

American Theatre Organ Society

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year — 1987! I hope that you had an exciting holiday season, one filled with joy and happiness. As I look back on 1986, I see that ATOS is alive and well. We had a great convention in Richmond, a successful Young Organist Competition, and got the *ATOS International News* off and running. We gained in membership (however, we still lost too many members) and are operating in the "black" financially despite increased expenses because of inflation.

What more can one ask for? Well, we still have a ways to go to achieve our goal of preserving the theatre organ and building ATOS. Your continued support is certainly appreciated. As for 1987, your officers and Board of Directors will be working hard to continue the great ATOS tradition which has gone on for more than 30 years, but we also need your help and support.

Your Executive Committee will meet at the end of January in Sacramento, California, to evaluate where we are and where we are going and to make recommendations to the Board of Directors before their meeting which will be held just prior to the National Convention in Los Angeles in June. The Executive Committee consists of officers Russell Joseph, David Barnett, Dale Mendenhall and myself, plus two others appointed by the Board, Allen Miller and Lois Segur. The Executive Committee is responsible for the day-to-day operation of ATOS, but cannot make major decisions without a full Board vote. One of the main subjects to be discussed is the continuation of the *ATOS International News*. We do appreciate your most positive comments and will attempt to continue the publication. Your financial support is certainly welcome, and, to those who have already contributed, we thank you very much!

It is time for the election of members to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors. We will have three vacancies this year. Please consider running for the Board and, equally important, remember to vote for your choices to represent you. The procedures for nomination and election of Board members are in the November/December THEATRE ORGAN.

The Young Organist Competition for 1987 is upon us. It is not too late to enter a candidate this year. We have been very successful in finding some great young talent these past two years and hope that this year will be equally successful. There are young people out there who are interested in, and able to play, theatre organs. Don't be bashful — submit an entry and give our young people some recognition. Not everyone will be able to win, but the opportunity to participate in a national competition is always rewarding.

Don't forget to plan to attend the ATOS National Convention in Los Angeles in June. The Los Angeles chapter has a lot of great activities and organ music planned, and we would like to see the best turnout ever. Los Angeles has always been one of those terrific places to visit, not only for organs and theatres, but also for the entertainment attractions and sightseeing.

If you have any recommendations as to how ATOS should improve or for things which we can do, please drop me a note as I am always open to your suggestions, recommendations, even complaints, or just a note of confidence that you approve of what we are doing.

Sincerely,

Jack Moelmann

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



The beginning of the year is a good time to make personal "resolutions," and it is also a great time for organizations to clearly define their goals for the year. Many goals may take more than one year to achieve, but planning the orderly process necessary to reach the goals is a first step.

During the past three years the ATOS Board has led the Society in reaching or partially reaching some goals that were many years in the developmental process.

The Young Organist Competition went from a dream to a reality, and the activity now affects many chapters and is a source of recognition for talented young musicians who are interested in theatre organ. The idea of an ATOS newsletter has been discussed for many years and is now partially in place with three issues being mailed to members independently and three more sent as part of THEATRE ORGAN. An increase in the number of chapters is a continuing goal, and the nine new chapters in the past three years shows significant progress. These are all positive signs for the future of ATOS.

Along with these National goals, the progress by chapters in the repair, maintenance and installation of organs is exciting.

This all adds up to "progress," but can only be continued with new goals that must be clearly defined and must include a timetable for success.

As an ATOS member, what do you think should be the major goals of the Society for, let us say, the next five years? Or what should be your chapter's goals? Why not put a "goals" discussion on your meeting agenda? Ask the question in your chapter newsletter. Get members thinking about goals. For goals that are the job of National, contact a board member or write this office. The ATOS Board can function much more successfully with extensive membership input.

By following a plan like this, ATOS will continue on its recent growth path and make obvious contributions to the big, big goal of preserving the theatre organ.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Fisk

