



THE POST HORN

FALL 2026

Official Newsletter of the
Bluegrass Chapter
American Theatre Organ Society

www.bgatos.org

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TIM JONES RECEIVES NATIONAL CREW CHIEF AWARD



TIM JONES

BG ATOS Vice President **Tim Jones** has been recognized as a National Crew Chief by the American Theatre Organ Society. This award recognizes those members of ATOS who have given their time and dedication to the support of a particular instrument. Tim has worked as the crew chief for the restoration of the Kentucky Theatre 3/18 Wurlitzer organ (Opus 562) for a number of years. His knowledge and experience in theatre organ operations and restoration is key to the progress that has been made on this project.

Tim worked with fellow National Crew Chief award winner **Paul (Mac) Abernethy, Jr.** on the original Wurlitzer organ at the Granada Theatre in Bluefield, WV. Having located the original instrument in Indiana, Mac, Tim and others rebuilt the 2/10 organ and reinstalled it in the Granada Theatre.

Tim's attention to detail and to preserving the instrument in its original condition is well known. He does not just refurbish the instruments to playing condition, he takes the time to restore them to their original factory condition. This means that details such as using the same type of glue, using the same types of leather, finishing the hardware with the same coatings that Wurlitzer used back in the day as well as using wood from contemporaneous



Four members of BG ATOS attended the ATOS national convention in Rochester, NY. See story on page 13



William Webber (l) presenting the Crew Chief Award to Tim Jones (r) at the National ATOS convention Awards dinner on 7/8/26.

(Continued on next page)

TIM JONES RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

(continued from first page)

Wurlitzer organs that have been scrapped to make any repairs to the wood components are guiding principles for his restoration projects.

Tim has also provided essential assistance on other theatre organs in the area. He has contacts all over the country and works with numerous chapters in locating parts and service providers for their organ projects. At any point in time, there is also an extensive collection of organs and organ parts in various stages hiding in his basement.

Tim grew up in the Blue Ash area of Cincinnati. When he was 5 years old, his parents took him to the Springdale Music Palace. The Music Palace had a theatre organ playing while you ate your meal and while listening to it, Tim caught the bug for theatre organ music. He decided right then and there that this was something he wanted to do. He took piano lessons from age 7. It wasn't until he was 18, however, that he was able to turn his attention to playing theatre organ. He started listening to every theatre organ recording he could find and he taught himself how to play using those recordings as his lesson guides. Today he is an accomplished theatre organist and has performed at the KY Theater for over 15 years.

Tim's day job is fascinating. He is an engineering technician with the Kentucky Transportation Center. This is a research center within the UK College of Engineering. As part of his job, he goes out and inspects, measures and reports on the status of roads, road projects and road work all across the state. He is also a skilled draftsman and surveying technician.



Tim Jones after receiving his national ATOS Crew Chief Award.



ATOS CONVENTION ORGANS

These are four of the organs featured at the recent ATOS national convention. For more, see the story on page 13
(from left) 1) West Herr Performing Arts Center Wurlitzer 4/23, 2) Eisenhart Auditorium Wurlitzer 3/12, 3) Riviera Theater Wurlitzer 3/16, 4) Shey's Performing Arts Center Wurlitzer 4/28.

MAC ABERNETHY, Jr. - NATIONAL CREW CHIEF AWARD

Mac Abernethy, Jr. was also recognized as a National Crew Chief for his work on multiple theatre pipe organs in North Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee over the years. Work, which to this day, he continues doing. Mr. Abernethy is the son of the late Paul Abernethy Sr. who was the chairman of ATOS from 1974 to 1976. Mac Jr. was on the ATOS Board from 1978 to 1982.

Tim Jones and Mac worked on the Wurlitzer at the Granada Theatre in Bluefield, West Virginia. Having located the original instrument in Indiana, Mac, Tim and others rebuilt the 2/10 Wurlitzer and reinstalled it in the Granada Theatre. Mac is the crew chief of the Piedmont chapter which maintains this instrument and others.



Mac at the Granada Organ console



William Webber, National ATOS Vice Chairman and Chairmen of the Awards committee presenting Mac Abernethy his award as National Crew Chief. Attending the presentation were (l to r) Julene Jones, Tim Jones, Brian Hunt, William Webber, Mac Abernethy, Cindy Abernethy, Dr. Barry Simmons.

JOHN LAUTER - ORGANIST OF THE YEAR

John Lauter was recognized as the ATOS Organist of the Year during the national convention awards dinner on 7/8/26. In the photo, John (left) is shown being presented his award by William Webber, chair of the ATOS Awards Committee.

John's knowledge of organists and organs is vast and expansive. He is always more than happy to regale one with stories of the great organists and performers of past and present. Beyond that, John's musical ability on the theatre organ is second to none. Listening to him perform, one can expect to be treated to a musical adventure including everything from the standards he played in his pizza parlor days to new Disney arrangements. John regularly performs at both the Redford Theatre and Senate Theatre in Detroit.

Locally, some of our BGATOS members might remember that we hired Mr. Lauter in October, 2019 to travel down to The Kentucky Theater from Detroit where he accompanied the silent film STEAMBOAT BILL starring Buster Keaton.



Photo by Donnie Rankin

KENTUCKY THEATRE WURLITZER PIPE ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT

The Bluegrass ATOS Chapter's project to restore the Kentucky Theater's Wurlitzer theatre organ (Opus 562) is entering a new phase which is both exciting and at the same time, very detail oriented.

Leading up to that, we worked on completing the remaining tasks on the bottom boards. The first task involved putting the magnet caps with the armatures on each of the magnets. I have to note that we polished each of the individual caps so well that they looked, I suspect, even better than the day they were originally installed.

After that we connected the magnets by soldering one of the magnet lead wires to the common wire on the bottom board and then soldering the other lead wire to the connector which will eventually go to the relay controller.

Once we finished those two tasks we were ready for the next big phase. We went to our climate controlled storage area and brought the 3 rank and 5 rank chests back to the workshop so that we could begin installing these completed bottom boards. The chests already have the toe (top) boards with the pallet valves installed and the cabinets themselves already have the secondary valves installed, so installing the bottom boards completes the wind chests, which is a major milestone.

With the bottom boards installed, we now had the detail task of testing each individual note to ensure that all the parts were working correctly. Tim has provided a small blower/regulator assembly which we are using to pressurize each rank individually to mimic the actual organ operation.

There are multiple variables which have to be accounted for during the testing. The armature has to be positioned at the right depth to allow the magnet to discharge the air for the primary pneumatic.

The primary pneumatic has to travel the right distance when it collapses. The primary valve has to be positioned such that the secondary valve is pressurized when the pipe is not playing and the discharge side of the valve is open sufficiently when the pipe is playing. (Note: this turned out to be the biggest area where we had to make adjustments).



Tim Jones (l) and Scott Marsh next to the 3 rank wind chest with all bottom boards installed.

We also have to ensure that all the gaskets are sealing properly to eliminate any leaks to maintain proper air pressure. We are having great success with the 3 rank chest and have two of the three ranks (Tibia and Tuba) completed. The Vox is next and will be done shortly. We will then turn our attention to the 5 rank chest. Concurrently, we have started work on the offset chests which are essentially smaller wind chests.

Getting the main wind chests reassembled and working is a major step in the organ restoration project.

Chapter members who have worked with project leader Tim Jones on the project these past few months include Brian Hunt, Scott Marsh and Dana Ross.

ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT PICTURES



Brian (l) doing the initial polishing of the magnet caps. Scott (r) doing the finish polishing of the magnet caps.



MAGNET CAPS

Magnet Cap components.
On the left is a magnet cap as it was when it was removed.
Second from left is a polished cap.
In the middle is a special tool that Tim developed to install the armature (which is the small round disk second from right).
On the right is a magnet cap with the armature installed.



Scott (l) is checking the alignment of the armature in the magnet cap. Brian (r) is adjusting the position of the armature to get it in the right place.



Tim installing the magnet caps



Closeup of the special tool used to tighten the DAG screws which hold the cap on.



Closeup of the magnet caps on the bottom board.



Waiting on one more magnet cap to be installed and this board will be done.

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ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT PICTURES

MAGNET LEAD WIRES



Brian installing the common wire.



Scott (l) and Brian (r) putting soldering paste on the connecting wires prior to soldering.



Tim (l) and Scott (r) soldering one of the magnet leads to the common wire which runs the length of the bottom board.



(left) Tim, (center) Scott and (right) Brian. All are working on soldering the other magnet lead wire to the connection which will eventually go to the relay.



Bottom board with the magnet wires connected.



Brian (l) and Scott (r) sorting the screws for the bottom boards. There are two sizes and it is critical to get the right length in the right place.



A view inside the 3 rank chest showing the secondary valves (laying horizontally) and the pallet valves (standing vertically). The primary valve on the bottom board will cause the secondary to collapse which will open the pallet valve allowing wind into the pipe creating sound.



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ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT PICTURES

IT'S MOVING DAY



The 3 Rank and 5 Rank Wind Chests have been in our climate controlled storage area waiting for the call to go back to the workshop. Here they begin their journey and are loaded up into Tim's truck for the short trip down the street.



We had to open the big doors to the workshop to get them in. With some careful maneuvering, they are now in place and ready for their next step.

BLOWER



One of the first things which had to be done in order to test the vaves was to set up the blower.

On the left is the unit which is a small self contained blower/ regulator combination that Tim built to provide pressurized air for testing purposes.

On the right, Tim is working with a custom junction box which will be attached to the wind chest while Scott attempts to wrestle the air hose into submission.



ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT PICTURES

VALVE TESTING AND ADJUSTMENTS



Everyone had to take a turn being an organ pipe. Since the chest was on its side, we had to hold a pipe in place while we testing the valves. The benefit was that you got to hear the sound of the organ up close as each note was tested.

While we did most of our testing by triggering the magnets manually, Brian did do electrical testing for continuity using an external power supply.



As a result of the testing, several of the notes needed an adjustment. Most of the time, it was the primary valve assembly. Sometimes it was the magnet armature. Other times Tim had to put on his headlight and stick his head in the chest to see what was going on.



3 Rank Chest waiting for the first bottom board to be installed



3 Rank Chest with the middle rank (Tibia) installed.



3 Rank Chest with just one board left to install.

ORGAN RESTORATION PROJECT PICTURES

do

OFFSET CHESTS



Scott is marking leather gaskets to be used in the offset chests. Each one will be cut out and have the holes punched to match the valves.



Tim is running the cabinet boards for the Offset chests through a sander to ensure a perfectly flat surface.



Disassembly of the primary boxes involved delicately prying them apart.



Sometimes, the disassembly of the primary boxes took a little extra effort.



Tim is removing the old gasket material using a hot water bath. The stylish blue gloves were essential.



Using a plane to do the final finishing on the offset cabinet boards.

SUMMER MOVIE CLASSIC ORGANISTS

BG ATOS organists continued the tradition of playing theater organ selections for the Kentucky Theater's Summer Classic Movie series. The Theater shows specially chosen classic movies on Wednesdays during the summer months.

Our organists play for about 30 minutes prior to the start of the movie on the Allen organ in the theater auditorium. Each organist selects their own music and performs in their own style which gives the audience, many of whom come every Wednesday, a wide appreciation of the musical capabilities of the theater organ. Often when the movie has a distinctive theme, the organists try to incorporate some of that music in their playlist.

The organists schedule for the Wednesday evening showings is:

5/20/2026	Lynn Vera	The Right Stuff
5/27/2026	Tim Jones	My Cousin Vinny
6/3/2026	Lynn Vera	The Graduate
6/10/2026	Brian Hunt	Spellbound
6/17/2026	Brian Hunt	Lady and the Tramp
6/24/2026	Lynn Vera	Annie Hall
7/1/2026	Tim Jones	Carmen Jones
7/8/2026	Patrick Valentino	Spinal Tap
7/15/2026	Lynn Vera	Bringing Up Baby
7/22/2026	Tim Jones	Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade
7/29/2026	Tim Jones	Cabaret
8/5/2026	Brian Hunt	All the President's Men
8/12/2026	Lynn Vera	The Philadelphia Story
8/19/2026	Patrick Valentino	Touch of Evil
8/26/2026	Patrick Valentino	Unforgiven
9/2/2026	Brian Hunt	Psycho
9/9/2026	Tim Jones	The Big Lebowski



Lynn Vera



Patrick Valentino



Tim Jones



Brian Hunt

In addition to evening performances, organist **Patrick Valentino** performed afternoon matinee performances for select showings.

