



Ann Leaf.

A WORD FROM ANN LEAF:

I was gratified to at last make the list of honorees and enter the Hall of Fame, joining many friends who had preceded me — so many whom I had known and admired.

My association with ATOS (ATOE in those days) began in 1962, two years after the “soap operas” left the radio networks, when I had returned to Los Angeles. I was asked by a group of organ enthusiasts to play for them at the home of Joe Kearns. He had a fine Wurlitzer in his home, and wanted to help the group organize so that they could have regular organ concerts.

Don Wallace enlisted my help in searching for a playable organ in a theatre. We found the Wiltern, with a Kimball organ that needed work, but had the possibility of being used in the near future with the help of willing workers.

Again, I was asked to play, this time at the Wiltern late at night, and for a much larger group, hoping to bring more members into the organ

association. This accomplished what was hoped for, the gathering together of more people who had nostalgic memories of the theatre pipe organ and its appeal.

Much enthusiasm was generated for having a public concert, but none of the founding members had any experience in that area, and were naturally hesitant about entering this strange territory. One member, who had been connected with a theatre some years before, Jack Reynolds, asked me if I'd let him put on a concert at the Wiltern. I agreed, and with the devoted help from those in the club who gave their time, energy, and skill to working on the organ, and the tireless efforts of Jack, who hounded the newspaper offices, spending money and energy to arouse some interest by the papers in what was going to take place, the concert was arranged. It wasn't easy, as there didn't seem to be anyone at the important newspapers with any interest in what we were trying to do. Finally, Jack, with his persistence, got through to someone who showed an interest. Five days before the concert the theatre story — “Organ concert at the Wiltern Theatre, late at night after the regular movie show” — was printed on the first page of the theatrical section of *The Los Angeles Times*. There were two large pictures, one of me at the console of the Wiltern organ, and another showing Ross Farmer in a pipe chamber.

Calls started to come into the box office for information about sale of seats. Such was the interest in the theatre pipe organ and, I hope, in me, that we had a full house, though we had to hold up the show until midnight to allow people to find parking on a stormy night, and buy their tickets.

It was a thrilling night for me to again play for an audience in a great theatre. I was only sad that Ben Hall couldn't have been there, as he was the one who got me back to the theatre organ in New York, and was responsible for getting me back to practicing at Loew's King Theatre in Brooklyn.

There have been many enjoyable, for me, concerts across the nation, and I'm grateful to the people who have made this career possible.

Sincerely,
Ann Leaf □