

May we introduce . . . DWIGHT THOMAS



Dwight Thomas

(Don Feely photo)

Dwight remembers well the first time he heard a theatre organ. He was fourteen and happened upon the Paramount Music Palace in Indianapolis. Bill Vlasak was at the organ, and the music left a lasting impression on the young man. Seven years later Richmond conventioners were privileged to hear Dwight in a cameo spot during Lyn Larsen's concert at the Byrd Theatre.

Dwight has a firm background in music, having begun piano studies at the age of five. He will graduate next year with a degree in Piano Pedagogy from Butler University. While a junior in high school, he approached John Ferguson at the Paramount Music Palace seeking information for a report he was doing on theatre organs. He subsequently began taking lessons from John, and after studying for four years, Dwight was the overall winner of the Young Artists Competition this year. He can be heard regularly playing at the Paramount Music Palace and continues to study with John.

He is also studying classical organ with Dorothy Scott and classical piano with Dorothy Munger.

Dwight feels that traditional theatre organ stylings, rather than current pop songs, make for more effective material to perform on the theatre organ, and that the young people of today are more interested in the sounds of electric guitars than tibias. He sees theatre organ playing as a true art form that few people are qualified to teach. Among his favorite organists he lists Jesse Crawford, George Wright, Lyn Larsen and Bill Vlasak.

Dwight sees himself, ten years from now, continuing to work in a pizza/pipes restaurant combination, traveling as a concert organist, teaching piano privately and working as a church organist. He can be reached c/o John Ferguson, 10051 Greenbrook Trail — Apt. B, Indianapolis, Indiana 46229.

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