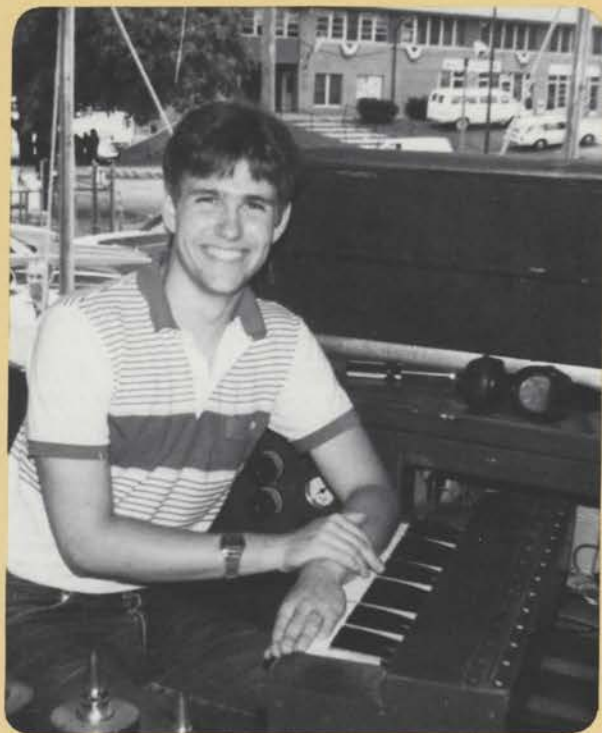


# May we introduce . . . MARTIN ELLIS



Martin Ellis

Martin Ellis is not a stranger to those who attended the National Convention last August and heard him play the Chicago Theatre Wurlitzer at the closing concert. It is a pleasure to note that he is to be a featured artist at the 1986 Convention in Richmond. Martin is the first winner of the ATOS Young Organist Competition and is one of the many reasons for optimism among theatre organ devotees.

Martin has been an avid music student since the age of four when he started piano lessons. He was in the fifth grade when his family moved from Mount Vernon, Indiana, to North Manchester where he began the study of classical organ with Gary Deavel at Manchester College. Within two years he was playing for services at churches in North Manchester and was, as an eighth grader, appointed part-time organist for his own United Methodist Church.

In junior high school his interest in popular music devel-

oped as he became involved in the instrumental and vocal programs, and he was soon established as a capable accompanist. He was also the student director of the Broadway shows produced by his high school and played the school's Hammond for their basketball games. During these years he continued to expand his duties as church organist and, in 1984, played the dedicatory recital on his church's new Zimmer pipe organ.

While still in high school, Martin was exposed to the theatre organs at the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis and the Cardinal Music Palace in Fort Wayne. "It was at this point," he says, "that I fell in love with the theatre organ. It seemed to be the ultimate tool in musical expression that one person could control, and the thought of being able to use orchestral sounds, real percussions and a huge-sounding ensemble really thrilled me!" Martin first experimented with theatre organ styling by imitating records and favorite artists, one of whom is Donna Parker of the Paramount Music Palace, "because," he says, "she played a lot of music I could relate to, a lot of popular tunes, novelty tunes and things that were easily recognizable."

Martin's family subsequently moved to Monrovia, Indiana, which is only 25 miles west of Indianapolis. He then joined ATOS and was introduced to John Ferguson, former music director of the Paramount Music Palace, who has since been his theatre organ coach. Martin has played for Footlite Musicals at the Hedback Theatre, for Central Indiana Chapter and for the White River Arts Silent Film Festival.

Next fall will find Martin Ellis at DePauw University where he will continue to study classical organ under Arthur Carkeek. This young man is most appreciative of the support and encouragement he has received from his local ATOS chapter and friends. Commenting on his cameo appearance with Rex Koury at the Chicago conclave, he says, "I was thrilled to have the opportunity, not only to play an organ with a history like the Chicago Wurlitzer, but also to be the 'first of the first' in ATOS history." Since that occasion, he has performed at the Long Center for the Performing Arts and the Patio Theatre in Chicago and has continued to play for Footlite Musicals.

It is encouraging to those who are dedicated to preserving and promoting theatre organs to know that there are young organists of the calibre of Martin Ellis who are as much in love with theatre organs as we are.

Martin can be contacted at Route 1, Box #103, Monrovia, Indiana 46157. GRACE E. MCGINNIS □

## Donna Parker

For Concert Information:

Donna Parker Productions Inc.,  
P.O. Box 19371 • Indianapolis, Indiana 46219  
(317) 359-9148



## Rob Calcaterra

"Rob Calcaterra Workshop and Concert — Superb!!!"  
Los Angeles ATOS

"One of the most popular and talented performing artists on today's theatre organ scene."  
New York ATOS

"A superb evening's entertainment."  
London ATOS

154 WEST 70th #9B • N.Y., NY 10023 • (212) 362-4821