



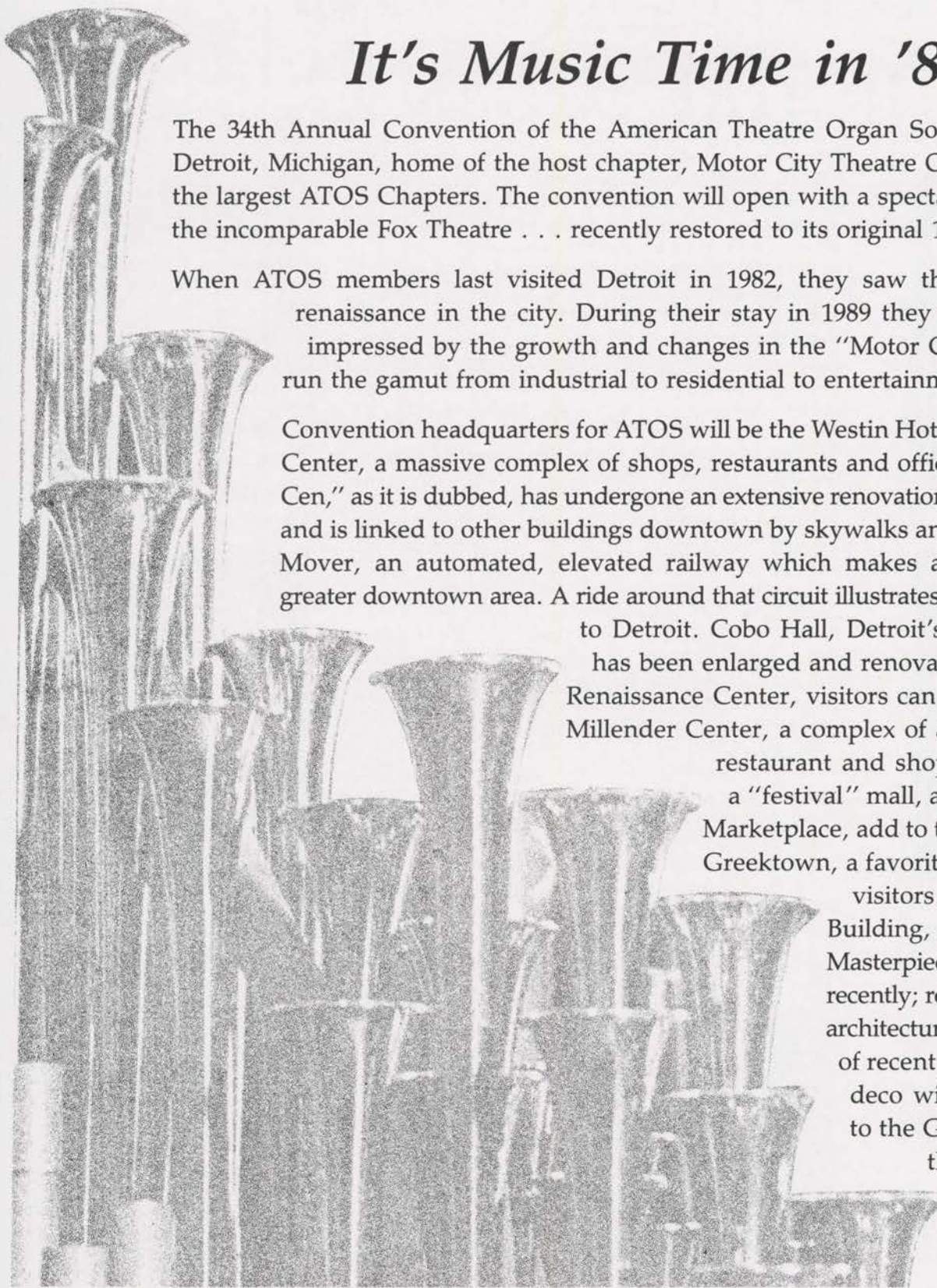
## *It's Music Time in '89!*

The 34th Annual Convention of the American Theatre Organ Society will be held in Detroit, Michigan, home of the host chapter, Motor City Theatre Organ Society, one of the largest ATOS Chapters. The convention will open with a spectacular "pre-glow" at the incomparable Fox Theatre . . . recently restored to its original 1928 elegance.

When ATOS members last visited Detroit in 1982, they saw the early stages of a renaissance in the city. During their stay in 1989 they will be immediately impressed by the growth and changes in the "Motor City." These changes run the gamut from industrial to residential to entertainment.

Convention headquarters for ATOS will be the Westin Hotel in the Renaissance Center, a massive complex of shops, restaurants and office towers. The "Ren Cen," as it is dubbed, has undergone an extensive renovation and rearrangement, and is linked to other buildings downtown by skywalks and the Detroit People Mover, an automated, elevated railway which makes a circuit around the greater downtown area. A ride around that circuit illustrates more of the changes

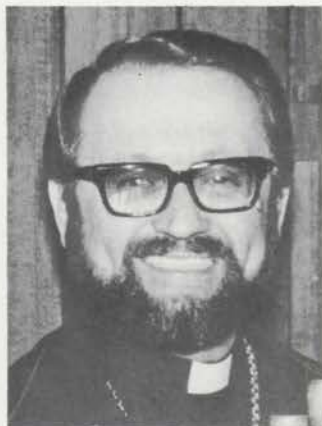
to Detroit. Cobo Hall, Detroit's convention center, has been enlarged and renovated; across from the Renaissance Center, visitors can eat and shop at the Millender Center, a complex of apartments, a hotel, restaurant and shops. Trapper's Alley, a "festival" mall, and the International Marketplace, add to the variety of nearby Greektown, a favorite spot for locals and visitors. The Wayne County Building, an 1895 Beaux Arts Masterpiece, has been restored recently; restoration of Detroit's architectural gems is a keynote of recent projects. Fans of art deco will appreciate a visit to the Guardian Building in the financial district.







# THEATRE ORGAN . . .



*Fr. Jim Miller  
Master of Ceremonies*



*Melissa Ambrose*



*Dan Bellomy*

If they can find the time to go to the New Center, a short ride north of downtown, visitors will be rewarded by a visit to the Fisher Building, hailed since its opening in 1929 as a piece of artwork, rather than simply a building. The Fisher Building has numerous art galleries, restaurants and shops, as do the nearby General Motors Building, New Center One and St. Regis Hotel . . . all linked by skywalks!

On the return from New Center, time may be spent in the University-Cultural Center, where you'll find the campus of Wayne State University, the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Detroit Science Center, the Main Library, the International Institute, the Children's Museum, and the Museum of African-American History.

Further down Woodward Avenue, ATOS members will visit "Fox Center," where the Fox Theatre is the centerpiece of an area-wide revitalization.

Convention '89 won't be limited to downtown Detroit, however. Conventioneers will visit the Redford Theatre in northwest Detroit, which is owned and operated by the Motor City Chapter. We'll also visit the Royal Oak Theatre, in a suburb of Detroit, where the organ is owned by the Motor City Chapter, thanks to the generosity of a good friend of theatre organs.

It's always a special treat to visit the Senate Theatre, owned by the Detroit Theatre Organ Club. ATOS members can hear and enjoy for themselves the 4/34 Wurlitzer from the Fisher Theatre. This careful installation in a one-purpose theatre ranks as one of the premier theatre organ re-installations in the country.

Leaving Detroit for a day, ATOS members will travel to Ann Arbor, home of the University of Michigan. We'll hear a classical concert at Hill Auditorium and a theatre



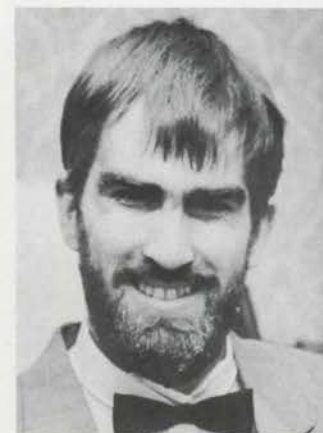
*Rob Calcaterra*



*Carlo Curley*



*University of Michigan School of Music Baroque Organ*



*Richard Hore*





## ONE OF THE GREATEST ARTS!



Jack Jenkins



Westin Hotel . . . Convention Headquarters



Tony O'Brien



Lyn Larsen

organ concert at the Michigan Theatre. The Michigan Theatre has changed dramatically since ATOS members saw it last: it has been restored and decorated to its original beauty. Lunch will be at the air-conditioned Michigan League (or you can arrange for lunch on your own). While in Ann Arbor, you can use your free time to take a trip to the headquarters of Domino's Pizza, which includes a museum devoted to the works of Frank Lloyd Wright, and an antique and classic car museum. If there are any moments left, you may want to visit the museum of the U of M School of Music, which includes a spectacular baroque organ.

"Day trips" from Detroit are also available for participants in either of the Afterglows offered. Afterglow I will feature a refreshing trip to Frankenmuth, Michigan's "Little Bavaria." Afterglow II will visit the Spanish Baroque-style State Theatre in Kalamazoo, and Good Time Charley's restaurant-with-organ in Grand Rapids.

With all of this talk about places, don't think that plans have been neglected to invite the best organists of the day.

The agenda for the ATOS 1989 Convention in Detroit is full of exciting events. We haven't even talked about the seminars, cocktail parties, Banquet, jam sessions for all you night owls, variety show, Chapter Rep Meeting, Young Theatre Organ Enthusiast events, annual meeting at breakfast . . . well, you get the idea. Best of all, though, will be the chance to renew old friendships, and forge new ones, with the good people who are members of ATOS.

Remember . . . Detroit . . . July 2-8, 1989 . . . *It's Music Time in '89!*



Candi Carley Roth



John Lauter



Bill Vlasak

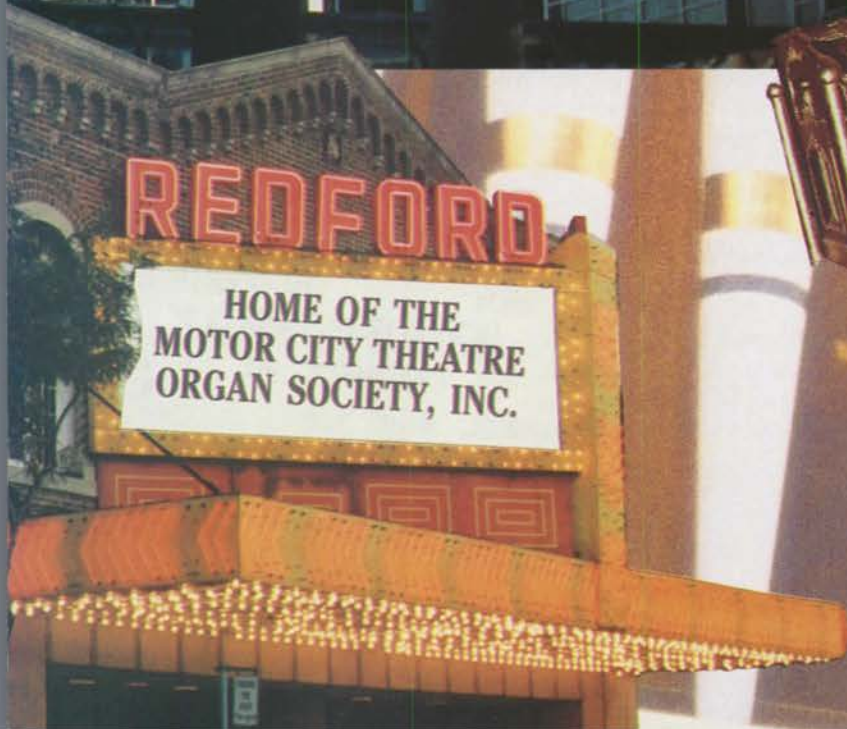


ARS GRATIA THEA

Convention headquarters for the 34th Convention of the American Theatre Organ Society will be the Westin Hotel in the Renaissance Center linked to greater downtown Detroit by the Detroit People Mover, an elevated railway.



The Redford Theatre is owned by the Motor City Theatre Organ Society, the host of "It's Music Time in '89!" The Chapter bought the theatre in 1976, in order to preserve the 3/10 Barton organ in its original setting.





## AN ERA ENDING MOTORCYCLE SHOP DUE TO SHUTTER

Saturday night organ events at Koons' Motorcycle Shop in Long Beach, Calif. are ending. 'Spud' Koons, widow of the late Joe Koons who installed the Wurlitzer/Welte organ in his motorcycle shop at 1350 E. Anaheim St., is closing the business and wants to sell the organ and building as a unit, if possible, to be developed as a restaurant.

Concerts are scheduled through April and none are planned after that month. The property has been listed with a local real estate firm.

Initially Koons purchased the 2/10 Welte organ that once entertained members of the Del Mar Club in nearby Santa Monica and erected it in the shop. He gradually expanded the organ with Wurlitzer and, it is believed, Kilgen pipework. As the organ grew, so did its fame and eventually the shop became a Saturday night mecca for organ lovers.

Open console prevailed and it was never known what famous artist might show up. Over the 20-odd years, just about every well-known organist stopped in to play. In recent years regular concert programs have been presented there. Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society has used the venue many times for conventions, installation of officers, parties, general meetings and concerts.

## CONCERTS NOT NIXED BY OHIO MANAGEMENT

Theatre organ concerts at the Ohio Theatre, Columbus, are still being presented, according to resident organist Dennis James. Programs are slated for March, April and May, featuring Donna Parker, Karl Cole and James, who noted his show will play May 17.

Information published last month about the concert series being cancelled came from an ATOS member who called the theatre to obtain specific dates. He was told by theatre personnel the series had been cancelled because previous shows had lost money.

"Actually, what happened," James explained, "due to heavy bookings, it was not possible to have the fall dates, and although the spring shows were planned, it was decided not to advertise."  
—See—OHIO—Page Three—

## NO WORD YET ON FAMED ST. LOUIS WURLITZER

An announcement concerning final disposition of the St. Louis Ambassador Theatre Wurlitzer was not received by deadline. Other information about the organ, which could not be verified, disclosed that some wood ranks may have been destroyed by a person who apparently was living in warehouse where the organ is stored. He reportedly burned them to keep warm.

# International ATOS NEWS

VOLUME THREE

MARCH

1989

NUMBER SEVEN

## WURLITZER IS BEING READIED FOR PLAY

When David Packard, son of Hewlett-Packard co-founder David Packard, opens his fully restored Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto, Calif. later this year he will also have a completely restored Wurlitzer theatre organ for accompaniment of silent photoplays that will be shown at the theatre. "The Wurlitzer is an even better instrument than the original Leathurby-Smith organ that was in the house," Packard explained at his residence in Los Altos Hills where he is designing a new electronic relay for the Wurlitzer.

Packard recently bought the John Hampton silent film collection in Los Angeles for a reported price of \$400,000. For many years Hampton and his wife operated a silent movie theatre on North Fairfax in Los Angeles. His collection numbered about 1,800 titles, many of the prints being the only copies left. They include features, shorts, cartoons, serials and comedies.

The Wurlitzer is being restored by Cliff Luscher, Ken Eaton and Dave Banks in a San Francisco warehouse, according to one of two feature articles published in the Arts & Leisure section of the Jan. 8 issue of Times-Tribune newspaper.

## Del Castillo Will Celebrate His 96th Birthday In April

Nationally famed Lloyd G. del Castillo will celebrate his 96th birthday on April 2. He is recognized as the world's oldest playing organist and is enshrined in the ATOS Hall of Fame.

For many years he was a regular contributor to several motion picture trade journals and in recent years he wrote "Dinny's Column" for Theatre Organ Journal. He also edited the Los Angeles Professional Organists Club "Off The Keyboards" publication.

He currently resides at 2008 Preuss Road, Los Angeles, Calif. 90034.

## "WOBAT" COULD WAP CONCERT ARTISTS!

A Japanese robot may be threatening all concert organists. "Wabot," the robot was viewed tickling a manual of a two-manual, full pedal electronic organ in the Feb. 8 issue of the Los Angeles Times. The photo caption noted "Wabot" was producing original music as part of an exhibit at Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry. This could be a portender of what's to come—ATOS chapters could possibly adopt a "Wabot" and present continuous concerts without the need to delve into contracts, fees, travel allowances, etc., with live artists!

## STOCKEBRAND BUYS LYN LARSEN ORGAN

by Richard Sklenar

National Director Alden Stockebrand has purchased the theatre organ now installed in the Lyn Larsen residence at Phoenix. It has a three-manual Kimball console with 14 specially selected ranks by Larsen and his partner in the project, Al Young.

Stockebrand and Gilbert Petzke recently inspected the instrument in Phoenix. They were house guests of Walt Strony while in the area. It is anticipated the organ will be moved to Chicago sometime in March.

Installation will be in the large basement of the Stockebrand brownstone residence in Chicago. Chambers will have tone chutes extending to the 37-foot living room.

## Water In Two Styles Ruins Dallas Morton

Water in any form can be disastrous for pipe organs. In Dallas, Texas, it came in two styles—iced and deiced—to ruin the North Texas Chapter-owned 3/8 Robert-Morton organ installed in the Lakewood Theatre.

Freezing temperatures froze water pipes, causing them to burst and flood the chamber areas. Crew Chief Earl McDonald expects it will be at least three months before the organ is playable again, it was reported in "The Keraulophone," official chapter newsletter.

## 150 Attend Roseveare Farewell Party On The Oakland Paramount Theatre Stage Jan. 26th

by Steve Levin

About 150 friends, associates and fans of Jim Roseveare assembled January 26 the Oakland Paramount stage for a farewell party in honor of the popular musician, who died in December at age 46. Organized by manager Peter Botto, the gathering was kept as light and informal as possible, considering that it was just the sort of event Rosy never much liked. In attendance were many luminaries from the T. O. and music worlds, some of whom had come from as far as the East Coast to be there.

As guests signed in at the stage door, each received one of Jim's Paramount business cards, endorsed on the rear with the notorious "Library of..." rubber stamp, the one widely given credit for the premature retirement of a well-known stationer.

Refreshment tables, heaped high with deli plates and awash with gallons of Rosy's beloved Carlo Rossi Chablis, lined the stage rear. At the front, the Wurlitzer console was turned to face the stage, and several of the visiting organists played short tributes to their absent colleague. Throughout the evening ran a slide program, assembled largely from his own collection of snapshots, showing the many sides of Jim Roseveare over a thirty-year span: organist, banker, man-about-town, wit and clown.

Two nights later, Simon Gledhill's Paramount debut concert was dedicated to Jim. A special printed program, the first ever for a Paramount organ event, carried pictures and biographies of both musicians. Towards the end of his splendid program, Gledhill paid Rosy a tribute he probably would have liked, with a fine reading of Jim's much-requested arrangement of "Two Cigarettes in the Dark."

Hearing it, at the Paramount, one last time, reminded everyone of just how much Jim Roseveare gave to music.

## AN ERA BEGINNING ORGAN MAY GO BACK INTO SEATTLE HOUSE

What started out to be an inquiry concerning availability of a theatre organ for the projected Hollywood Museum has ended up furnishing information that will undoubtedly return the instrument in question to its original theatre home in Seattle.

The organ, a 4/16 late model Robert-Morton, was removed from the Fox (later the Music Hall) Theatre and sold to the Carl Greer Inn at Sacramento, Calif. Then, due to the need for the space, the organ was sold to Bonnie Carette and hauled off to storage in Southern California where it has resided for approximately the past ten years.

At that time the new owner had already installed a two-manual Wurlitzer in her Palm Springs home. Subsequently, she moved to nearby Hemet and later became Mrs. Tullio Ciuri. At one time she had planned to erect the Morton in that area, but later shelved the idea.

Meanwhile, up Hollywood way, American Cinematheque announced plans to build a museum around fame  
—SEE—MUSIC HALL—Page 4—

## Hamnett Planning Radio Shows For Publicity

ATOS National Director Russ Hamnett is preparing the first of 13 radio shows designed to publicize the Society. His proposed title for the series—*The Magnificent Monsters*.

It is intended, if approved, each program will mention ATOS and what membership offers to the public. Location of theatre pipe organs will be noted for people traveling who would like to hear an instrument first hand.





## WRIGHT DONATES DEAGAN CHIMES TO PARAMOUNT

Unexpected upgrading of the Oakland Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer came about Nov. 19 through the generosity of famed concert organist George Wright, who was appearing there that evening. The present chime set in the organ will be replaced with "a beautiful 25-note set of Deagan chimes," he advised the audience.

Wright told his audience he would close the first half of his program playing "Chimes of Spring," and that in selecting the piece he had thought about the present set of percussions in the organ. "This organ has crappy chimes. It's no reflection on anybody's craftsmanship, or the way they were installed. They didn't turn out very well and I just happen to have a beautiful 25-note set of deluxe Deagan, which, with the permission of Peter Botto, our manager, I'm going to donate them to the Paramount Theatre..." he said.

News of the donation reached the NEWS belatedly when a member of the staff happened to hear a tape recording of Wright's show. Typed identification on the cassette liner paper indicated it was produced for Phantom Echoes Recording by Ann Nona Mouse for historical preservation of the performance.

## THIS CHAPTER DISHES HOSPITALITY PLUS!

San Diego Chapter hospitality is a big plus for visiting organists. When Simon Gledhill played at the California Theatre last Jan. 22, he was taken to dinner along with two others who drove him to San Diego from Los Angeles.

As a remembrance of his appearance there, the chapter gave him an onyx desk set and paper weight, on both of which were engraved plates giving his name, date of performance and chapter name.

## Concert Cancelled

By mutual agreement, the appearance of Barbara Sellers at Long Center, Lafayette, Ind., scheduled for April, has been cancelled, it was announced this month.

## HERE'S A REAL TICKLER!

No matter how you play the Song of the Month, it will tickle you—because the tune is *Tickles*. It will put you in a ticklish mood after you pen your order to ATOS Archives, 1393 Don Carlos Court, Chula Vista, Calif. 92010. Cost of the music is \$2.50 postpaid.

## WORK HOME IN HOME IS FOUND FOR MOLLER

by Robert L. Maney

In Chambersburg, Pa., the Capitol Theatre has an original 3/14 Moller theatre organ installed in chambers. And during the weekend of January 15, the entire contents of the swell chamber was transported to a seven-room apartment above the theatre lobby where an organ shop has been set up to facilitate restoration work. In effect, the organ has found a new home within a home. Restoration work is being done by members of Cumberland Valley Chapter.

Bob Eyer, who is President of the chapter, is also the Capitol's resident organist. He expects the project will be completed within five months. "We've kept the Moller going, plugging leaks with materials like fibreglass and auto body putty," he said.

Mark Cooley, a technician at the Moller factory in Hagerstown, is overseeing the technical side of the project in his spare time.

Theatre owner Gordon Madison noted that once the organ is returned to its original splendor, he plans to schedule more frequent concerts by touring artists. "We did it before, but always had to apologize for it. It's going to be like new when we finish with it."

## DAVID LOWE PLANNING OCTOBER U. S. TOUR

British organist David Lowe, who won highly favorable comments and invitations to return to U. S. on a concert tour when he was in this country for a brief visit in 1987, is currently arranging a tour to take place in October. He will accept dates in the eastern area starting October 11. His tour will end on the west coast November 5. Information is available from Concertours, P. O. Box 40165, Pasadena, Calif. 91114, or by writing Lowe direct at 18 Spruce Hills Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 4LD, England.

## Nordwall Will Tour U.K., Take Part In Workshop

Jonas Nordwall, Portland, Ore. organist, will take part in the 1989 Cinema Organ Society Workshop to be held in London next August. He will also be on concert tour of England during the month, it was reported by David Lowe, who heads up COS concert planning.

## Organ Job Running Ahead Of Stated Finish Date

by Richard Sklenar

Installation of the former Seventh Street Organ Stop Pizza Parlor Wurlitzer, Phoenix, is running far ahead of schedule, according to a report by Steve Adams. He is working with organ builder David Junchen on the installation of the 4/33 instrument in the Downers Grove, Ill. home of Jim and Sherrie Krughoff. It may be playable in May instead of late summer.



BOB ARNDT'S new music room, which will house his new Arndt "Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra," is only part of the new construction pictured above. The second story blossomed out larger than the first floor.

## CLUB NEEDS BIG BUCKS TO INSTALL MOLLER

Installation of the chapter-owned Moller organ in empty chambers of the Keswick Theatre at Glenside, Pa. awaits approximately \$25,000 to enable Delaware Valley Chapter to complete the job, it is reliably reported. A local paper recently published a photo showing member Bernie J. McGorrey with his left hand on two stop tablets and his right hand on a manual of the console which is on display in the theatre lobby. A Keswick flyer has advertised organ accompaniment "in the fall."

McGorrey is accompanying a silent film series at the Keswick on the piano. Two shows remain in the series—April 19 and June 4.

## Wife To Maintain Organ As Memorial To Spouse

Evelyn Keith of Prescott, Ariz., is planning to keep the two-manual, 12-rank Wurlitzer organ her husband rebuilt playing for concerts as a living memorial to him. Richard C. Keith died Jan. 24. He was a member of Valley of the Sun Chapter in Phoenix.

The Keith living room is well suited for such a memorial; it seats 100, and the home was built around the organ. Both William Brown and Harvey Heck, well-known organ personalities, have declared the Keith installation is one of the finest to be found anywhere.

## Wurlitzer in German Museum Used For Silents

Thomas Klose, of Heusenstamm, West Germany, and a group are presenting the 2/6 Wurlitzer in the German Film Museum at Frankfurt as a regular part of the program of silent film shows which are open to the general public. Matinee and evening performances are presented on week ends.

Last Nov. 26, British organist William Davies was guest organist there. He played a lengthy concert and also accompanied Charlie Chaplin in "The Goldrush". It was a sell-out performance with some patrons sitting on the museum stairway to see the show, it was reported in COS Newsletter.

## ARNDT ADDS NEW ROOM FOR UNIT ORCHESTRA

Organ parts builder and supplier Bob Arndt of Ankeny, Iowa is doing what many of his customers have done—adding a music room. And going into this room will be a new Arndt "Hope-Jones Unit Orchestra".