FROM THE FRONT- 2026 NEW YORK CONVENTION



by William Webber

National ATOS Vice-Chairman

Greetings from the American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS). Four of our Bluegrass Chapter members attended the convention this past July in Rochester, New York. It was a grand convention with lots of great theatre organists from both the United States as well as from England and Scotland. The four members who attended were Tim Jones, Dana Ross, Brian Hunt, and me. It was great to see so many old friends and fellow organists who share our love of the theatre pipe organ.

Our chapter vice president, TIM JONES, received an award for his work as a CREW CHIEF in the restoration work of the Kentucky Theatre's 3-manual 18-rank Wurlitzer, which was original to the theatre in 1922, and upgraded in 1926. The work continues with chapter members Scott Marsh, Tim Jones, Brian Hunt, and Dana

Ross devoting their time in our shop rebuilding the instrument. We have a way to go before it's finished and back in the Kentucky Theatre, but we are on our way there thanks to these gentlemen.

As vice-chair of the American Theatre Organ Society Board of Directors, I have been chair of both the Awards Committee and the Scholarship Committee for young organists. I was pleased to award JOHN LAUTER of Detroit as the ATOS ORGANIST OF THE YEAR. This was a long time coming and very well deserved. He is staff organist at The Redford Theatre in Detroit and plays weekly for that venue. Some of you may remember him coming from Detroit to play at The Kentucky Theatre for the movie "Steamboat Bill" in 2019 accompanying the silent film on the theatre's current Allen organ. John and I went to Molly Brooke's Irish Pub in downtown Lexington for some serious Bourbon after the performance. As is often said, "A good time was had by all !!"

The American Theatre Organ Society's membership continues to grow as we are becoming more visible in the last couple of years. Our current Board Chair, Shawn Kinney, has worked diligently to bring in new and returning members such that our organization has grown by over 20% in the last year alone. There is a resurgence of interest in theatre pipe organs in the last couple of years, and many, like ours, are being rebuilt and restored all over the United States.

During the last week of August, our board chair Shawn Kinney spent that entire week at our new headquarters at THE SHANKLIN MUSIC HALL in Groton, Massachusetts, which is just outside of Boston. Our archives will soon be there as well as our ATOS offices and telephone with voicemail. This is a merger that our organization will have at the behest of Norm and Molly Shanklin, the family for which the music hall is named. The music hall contains a grand Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ which has 4 manuals (keyboards) and 34 ranks of pipes. It is one of the best-sounding theatre pipe organs in the world. This new arrangement with the SHANKLIN MUSIC HALL promises a great future for The American Theatre Organ Society.

See you at THE KENTUCKY THEATRE soon !!

William (Bill) Webber, CAGO

Retired Associate Organist, The Kentucky Theatre

Vice-Chair of the Board of The American Theatre Organ Society

Member of the Board of Directors of The Bluegrass Chapter, ATOS

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PATRICK VALENTINO PERFORMANCES

Patrick Valentino is planning a busy schedule of silent film performances!

On Oct 30, 2026 at 7pm Patrick will be accompanying the 1925 silent film "The Phantom of the Opera" at 2nd Presbyterian Church (3701 Old Brownsboro Rd. Louisville KY). Patrick will be performing a live improvised score. This event is hosted by the Louisville AGO.



Phantom is the classic 1925 American silent horror film adaptation of Gaston Leroux's 1910 novel of the same name starring Lon Chaney in the title role of the deformed Phantom who haunts the Paris Opera House, causing murder and mayhem in an attempt to make the woman he loves a star. The film remains most famous for Chaney's ghastly, self-devised make-up, which was kept a studio secret until the film's premiere. The picture also features Mary Philbin, Norman Kerry, Arthur Edmund Carewe, Gibson Gowland, John St. Polis and Snitz Edwards.



PATRICK VALENTINO

Patrick is planning to perform "Frate Sole" sometime in either Nov, Dec, or Jan (most likely not Dec). He'll be accompanying the movie at St. Francis of Assisi church (1960 Bardstown Rd, Louisville, KY). The actual date is still to be determined, based on availability of a print of the movie which would be provided by the Milan Film Institute who restored it.

"Frate Sole" (Brother Sun) is a 1918 Italian silent film based on the life of St Francis of Assisi, directed by Ugo Falena and Mario Corsi. The film has four episodes, 1) The kiss of the leper, 2) In the footsteps of St. Francis of Assisi, 3) Time, and 4) The stigmata. The film was restored in 1998 with the assistance of Cineteca Italiana.



And looking further into the future, Patrick is hoping to play a few more movies next season and then accompany "The Passion of Joan of Arc" in 2028, as it will be the centennial year of that movie.

"The Passion of Joan of Arc" (French: La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc) is a 1928 French silent historical film based on the actual record of the trial of Joan of Arc. The film was directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer and stars Renée Jeanne Falconetti as Joan. It is widely regarded as a landmark of cinema especially for its production, Dreyer's direction and Falconetti's performance, which is often listed as one of the finest in cinema history. The film summarizes the time that Joan of Arc was a captive of England, depicting her trial and execution.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE BLUEGRASS CHAPTER of the AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

1977 - Jim Donovan

1978 - Dr. John W. Landon

1979 - Dr. John Courter

1981 - Mell W. Crouch

1982 - Bill Johnson

1985 - Bill Johnson

1986 - David A. Bottom

1990 - David A. Bottom

2009 - Dean McCleese

2012 - Dean McCleese

2013 - David Pratt

2015 - William A. Webber

2019 - Tim Jones

BG ATOS MEMBERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTION

Four members of the Bluegrass Chapter attended the ATOS National Convention in Rochester, NY during the second week of July. Enjoying a week of outstanding music were Brian Hunt, Tim Jones, Dana Ross and William Webber.

The 68th Annual ATOS Convention, titled "ROC The Pipes," took place from July 6 to July 10, 2026 and was hosted by the Rochester Theater Organ Society (RTOS). The concerts featured historic Wurlitzer and Marr & Colton organs across Upstate New York.

The performance schedule included a Brett Valliant concert at the Clemens Center in Elmira; Nathan Avakian at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre in Rochester; Ben Forsthoffer at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre and the Young Artists showcase with Declan Poole at the Rochester Museum & Science Center.



Concerts at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, NY featured Dave Wickerham in the morning and Aaron Hawthorne in the afternoon. The evening concert at Shea's Buffalo Theatre was performed by Richard Hills. Two additional concerts at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre featured Mark Herman and Donnie Rankin. Performances at the Capitol Theatre in Rome and the Empire State Theatre in Syracuse concluded the convention.

When asked about a favorite performance, Tim noted that, "Narrowing down a hands-down favorite concert or artist is always tough. Each venue and artist present their unique perspective and ambiance that cannot be duplicated elsewhere. I truly enjoyed each concert and artist. But the one that stands out in my mind post-convention is Aaron Hawthorne's concert at the Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda."

Brian has a clear favorite artist. "As it is with just about any larger ATOS event I have attended- my favorite is seeing and hearing the incomparable Dave Wickerham in performance. He is a consummate theater organist and just an amazing talent. But what I like most about his concerts, is the infectious joy he shows when playing. It is hard to say whether his audience or he himself, is

having the better time! One other comment about his performance, is that one can relate to so much of the music he plays. More than $\frac{3}{4}$ of tunes he plays are well known and memorable. A number of the other artists at the convention have a tendency to play selections that are often less well known- and consequently, limiting the enjoyment factor to folks who have more specialized knowledge of this infrequently played repertoire."

William tends to like theatre organists who are not afraid to talk to (and even tease or joke with) the audience. His favorite two organ concerts at the ATOS 2026 Convention were Scottish organist Aaron Hawthorne at The Riviera Theatre in North Tonawanda, New York and American Theatre organist Donnie Rankin at the West Herr Auditorium Theatre in Rochester, New York. "Aaron Hawthorne was a delightful surprise for me, as I had not heard him play before. As for



BG ATOS MEMBERS ATTEND NATIONAL CONVENTION

(continued from previous page)

Donnie Rankin, his jazzy arrangements were outstanding and he wadded up pieces of paper and threw them into the crowd as if he was bored with it all. Both gentlemen put on an excellent program of theatre pipe organ music."

In addition to meeting up with old friends and making new ones, the group attended various seminars and business meetings. Especially of value was a technical session on the Uniflex relay system.



The BG ATOS crew at the Young Artists concert in Rochester, NY.

The convention included a visit to the site of the Wurlitzer factory in North Tonawanda, NY. Even though the factory has been closed for a long time, it was a significant and poignant moment to be in the very building where our Kentucky Theatre Wurlitzer was crafted and assembled over a hundred years ago.

The North Tonawanda factory produced an extensive range of instruments that evolved over its 80-year operating history. In addition to our organ (Opus 562), two of the more notable theatre organs produced there are the legendary 4-manual, 28-rank organ for Shea's Buffalo Theatre in 1925, and the demonstration unit installed directly down the street at the historic Riviera Theatre in 1926. It is important to note that both of these organs are in use today and both were featured in concerts for the convention.

While there are many events going on at the convention, sometimes it's the unscripted times that are most enjoyable. Tim expressed that "catching up with friends and meeting new acquaintances," was something he really enjoyed.

(Continued on next page)



Brian with performing artist Aaron Hawthorne



William (5th from left) on the dais along with the officers and directors of the national ATOS organization at the annual member meeting.



William answering questions at the member meeting

LISTEN TO THEATRE ORGAN MUSIC

The National ATOS organization sponsors "Theatre Organ Radio" which is an online service providing a variety of theatre organ music by different organists on different instruments. You can listen anytime at: <https://www.atos.org/listen>

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Brian echoed that sentiment, "I suppose the most enjoyable part of the convention, is reconnecting with old friends, and making new theater organ lover friends! In my lifetime of music making, I find musicians- and in my case, organists, are a fairly tight knit group. We have an unspoken kinship that is a wonderful feeling! Of course, getting to see new instruments and venues is also a great thing."

While Brian, Tim and Dana were able to just attend and enjoy the convention, William's experience was a little different. As Vice-Chairman of ATOS and Chair of the Awards Committee, he had multiple executive meetings to attend, he was on the dais for the annual member meeting and he was the presenter for the various awards given out at the Award Banquet on Wednesday. William explained that while he wanted to be on the ATOS board, he never intended to be an officer. Clearly in making him an officer, the other ATOS executives have recognized the excellent job he is doing as part of the board. During these past years, William acknowledges that he has certainly learned a lot about the ATOS organization, how it works, and when it doesn't.

For those who have never been to an ATOS convention, William suggests that you keep up with changes to the schedule daily, for that is how often changes can happen. He also suggests that those attending try to make friends with other theatre organ attendees. It makes things more enjoyable and helps for future conventions. He noted that he has attended four conventions in the last number of years, and he always learns new stuff and makes new friends who he sees in the future.

Adding to those thoughts, Brian says, "For someone who has never been to a national convention, I would say the opportunity to hear world class artists in almost 'other worldly' venues- particularly the theater palaces of the early 20th century is an absolute must for anyone caught up in the love of theater organs and their music. As there are so relatively few venues left in the US and abroad, it is almost an essential charge to folks to continue to come out and support these venues and the artists who play there. We are the core of this genre of musical arts – and it is our duty to keep alive this great art form- and to continue to invite others to join us!"



Dave Wickerham talking to the audience during his concert at the Riviera Theatre in Buffalo.



William with Stephen Ashley who is the on air personality for "HOT PIPES" which is a theatre organ radio station.

And on a practical note, Tim offers some advice for anyone going to one of the conventions or actually attending any theatre organ concert. "For venues which have a balcony, the best spot to hear the instrument is usually in the lower balcony/logge". (editor) That's good to know!

Brian would like to let everyone know that as of this time, the location of the 2027 ATOS national convention is still in discussion- so stay tuned for further developments as they become available. In addition to the ATOS convention, he has attended the Party on the Pipes mini convention in St. Louis. He would commend folks to consider this musical offering as well. It is very well planned and executed, and overall, is pretty economical as its fee usually covers the musical events and most of the meals so it is quite attractive financially!

BLUEGRASS CHAPTER ATOS ANNUAL MEETING

The Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society held its Annual Meeting and Dinner on June 6th, 2026 at a local Lexington Resturant.

Holly Martin and Scott Marsh were recognized for making all of the arrangements for the meeting.

