

May we introduce . . . MELISSA AMBROSE



This charming young newcomer to the theatre organ scene is the 1985 winner of Motor City's Young Artist Competition and the runner-up in the National Competition. She amazed an impromptu audience at the Palmer House in Chicago when she sat down at an electronic console and entertained a group of conventioners with some creative arrangements that one would have expected from a much more seasoned performer.

Melissa is not without console experience, however, as she has been playing theatre organ since she was 12. Motor City first heard Melissa when she was 14 and performed at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor for one of their Sunday "free" morning programs. Two years later she won the regional Yamaha Electone Competition and has subsequently played cameos at the Senate, Macomb, Royal Oak and Fox theatres and at the Punch and Judy in Grosse Pointe. She recently did a special program at the Senate during which she introduced an original composition entitled "Chimera," thus establishing her claim to creative as well as performing artistry. Ashley Miller also invited Melissa to play a cameo during his recent concert at the Redford.

Melissa is a protégée of Father Jim Miller and is, in addition, studying classical organ with Frederick Dehaven. She studies piano with Joyce Adelson at Oakland University. Father Miller is proud of Melissa's musical achievements and of her concert career. He feels that she has excelled in every aspect of her musical education.

A 1984 graduate of Royal Oak Dondero High School, Melissa received the Royal Oak Musical Merit Award as the outstanding musician in her high school and community. She is currently attending Oakland University where she is an honor student. She has been awarded the Lee Grekin Memorial Scholarship for outstanding musician and a scholarship from ITW through N.A. Woodworth where her father is employed.

Melissa lives with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Ambrose, and her two brothers, Jamie and Chris, at 2125 Dallas Street, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067.

Dorothy Van Steenkiste of Motor City Chapter says of Melissa, "She is a 'natural' with a winning personality. She loves the organ and loves performing. Her dream is to travel the world as an accomplished artist. With her determination, I am sure she will."

GRACE E. MCGINNIS □

Material for this article was furnished by
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