The organ will have all new chests, shutters, etc. It will be a three-manual job of 15 to 18 ranks with one of the Arndt Multi/Scan (TM) System II Computer Multiplex Systems. Three new ranks, Saxophone, Orchestral Oboe and Post Horn are on order. The other ranks have been collected since 1960 when Arndt was in high school. And it all will go into two chambers, each measuring 12-feet deep and 12-feet, 8-inches high; the room measures 20 by 25 with a 9-foot ceiling.

Because he can't squeeze a Spencer blower into the basement blower room, Arndt will use two new high speed blowers (which he also happens to sell) rated at 2hp each. "They run much quieter than the multi-stage Spencer units," Arndt said.

The addition is also pleasing to the lady of the house. Going skyward, Arndt has tacked on a master suite with a bedroom 20 by 36, computer/office area above the kitchen and a sun deck. There will also be a sun deck off the music room. Judging from the photo reproduced above, it appears the house is doubling in size!

## RTOS SHOWS PLAY TO EXCELLENT AUDIENCES

Rochester Theatre Organ Society concerts play to an average audience that totals 1,247 patrons; 11,225 persons attended nine concerts at the Auditorium Theatre from Dec. '87 to Nov. '88, it was reported in RTOS Blower newsletter.

## Ron Rhode Completes CD

by Richard Sklenar

Ron Rhode returned to the Sanfilippo residence, Barrington Hills, Ill., early in February to complete a CD recording on the Wurlitzer organ. Recording engineer was Robert Ridge-way.



## OHIO

—Continued from Page One—  
tise them too early because people do forget dates over a long period.”

He added that it was unfortunate the person who answered the phone at the theatre apparently was not aware of the spring series.

After it was learned the February news item was incorrect, a call was placed to the executive director, and a letter was written to one who is directly involved with the organ. At press time the call had not been returned, nor had an answer been received to the letter. James had called regarding another matter and was able to provide correct concert information.

## Joliet Ruled By Organists

by Hal Pritchard

Joliet (Ill.) Chapter will be ruled this year by no less than four organists, one expert organ technician and two volunteer technicians. Named President was Lee Maloney, theatre organist and producer; Larry Henschel, Vice President and theatre organist; Don Walker, Secretary and theatre organist; Jim Challender, Treasurer and expert organ technician. Directors are Jim Bradley, volunteer technician; Lee Rajala, volunteer technician; and Taylor Trimby, theatre organist.

Secretary Walker presented an excellent concert on the Joliet Rialto Theatre 4/21 Barton organ after the meeting.

## Woodward Will Play Three Show Dates

West coast organist Ty Woodward has announced concert dates for April. Sun City Organ Club, Sun City, Ariz., 7:30pm, Apr. 4; Apr. 9 at Shea's Buffalo Theatre, 2pm; Granada Theatre, Kansas City, Kan., Apr. 17, 8pm.

## Sanfilippo Gets Twin Lifts

by Richard Sklenar

Jasper Sanfilippo, Barrington Hills, Ill. organ buff, has purchased the twin turntable lifts from the long closed Chicago Granada Theatre. The building will be demolished to make way for high rise apartments. During the golden era of deluxe film houses, one lift was used for a grand piano, the other elevated the 4/20 Wurlitzer console.

Plans for the lifts were not disclosed, but it is known Sanfilippo is blueprinting a new music room with an enlarged theatre organ.

## Glass Slide Enthusiast Looking for Help

Old glass slides—the kind that were projected on movie house screens to advertise coming attractions, for sing-a-longs, and to create artistic scenic effects—still hold much fascination for collectors. One aficionado is Kevin J. Charbeneau, who recently acquired over 100 colored slides and became an immediate glass slide enthusiast.

He is now so engrossed in the collection that he is looking for more slides and a Brenograph machine for projecting them. He hopes to build his hobby into a working relationship with any groups who might find a programming use for them—such as ATOS chapter concerts and silent film shows.

Now well into searching and researching, Charbeneau would appreciate hearing from any readers who might have helpful information or slides—or a Brenograph. His address—P. O. Box 8423, Universal City, Calif. 91608-8423.

## CREW REMOVES ORGAN IN RECORD TIME SLOT

by Scott Smith

Something of a record was established for removal of a theatre organ recently when a crew of volunteer members of Lansing Theatre Organ Inc. dismantled the 3/10 Geneva pipe organ in the now closed Deerpath Theatre at Lake Forest, Ill. in seven hours.

The crew was able to bash holes in theatre walls and move components out of chambers to the auditorium floor in fairly quick order. Three hours were required to pack the instrument into a truck and haul it off to storage.

For the record, the theatre building is not coming down as reported in last month's issue of the NEWS. It is being gutted for shops and offices.

## GLEDHILL ADDS NEW CONCERT DIMENSION

A new dimension in concert presentation was noted at the three programs played by British organist Simon Gledhill on the west coast last January 21, 22 and 28. His performances at San Gabriel Civic, San Diego California Theatre and the Oakland Paramount Theatre were notable not only for the artist's superb playing, but also for the greatly extended applause following each of the selections heard.

This extraordinary occurrence became standard at each of Gledhill's programs due to his practice of presenting each number as a "full production" gem. His imaginative arrangements and manual dexterity earned him this recognition.

## MAY RE-WORK PABST ORGAN FOR CONCERT USE; THEATRE TOURS MAY BE POSSIBLE

Milwaukee's Pabst Theatre, completed around 1895 by Capt. Frederick Pabst, one of the city's beer barons, was originally equipped with a Ferrand-Votey tubular pneumatic organ. It eventually was removed. The theatre was restored in a multi-million dollar renovation in 1970, and is an "absolute jewel-box," according to Gary McWithey, President of Dairyland Chapter.

A replacement organ was installed when the house was refurbished, but classic and theatre factions became involved over what type instrument would be erected. Since the style could not be agreed upon the 'problem' was resolved with an organ designed to be both—and it turned out to be satisfactory for neither style of playing. It is basically a 20-rank organ with late 1920s Moller romantic pipework on five inches wind and the addition of a new Krumet and French Trumpet. The only percussions are chimes, harp and a lonely cymbal.

Both Pabst and ATOS officials are interested in utilizing the organ and some discussion has been held to bring in an experienced organ man to make the instrument more presentable without expending a great deal of money.

McWithey said the real solution to the problem is to replace the instrument with a Wurlitzer of approximately 15 ranks. He noted this is currently being investigated.

