

# American Theatre Organ Society

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A big "well done" goes to the Valley of the Sun Chapter for putting on a terrific "Phoenix Festival '85" regional convention in November. For those who attended it was a memorable event. During that convention Walt Strony, the convention chairman, presented a check for \$1000 to ATOS for use in the Young Organist Competition program. A big THANK YOU for this most generous gift.

Speaking of the Young Organist Competition, the information on this year's program

has been sent to all chapter presidents. We look forward to having a lot of participation this year. As you have noticed, we have expanded the competition to include three winners instead of just one. The overall winner, however, will be the one who will be featured in a cameo during the 1986 National Convention in Richmond, Virginia.

After great deliberation, the term "Chapter Chairman" will no longer be used as far as the national board is concerned. The more appropriate title of "President" will be used in referring to chapter leadership. We recognize that there may be local reasons for referring to the chapter officer by another title, but Chapter President, in our opinion, more appropriately reflects the job of the chapter leader.

The 2/5 Wurlitzer organ in the Carnegie Hall Cinema has to be removed. The organ was donated to ATOS some years ago as a memorial to the late Ben Hall (it was Ben's organ and called "Little Mother"). Over the years the organ has provided enjoyment to those who visited the Carnegie Hall Cinema in New York, but plans for the theatre neces-

sitate it being removed. This is the only organ owned by the American Theatre Organ Society, and we want to ensure that it gets a good home. You will be advised of progress on this program.

1986 will be an exciting year. From reading the newsletters from the various chapters, there is a lot going on and a lot more to do. The Young Organist Competition, increased membership, ATOS promotion, the Archives/Library, and an exciting convention in Richmond in July are at the forefront of our activities. Our Promotion and Convention Planning committees are hard at work promoting ATOS to the world and developing procedures and guidelines for exciting conventions in the future. We are also attempting to get a grasp on how conventions should be reviewed; your concerns have been noted.

It is time to consider nominations for the ATOS Board of Directors. We need new people to serve our organization. Being on the board is challenging and fun, and you would be helping a growing organization to achieve its goals. Think about running or nominating someone who would do a good job.

Your officers and Board of Directors wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Jack Moelmann

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Mail during the past weeks has been heavy with membership renewals for 1986. Along with the renewals came many notes and letters. One idea expressed in a number of different ways is the need for ATOS to consider a restatement of its purpose. The Society was developed to preserve the theatre organ. While that must continue (many are still being lost), their long-term preservation must be tied to how they are used now and in the future. Using them only in the

"recital" form or with silent films and sing-alongs will not attract a sufficient audience of younger people to assure that many will be around 25-50 years from now.

As the theatre organ and the public programs are the life blood of chapters, maybe it is time that more thought be given to different uses

or presentations. The search is for the key to finding a segment of a new generation that will want to use the theatre organ in new and different ways. And maybe the ATOS purpose should be changed from "preservation" to "preservation and presentations" to get more thinking geared to reaching new audiences. Any specific ideas? Send them in and we will find a way of sharing them.

Another point of interest with the renewals is the number of members who voluntarily contribute more than the basic dues. As an expression of appreciation and recognition to those members, the May/June THEATRE ORGAN will carry a list of all who have qualified as Contributors, Sustainers, Patrons or Benefactors. Should you be one who does not wish to be listed please let me know by March 15.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk

