

1988 ATOS Awards

1988 Hall of Fame Organist AL BOLLINGTON



Mr. and Mrs. Al Bollington, December 1987, in their home in California.

Mr. Bollington was born in South Nor-manton, Derbyshire, England, in 1904. He was an assistant church organist at the age of 12, and by age 14 he had received the Diploma of Associate of the London College of Music. He also studied at the Royal Academy in London. In 1920 he began playing silent movies. In 1922 he played piano on transatlantic liners, and while in New York City he heard a genuine theatre organ for the first time.

Upon returning to England he became orchestral organist at the Palace Theatre, Blackpool. He also appeared at the Kilburn Grange Theatre, North London in 1927. He was at the Regal, Marble Arch, in 1928 as assistant to the famous Quintin Maclean, then the Brixton, Astoria, as assistant to George Pattman. Later he played at the Streatham Court Road (1937) where he made several very popular records with Anton and the Paramount Theatre Orchestra. He also played over 2000 programs for BBC Radio.



In 1940 he joined the R.A.F. where he flew invasion paratroops, ferried bombers to the Middle East and carried the late King George VI, assorted Queens, Foreign Ministers, allied Generals, and other dignitaries to highly secret wartime meetings.

After the war he was organist at the Odeon Swiss Cottage Theatre and the Paramount (Odeon) in London. He came to Canada in 1948 to open the new Odeon Theatre, Toronto, and later appeared at the Victoria and Shea's Toronto where he broadcast over the Canadian Broadcasting Company.

In 1955 he moved to Hollywood, California, to do television shows, studio work and arrange music for electronic organs. He concertized for both Conn and Wurlitzer, and recorded under the Dot label and the Concert Recording Company.

He is presently retired and living in Southern California.

Lowell Ayars

Organist Of The Year LEW WILLIAMS



Lew Williams has been delighting theatre organ audiences since the 1970s, and, in addition, served this year as a judge for the Young Organist Competition. From 1979 until 1987, Lew was staff organist for the Organ Stop Pizza restaurant in Phoenix, Arizona, where he commanded a large, four-manual Wurlitzer. Concerts have taken him to most of the major venues in this country, and he has made two recital tours of England. A versatile artist, Lew has performed for both ATOS and AGO conventions.

A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, Lew began playing the organ at age ten, undertaking formal piano instruction five years later. Following his graduation from high school, he enrolled at Texas Christian University where he majored in Organ Performance. Scholarships and cash awards, which recognized his ability, enabled Lew to graduate with a Bachelor of Music Degree and the Performer's Certificate in Organ, a distinction which had only been awarded to one other student at TCU.

Following the guidance of his professor, Emmet G. Smith, Williams went to Europe to study Organ and Improvisation at the Conservatory of Music in Geneva, Switzerland. His mentor there was Pierre Second, himself a pupil of Marcel Dupré at the Paris Conservatory. When Lew had completed his studies and passed into the *classe de virtuosite*, he presented a recital at the Cathedral of St. Pierre in Geneva which was recorded by the Swiss National Radio.

A full scholarship in the organ class of Dr. Robert T. Anderson brought Lew back to Southern Methodist University where he received his Master of Music Degree in 1978.

ATOS is proud to claim Lew as one of its own and is pleased to honor him as the 1988 Organist of the Year.

Honorary Member LOIS SEGUR



Lois Segur has been a "sparkplug" for ATOS ever since she became a member in 1971. She is, in fact, a charter member of the San Diego chapter, a chapter which started with ten members, and by the end of its first year had grown to 147 — that's what "sparkplugs" can do!

Lois was selling Conn organs in San Diego when she met Preston "Sandy" Fleet who was opening the Organ Power Pizza restaurant, and it was his interest in ATOS that caught her attention. She has subsequently held every office in the San Diego chapter, and in 1971 was chosen to be the national ATOS Vice-President, an office she held until 1981 when she was elected President. She served until 1983, took one year off, and then successfully ran for the Board of Directors in 1985, a term which expired this year.

Lois has served as Chairman of the Young Organist Competition and has been its greatest advocate. She has an exceptional ability to facilitate communication and to generate interest in the ATOS and all that this group advocates.

Now that she has "retired" from the Board, Lois plans to continue as organist for the Village Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe, California, a position she has held for fifteen years. ATOS does not, however, plan to let her become idle, and we are certain that she will be most willing to help the new President as well as the new Chairman of the Young Organist Competition.

ATOS is very proud to name Lois Segur as Honorary Member for 1988.

Technical Awards RICHARD VILLEMIN & ED ZOLLMAN

The Award for Technical Excellence is presented in recognition of exemplary contributions toward restoration and maintenance of the theatre organ as a contemporary art form.

This year the award was presented to two technicians, to Richard Villemin, posthumously, and to Ed Zollman.



Richard Villemin

Richard Villemin completed 50 years or organ service prior to his death. He was influenced by Jesse Crawford, owned and operated Villemin Pipe Organs in Porterville, California, and worked on many theatre organ projects. He is most remembered for his removal and reinstallation of the San Francisco Fox organ in the Lanterman estate and for his complete restoration and installation of the San Sylmar Wurlitzer.

Pride, Quality and Art were his passions. Richard's sister, Ruth Villemin Dresser, accepted the award.



*Music is the inarticulate
speech of the heart,
which cannot be
compressed into words,
because it is infinite.*

RICHARD WAGNER



Ed Zollman

Ed Zollman began his pipe organ work at Big Bob's Pizza in Federal Way, Washington, later working on Big Bob's Pipe Dream instrument in Burien, Washington. His next job was working with Dennis Hedberg on the installation of the Wurlitzer in the Denver Organ Grinder.

In 1983 he formed his own company, Colorado Pipe Organ Service, and became involved in the re-design and tonal regulation of the Denver Paramount Wurlitzer. He is also responsible for a number of home installations in the Denver area and currently maintains the Wurlitzer in the Colorado State University at Fort Collins. His latest installation is the awesome 4/48 Wurlitzer in the Dick Wilcox residence which was featured at the Encore of the 1988 ATOS Convention.

At this time Ed is planning to continue his work in Colorado and is helping to re-design and install the Denver Organ Grinder Wurlitzer in a home in that area.

Allen Miller, Chairman
Technical Committee