In response to the NEWS inquiry about tours of the theatre, McWithey said he knows of no regularly scheduled tours, but feels the present management would welcome visitors if a telephone request is made in advance. He added that if there is no production running at the time of a visit, it might also be possible to bring up the console to try out the organ.

## School Secretary Saves High School Organ

Kearny High School in Newark, N. J. offered the 3/22 Skinner organ in its auditorium for sale. The intended buyer never showed up. This prompted Orchid Carlson, secretary to the principal, to renew her request to mount a campaign to save and restore the organ.

Board approval was given after she disclosed that a former student, Wilbur Le Page, Class of '29, had donated \$30,000. It was learned Le Page took lessons on the organ. Since then she has collected another \$5,000. Final goal is \$85,000.

## RHODES GETS STANDING OVATION AT CONCERT

Ron Rhode played a special classical recital at Gammage Auditorium, Phoenix, Ariz., Jan. 23 before an audience of 450 people. The program, decidedly different from his sprightly theatre organ styling, was given in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance. He received a standing ovation, it was reported in Valley of the Sun Chapter newsletter Stop Rail.

## Zieger Is Still Around!

In the event you might have wondered what has happened to Dale Zieger, who was a well-known concert organist for Conn Organ Co., with his wife, Joni, they own and operate Keyboard World store in Grand Rapids, Mich., according to a news item published in Southwest Michigan Chapter newsletter.

## Edna Sellers Hospitalized

Edna Sellers, 89-year-old Hall of Fame member, was hospitalized for nine days recently. She was treated with blood thinners for poor circulation.

## BIG ORGAN MAY PLAY BY MAR. 10

Wurlitzer sounds are slated to be heard in the Detroit Fox Theatre possibly in March, according to Greg Bellomy, who reports that work is underway to repair the console elevator and get it operational. Lift motor problems are being resolved. Following completion of this project, the main cable can be reconnected to the console, he added.

He also disclosed that work has been done in the Orchestral chamber and that it was painted during the last week of January; pipework was to be returned to chests the following week. If possible, the organ will be playable for Fox Theatre Varieties series, which is scheduled to open March 10.

"Restoration of the Wurlitzer is progressing along with other work being done in the theatre," Bellomy said. "It receives consideration in relation to the overall restoration work necessary to bring the big house up to top condition," he added.

It has been learned that Fr. Jim Miller will concertize on the Wurlitzer in a preglow show for the coming Detroit Convention.

## ROLL CYMBAL ADDED TO RENAISSANCE WURLY

by Virginia E. White

In considering additions for the Wurlitzer organ installed in the Renaissance Theatre at Mansfield, Ohio, it was decided, on recommendation of several theatre organists, to put in a roll cymbal. Bob MacNeur came from Indianapolis and aided by Bill Johnson of Mansfield, the two men mounted the unit in the main chamber. The theatre's electronic crew completed console connections.

Organist Chris Elliott initiated its use Feb. 19, and Fr. Jim Miller is due to give it a good workout April 12 with his flashy style of jazz.

## AIR BREEZES FIRST TIME INTO ORGAN

Nor-Cal Chapter's organ crew at Berkeley Community Theatre, where the unit's former Toledo Paramount Theatre Wurlitzer is being installed, hit the blower switch during the last week of January, and 25 inches of wind breezed into chambers for the first time, it has been reported.

The organ, originally a 4/20 Pabst #1 model, has been expanded to duplicate a 4/32 Style 285 model instrument.

## Strony's Silent Work Is Very Seldom Heard

Walt Strony has played silent films for years, but he seldom is booked to accompany photoplays because most people wish to hear him in concert. He is considered one of the finest silent film artists around the circuit.



## Elliott Gets Top Publicity In Peninsula Publication

Who says publicity doesn't pay? Organist Chris Elliott discovered the value of being represented in the media when a color photo of him posing at the console of the large Allen organ in Menlo Park Presbyterian Church proved to be a big boost for attendance at the series of concerts he played at the church. He is senior organist there.

The front page color photo, and another black and white view with a feature article about not only his classical position, but his theatre organ/silent film accompaniment appearances was published in the Peninsula Times-Tribune, the major newspaper on the San Francisco peninsula.

During the next months he will tour various areas. Last month he played the Renaissance Theatre, Mansfield, Ohio. Chris noted he cut his musical teeth listening to recordings made on this organ by Lyn Larsen when it was installed in Hollywood.

On March 12 he accompanies "The Mark of Zorro" at Shea's Buffalo Theatre; Mar. 9, 16 and 23 he plays noon concerts at his church; Mar. 17 is a theatre concert at Fresno Pacific College Events Center; April 8 he accompanies two Buster Keaton films at Century II Civic Center, Wichita, Kan.

On May 14 he will accompany a 250-voice choir in a festival concert and play a 20-minute classical recital as part of the celebration of the new Wicks pipe organ at St. Pius Catholic Church in Redwood City, Calif.

## James Jumping Around

This month Dennis James is slated to jump around the country in concert appearances. Mar. 5 he played the Hershey (Pa.) Theatre. On Mar. 10 it is Wagnalls Memorial, Lithopolis, Ohio; 11 & 12, Granada Theatre, Kansas City, Kan. Then comes the National Film Tour of "Die Nibelungen"—Mar. 18, Castro Theatre, San Francisco; 23,24,25—Royce Hall, UCLA, Los Angeles; 27,28, Art Institute, Chicago; 30, 31, World Theatre, St. Paul; Apr. 4, 5, Cleveland Art Institute; 7,8—High Museum, Atlanta; 12,13—Anthology Film Archives, New York City; 22,23—International Film Festival, Wash. D. C.

## Neil Jensen Planning New U. S. Tour In '90

Popular Australian organist Neil Jensen is launching plans for another concert tour of U. S. and Canada for the month of March 1990, he has advised the NEWS. He may be contacted by writing Keymedia Productions, P. O. Box 99, Drummoyne, NSW, 2047, Australia, or by calling (02) 798-7390; Telex AA73870; FAX 612.4285283.



**WELL TUNED TRIUMVIRATE**—Henry Hunt, Lyn Larsen's manager, Carlo Curley and Robert Ridgeway, recording engineer, listen to a playback of a selection made during recording sessions at Girard College Chapel, Philadelphia, on the 1931 4/125 E. M. Skinner organ. Curley produced nine hours—nearly eight CDs—of finished performances from Dec. 21 through Jan. 6, over three-fourths of which was played from memory. The records will be released through London/Decca Records.

