

We Proudly Present Our Judges For The 1990 YOUNG ORGANIST COMPETITION

*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."*

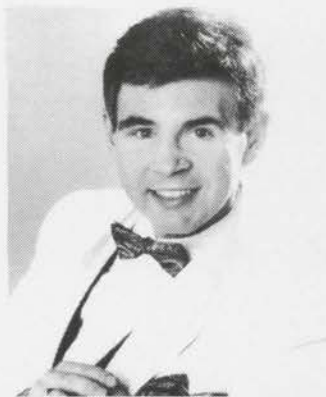


Kay McAbee PRINCIPAL JUDGE

Inducted into the American Theatre Organ Society's Hall of Fame at the 1985 Convention in Chicago, Kay McAbee has credentials that are very impressive, and his mastery of the theatre organ is evidence of his playing skills. His message to the contestants: "I sincerely hope that you will continue on and be an inspiration for other young organists. Our membership should recognize your talent and keep giving you encouragement to continue. We professionals must take the time to work with you young adults, our future depends on it. It takes time to learn proper registrations and I, myself, hope I have the opportunity to work with a few of you in the coming years. Always remember the next time you will do better. Continue to perfect your organ techniques and registrations. ATOS offers a great opportunity and I think the future looks very bright."

Karl Cole

Since 1981 Karl Cole has been the Principal Organist for the Springdale Music Palace, performing on the 4/33 Wurlitzer Pipe Organ from the Philadelphia Mastbaum Theatre. While in Ohio, Karl has played for the Cincinnati Reds at Riverfront Stadium, performed several church concerts and provided sound tracks for commercial videos. He has recorded 12 albums. In addition to his singing talents he has created Miss Anna Chovie, a hand puppet that adds variety wherever Karl performs. His comments were: "It has been an honor to be a judge for the 1990 Young Organist Competition. All of the contestants deserve an A for making an excellent effort. It is not an easy task recording pipe organ arrangements. Your endeavors were greatly appreciated by this judge. The news media seems to put emphasis on our troublesome youth. Our 1990 contestants should be on the 'front page' and 'prime time' representing the friendly and wholesome aura of the Theatre Organ."



Karl Cole



Andy Kasparian

Andy Kasparian

A native of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, Andy Kasparian has acquired a reputation for musical excellence and versatility both on pipe organ and on his own well-known Hammond X-66 "organ complex" — that literally extends coast-to-coast. His first affair with theatre pipes was at the 3/8 Kimball in the Lansdowne Theatre, Lansdowne, Pennsylvania. Andy is currently concertizing on both Pipe and Electronic Organs. His message to the contestants: "Invitingly refreshing to see our young talent carry on the theatre organ tradition. You young people will be the future of the theatre organ world. It would be great to see more people become involved. It was a pleasure listening to the tapes. I hope that I will be able to work with some of you young people in the future. It was a great honor and I am very grateful for having the opportunity to be one of the judges."



Dennis Hedberg



Jim Riggs

Dennis Hedberg

Dennis Hedberg is President of Jay, Incorporated dba Organ Grinder in Portland, Oregon. His comments on the competition were: "Acting as a judge for the 1990 Young Artist Competition was a new experience for me, particularly when I stop to think that I am more of a technical than a musical person. From my perspective it seems there is considerable interest in learning the art of theatre organ playing. However, as I auditioned the submitted tape cassettes two impressions kept recurring: 1) More care needs to be taken in recording and duplicating the tapes. I finally resorted to listening with headphones in an effort to determine what the artists were trying to musically say. I found particular difficulty in evaluating pedal to manual balance; 2) Those of us who either own or have good access to theatre pipe organs must make them more available to youngsters. We who understand pipe organs (or at least think we do) must coach the youngsters' teachers in the differences in pipe organ versus electronic organ registration so that they may properly educate our future performers in this important facet of theatre organ playing. In my opinion, too many contestants sounded as if they were trying to play the pipe organs, regardless of size or builder, as if they were electronic organs equipped with Leslie speakers. Even so, I was impressed by the sincerity of all participants. They were all trying. HOORAY FOR THE YOUNGSTERS!"

