

American Theatre Organ Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is with deep regret that I announce that Bob Gilbert is retiring as the editor of THEATRE ORGAN, a position he has held since July 1981. This will be his last issue. Bob has done a superb job over the years, devoting countless hours of his time in this volunteer position. Certainly the

quality of our THEATRE ORGAN Journal attests to his professionalism and dedication to not only preserving the theatre organ but getting the message to the world. He has been criticized on some occasions, but haven't we all? He just continues, and his years as our editor will not be forgotten. He is turning the typewriter, dictionary, pen and pencil over to Grace McGinnis, who has volunteered to be the new editor. Grace has been associate editor and co-editor for some time, so is prepared, willing and certainly able to carry on the Journal's tradition. Bob, we will miss seeing your name on the masthead, but we know that you will be around assisting where needed. We certainly welcome Grace McGinnis.

We also say "well done" and offer our best wishes and thanks to Lowell Ayars and Ashley Miller, who have completed their terms as directors, and to Father Jim Miller who has found it necessary to leave the board. Each has contributed much in his own way to the work of the board, and to the spreading of the "gospel" of the theatre organ.

We offer our congratulations to the three successful candidates for director: Allen Miller, who was re-elected; John Ledwon, who returns to the board after an absence; and Catherine Koenig, newly elected. We know that each will make valuable contributions to the operation of ATOS.

I want to thank all of the young people who entered the Young Organist Competition, and all of the chapters that sponsored these young artists. There is a lot of talent growing out there. The judges did a superb job for us and we look to them to help out in the future. Also, a "thank you" to those who helped out with the Board of Directors election. We had many superb people running for the board this year. Unfortunately, not all can win. We are, however, indeed fortunate to have people in our organization willing to devote time to ATOS. We hope to see them run again next year.

I mentioned in a previous message that I was being transferred to St. Louis in July. Well, the budget constraints we live with today have delayed all of that until September 30, and that's fine with me.

Sincerely,

Jack Moelmann



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Attending an ATOS National Convention does wonders for my morale when looking at the future of this Society. Handling the individual membership problems that occur in any association of this size can reach the point where it seems nothing is going right. The problems overwhelm the solutions in one's mind. But the upbeat attitude, the obvious enjoyment of those attending, and the "well done" heard from so many leads one to quickly realize that the problems affect only a few, and enthusiasm for the future of ATOS is the dominant attitude among ATOS

members. So I am now ready to make next year the best one yet!

Membership numbers look good. July 1 of this year showed an increase of 16% over two years ago. In numbers, that means an increase of 673. The source of new members has been checked and for most months about 40% have first joined a chapter. The other 60% come from answers to letters of inquiry about some activity of ATOS, an enthusiastic word of encouragement from a friend, a mention on a radio program featuring theatre organ, special national mailings and other unidentifiable sources. An important point is that *you* can be instrumental in adding a member if you devote just a little time and effort to it.

Out of the increased membership and prudent handling of funds, we now have more money to devote to new ATOS projects than has been available for many years. This leads to the challenge of determining which projects will best help to preserve the theatre organ. But if we ease up on continuing to add new members the projects will not get far. So that means keep the new ones coming!

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk

EDITOR'S MESSAGE



As you have read in the President's Message on this page, this is my last issue as editor. I submitted my resignation in March, to be effective with completion of the July/August issue.

The state of my health, the need to complete some projects which have been "on hold" for five years or more, the need to do some long-neglected work on our home, and my desire to get back to my workshop before I become unable to enjoy it, have made it imperative that I take this step.

The position of editor of THEATRE ORGAN has been an enjoyable one for me. It has afforded me many opportunities for personal enrichment, and I have been richly blessed with many new and wonderful friendships, for which I shall be ever grateful.

I have tried to build upon the fine work of my predecessors to make THEATRE ORGAN even more interesting and informative, a journal in which each member can take pride. Whatever has been achieved is due in no small part to the devotion and care of Floyd and Doris Mumm and their staff at Pica Studio, the very capable work of Scott Publications, and, of course, to the generous efforts of the editorial staff, columnists and contributors, without whom nothing could have been done.

For the privilege of serving ATOS, I offer my thanks to each of you.

Sincerely,

Bob Gilbert

