

May we  
introduce . . .

## BRIAN HOLLAND

Indianapolis, Indiana, claims this young performer who delighted ATOSers at the Paramount Music Palace during the 1984 Convention. Brian, who was awarded first place in the regional Yamaha Electone Competition last summer, plays regularly for Footlite Musicals at the Hedback Theatre, is a playing member of the Hoosier Ragtime Society and attends Ben Davis Junior High School where he plays alto saxophone in the band.

Brian's grandmother, Lorraine Skaggs, tells us that this young man began his "love affair with the organ" when he was two and, by the time he was four, he was playing (by ear) any song he heard. His formal organ training began when he was six and studied under Mary Kay Jackson. At eight, his study of classical piano was initiated with teacher James Atkinson who sent him on to Mrs. Gerda Fisher-Kley with whom he has studied for the past five years.

On his eighth birthday, Brian debuted as one of the Central Indiana Chapter organists who provide the half-hour of music before each show presented by Footlite Musicals at the Hedback Theatre. Other organ performances have been for the Pipe Dream Restaurant in Kokomo and for Christmas at the Zoo in Indianapolis. As a member of the Hoosier Ragtime Society, Brian played rags on the organ last summer at the Long Center for the Performing Arts in Lafayette. He can also be heard on occasion playing Ragtime at the Boggstown Inn and Cabaret in Boggstown, Indiana. This busy young man still finds time to excel at his academic studies, to attend organ and piano concerts and to play once or twice a month for offertory at his church.

Last spring Brian won the local Yamaha competition in Indianapolis and moved on to the regional in Rockford, Illinois, where he won first place and a distinguished performance award for his improvisation. This



Brian Holland at the Ragtime Festival in Lafayette.

led to an expense-paid trip for Brian and his grandmother to Anaheim, California, for the nationals. Brian was asked to write about his trip for the Peanut Butter Press (a young peoples' newspaper), and his closing comment was, "I am going to work hard and enter Youth II in two years, and this time try to win the national and on to the international."

Brian turned 13 on April 6, and his ambition at this time is to become a concert pianist, a professional organist, a composer and a teacher. He is fascinated by synthesizers and electronics as well as by the power inherent in the pipes, and this melding of the old and the new speaks well for his future — and the future of the theatre organ.

Brian Holland can be reached c/o Mrs. Lorraine Skaggs, 4704 West Bertha Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46241.

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