

Our 1989 Contestants For The NATIONAL YOUNG ORGANIST COMPETITION

They Are All Winners . . . They Have Worked Hard

OUR JUDGES HAVE DONE AN EXCELLENT JOB AND WERE REALLY GREAT IN GETTING BACK THEIR REVIEWS. THE YOUNG ORGANIST COMMITTEE, JOHN LEDWON, ASHLEY MILLER, MELISSA AMBROSE, LOIS SEGUR AND JACK MOELMANN WISH TO SINCERELY THANK THE CHAPTERS THAT SPONSORED THE CONTESTANTS, THE CONTESTANTS THEMSELVES AND THE MEMBERS OF ATOS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT.

Dorothy VanSteenkiste, Chairman



JUNIOR WINNER

Russell Holmes

Sponsored by London and South of England
A fifteen-year-old student attending boarding school at Repton Nr Derby, he recorded his tape on a 3/9 Wurlitzer in Burton on Trent Town Hall, Staffordshire, England. Russell is studying church organ at school with Mr. J. Legrove on a fine Harrison and Harrison pipe organ in the school chapel. He is asked to play for various social occasions.

Russell also has his own Rodgers Trio organ at school on which he practices as much as possible. There was always an organ available in his home, but he has only been playing serious for about three years.

It is very sad that his theatre organ teacher, Mr. Armsbee Bancroft, died this year without knowing that Russell's tape had been chosen for the competition.



INTERMEDIATE WINNER — AND OVERALL WINNER

Barry Baker

Sponsored by Central Indiana Chapter
An eighteen-year-old high school senior, graduating this June, from Ft. Thomas, Kentucky. His recording was made on a 4/33 Wurlitzer theatre organ at the Springdale Music Palace, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Barry began music instruction at age eight on piano and within a year his interest in the organ developed. By age ten he was regularly playing pipe organ for his church. It was at this time he was introduced to a theatre organ in the Emery Theatre by the Ohio Valley Chapter of ATOS.

By age 12, Barry was asked to play for classic movies at the Emery Theatre. Soon after he was asked to play the 4/33 Wurlitzer at the Springdale Music Palace on several occasions along with house organist Karl Cole. He was fortunate, also, to be able to utilize the fine home installation belonging to Ron Wehmeier of Cincinnati to further develop his talents.

Since the Cincinnati area offered little in the way of theatre organ instruction, Barry worked mostly on his own to develop his playing skills. Early in 1989 Barry began theatre organ studies with John Ferguson of Indianapolis. He is also studying classical piano with Dr. David Hobbs of Northern Kentucky University.



SENIOR WINNER

John Cook

Sponsored by Pine Tree Chapter
A nineteen-year-old high school graduate planning on entering music school to continue his studies. His tape was recorded on a 5/21 Wurlitzer theatre organ located in the Providence Performing Arts Center.

A native of Braintree, Massachusetts, John began to play at age three, and began formal lessons at age eight. At age 14 he participated in the Youth Presentation at the ATOS convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. He has been a finalist in the Intermediate category of the Young Organist Competition. John has played many cameos with featured performers.

Playing is only one facet of his interest in music. He is very active in the physical restoration of some of the organs that he plays. The Wurlitzer at the Middle School in Berlin, New Hampshire, is perhaps the best example of his interest in restoration. He intends to become more involved in the voicing of these instruments. His other interests include architectural drafting and stereo Hi-Fi.

SENIOR ENTRY

Jennifer M. Candea

Sponsored by Wolverine Chapter
A 21-year-old student at Oakland Community College, Royal Oak, Michigan, her recording was made on a 4/34 Wurlitzer theatre organ at the Detroit Theater Organ Club. Jennifer has quite a background in music performance. She was Concert Mistress of her High School Orchestra, playing the violin. Her many years of organ study have resulted in performances at the Redford Theatre for their movie series, playing Fourth Sundays at the Royal Oak Music Theatre, on occasion playing at the Michigan Theatre in Ann Arbor, and cameo appearances at the Detroit Theater Organ Club. Jennifer has several arrangements and original compositions which are always included in her concerts.

