

# We Proudly Present Our Judges For The 1989 YOUNG ORGANIST COMPETITION

*They Took the Time . . .  
a sincere dedication to the  
goals of our organization:*

*"Preserving the tradition of the  
Theatre Organ and furthering the  
understanding of this instrument  
and its music through the  
exchange of information."*



## Lowell C. Ayars

Our Organist of the Year (1980) and Member of the ATOS Hall of Fame has served on the National Board and was named Honorary Member in June 1987. Lowell has played organ, both church and theatre, for sixty years. Just retired as organist-choir director from the First Presbyterian Church, Bridgeton, New Jersey, and was elected Organist and Choirmaster Emeritus. Lowell has been a featured organist at numerous conventions. One of the comments that Lowell made referred to the size of the organs the contestants used: "It often takes more musicianship to get variety out of a smaller instrument." He felt these young adults were doing a fantastic job in learning the art of playing the theatre organ.



## Charlie Balogh

Charlie is a native of Trenton, New Jersey, has studied with various teachers on the East Coast and also attended Trenton State College. In 1973, he joined the staff of organists at Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix, Arizona. While there, he studied with organist Lyn Larsen. In the spring of 1977, he moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan to become a staff organist at the then Roaring 20's Pizza. He now owns the business and has renamed it Good Time Charley's. Charlie was very impressed with the new talent and feels these young people will go far in their musical careers. He felt it was quite hard to judge the Junior Division as there were so many good entries.



## John Muri

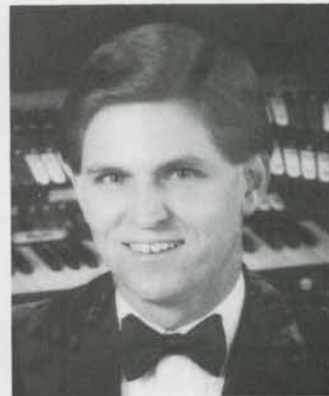
*Our "Prime" Judge*

John Muri has been playing theatre and concert pipe organs since he was 17 and continues to carry on the tradition. His message to the contestants: "In my book, you are all winners. I have listened to each tape at least three times and sometimes more. From each I have learned something about music and art. For you, as well as for an old man like me, there is always much to learn. I wish you will continue to grow in musical ability and knowledge, and that you will have opportunities in the years ahead to play fine music for appreciative audiences."



## Rob Calcaterra

DIVERSIFIED — What better word to describe Rob: Organist, Conductor, Composer, Musical Director and Teacher. As a graduate of Indiana University, Rob is a performer of both the classical and theatre organ repertoires. In addition to concerts, he presents seminars, workshops and lectures on the theatre organ. Rob has concertized extensively throughout the United States and has given three successful European concert tours. His command of seven languages has been helpful while abroad. His choral/orchestral works have been premiered at Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall (Lincoln Center) in New York City. A few of Rob's comments to the contestants, and there were many: "When playing a solo twice, never play it the same way. Watch your phrasing. Get a feeling for what you are playing. Keep introductions in the same tempo as the actual song. Watch your timing, use a metronome, etc."



## Ron Rhode

With a background of popular piano and classical organ, having studied at St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa, Ron moved to Arizona from his native Illinois in 1973 to become the Associate Organist at Organ Stop Pizza in Phoenix. He is also a demonstrator and sales agent for Rodgers Organs of Arizona. Ron has performed at most of the major theatre organ installations throughout the United States and has played before audiences in Canada, Australia and England.

A quote from Ron to the young organists was: "George Wright told Lyn Larsen, who told me, and I'll tell you — LESS IS MORE — Using less allows you more to do with, and gives you greater variety in your playing, whether it is registration, temp, or notes!"