Jim Riggs

Jim Riggs is a dedicated partisan of orchestrally oriented music on the pipe organ. His toe-tapping style is vibrant, fresh and never ordinary. Jim plays regularly for audiences at Oakland's Paramount Theatre and at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto, in addition to concerts across the nation and in Great Britain and Canada. Jim has released three recordings; the latest being "Paramount On Parade," recorded on the 26-rank Wurlitzer in the Oakland Paramount. His comments: "I'm pleased to hear such a variety of styles and the ability to think orchestrally — always an asset on the theatre organ. These entrants have loads of talent and we should be hearing a lot more from them in the future."

Our 1990 Contestants For The NATIONAL YOUNG ORGANIST COMPETITION

They Are All Winners . . . They Have Worked Hard



JUNIOR WINNER AND OVERALL WINNER

MARK ASTON

*Sponsored by London and
South of England Chapter*

A fifteen-year-old student from Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk who attends King Edward VI School in Bury St. Edmunds. His first interest in organ was at the age of five when he played a small keyboard purchased in Japan while away on a long sea voyage with his parents on a ship that his father was serving on. Two years later he started to play an electronic organ. At the age of twelve he attended a summer workshop at the South Bank Polytechnic in London which he has attended every year since then. Mark started lessons with John Norris at fourteen on South Bank Wurlitzer and practices on other organs in the area.

Interested in church organ, he started taking piano to develop a clean keyboard technique. Mark owns a Wersi organ built by his father, also a Hammond organ and piano.

In addition to winning the London Young Theatre Organist Competition in September 1989 at the Cannon Theatre Harrow, Mark has played several cameo spots and in the Organ Festival at the Fairfield Hall in Croydon in January. He also plays piano in the Swing Band at school.

School studies and music practice take up most of his spare time. His hobbies include weight lifting, cycling and listening to music of all kinds which helps with ideas for programs.



INTERMEDIATE WINNER RUSSELL HOLMES

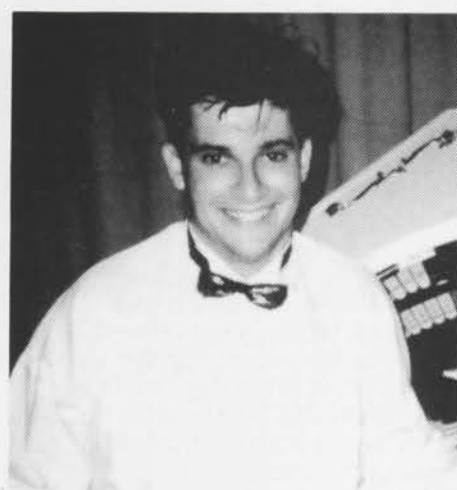
*Sponsored by London
and South of England*

Russell is sixteen years old and is a pupil at Repton School in Derbyshire. His recording was made on the 3/8 Wurlitzer at the Burton on Trent Town Hall, Staffordshire, England. This organ was once in the Cameo Theatre, Cleveland, Ohio. Russell is the first British organist to win two divisions of the competition. Last year he won the Junior division and played for the convention in Detroit.

Russell has played many of England's theatre organs, most recently the famous Wurlitzer in Blackpool Tower and the mighty 4/24 South Bank Wurlitzer in London.

Russell is never far away from an organ — he practices on the Burton Wurlitzer, has a Yamaha HX at school and a Wurlitzer 950TA at home — to say nothing of the school chapel organ. From these he is developing a style of his own and is totally dedicated to becoming a top-class theatre organist.

He thoroughly enjoyed his trip to America last year and is looking forward to meeting old friends in Indianapolis. Russell spends a great deal of time listening to recordings of other famous organists whenever possible.



SENIOR WINNER JOHN GIACCHI

Sponsored by Australia Felix

A 20-year-old, currently in second year at the University of Technology, Sydney, completing a Bachelor of Law Degree, John's recording was made on the highly acclaimed 3/17 Wurlitzer in the Orion Centre, Sydney, Australia.

