

American Theatre Organ Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! I firmly believe that 1985 will be a GREAT year for our American Theatre Organ Society.

All signs seem to point in that direction and it is my pleasure to welcome THREE more new chapters into our Society — two located in Tennessee, the Chattanooga Theatre Organ Society (CHATOS) and a brand new group in Knoxville. Then the latest to join up, the new Foothills Theatre Organ Society,

whose activities are centered around a Style F Wurlitzer installed in the Capitol Theatre in Charleston, West Virginia. Add to all that the good news that National ATOS Director Jack Moelmann has organized a good-sized new group of theatre organ devotees in the Omaha, Nebraska, area! At the risk of appearing redundant, I must again stress the need for recruiting new members for our Society if we are to continue to grow and to meet the goals to which we are dedicated. This is where each of you can help not only National, but your chapter as well. Very soon you will be receiving in the mail a colorful new brochure which is designed as an aid toward interesting new people in the purposes and activities of our Society. I think our Membership Committee has done a very good job of putting this new piece of informative and appealing promotional material together and I urge each of you to put it to the best possible use.

The Young Artists Awards competition is moving along quite well. Several chapters have already announced their local contests are under way. This annual contest is one wonderful way to interest young people in theatre organ, as well as in joining ATOS and becoming involved with your chapter activities. I sincerely hope your chapter or group is one that is planning to participate.

Several of you have been inquiring about the condition of the Ben Hall Organ and the whereabouts of this celebrated instru-

ment. As you undoubtedly already know, the organ is the property of ATOS National and is presently installed in the Carnegie Cinema Theatre in New York City, where the management plans to utilize it for concerts of various types as well as silent film accompaniment. Your National Board has pledged support toward making the necessary repairs, updating of the preset system, etc., to bring this fine little 2/7 Wurlitzer to tip-top condition. The project is under the direction of two of our current National Directors — Allen Miller and Ashley Miller. It is estimated that something in excess of \$5000 will be needed to complete the projected work. This is an undertaking that certainly merits your support, particularly on the part of those of you who remember Ben Hall and the "Little Mother" Wurlitzer with fondness. Donations to this project are tax deductible and will be most gratefully received.

It is with regret that I announce the resignation of Dr. Robert McGillivray as our National Treasurer. Bob's responsibilities, activities and tremendous workload all combined to influence his decision. I want to personally thank Bob McGillivray for the considerable time and energy he devoted to the Society and express the hope that he will sometime again make his expertise and experience available to us. In the meantime, ATOS Director Dale Mendenhall, who is currently treasurer of the Sierra Chapter, has graciously agreed to act as interim treasurer beginning February 1.

PLEASE! If you have not yet sent in your membership renewal, please do it at once. We want you to continue receiving your THEATRE ORGAN journal on schedule. Send your check or money orders to our Executive Director, Douglas Fisk, at P.O. Box 420490, Sacramento, California 95842.

That's it for now, friends. I look forward to seeing you in Chicago in August! Best wishes to you and yours.

Sincerely,

Rex Koury

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



During the past few weeks I have had opportunities to visit with many members and the leadership of several ATOS chapters. The enthusiasm and dedication members have for what is being done in their chapters makes a very positive impression on any observer. And I'm sure the result spreads and infects others with a similar attitude. It says there is lots of life in the theatre organ. GREAT!

Part of learning about activities of chapters has also been to ask questions regarding members' views of the services and activities of ATOS headquarters. Some very positive statements are heard regarding THEATRE ORGAN. It is appreciated, enjoyed and widely read. Another event about which members get enthusiastic is the annual convention. Congratulations to the chapters which have made the convention the highlight of the year for so many members.

Questions about other headquarters services make it clear that

improved communications are important to a more productive relationship with chapters and individual members in the future. And working TOGETHER, understanding the "why" of what is done, listening to the reasons for a change, and then figuring out the best way to help in the change will lead to a strong Society better able to accomplish its preservation purpose. These points apply to individual and chapter efforts, chapter/headquarters relations and to dealing with outside groups that may be able to help us accomplish our big goal.

Thus I see a major responsibility of my job as Executive Director is to ask questions, listen to the answers, check on similar situations and analyze it all carefully. Then the conclusion to use a particular approach should come closest to meeting everyone's needs.

In summary, ATOS is *one* organization with *one* goal. Within ATOS there are members who are also members of chapters, members who do not belong to chapters and members of one Board of Directors responsible for the operation of a headquarters office which shall work with *all* of the Society.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk