

# Theatre Organ

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## President's Message



It is hard to believe that the Holiday Season is upon us again — a time when family and friends will be getting together and enjoying, among other things, the music of the season.

Beginning with the Sept/Oct issue of THEATRE ORGAN, we relocated our production and printing of this Journal from Livonia, Michigan, to the Portland, Oregon, area. This was done because of convenience in that our Editor, Grace McGinnis, is in that area and the Journal could be handled more efficiently. Floyd Mumm, an ATOS member, of Pica Studio and Scott Publications, both in Livonia, Michigan, have done a superb job of producing the THEATRE ORGAN Journal and making the publication as professional as it has been, and we thank them for this dedication to ATOS. We look forward to the same support from the folks in Oregon. You may notice that there are some format changes, and we hope that you enjoy the new look. It is our goal that the quality

of the production will be at the same high standards and also hope that our costs can be reduced and the publication will be more timely.

While I am on publications, the ATOS INTERNATIONAL NEWS will take on a new look. It is being expanded to eight pages and will contain the classified ads which were normally found in the Journal. In this way, our advertisements will be more responsive. We will have to examine the costs associated with this new method and the separate mailing to ensure that we can afford it. Your continued support in increasing membership and contributions to ATOS would certainly help.

The rules and guidelines for the ATOS Young Organist Competition have been distributed to the chapter Presidents for the 1988 competition. Now is the time to get started on submitting an entry for next year. If you haven't gotten a set of the rules or are not affiliated with a chapter and think that you have someone to compete, please let me know and I will send you the rules. We need our young people involved in the theatre organ, and this is a good way.

The history of ATOS is extremely important. Over the years, we have done a lot in saving organs, saving theatres, putting on concerts and conventions, working hard on projects, making audio and video recordings. I am looking for someone who would like to serve as the ATOS Historian, a person who could collect the many things which are out there, organize them, and provide them to the ATOS Archives and Library. I know that I already have a lot of correspondence collected over the past years, and I don't want to throw it away. It needs to be preserved for the future. If you are the kind of person we are looking for, please let me know. This is a very important part of the ATOS heritage and will give someone an opportunity to ensure that ATOS is not lost. Please let me know.

On behalf of the Officers and Board of Directors, I want to wish each and every one of you and your friends and family the very best during this Holiday Season and continued prosperity as we enter the new year. ATOS is growing, and we need your continued support. Thank you very much for all that you have done during 1987!

Sincerely yours,

JACK MOELMANN

## Executive Director's Message



When one reads newsletters from more than 50 chapters for a few years, some kinds of information assume a place of special importance in the fabric of ATOS.

One example: To be successful and contribute to long-term preservation, a chapter needs access to a theatre organ. Where they are located, who owns them, who keeps them in repair, how often they can be used as the focal point for meetings, when (and if) public concerts can be held and what part of town they are in, are just a few of the questions addressed by chapters. And how have they answered them? In just about as many ways as there are chapters. Three chapters own organs and theatres. Many own organs located in publicly or privately owned buildings which are used for a variety of purposes. The arrangements or contracts also vary from virtually "gentlemen's agreements" to carefully drawn leases.

It would seem that this whole area should be, and often is, of significant concern to chapter leadership, as the type of agreements forged in the beginning of a relationship between different entities have such long-term effects. It is quite easy to figure that changes will be minimal within five years, but what about twenty-five years? To keep the organ available and playing when the chapter is made up of totally different members means some careful long-range planning in developing agreements signed today. Has ready access to the organ been guaranteed? Will the debt become an unbearable burden? Have provisions been made to keep the organ in playable condition? Can there be a charge for public events with the chapter retaining the revenue? Can it be rented to other groups? Is the organ's future protected if there is no chapter?

It all adds up to the requirement for very careful planning as chapters buy organs and arrange for their placement in their own or someone else's facility. And there are no "pat" answers, just plenty of responsibility for present leadership.

Doug Fisk