## Chi Rink Organ Playing Search Under Way For Velazco Music

Chicago's North Avenue Skating Rink Wurlitzer is now playing, according to a story published in "Pipes 'n' Ciphers" column of VOX CATOE, Chicago Chapter's official newsletter. The organ has two brassy Posthorns, plus the famous Leon Berry-Hub Rink Dopples Flutes. And the former State Theatre/Trianon Ballroom/Hinsdale Theatre three-manual Wurlitzer console has been restored to its natural mahogany finish.

## Sellers Has New Cassette

Barbara Sellers' "Belle of the Ball" cassette recording at the Allen custom three-manual digital theatre organ in Chicago's Music Box Theatre is now available. Price is \$10 plus \$3 for postage and handling. Order from the Music Box Theatre, 3733 No. Southport Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60613.

## Kann Plays Mini-Concerts

Organ buffs visiting Los Angeles are invited to attend Founder's Church of Religious Science, Sixth St. just west of Vermont Ave., Wednesday evenings to hear Stan Kann at the four-manual Wurlitzer. He plays a mini-concert from 7 to 7:30 featuring show tunes and pop music prior to the evening service.

## Fr. Miller To Play In Beaumont, Texas Apr. 8

Fr. Jim Miller appears in concert April 8 at 8pm in the Jefferson Theatre, 345 Fannin, Beaumont, Tex. Sponsored by Southwest Texas Chapter and Southeast Texas Art Council, tickets are available in advance at \$6, or at the door for \$8. Advance sales are through Ticketron or the ATOS unit.

## Erie Club Posts Dates

Rev. Bert Jones will present a concert for Erie Theatre Organ Society March 19 in the Commons Room at Gannon University. Lance Luce is scheduled to play there May 14. Both programs begin at 2pm. The school is located at 109 W. 6th St., Erie, Pa.

ATOS International NEWS section of *Theatre Organ Journal* is prepared by Tom B'hend, assisted Jim Koller. News items should be addressed to P. O. Box 40165, Pasadena, Calif. 91114.

## James Did Not Cancel His Santa Barbara Show Date

Concert artist Dennis James did not cancel his January show at the Arlington Theatre, Santa Barbara, Calif.; it was nixed by Santa Barbara Chapter. He received notification while on tour in Australia to the effect the Robert-Morton organ was not ready for nationally-known artists and because of that the January date was cancelled and would be rescheduled at a later date.

James said a news item in the NEWS has been misinterpreted and some people believe he cancelled the date because of the condition of the organ. "The implication is that I acted in a 'prima donna' manner, which is just the opposite of what actually happened. I have never done that in any situation," he said.

## DTOS PLANS EXHIBIT

Detroit Theatre Organ Club is looking for memorabilia—historic photos, programs, etc.—for a new kiosk display to be placed in the lobby of the Senate Theatre. Items involving the Fisher, Isis and Senate Theatres, all of which figure in the history of the club, are being sought. Scott Smith (517/882-5115 or Don Jenks 313/227-7627) may be contacted by donors.

## ELKO THEATRE CLOSES

January 22 was the final day of operation for the Elco Theatre, Elkhart, Ind. The house, which has a Kimball theatre organ, figured in the news several years ago when the owner was murdered by the theatre's manager. Future of the building is unknown although discussion was held at one time regarding converting the house to a performing arts center operation.

## Item In NEWS Recalls Youthful Experience

by William P. Bartlow

In the January issue of the NEWS I noticed an item about a theatre in Pomeroy, Washington being restored and an editor's comment that it must be the Seely.

My father's cousin, Abbie Hale Thompson ran that theatre for many years. In the early period she ran it with her husband who died prematurely. After his death she continued its operation. The couple had no children.

We would visit relatives in Pomeroy and I was in my delight for I could go down in the evening with Abbie to the theatre. Pomeroy at that time was about 1,500 population. The Seely was quite large for a town of that size. It had a big stage with a large ramp up to the stage door; Cousin Abbie always kept her car backstage.

I recall her telling me she had just purchased a new stage curtain which had hand-painted indian designs. There also was a photoplayer in the pit, but she would never let me turn it on. She told me in the silent days she played it while her husband managed the theatre. I had often wondered what happened to the instrument until the NEWS noted it is now in a shopping center at Lewiston, Idaho.

She kept the theatre neat as a pin and patrolled the balcony area so no smooching took place. I asked her about stage shows and she informed me she wanted no part of them. They were just a nuisance and stage people were always complaining and wanting something special.

Cousin Abbe died in the '50s, but I recall having such a good time roaming the theatre as a teenager. It was also good to learn what has happened to the building because it was such an unusual structure for a town that size. (Editor's Note: Bartlow has an excellent Wurlitzer installed in his Rushville, Ill. residence.)



**MUSICUS ORGANUM**

A highlight of the ATOS '89 Convention will be concerts at the Fox Theatre. Patrons are ushered in to the sound of a 3/12 Moller organ in the lobby — a sweet prelude to the majesty of the 4/36 Wurlitzer organ in the 7-story high auditorium.



If the weather is fine, conventioners will want to ride on a vintage double-decker trolley car. It will take more than a trolley ride to reach Ann Arbor, however. The trip will include a classical concert at Hill Auditorium, and a concert at the restored Michigan Theatre.



Detroit is aglow at night with restaurants, pubs, nightclubs, "festival shopping," concerts, plays, operas and ethnic festivals. A feature of Afterglow I is the exotic "Spanish Baroque" State Theatre in Kalamazoo. Mayan gods proudly stand guard on the console of the 4/32 Wurlitzer owned by the private Detroit Theatre Organ Club.







## Afterglow I

Frankenmuth Afterglow • Saturday, July 8  
 8:00 a.m. — Board buses for Frankenmuth  
 6:00–8:00 p.m. — Buses arrive back in Detroit

Even the most enthusiastic theatre organ buff might desire a respite from a solid week of concerts and theatre seats . . . what better way to “wind down” than a trip to the historic town of **Frankenmuth**, known as “Michigan’s Little Bavaria!” Located north of Detroit, Frankenmuth was settled by Germans and their descendants have respected and nurtured their legacy. The picturesque town features dozens of Bavarian-style buildings and lovely river-bank parks and paths for strolling.

Frankenmuth is world famous for the family-style chicken dinners served at Zehnder’s Restaurant. After we enjoy this all-you-can-eat luncheon feast, there will be plenty of time to walk and explore the multitude of specialty shops, many of them unique to Frankenmuth.

Chief among these is Bronner’s, the world’s largest Christmas store. Other stores feature such varied merchandise as clocks, Michigan wines, kites, doll houses and miniatures, woodcarvings, clothes, candies, linens, cheeses, and country-style crafts and furnishings.



Frankenmuth . . . Michigan’s Little Bavaria . . . a perfect ATOS ’89 Afterglow!

