

## *Vintage Theatre Styles . . .*

# McMains Recordings Now Available From ATOS Archives

As a new service to members, the ATOS Archives is now offering two cassettes containing material originally recorded by Bill McMains. Tape 1 contains instruction material and demonstrations from McMains' four books *Vintage Theatre Styles for the Modern Organist*. Tape 2 contains 14 selections demonstrating the "Horseshoe Sound," played by McMains on a Robert-Morton theatre pipe organ. Details on how to obtain these recordings are given in the advertisement on this page.

The idea of offering this service was conceived by Preston M. "Sandy" Fleet, former President and Director of ATOS. He made all the necessary arrangements with Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation, publishers of the McMains books. Sandy is also responsible for arranging and funding the tape processing.

William O. McMains performed in many professional engagements, but was best known for his work as a teacher, and as author and composer of organ teaching material. His teaching work was centered at his studio, Harmony Cottage, in Oskaloosa, Iowa. With the assistance of a small staff of carefully selected teachers, McMains offered an annual 40-week program of keyboard instruction to all types and ages of aspiring young musicians and older music hobbyists. As he said, his courses did not include "Paleolithic Piano" or any of the "dodo bird approaches" to early keyboard training.

Bill McMains, in a preface to his *Vintage Theatre Styles* series, wrote "Theatre organ is much more than just the instrument itself. . . . And just what is it that sets apart this unique and incomparable sound that we call theatre organ? The answer is simple. It is music that is essentially melodic and rhythmic, embroidered with patterns and embellishments that evolved in the '20s and '30s when theatre organ was fresh and exciting. Above all, it is organ music that is

creative and imaginative, and here we encounter a real surprise in approaching the subject. Except for the themes and melodies employed, it makes very little difference whether you are considering traditional organ or theatre organ. They are both musical fields where creative improvisation has long been held in highest regard and both

are built upon a solid foundation of the musical verities of melody, rhythm and harmony."

The introduction to the McMains series was written by the late Dr. Melvin H. Doner, charter member of ATOE/ATOS and editor of *The Tibia*, the forerunner of THEATRE ORGAN. □

## SPECIAL LIMITED OFFER FROM ATOS ARCHIVES

Two hours of theatre organ music and narration. Two cassette tapes made from the original unedited stereo masters donated to ATOS by the Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation. Originally issued on records and sold with the four McMains books\*. All proceeds will be used to further ATOS Archives and historical library. For cassette tapes, send \$9.95 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling — check or money order — to:

**ATOS Archives — McMains Cassette Offer**  
**Attn: Vernon P. Bickel**  
**1393 Don Carlos Court**  
**Chula Vista, California 92010**

Allow two to three weeks for delivery.

\* Books are available from your local music store or the publisher until supplies run out (no plans to reprint).

To order books, contact:

**Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation**  
**8112 West Bluemound Road**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213**