

MANASOTA THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

PIPE NOTES

Volume 18, Number 8

April 2009



Photo by Norman Arnold. Edited by George Milburn.

UPCOMING MTOS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

April 19, 2009
Roylance Sharpe
Grace Baptist Church

A "conversation" with Roy about theatres, theatre organs and theatre organists (including Rosa Rio) similar to the old Hal Holbrook shows. A recommendation of Chuck Pierson.

May 17 (or 24), 2009
Larry Davis
(See Page 2 for more information.)

June 21, 2009

Please Note:
Meeting Times: 2:00 P.M.
Concert Times: 2:30 P.M.

All artists have agreed to perform, but programs/artists are subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Sunday, April 19, 2009
at 2:00 P.M.
Roylance Sharpe
Grace Baptist Church



President's Message

Ah, what to do – do I write my message for the MTOS April Newsletter, or start packing for our departure to Buenos Aires for a short but much-needed vacation. Duty calls, and so here we go with a short, but "sweet" message.

On March 15th the amazing talent of Jelani Eddington was once again shared with our members and an excellent audience that gathered for the last of our three "public" concerts for 2009. Jelani's kind nature, organizational skills, and world-class musicianship all come together in what are consistently memorable concerts (as well as pleasant and anticipated experiences for those of us who work behind the scenes to make the concerts happen).

What stands out to me this season is that we produced three first-class concerts and that the artists, Jim Riggs, Dave Wickerham, and Jelani Eddington each demonstrated the organ to great advantage – and that in each case the programmed music presented a different aspect of the versatility of the theatre pipe organ (especially ours, with its great resources). I was among the many who purchased Jim Riggs' recording combining the Ampico piano roll arrangements of the 1930's with the theatre pipe organ. It has been in my car since the concert and it remains a favorite musically joyful choice. In person, it was even better. Dave Wickerham uses his talent to great advantage to present a wide-ranging program of music that really shows off the magnitude of tonal colors in the Forker Wurlitzer. That, combined with his likeable nature on stage, makes him an ongoing favorite with audiences and members alike. Jelani literally turns the organ into an orchestra – I've often challenged people to close their eyes, lis-

ten, and convince themselves that it is just one person making such richly textured music. With the overlaying of sounds, rhythms and nuance – he is the epitome of the often referenced "one man band".

Moving forward to April: On the 19th we welcome a newcomer to Sarasota in the form of Roylance Sharp. In our MTOS Board meetings we've discussed keeping the organization fresh with new things and new ideas. Your Vice President, Chaz Bender, who arranges the monthly meeting programs, heard the message and reached out to the circle of theatre organ friends he has developed through internet exchange. The result is a meeting presentation that promises to be both entertaining and informative.

On a larger front, MTOS has been selected by ATOS to be one of six local chapters asked to develop a program to encourage members currently in our non-voting "Friends" category to learn more about the benefits of ATOS membership and to convert to full membership. We look forward to working with Ken Double and our ATOS friends on that project. Ken Double has dedicated himself to full-time efforts to reinforce the footing of ATOS and to begin to build the organization anew, so that future generations will be assured of having access to – and first-hand experiences – with the mighty theatre pipe organ.

A Nominating Committee for MTOS officers and Board will be forming soon. If you have interest in serving as a Board member, please drop a note to me: johndanf@verizon.net so that I can make sure one of the Committee members gets in touch with you.

Well, the voice of the call of duty is becoming weaker, so I will transition to packing and preparing for tomorrow's departure and the long 9-hour flight.

Thanks for being MTOS members. We'll see you on April 19th.

John Fischer, President

Treasurer's Report

As of **March 31, 2009** the following balances were reported by George Milburn, Treasurer:

FUND	06/30/08	03/31/09
Concert	\$22,479.21	\$17,672.48
General	14,563.28	15,841.49
Organ Maintenance	11,412.64	23,687.64
Piano Enhancement	0.00	0.00
TOTALS	\$48,455.13	\$57,201.61

Note: Organ fund shows \$12,000 income and Concert fund shows \$12,000 expense, reflecting a transfer between funds in July, 2008.

MAY 2009 Meeting: **Larry Davis** began his musical journey at the age of eleven when he sat down at his aunt's piano and began playing Christmas carols, despite having never previously touched a piano. His parents bought him a Conn spinet organ. He took a dozen lessons from the organ salesman, and then launched out on his own.

He joined the Atlanta Chapter of then ATOE and played at meetings, but also later in a rock band. When he entered college, his relationship with ATOE faded, but he continued to play on his own and for several churches over the next thirty-three years. During that time he spent thirty years in law enforcement, retiring in 2003.

He also became a paramedic and has provided emergency medical care in metropolitan Atlanta since 1978. In 2003, he attended a silent film and the organist encouraged him to re-associate with the world of theatre organ and the Atlanta Chapter, now ATOS. A year later, he played his first concert program in thirty-five years, and since then has performed publicly at several theatres and for programs for the Alabama and Atlanta chapters. Larry says, "I have come back to my first and greatest musical love. I am having more fun than I could ever have hoped for."