Lynn Vera was recognized for her performance in the indie movie "Palace" which was filmed in the Kentucky Theatre. Fittingly, Lynn played the role of an organist and both her and her music were featured.

Organists Brian Hunt, Tim Jones, Patrick Valentino and Lynn Vera were recognized for playing pre-show concerts before the sixteen movies of the Summer Movie Classic series this summer.

Scott Martin was recognized for making the arrangements with WLEX TV 18 who came to our workshop and filmed the project activity. They then featured segments on our Wurlitzer organ restoration project on the news that evening.

William Webber was recognized as the new Vice Chairman of the National ATOS organization. He reported that ATOS has partnered with the Shanklin Music Hall in Groton, MA. This location will now be the headquarters for ATOS. In addition to providing an address and phone number for ATOS, the archives will be housed there. A project will be initiated to catalog and digitize the archives to make the information available for general use. The 2026 national convention will be in Rochester, NY. There are currently 63 ATOS chapters.

Lynn Vera reported on our new Web Site and Social Media activity. Lynn has upgraded the platform we are using for our site. It can be found at BGATOS.COM and BGATOS.ORG. She noted that we got 562 views the day of the TV segment and 1310 views that week. Other postings that got good views were a Valentine's Day concert by Lynn and Dr. Landon's Easter Parade performance. She noted that 40% of the views on our site are coming from mobile devies. There is a new feature which allows for announcements to appear on the front page of the site through an externally managed document. This allows for current updates to appear without having to involve the webmaster.

Brian Hunt presented the Treasurer's report. The majority of our expenditures are related to our Wurlitzer restoration project with the biggest individual expense being the workshop rental cost.

Tim Jones gave an update on the Wurlitzer organ restoration project. The current activity is focused on the 3 rank and 5 rank wind chests. Work on these chests is nearing completion. Work is starting on the offset chests. An update was provided on a meeting with the Kentucky Theatre management and architect as well as a meeting with Lexington General Services commissioner regarding the plan to install the organ in the Theatre. The presentation document used in these meetings was available at this annual meeting for review. Two of the bottom boards along with various individual components were displayed to show the progress being made by the restoration project.



Attending the Annual Meeting (front row l to r) Lynn Vera, Cheryl McGahen, Brian Hunt, Holly Martin, (Back row l to r) Rhonda Marsh, Garry Marsh, Tim Jones, William Webber, Devon Williams, Dana Ross, Scott Marsh.

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DONATIONS TO BG ATOS

Kroger Community Rewards

Go to <http://krogercommunityrewards.com>

Link your Kroger Plus Shopper's Card to our charitable organization, Bluegrass Chapter American Theatre Organ Society, organization number 42729.

Go Fund Me

The chapter has a GO FUND ME page set up to accept donations. This can be accessed by going to the GO FUND ME site at www.gofundme.com. Select the search icon in the upper left and enter "Kentucky Theatre Organ". A picture of our gold Wurlitzer console will head the BG ATOS donation site which is "Help Bring the Wurlitzer back to the Kentucky Theatre".

Direct Donation to the Chapter

You can make a donation directly to the chapter by going to the DONATE page on our website "bgatos.org".

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION STATUS

The Bluegrass Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All donations are used to further the mission of the chapter which is to actively support and promote the theatre pipe organ and its music in the Bluegrass State and western West Virginia. Our current project is the restoration of the Mighty Wurlitzer theatre organ which played in the Kentucky Theatre over 100 years ago.

ANNUAL DUES

If you haven't paid your BG ATOS Annual Dues for the 2026-2027 year, we encourage you to respond. You can pay by mail (send your \$15 check made out to BG ATOS to "Bluegrass Chapter ATOS; PO Box 910141; Lexington, KY 40591-0141) or pay online. Go to our website "BGATOS.ORG" and follow the payment instructions on the MEMBERSHIP Tab. Dues are important to the chapter as they provide the means for us to operate and they help with the restoration project of the Kentucky Theater Wurlitzer. We thank you for your support.

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HISTORIAN: **Dr. John Landon**

RESTORATION: **Tim Jones**

SOCIAL MEDIA, WEBMASTER: **Lynn Vera**

HOSPITALITY: **Holly Martin, Scott Marsh**

NEWSLETTER: **Dana Ross**