

American Theatre Organ Society



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As outgoing ATOS President, this will be my final message to you. I shall be leaving the office with many happy memories and a greater-than-ever admiration and respect for all the fine people who make up our Society. Certainly you have been kind to me — a fact that has made the job all the more rewarding and pleasurable.

I am ever grateful to the other officers and members of our National Board who have aided and supported me so capably during my tenure. And, although they are not officially Board members, I extend my thanks to Bob Gilbert, who does a fine job of editing THEATRE ORGAN and for his dedication, and to our Executive Director, Doug Fisk, whose talents and experience have been extremely valuable.

I feel that we have accomplished much during the past two years. When I assumed office there were increasing problems with the recording of memberships and complaints from members not receiving their copies of THEATRE ORGAN. Through the efforts of Doug Fisk, Dale Mendenhall and Vern Bickel these problems have been all but eliminated. Our NATIONAL ARCHIVES have continued to grow under the direction of Mr. Bickel, to the extent that additional space will very soon be a necessity. We are very grateful, too, to the generous members who have made contributions of money and material to the Archives. This year sees the first YOUNG ARTISTS AWARD COMPETITION, which seems to be off to a fine start and which promises to be a long-term program to help and encourage young organists. This has been an undertaking of which I am particularly proud. My personal gratitude to Thelma Barclay and her Young Artists Competition Committee, and to Director Jack Moelmann for his valuable contribution of time, effort and

material to the project. This year, SEVEN NEW CHAPTERS are receiving Chapter Charters, reflecting, I sincerely believe, an unprecedented renewed interest in our Society and in theatre organ and its music and activities. Action is being taken to completely clarify the BEN HALL MEMORIAL WURLITZER situation and to provide for its future maintenance and, perhaps even more importantly, to insure its proper use as a benefit to our members.

Space does not allow me the opportunity to touch on the several other affirmative subjects I would like to tell you about. Sufficient to say that I will be leaving office with the genuine feeling that the American Theatre Organ Society is alive and well, that the relationship with, and service to, our many chapters and members improves all the time and, while we can't exactly be termed "rich," our Society is FINANCIALLY STABLE AND SOUND.

If I suffer any disappointment at all, it is that our national membership has not grown to the extent I had hoped. Obviously, this is a situation I can't blame on our administration, as the enrolling of new members falls more realistically to our chapters. National's growth depends largely on you, our individual members. However, as a result of our current membership drive with its exciting AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND PRIZE COMPETITION, it is quite possible that our national membership can reach very close to an all time high by the end of this calendar year. I trust that you will all make every effort toward this end.

So long for now. I am looking forward to seeing you in Chicago!

Sincerely,

Rex Koury, President



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

How quickly a year passes! Yes, ATOS has had an Executive Director for a year now. Highlights of the year for me include: a) the transfer of all membership records to ATOS' own computer; b) staying on top of information requests that come in an indescribable variety from both chapters and individuals; c) learning the sources to tap to get information to answer them; d) visiting several chapters and thus gaining a good understanding of chapter operations; e) preparing a 1985 budget which led to a critical examination of all expenditures necessary to bring ATOS into the black; and f) working toward an increased membership.

For this office to be of greater service to chapters and to work toward a national headquarters where the archives would be available to those who wished to use them requires increased income to ATOS. More members are the most immediate source. Increased membership means spreading the cost of THEATRE ORGAN, where about 80% of the dues income is spent, over a wider base. The addition of 1000 members would drop the Journal cost to about 70% of dues — really quite dramatic. So, whether the membership contest appeals to you or not, go get a new member. It really does help!

From a personal standpoint, I have enjoyed the year and am enthusiastic about the potential of ATOS. It *will* reach its goals.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk

