

American Theatre Organ Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is with great humility that I follow in the great line of people who have served as National President of the American Theatre Organ Society. I look forward to this coming year working with you, bringing all of us together for one common cause to make ATOS the best organization on the face of this earth and to preserve the theatre organ and its music.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Rex Koury, a great leader in ATOS, a great musician and a friend of us all for his leadership as president for the past two years. He will still be active as he sits on the board as Past President and we will look to him for continuity as we go forward. I want to also welcome to your Board of Directors Dr. John Landon, a person well known to all of us through his great publications and historical knowledge of ATOS. We also have Russell Joseph, who was elected to serve as Vice President. Lois Segur, formerly Past President, has been elected to the board. A big thank you to Thelma Barclay who has left the board. She was the driving force behind our first, and very successful, Young Organists Competition.

For those of you unacquainted with me, here is a brief "bio": I joined ATOS (then ATOE) in 1967 in the Connecticut Valley Chapter. I am on active duty in the U.S. Air Force as a Lieutenant Colonel (electrical engineer in communications), presently stationed at Headquarters Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska (Omaha). I play the organ here and

there and am a member of the River City Chapter in Omaha. Of all the organizations to which I have belonged, my greatest allegiance is to ATOS, preceded only to that of serving my country in the military.

A big thank you goes to the Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts (CATOE) for hosting this year's National Convention. It was a busy time and the great organs of the Chicago area and great organists were enjoyed by all. The Joliet Area and Land of Lincoln Chapters also did a superb job. A good time was had by all and will be long remembered.

Your National Directors and Officers are already at work getting on the business at hand. ATOS has grown and so have its responsibilities. We have very enthusiastic people leading the organization, as well as within it. You, the chapters of ATOS, are the backbone. We are here to help and we need your support. The two biggest programs going at the moment are: first, getting the next Young Organists Competition underway, and second, increasing our membership. If we are to succeed, we need every person made aware of who we are, what we do and how much we need them.

My best to all of you in the coming year. You have some great projects ahead, we need your support, and we want to help you. May this be the best year ever for ATOS.

Sincerely,

Jack Moelmann

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



"Optimism" is the dominant mood within ATOS today. There are more chapters and many have acquired organs, found theatres in which to put them and are now or will soon be giving public concerts. These steps really carry out the "preservation" goal of ATOS. Keep it up! In addition, chapter newsletters show an increasing number of public concerts scheduled, which can only lead to good things for theatre organ music.

Another point of optimism is the growing ATOS membership. This issue of THEATRE ORGAN will reach over 400 more members than the issue of just one year ago. This is the first substantial increase in membership in several years. And fall is the ideal time to invite others to join your local chapter and ATOS. Yes, there is a membership

contest in progress to add incentive in getting new members. While many members have secured one or two new members, only a few have secured five and qualified for the drawing with the prize of the expense-paid trip to Australia-New Zealand to the winner. Where can you qualify to win such a big prize with no cash investment? Help yourself and ATOS by getting into the drawing. Contest closes December 31.

Reservations for the tour to Australia-New Zealand are coming in rapidly, but there is still room for more. If you are thinking about going get your deposit in to protect your spot as space is limited. The tour is not limited to ATOS members, so that those who have "traveling" friends can invite them to go to make it even more enjoyable for you. Act soon to get in on this tour.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk

