
May We Introduce . . . BARRY BAKER



Hailing from Ft. Thomas, Kentucky, this eighteen-year-old young musician is already proving to be something out of the ordinary. His playing seems to possess a depth of feeling and maturity of one much beyond his years. Barry and his family are members of Central Indiana Chapter.

Barry began music instruction at the age of 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. When asked what his first introduction to the theatre pipe organ was, he replied, "Before I ever touched a theatre organ, I recall listening to my father's extensive collection of theatre organ recordings. Even at that age I was particularly drawn to the playing artistry of George Wright. Recalling my thoughts at that early age, I remember being impressed with the variety displayed in his playing."

By age twelve, Barry was asked to play for classic movies at the Emery Theatre. Later on he was invited to play the

4/33 Wurlitzer organ at the Springdale Music Palace on several occasions, along with house organist Karl Cole. When questioned about his experience, he said, "I remember feeling rather overwhelmed playing such a large instrument. I felt privileged to be performing with 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. Commenting on this, Barry went on to say, "I feel this is one of the finest home installations I have played and I feel a sense of gratitude toward Ron Wehmeier for allowing me to spend many hours developing a familiarity with the theatre organ."

We asked if there was anyone else that Barry could recall who helped him along the way and he replied, "Looking back at my early years, I have to remember my friend Martin Bevis of Dayton, Ohio. Martin helped me greatly when I first began performing and opened doors for me providing opportunities that I may otherwise have not had."

We continued to discuss his music studies and asked Barry about his thoughts on combining serious piano study with theatre organ instruction. "In addition to piano practice being necessary as a means of maintaining a clean keyboard technique, studying piano is also something I enjoy greatly and I feel I have a very effective instructor." Barry is continuing his classical piano study with Dr. David Hobbs of Northern Kentucky University.

Barry's hobbies include classic movies of the 40s and 50s. "I enjoy listening to music of all kinds and feel that I get a lot of musical ideas from orchestral and vocal arrangements which I sometimes include in my playing. Aside from these hobbies, I enjoy spending time with my family."

We predict a rich future for this young artist whose dedication to his music is quite apparent in his performance and personal manner. Barry will be heard in concert at the 1990 Convention in Indianapolis.