\$25 per person total cost  
 (includes bus transportation and family-style chicken dinner)

## Afterglow II

Southwest Michigan Afterglow • Saturday, July 8  
 8:00 a.m. — Board buses for Kalamazoo and Grand Rapids  
 6:00–8:00 p.m. — Buses arrive back in Detroit

Beautiful Southwest Michigan invites you to ride in air-conditioned buses through its green and pleasant countryside to the cities of Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

### Grand Rapids

At *Good Time Charley’s* in Grand Rapids, we’ll enjoy a hearty lunch (the selection includes three choices: Veal Parmesan, Shrimp Basket, and Barbeque Chicken). While lunching and relaxing, we’ll hear organist **Charlie Balogh** concertizing on the restaurant’s mighty 3/31 Wurlitzer, originally from the Stanley Theater in Jersey City.

### Kalamazoo

We’ll arrive in Kalamazoo in the midst of its Annual Flower Fest. We’ll visit the John Ebersson-designed atmospheric style **State Theatre**. The auditorium is styled to appear as a Spanish courtyard; the stars will twinkle and the clouds will race by as we listen to the silver-throated 3/13 Barton organ, played by organist **Rob Richards**.

A boxed lunch will be served before the buses depart for Detroit.

\$45 per person total cost  
 (includes bus transportation and two meals)  
 Limited to 330 people

Co-sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Chapter and the Motor City Theatre Organ Society Chapter, ATOS.



Charlie Balogh



Rob Richards



# It's Music Time in '89! Registration Information

**Convention Registration** may be accomplished by completing the form on the inside back cover of the "wrapper" from this issue of *Theatre Organ* magazine. Please fill out the form completely and legibly; it will be used to prepare your personalized convention package and name badge.

Convention registration is open only to current members of ATOS. You must indicate whether you wish to take part in any of the additional events planned: the Pre-Glow, the Banquet, the Jam Sessions, and the Afterglows. The cost breakdown for *Music Time in '89!* is as follows:

**Convention Registration** ..... \$145.00  
Includes all transportation to regularly scheduled events, tickets to all shows, personalized Convention materials, and more.

**Late Registration** ..... (\$15.00)  
Conventioneers who register after May 15 must pay a late registration fee of \$15.00.

**"Pre-Glow" — Sunday, July 2, 1-3 p.m.** ..... \$12.00  
Includes transportation to and from Fox Theatre, and Concert by Father Jim Miller.

**Jam Session — Monday, July 3** ..... \$ 3.00  
Following the program at the Redford Theatre; cost includes transportation.

**Banquet Reservation — Thursday, July 6, 8-11 p.m.** ..... \$36.00  
Prime rib dinner; entertainment

**Jam Session — Friday, July 7, 11:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.** ..... \$ 3.00  
DTCO — The Senate Theatre; cost includes transportation.

**Luncheon in Ann Arbor at the Michigan League — Thursday, July 6** ..... \$ 9.00  
Triple salad plate, rolls and beverage.

## Afterglow Options — Saturday, July 8

I. **Frankenmuth** ..... \$25.00  
Includes transportation and luncheon of family-style chicken dinner at world-famous Zehnder's Restaurant.

II. **Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo** ..... \$45.00  
Includes transportation, concert and luncheon at Good Time Charley's Restaurant; indicate your meal choice (all are complete dinners).  
 Veal Parmesan  Shrimp Basket  Barbecue Chicken

Checks should be made payable to ATOS Convention '89 or you may charge your Registration on MasterCard or VISA. Send the Registration Form, along with your check, to:

ATOS Convention '89  
% Mrs. Dorothy Van Steenkiste  
9270 Reeck Rd.  
Allen Park, Michigan 48101

An acknowledgement of your Registration will be sent to you. Registrations received after June 15th may not receive acknowledgement.

Questions about Convention registration may be answered by Dorothy Van Steenkiste (313) 383-0133, or Marjorie Muethel (313) 772-3517.

## Hotel Registration

If you're coming from out of town (even if you're not!), you won't want to miss all the camaraderie, socializing and fun that will take place at the Westin Hotel in Renaissance Center — our headquarters. To make your hotel reservations, use the form located on the inside of the mailing cover from this issue of *Theatre Organ*. You **must** make hotel reservations and register for Convention separately; simply doing one does not take care of the other! Hotel registration will be handled by the Westin Hotel, and questions must be addressed to them. Cut-off date for hotel registration at the special ATOS rate is June 10. Special ATOS '89 convention room rates are as follows:

Single ..... \$65.00  
Double ..... 70.00  
Twin ..... 70.00  
Additional person per room ..... 20.00  
No charge for children under 18 if staying in same room with parents.

Please send the hotel Reservation Form to:

Westin Hotel  
Reservations Department J78  
Renaissance Center  
Detroit, Michigan 48243  
313/568-8200

## Tape Recording, Photography and Videotaping

We doubt if there is a more talented group of amateur "tape recorders" than ATOS! BUT it can be a real irritation to others attending concerts. So we seriously discourage tape recording at all concerts.

**Flash photography, movie cameras, and camcorders** are strictly prohibited during all concerts. No exceptions!

If you still wish to record, you **must** abide by the following rules:

- Only C-90 cassettes
- No AC power available
- Hand-held microphones, below the sightlines of the audience
- Recorders must be turned on at beginning of concert and not turned off until the end

Any additional Convention information may be obtained by calling Mrs. Marjorie Muethel (313) 772-3517.

## Discount Travel Rates

Through arrangements with Conventions in America, Inc., San Diego, CA., special reduced rates with American Airlines and Alamo Rent-A-Car are available for *Music Time in '89!* conventioneers. These arrangements include:

### AIR FLIGHTS

- 45% Air Fare Discounts on Coach Class Seating & Guaranteed Discounts on all Other Seat Classes including "Supersaver" Fares.
- Complimentary \$100,000 Travel Insurance with Each Ticket.
- Four Complimentary Drink & Movie Coupons with Each Ticket.
- Special "Double Check" Reservation System to Insure Best Fare on All Airlines and Travel Services.

### CAR RENTALS\*

Car Type	Daily / Weekly
Economy (Sprint or similar)	\$26 / \$115
Compact (Cavalier or similar)	\$29 / \$129
Intermediate (Grand Am or similar)	\$31 / \$159
Standard (Regal or similar)	\$36 / \$189
Luxury (LeSabre or similar)	\$38 / \$209

\* These special rates are available for one week preceding and one week following the Convention.  
\* Unlimited free mileage. \* Add \$2.00/day for four-door models.

Make all of your airline and car rental arrangements by calling:

**Conventions in America, Inc.**

**1-800-942-0098**

Refer to the *Music Time in '89!* group number: 301A