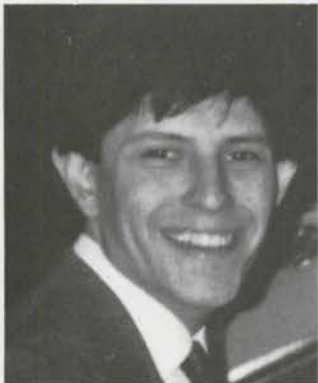


SENIOR ENTRY

Anthony Milligan

Sponsored by Theatre Organ Society of San Diego

A nineteen-year-old student from San Diego, California, Tony started his musical training at the age of fifteen. His recording was made on a 4/22 Wurlitzer theatre organ in the California Theatre in San Diego. Tony won the San Diego Theatre Organ Society competition in March 1988. In November 1988, Tony was winner of the "Stars of Tomorrow" competition in San Gabriel sponsored by the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society. His hobbies are music and dancing, and Tony has a brown belt in karate. Tony's goal is to become a professional organist.

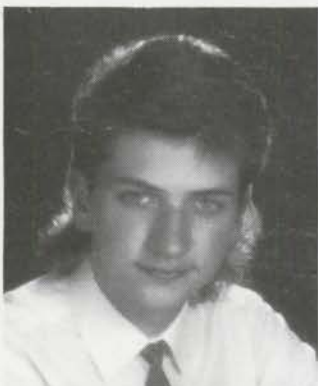


SENIOR ENTRY

Chris Schweda

Sponsored by Motor City Theatre Organ Society

A nineteen-year-old freshman at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, Chris made his recording on a 3/10 Barton theatre organ at the Redford Theatre. Chris has been studying organ for almost ten years. He began formal lessons with Mrs. Verona Pendell of West Chicago, Illinois. Since moving to Michigan, Chris has studied with Marie Jenkins and Rick Moore. He has been competing in the Regional and Finals competitions of the American Guild of Music for the last four years, winning many awards and honors. He has also completed Cadet Teacher training under the auspices of the AGM. Chris is currently studying piano and keyboard and hopes one day to be a performing artist.

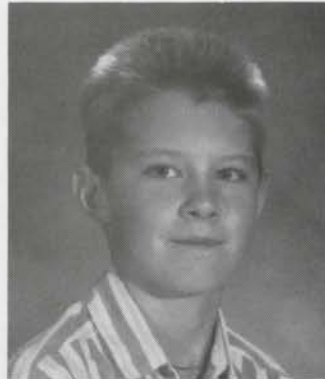


JUNIOR ENTRY

Kenneth Merley

Sponsored by Motor City Chapter (Michigan)

Ken is 13 and is a seventh grade honor roll student in Troy, Michigan. His early interest in picking out tunes and chords on his grandparents' organ ended up with grandpa purchasing an organ for him to practice on. At the age of six, he began taking organ lessons. The family's move to Southeast Michigan exposed Ken to theatre organ at a local pizza parlor. Ken has played for his church, numerous organ club meetings, and has been invited to "try her out" at pizza parlors in Canada, Michigan and Illinois. He plays trumpet in the school band, is active in the church youth group and plays in the local soccer league. Under the direction of his teacher, Steve Schlesing, Ken did his recording on the 3/10 Barton theatre organ at the Redford Theatre.



JUNIOR ENTRY

Cheryl Morefield

Sponsored by Theatre Organ Society of San Diego

A 14-year-old ninth grade student at Hoover High School, San Diego, California, Cheryl's recording was made on a 3/22 Wurlitzer theatre organ in the California Theatre in San Diego. Cheryl has been studying organ for two years under Cheryl Seppala. Her hobbies include writing poems and short stories and riding her bike. She plans to become a writer and a church and concert organist.



JUNIOR ENTRY

Claudette Sunman

Sponsored by Wolverine Chapter

A fourteen-year-old ninth grade student at Grissom Junior High School in Sterling Heights, Michigan, her recording was made on a 3/10 Barton theatre organ in the Redford Theatre. Claudette has played keyboards since she was three years old and has won several trophies in the American Guild of Music and Yamaha competitions. She has been active in the school band for five years, playing the flute, and is currently studying bass guitar. At the present time she is studying organ with Dennis Rivard.



JUNIOR ENTRY

Elenor B. Narcy

Sponsored by Mid-Florida

A fifteen-year-old honor student in the ninth grade at Lake Mary High School in Lake Mary, Florida, her recording was made on a 3/12 Wurlitzer theatre organ in the Tampa Theatre (only 9 ranks were playing). Elenor started playing organ when her tiny legs could not even reach the pedals. Since that time she has graduated to a Hammond Aurora Classic and today plays the Elegante. Elenor is called on to play in church, in the mall, and has had the opportunity to play on several theatre organs. Her theatre organ teacher is Bob Joyner and Joyce Girardet is her classical instructor. Elenor's busy schedule includes playing oboe in her school band.

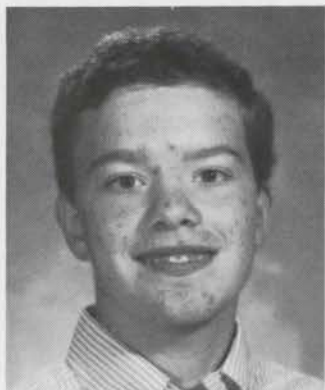


JUNIOR ENTRY

John Peter DeVona

Sponsored by Chicago Area Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

A fifteen-year-old honor student at Lyons Township High School in La Grange, Illinois, his recording was made on a 3/17 Barton theatre organ in the Patio Theatre, Chicago, Illinois. This is John's first organ contest. He has taken piano lessons for nine years and began playing the classical organ in July 1988. John plays the 'cello' in his school orchestra and ensemble group, and is a member of the Sophomore Chorus and the Classical Language Honors Society. He is a lector and song leader at his church, sings in the church choir, and is active in the teen youth group. John is a volunteer staff organist at Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove on Thursday nights.

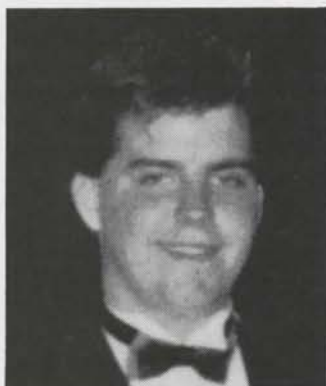


INTERMEDIATE ENTRY

Jason Roger Pfeiffer

Sponsored by Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society

A sixteen-year-old, tenth grade student at Lasalle High School in Pasadena, California, his recording was made on a 3/13 Wurlitzer theatre organ in the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles. Even though he has a very busy work schedule preparing him for college, he still takes time for weekly music lessons. Jason plays at school for various events and is called upon to play at his church quite often. He has been a winner in the LATOS young organist competition several times, twice at age 13, and this year as the Youth 1 Champ. His ambition is to entertain, create happiness within himself and also for those around him.



INTERMEDIATE ENTRY

Peter Holt

Sponsored by London and South of England

A sixteen-year-old "Fifth Form" student at Ashville College, Harrogate, his recording was made on a 3/11 Wurlitzer theatre organ now at Howden-Le-Wear, Durham. Peter enjoyed a three-year scholarship at Leeds College of Music from 1983 to 1986 and currently holds a Music Scholarship at Ashville College Harrogate where he commenced academic studies in September 1984. Peter is well known for the concerts he performs for various charities. His hobbies, aside from his music, are photography, computer programming, cycling, squash and "anything to do with cars." He can't wait for his 17th birthday so that he can pass his driving test. Peter hopes to be a full professional one day, but he also has an interest in being a Chartered Surveyor. This summer will find Peter in Germany as accompanist to a musical production by his school for the Berlin Arts Festival.



INTERMEDIATE ENTRY

Faith Sunman

Sponsored by Motor City Theatre Organ Society

A sixteen-year-old, tenth grade student at Sterling Heights High School, Sterling Heights, Michigan, Faith did her recording on a 3/10 Barton theatre organ in the Redford Theatre. Faith has been the winner several times in the local competition of MCTOS. She has played keyboards since she was four years old and has won several trophies at the American Guild of Musicians competitions. Faith is active in the high school band playing clarinet and is currently studying guitar. Faith is often called upon to play for various programs in the local chapters she and her parents belong to. With her busy schedule at school, she still finds time for her favorite pastimes, roller skating and rock music.