John started his electronic organ studies at 12 years of age, and just a few years later was awarded first place in the classical section and second place in the popular category of the City of Sydney Eistedfodd. During that same year John made his theatre organ debut on the Marrickville Town Hall 2/11 Wurlitzer. His performance was highly acclaimed and since then John has made a number of other appearances for TOSA NSW and other interstate divisions. At the 1988 Canberra Convention, John represented his state in the "Accent On Youth" concert.

In 1988, the year of Australia's bicentenary, an Australiawide competition was held involving the composition of a piece of music for the theatre organ appropriate to the bicentenary. John achieved first place for his composition. As a result, he was invited to play his composition (called "Opus '88") on the five-manual Hill & Son pipe organ in Sydney Town Hall.

With an intense interest in the technical side of theatre organ, John became a member of the project team headed by organbuilder John Parker which brought to completion the restoration and installation of the Mighty Wurlitzer in the Orion Centre which was the instrument featured on his recording.

For the last two years, John has been working on his own to further develop his own style. His former teacher in theatre organ instruction was internationally known organist Neil Jensen. As for the future, John hopes that he will continue to be able to provide theatre organ entertainment to the public while being dedicated to the field of law.

The Young Organist Committee,

John Ledwon, Ashley Miller, Lois Segur, Jack Moelmann, Melissa Ambrose, Barry Baker and Jelani Eddington 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

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION ELENOR B. NARDY

*Sponsored by Mid-Florida Theatre
Organ Society*

Elenor is a sophomore at Lake Mary High School. She ranks eleventh in her class and was recently inducted into the National Honor Society. Elenor has played the organ for ten years, and for the past two years has participated in the ATOS National Competition.

In addition to the organ, Elenor plays the cymbals and bells for the Lake Mary Marching Rams and the oboe for the Lake Mary Symphonic Band. For the past three years, Elenor has been selected to play the oboe in the All-State and All-County Symphonic Bands. At the beginning of 1989, the Lake Mary Marching Rams played the pre-game show at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. In November 1989 she accompanied the Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra to New York City for a concert at Carnegie Hall under the direction of John Rutter, the famous composer and conductor. For the past few years Elenor has participated in summer music camps at Stetson and Florida State universities and this summer attended Cannon Music Festival at Appalachian State University to study oboe and organ with an opportunity to play the Casavant 54-rank organ.

For Elenor, a typical week includes two organ lessons, an oboe lesson, rehearsals, and performances in addition to her academic schedule.



INTERMEDIATE DIVISION JOHN PETER DEVONA

*Sponsored by Chicago Area
Theater Organ Enthusiasts*

John, age sixteen, has been playing the theatre organ for 1½ years. He started taking piano lessons at the age of eight, and began studying the concert organ with Mr. Harry Krush in the summer of 1988. John practiced on the large 3/15 Moller at Holy Redeemer Church in Evergreen Park, Illinois; then later started playing for services at St. John Of The Cross Church in Western Springs. In January of 1989 John played a theatre organ for the first time during a CATOE open console session. Soon he began playing the 2/7 Barton every Thursday night during intermissions at the Tivoli Theatre in Downers Grove, Illinois. After extensive practicing and assistance from his coach, Lee Maloney, he entered his "South Pacific" medley in the 1989 ATOS Young Organist contest in the Junior Division. Since then, John has performed at the Tivoli every Saturday evening as a volunteer staff organist.

This year, John submitted his original medley arrangement of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Phantom of The Opera," among other pieces which were recorded on the 3/17 Barton at the Patio Theatre in Chicago.

John is a student at Lyons Township High School in LaGrange, Illinois, where he is active in the National Honor Society, Student Council, Varsity Choir, Madrigal Choir, Chamber Orchestra, Model Railroad Club, Tri-M Music Honors Society, and Latin Honors Society.

Last February John participated in the Illinois All-State Choir Festival in Peoria. He often plays the organ and piano for school events, and is currently first-chair cellist in his school orchestra.

