

May we introduce . . . JOHN LAUTER



John Lauter

A recent concert by John Lauter for the Detroit Theater Organ Club convinced an audience of long-time fans and a few former teachers that all the encouragement and training they had given him down through the years had prepared and secured this young artist as one of our finest theatre organists. His registrations and phrasing were theatrical renditions of old and new favorites. His show was well-planned and entertaining, featuring a soloist and percussionist. There is a very infectious rhythm to his heartfelt phrasing and vibrato. John tries to keep the spirit of the theatre in mind as he

plays. He grew up on theatre organ, but those of us who know him can speak for his versatility on the electronics, too. He puts together a program that will be entertaining to his particular audience.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, John began lessons at the age of fourteen, after being exposed to a theatre organ presentation featuring Lee Erwin. He has studied with several teachers, including Betty Mason, Father James Miller and Gary Reseigh, and has attended Stagecraft College in Michigan. Since 1975 John has been appearing at the Redford Theatre 3/10 Barton for movie intermissions, variety shows and revues. Other local appearances have been at the Royal Oak Theatre, The Punch and Judy Theatre in Grosse Pointe Farms, the Michigan Theatres in Ann Arbor and Lansing and the Temple Theatre in Saginaw. John has also appeared in Chicago at the Oriental Theatre and the VanderMolen residence 3/19 Robert-Morton.

Since 1980, John has presented a series of well-received concerts on the Roger Mumbrue 3/39 hybrid organ in Bloomfield Hills. He has just finished producing a cassette recording, the first on this instrument, which is to be released soon.

In 1984, John was invited by the ATOS to appear in the "Young Artist Showcase" concert at the Indianapolis Convention. For more than two years, John performed at the console of the Theater Organ Pizza and Pipes' 3/21 Barton-Hybrid in Pontiac, Michigan. His busy schedule includes work in calibration for the automotive and air space industries where he is in charge of physically testing and making sensors. He is also staff organist at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor.

John's other interests include classic and antique auto restoration, film and movie palace history, architecture and preservation, and music of all descriptions (we refer to him as our walking encyclopedia). Always willing to lend a helping hand, John is currently helping to install a 2/7 Wurlitzer in the old Baldwin Theatre in Royal Oak, Michigan.

We are very proud of this young man and most happy to introduce him to the readers of THEATRE ORGAN.

DOROTHY VAN STEENKISTE
and MOTOR CITY CHAPTER □

For your 1987-88 season
book theatre organist

BOB RALSTON

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STANDING ROOM ONLY

"Bob Ralston's concert on October 5, 1986, was the first time in the history of the QCCATOS that we ever had a sold-out, standing-room-only crowd."

Joan McFadden, President, Quad Cities Chapter ATOS

THE VERY BEST

"Bob Ralston's performance was most memorable and entertaining . . . excellent registration . . . by far the most exciting program of the ATOS Convention."

Grant J. Whitcomb, Reviewer, Theatre Organ Magazine

ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE

"Bob Ralston's shows on April 5th and 6th, 1986, were, as usual, a financial success for all concerned. But more importantly, we were able to present the one man who has consistently drawn some of our largest and most enthusiastic audiences."

Russell E. Shaner, Program Chairman, Rochester Theatre Organ Society