

# HALL OF FAME

Lowell C. Ayars  
 Donald H. Baker  
 Stuart Barrie  
 Dessa Byrd  
 Paul Carson  
 Gaylord B. Carter  
 Milton Charles  
 Edwin L. "Buddy" Cole  
 Bernie Cowham  
 Helen A. Crawford  
 Jesse J. Crawford  
 Francis H. Cronin  
 William R. Dalton  
 Lloyd G. del Castillo  
 Reginald Dixon  
 Edward J. Dunstedter  
 Lee O. Erwin, Jr.  
 Francis "Gus" Farney

Frederick Feibel  
 Mildred M. Fitzpatrick  
 Reginald Foort  
 Paul H. Forster  
 Dean L. Fossler  
 John Gart  
 Betty Gould  
 Thomas Grierson  
 Arthur Gutow  
 John F. Hammond  
 Elwell "Eddie" Hanson  
 W. "Tiny" James  
 Henri A. Keates  
 Frederick Kinsley  
 Rex Koury  
 Sigmund Krumgold  
 Edith Lang  
 Ambrose Larsen

Ann Leaf  
 Richard W. Leibert  
 Leonard MacClain  
 Quentin Maclean  
 Roderick H. "Sandy" Macpherson  
 Albert Hay Malotte  
 Dr. Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone  
 Alfred M. Melgard  
 F. Donald Miller  
 Charles Sharpe Minor  
 John T. Muri  
 Henry B. Murtagh  
 Dr. Milton Page  
 Henry Francis Parks  
 Dr. C. A. J. Parmentier  
 Alexander D. Richardson  
 Edna S. Sellers

Preston H. Sellers, Jr.  
 Gerald Shaw  
 Raymond G. Shelley  
 Arsene Siegel  
 Milton Slosser  
 Kathleen O. Stokes  
 Firmin Swinnen  
 Sidney Torch  
 Emil Velazco  
 Deszo Von D'Antalfy  
 G. Oliver Wallace  
 Thomas "Fats" Waller  
 Jack Ward  
 Edward J. Weaver  
 Lew White  
 Jean Wiener  
 George Wright

## Hall of Fame Organist — 1983

Our choice for the "Hall of Fame — 1983" became so much more famous as a composer, jazz pianist, singer and leader of a small combo that his sterling performances as a theatre organist were often overlooked in his latter years. **Thomas "Fats" Waller** was born in New York City in 1904 and died at the age of 39 in Kansas City, Missouri. He mastered organ at the Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York of which his father was pastor. He reverently referred to the pipe organ as the "God-Box" even after he became a theatre organist at the age of fifteen. As a theatre organist he toured the country as guest organist in large motion-picture houses. During the heyday of radio he was a staff organist for the CBS network. Regretfully, "Fats" made very few organ recordings but he did record in the early '20s for the Victor Phonograph Company on the Estey organ in their church studio in Camden, New Jersey. Later he was heard both with and without his rhythm group on the Hammond. His organ stylings, like his fabulous piano solos, were unique and his inclusion in our Hall of Fame, in the opinion of those who were fortunate enough to have heard him in person, on radio or by recording, is well deserved. □

## Organist of the Year — 1983

Our "Organist of the Year — 1983" is one of the best-known performers today. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the prestigious Juilliard School in New York City, having earned five years of scholarship in organ and a three-year Fellowship in orchestral conducting. He also holds the certificate of Associate from the American Guild of Organists. His theatrical credits include seven years as featured organist at New York's Radio City Music Hall, concertizing throughout the United States, England and Australia as well as conducting seminars on theatre organ techniques. He has furnished TV music for the *Jack Paar Show*, *Secret Storm*, *Love of Life*, *Guiding Light* and *Search for Tomorrow*. Amidst all this activity he has found time to be the organist for the New York Ethical Culture Society and to teach privately at his studio in his home at Closter, New Jersey. He has just been elected to a second term on the National Board of Directors of our Society. The Society is proud to have selected **Ashley Miller** as this year's honored organist. At the conclusion of this year he will become a member of the American Theatre Organ Society's Hall of Fame. □

## ATOS HONORARY MEMBERS

1959 — Jesse Crawford	1972 — Stu Green
1960 — Fanny Wurlitzer	1973 — Al & Betty Mason
1961 — Mel Doner	1974 — Lloyd E. Klos
1962 — Leonard MacClain	1975 — Joe Patten
1963 — Eddie Dunstedter	1976 — Floyd & Doris Mumm
1964 — Reginald Foort	1977 — Les & Edith Rawle
1965 — Dan Barton	1978 — Len Clarke
1966 — W. "Tiny" James	1979 — J. B. Nethercutt
1967 — Erwin A. Young	1980 — Sidney Torch
1968 — Richard C. Simonton	1981 — No selection made
1969 — Judd Walton	1982 — Lloyd G. del Castillo
1970 — Bill Lamb	1983 — Marian Miner Cook
1971 — George & Vi Thompson	

## ATOS PAST PRESIDENTS

Richard Simonton . . . . .	February 1955 - October 1958
Judd Walton . . . . .	October 1958 - July 1961
Tiny James . . . . .	July 1961 - July 1964
Carl Norvell . . . . .	July 1964 - July 1966
Dick Schrum . . . . .	July 1966 - July 1968
Al Mason . . . . .	July 1968 - July 1970
Stillman Rice . . . . .	July 1970 - July 1972
Erwin A. Young . . . . .	July 1972 - July 1974
Paul M. Abernethy . . . . .	July 1974 - July 1976
Ray F. Snitil . . . . .	July 1976 - July 1978
Preston M. Fleet . . . . .	July 1978 - November 1978
Tommy Landrum . . . . .	November 1978 - July 1980
Richard R. Haight . . . . .	July 1980 - June 1981
Lois F. Segur . . . . .	July 1981 - July 1983



## Changes Made in Hall of Fame and Organist of the Year Selection Process

At the suggestion of Director Lowell Ayars, Chairman of the Hall of Fame and Organist of the Year Committee, the ATOS Board of Directors unanimously agreed to further changes in the procedures for selecting those to be honored.

First, it seems highly desirable to separate the two categories, since the passing years have greatly diminished the number of organists who have made meaningful contributions to the art.

For the 1984 awards, the list of names from which the Hall of Fame selection is to be made will include not

only inactive or deceased performers, but also those who are still active but who make only limited appearances. The Hall of Fame Committee will continue to select the nominee(s), and the Board of Directors will confirm the committee's selection.

Second, the Organist of the Year will be selected by the directors and voting officers. Nominations from each of them will be received by the chairman, collated and sent back to them for voting by order of preference. There will be no change in the criteria by which the nominees are to be judged. These criteria include the-

atre organ styling, technique, manner of presentation, length of participation as a recognized performer and, insofar as possible, a judgment as to the demeanor so important to the upholding of the standard of professionalism expected from ATOS ideals.

The rationale behind this change is simply that the revolving makeup of the board will keep the candidate nominations current with changing times.

Third, the Organist of the Year will *not* be automatically included in the Hall of Fame at the end of the term. If, however, the artist's continued career and contribution to the art seems to warrant consideration at a later time he or she may then be nominated. □

## ATOS Officers and Directors-1983-1984

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President Lois Segur conducts the annual membership meeting at the Avenue Theatre. L to r at the table: Rex Koury, Ashley Miller, Allen Miller, Dale Mendenhall, Lowell Ayars, Bob McGillivray, Lois Segur, Tim Needler, John Ledwon, David Barnett, Richard Sklenar, Bob Gilbert. (CN)

