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President's Message



One question that I hear on a rather regular basis is: What does National ATOS do for us? My answer has usually been to explain some of the things that National ATOS is currently doing or planning to do. Presently we:

- Publish THEATRE ORGAN six times yearly
 - Provide the only exclusively Theatre Organ CD reviewing service
 - Publish the *International NEWS* monthly
 - Provide an archives for those interested in Theatre Organ memorabilia and/or period music
 - Provide a competition and public forum for young theatre organists
 - Offer technical help for restoring, rebuilding and installing a Theatre Organ
 - Provide information for current Theatre Organ venues
 - Provide a communication channel for those interested in the Theatre Organ
- We have several ideas in the formation stage such as:
- Theatre Organ Radio show on Public Radio
 - Theatre Organ videos for use on cable TV outlets and PBS television
 - Slide show
 - A permanent archives and hands on "living museum"
 - A Theatre Organ placement service for those wishing to donate a Theatre Organ to a non-profit organization . . . have a Theatre Organ to donate? Let us help find a home for it.

Now, with the above in mind, where can we improve? What do *you* want from ATOS? We want to meet your needs but, in order to do so, we need to know your wants . . . I can't guarantee that we can implement everybody's ideas, but challenge us and I guarantee we will discuss it at our annual Board meeting in August.

Our Radio Show is "a rap" and "in the can." Russ Hamnett has written, DJ'ed and produced a thirteen-week Theatre Organ radio program entitled *THEATRE PIPES* for distribution on Public Radio. Write me, Russ, or your chapter president for more information. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT ON THIS!!! An extensive letter writing campaign is needed to get this show rolling. Please help by writing your local Public Radio Station asking them to subscribe to this program. THANKS!

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. We have many excellent candidates running. Please take the time to vote just as soon as you get the ballot. It comes third class so don't throw it away thinking it is an advertisement! For a measly quarter you can help shape the future of ATOS.

Chapters who have technical crews involving young people are requested to contact me and/or Aiden Stockebrand so that we might pass your successes on to chapters with problems maintaining organs.

I am delighted to see several Letters to the Editor dealing with the future of the Theatre Organ. Keep the ideas coming, and we *will* get the Theatre Organ into the mainstream of the music industry.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

John Ledwon

"AN ACRE OF SEATS" RETURNS TO THEATRE ORGAN

As the too-short heyday of the theatre organ begins to recede beyond memory, those of us who continue to appreciate these marvelous instruments and the magnificent movie palaces they served must keep ourselves aware of this history so we can savor and protect what little has survived. With this in mind, THEATRE ORGAN, in association with the Theatre Historical Society of America, is reviving the popular "Acre of Seats" page edited in years past by Bill Peterson.

Accompanied by photographs from the THSA Archive, this feature will document briefly one of the great movie palaces and its organ. We will try our best to maintain a decent balance of geography, organ brands, architects, theatre types, and whatever. Surviving original installations and recent re-installations will alternate with vanished venues, some obscure, others known by all.

The Theatre Historical Society of America was founded in 1969 by Ben M. Hall and Brother Andrew Corsini as a means of bringing together all the old-theatre buffs they could find. The Society publishes *Marquee*, an illustrated quarterly covering both history and current preservation activities; a larger annual devoted to a single theatre or topic, and occasional specials. Annual "Conclaves" feature theatre crawls, slide programs, organ presentations when we can get them, and good times always.

For membership information write:

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