He has served as president, vice president, and secretary of the Atlanta chapter.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President - John Fischer

7459 Cabbage Palm Court, Sarasota, FL 34241
941-927-6852 johnalanf@verizon.net

Vice President - Chaz Bender

4812 Jasper Dr, #207 New Port Richey, FL 34652
727-919-0042 chaz@theatrepipeorgan.com

Secretary - Barbara Bender

4812 Jasper Dr, #207 New Port Richey, FL 34652
727-919-0042 chaz@theatrepipeorgan.com

Treasurer - George Milburn

4843 Winter Haven Drive, Sarasota, FL 34233
941-927-2555 george@milburn.us

Membership - Yvonne George

5733 Augusta Circle, Sarasota, FL 34238
941-922-2044 fpg6440@msn.com

DIRECTORS

Mary Alexander, Norman Arnold,
Yvonne George,
John Hegener, Chuck Pierson

Organ Preservation - Norman Arnold

8261 Coash Road, Sarasota, FL 34241
941-922-9277 organchief@mtos.us

Pipe Notes Editor - Mary Alexander

195 Tiger Lilly Drive, Parrish, FL 34219
941-776-3668 malex1938@tampabay.rr.com

Program Chair - John Fischer

7459 Cabbage Palm Court, Sarasota, FL 34241
941-927-6852 johnalanf@verizon.net

Publicity - Chaz Bender

4812 Jasper Dr, #207 New Port Richey, FL 34652
727-919-0042 chaz@theatrepipeorgan.com

Webmaster - George Milburn

WEBSITE: mtos.us

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

February 15, 2009

John Fischer, President, started the meeting by asking for a show of hands. About a quarter of the audience had never seen or heard the Forker organ. About one half had come to the Christmas events. He spoke briefly of the organ's history, that all the instruments were real and there were no speakers. The organ really replaces an entire orchestra and is a piece of American history.

He then introduced Dave Wickerham. Dave started his performance with "Get Happy," followed by a Valentine's Day medley, including "My Funny Valentine." He played several Scott Joplin ragtime pieces, which he stated was his favorite type of music, followed by "Satin Doll," "Take the A Train," and some old Gospel songs, "All Is Well With My Soul" and "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

His Andrew Lloyd Weber medley brought the house down. His special arrangements of "Lullaby Of Birdland" and "The Music Box" were astounding. Dave showed his superb talent by playing all types of music, including a tango and a march. "Tico Tico" and the "Muskrat Ramble" were highlights of this magnificent performance.

Dave was absolutely amazing! He is nothing short of genius. His fingering, pedalwork and outstanding, complex arrangements were exquisitely executed. This was a concert not to be missed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara M. Bender, Secretary

April 2009



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|---------------------|----------------------|
| 2 - Brigid Guarino | 21 - Eloise Pett |
| 3 - David Henderson | 21 - Sandra Psenicka |
| 4 - Edwin Ford | 28 - Janet Mueller |
| 8 - Eleanor Northen | 28 - Jean Stone |
| 13 - Barbara Davis | 29 - Bob Briner |
| 17 - Cliff McCloy | 30 - Joseph Leopold |

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

BIRTHDAYS: Please notify me if your birthday has not been listed in Pipe Notes (or it is listed in the wrong month).

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY PHOTOS: If your photo was not in the 2007-2008 MTOS Membership Directory, or you are a new member, I would very much appreciate receiving a photo of yourself for the new directory when it is issued.

PLEASE NOTE: ANY and ALL use of our MTOS Wurlitzer Organ at Grace Baptist Church **MUST** to be cleared with Chuck Pierson (941-924-0674 or cpipes@aol.com). If Chuck is not available, contact Norm Arnold (941-922-9277 or organchief@mtos.us).

EMAIL ADDRESSES: If you have changed your email address or if you are able to read and print your copy of *Pipe Notes* online and do not need a copy mailed to you, please notify me.

NAME TAGS: Name Tags can be purchased from Carl Walker or Yvonne George. The regular pin is \$5.50 and the magnetic pin is \$8.00. Also, don't forget to wear your Name Tag to **ALL** events, including concerts!

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: Please add the following new members.

Dr. Jack Greer
15 Mimosa Drive
Sarasota, FL 34232
Phone: 941-371-3342
Email: drjackgreer@comcast.net

Peggy Puckett Gormley
411 Buttonwood Drive
Coppell, TX 75019-7553
Phone: 972-393-9014



ANNUAL ELECTION: If you are a member of ATOS, you are eligible to vote in our annual election in June. You still have time to become a member in order to vote. The ATOS Annual dues are \$40.00.

Please notify me regarding above items: 941-776-3668 or: malex1938@tampabay.rr.com or: 195 Tiger Lilly Dr., Parrish, FL 34219-8441.

2009 Cleveland Convention Treasures of the Western Reserve

presented by the

**Western Reserve Theatre Organ Society
Cleveland and N.E. Ohio and ATOS**

July 1-5, 2009

Overture - June 30, Encore - July 6

Convention Headquarters: Renaissance Cleveland Hotel

The 2009 Cleveland Convention will echo the days when hundreds of theatre organ enthusiasts visited opulent movie palaces where the "Mighty Wurlitzer" of yesteryear rose from below and thrilled us all! You'll enjoy eight 1920's movie palaces & theatres, twelve organs and fourteen world class organists. Plus, a family-oriented grand finale pops concert featuring a massive amount of talent, multiple artists and instruments! The "theatre" in theatre pipe organ has not meant so much to our annual gathering in many years!

You must be an ATOS Member to attend. See: ATOS.org.