum. Mike came and helped unload and install the Allen for the Silent Film. He has done extensive research on possible donors for funding the organ installation and is the eyes and ears of our chapter in Augusta. Randy and Kim Magnuson helped man the information table and Randy installed a midi player for the movies series so that theatre patrons could hear the Allen if no

organist was available. Randy has also donated his Z-tronics console computer boards for our Strand project.

John McCall performed a fantastic program at the Polglase residence which had the Imperial Board members "dropping their jaws" at the sound of this fantastic digital instrument. Then John attended WINGS (for the 100th time) and brought his Aunt who lives in the Augusta area. Finally, John is going to play the Allen (which is still in the theatre courtesy of Jim Ingram) for the Imperial Open House on August 18th.

WINGS was a tremendous success. I can't tell you how many patrons came up to me after the program, many with tears in their eyes to say how overjoyed they were to hear a theatre organ in the Imperial again. I received a copy of the local film critic review. She was overwhelmed by the program and what touched her so much was seeing a young boy sitting several rows in front of her openly weep at that most emotional part of the film when David dies in Jack's arms. She said that she could barely contain herself hearing the music and seeing the expressions on Richard Arlen and Buddy Roger's faces. I have said this before and I will say it again - that the silent film is the best mechanism to reach the general public for their support of the theatre organ and its music.

It just amazes me of the continued hard work and dedication of so many of our chapter members. It truly is a labor of love for all of us.

**Thanks for the Donation**  
Mr. & Mrs. Edd Simmons

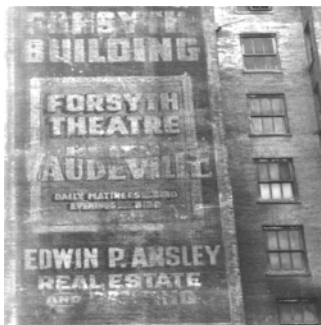


Photo by Ray Starford, Feb. 1974 from the John McCall collection.

**Update on the Forsyth Theatre** by John Tanner

As I said before, I would try to update or correct information in my articles as new information becomes available. So here is a little of both.

Left: A better photo of the Billboard painted on the side of the Forsyth Building.

Right: It seems that the figures of Comedy and Tragedy did not succumb to the wreckers ball. It looks as though the figures were salvaged from the building. "Comedy" seems to be pretty excited about the whole affair. As to their ultimate fate, time will tell.



Photo by John McCall from the John McCall collection.



**Hammond C-3 Organ - \$3,200.** Call Roy Bogue 770-854-8663

**2 Manual Schober Theatre Organ with Devtronics Electronics**

Includes walnut console, 52 Wurlitzer replica stop tabs, pedal board, bench and two matching custom built walnut veneer speaker cabinets. Each speaker cabinet has two separate chambers for a total of four channels driven by a 4X40 watt PMS power amplifier.

This organ was originally built by Robert McKee and family in early 1970's. The Schober electronics have been gutted and have been 75% to 80% rebuilt with Devtronics electronics. To the best of our knowledge, everything is included with the organ to finish wiring the electronics. There is a detailed manual for the conversion and a schematic (block diagram) of the wiring for the electronics.

This is an ideal project for someone with a strong technical and practical knowledge of electronics and circuits design. Pictures will be mailed to serious inquirers only. Contact Marilyn McKee 912-961-4545, 912-224-4582, or mrmckees@att.net

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

- August 20th, 2:00 P.M. CDT, silent film *WINGS* accompanied by Ron Carter at the Temple Theatre in Meridian, Mississippi
- August 27th, 2:00 P.M. CDT, silent film *SPARROWS* accompanied by Ron Carter at the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham, Alabama
- September 12th, 8:00 P.M., Atlanta debut of Fred Hohman on the newly-rebuilt Schantz-Widener 4/101 organ at Grace UMC in Atlanta, free admission.
- October 1st, 4:00 P.M, Jeannie Morrison & Alan Morrison at Roswell UMC, free admission.
- October 7th, 3:00 P.M., Trinity UMC, Atlanta, Sam Polk, donations accepted for organ restoration fund.
- **October 15th, 3:00 P.M, Meeting, Jelani Eddington at the Petway residence.**
- December 2nd, 3:00 P.M., Jonas Nordwall Holiday Concert at Spivey Hall, \$30
- December 2nd, 3:00 P.M., Trinity UMC, Atlanta, Lew Williams, donations accepted for organ restoration fund.
- **December 3rd, 3:00 P.M. Meeting, Lew Williams & Danny Ray at the Reddish 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 Road SW, Smyrna, GA 30082-4509.