

# ATOS Awards



## JUDD WALTON AWARD FOR TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

Judd Walton is a charter member and founder of ATOS. He is best known for having compiled the Wurlitzer Shipping List which was published several years ago. Judd was an early president of ATOS, and wrote for both TIBIA and THEATRE ORGAN.

Judd Walton and his partner, Bob Jacobus, maintained the San Francisco Fox Wurlitzer for many years, particularly for all of the "Farewell" concerts held there and for many recordings, notably those of George Wright.

It was, in fact, Judd himself who proposed that ATOS establish an award to honor those who have made special contributions to the technical knowledge necessary to preserve and present theatre organs. It seems quite fitting, therefore, that this gentleman should be so honored himself.

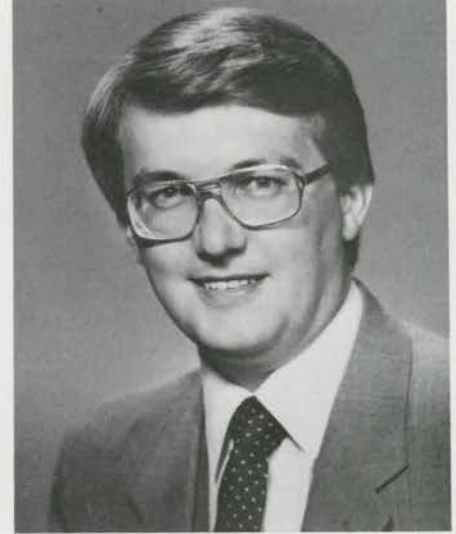


## LOWELL AYARS HONORARY MEMBER

Lowell Ayars is one of the charter members of ATOS, and served on the Board of Directors from 1981-1986 during which time he chaired the Hall of Fame Committee. He has also been an active advocate of the Young Organist Competition and served as a judge for the first competition in 1985.

Lowell's biography may be found in the December 1979 THEATRE ORGAN, but the work that he has done for this organization cannot be adequately condensed into just a few paragraphs. We would like to present here a quotation from Mr. Ayars which appeared in the above issue of the Journal:

"I believe we must keep as many organs in theatres as possible -- perhaps through such organizations as the Society for Historic Preservation ... We must also realize that there is no such thing as just one style of theatre organ playing. Let us try to appreciate the new and treasure the old. Take young people to as many theatre organ events as possible. They won't all become fans, but some will!"



## JONAS NORDWALL ORGANIST OF THE YEAR

Jonas Nordwall represents the best of both classical and theatre organ artistry and is in as much demand for one as the other. He has toured the U.S. annually since 1972 presenting concerts and workshops. He has made three concert tours of Australia and has the distinction of being the first organist to broadcast a solo recital in FM stereo from the famous Sydney Town Hall.

A native of Portland, Oregon, Jonas began his musical education at the age of four on the accordion, a talent which allowed him the honor, a few years later, of performing before King Gustav of Sweden. Adding the piano and organ to his studies at age 10, Jonas studied with Goldie Pos and later with Arthur Hitchcock at the University of Portland, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Music Degree in 1970. Study with the great Canadian organist, Frederick Geoghegan, and with the noted American virtuoso, Richard Ellsasser, futhered his talent.

Jonas has been the organist and Contemporary Choir director at Portland's First United Methodist Church since 1971. Under his direction, the pipe organ has been enlarged and revoiced to become one of the West Coast's outstanding instruments.

With an extensive background in the theatre organ traditions, Jonas has recorded some 15 albums which are marketed worldwide under various labels. He spent ten years as senior staff organist for the Organ Grinder Corporation and played in both the Portland and Denver locations. He is currently Product Marketing Manager for the Rodgers Organ Company, as well as a recitalist for the firm.

— PLAN AHEAD —  
FOR THE 1988 CONVENTION!

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*has all the fun!*

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#### LETTER FROM LOWELL AYARS

Dear Editor,

May I use this means to express to the members of ATOS and the members of the National Board my sincere thanks for the high honor of being chosen Honorary Member of the Year for 1987. It came as a complete surprise to me, and I only wish I could have been at the Convention to accept the certificate in person.

As some members know, I felt I could not be away from home any appreciable length of time as my wife, Reba, is undergoing weekly chemotherapy.

I have heard nothing but praise for the Convention, and in these present times of the high cost of everything, it makes one realize that many members are willing to sacrifice to hear superb theatre organ music and enjoy meeting with old friends and acquiring new ones.

Again, many thanks to all.

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Lowell Ayars

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#### LETTER FROM JONAS NORDWALL To the ATOS:

I would like to thank the National Board of Directors of ATOS for naming me Organist of the Year for 1987. Unfortunately, prior business commitments kept me from attending the banquet, but I want to personally acknowledge my appreciation for this award. We have a unique musical instrument that captures different elements of musical history and deserves a special recognition as an Indigenous American Musical Instrument. The theatre organ has had a great impact in its lifetime on the musical canvas, and may it continue to do so. As artists, we can only hope to pass the inspiration of this instrument on to others as it has inspired us to create our brand of music on it. Again, thank you for this honor.

Sincerely,

(signed) Jonas Nordwall

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#### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Our thanks to the following for providing the pictures of the convention:

STEVE BRAMALL (SB)

HARRY HETH (HH)

BO HANLEY (BH)

RAY VAN STEENKISTE (RV)

MADLINE LIVOLSI (ML)

Picture credits are by initials.



Martin Wiegand, of New Jersey, accepts the Honorary Member Award for his friend.

(SB photo)



George Kirkwood accepts Award for Jonas Nordwall.

(SB photo)

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### CONVENTION '87 STAFF

Ralph Beaudry, Chairman  
Richard Sheafor, Vice-Chairman  
Walter Rieder, Treasurer  
Beverly Rounds, Secretary  
Hugh Hanger III, Registrar  
Alden Stockebrand, Transportation  
Irv Eiler, Artist Coordinator  
Patty Skelding, Banquet and Catering  
Pat Lajko, Signs  
Stan Kann, Master of Ceremonies

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#### APOLOGY

We missed a few important pictures this year. If any of our readers have shots they would be willing to share, please send them to us, and we will include a "Convention Supplement" in the next issue. We can use pictures of the Ashley Miller Workshop, Jonas Nordwall at the Pasadena, Dennis James at San Sylmar, and George Wright at the Power home.

Ed.