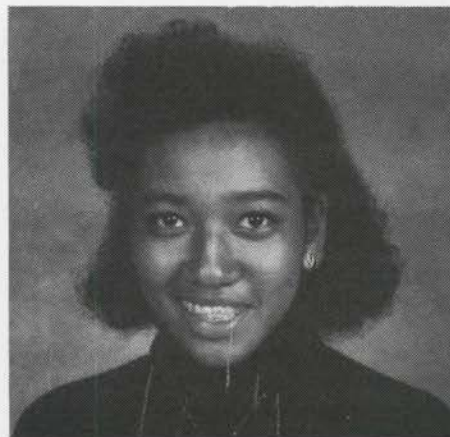
INTERMEDIATE DIVISION GWENDOLYN HARBERT

*Sponsored by San Diego Theatre
Organ Society*

Gwen is a seventeen-year-old senior at Mt. Carmel High School in San Diego, California. She has studied organ for 8½ years, piano for 4 years and also plays the Violin. Her current organ teacher is Leslie Wolf.

Selected for being an excellent student Gwen attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Massachusetts, this past summer where she studied Calculus, Chemistry, Physics and Bio-Chemistry.

Gwen is second violinist in her school orchestra. She is asked to play concerts at the music shop called "Organ Stop." In between a very busy schedule Gwen finds time to play tennis. Her recording was made on a 3/22 Wurliitzer located in the California Theatre, San Diego.



INTERMEDIATE DIVISION WILLIE HARBERT

Sponsored by Sierra Chapter

Willie is a sixteen-year-old honor student at Mt. Carmel High School in San Diego, California, where he is a member of the Junior Varsity Track Team and also plays basketball.

His music background includes seven years of organ and three of piano. Willie made his recording on a 3/22 Wurliitzer at the California Theatre in San Diego, California. Willie was a Youth II finalist in the Yamaha Regional Keyboard Music Festival.

Under a scholarship he attended Palomar College in San Diego this past summer where he studied Pascal Programming. He also received Honorable Mention after appearing at the Pacific Concert Organ Club in Los Angeles.

OUR JUDGES COMPLETED A VERY DIFFICULT TASK.

THEY HAD A VERY TALENTED GROUP OF CONTESTANTS. THE BACKGROUNDS AND HISTORY OF OUR CONTESTANTS REFLECT YEARS OF STUDY AND DETERMINATION.

WE CAN BE SO PROUD THAT THEATRE ORGAN MUSIC IS AN ENHANCEMENT TO THEIR CAREERS AND AN IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR FUTURES.



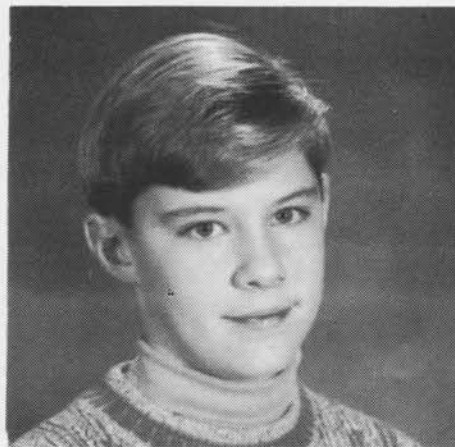
**JUNIOR DIVISION
KEN MERLEY**

*Sponsored by the Motor City
Theatre Organ Society*

Ken is fourteen years old and is an eighth grade honor roll student in Troy, Michigan. His interest in music began at a very early age. His grandparents purchased an electronic spinet organ for him at the age of six and he began taking lessons from a local teacher. His parents moved to Southeast Michigan then exposed Ken to the theatre organ as their home was located near a pizza parlor where he met members of various organ clubs. His family became regular theatre organ "groupies." Under the tutelage of Steve Schlesing, Ken has been working very hard to perfect his talent.

Ken has played for his church, numerous organ club meetings, and has been invited to "try her out" in pizza parlors in Canada, Michigan and Illinois. His recording for the National Competition was done on a 3/10 Barton theatre organ at the Redford Theatre.

Ken has been playing trumpet and percussion in the middle school band and has been accepted to play trumpet in the concert band and drums in the marching band when he enters high school this fall. He attended the Interlochen Summer Music Camp this year under a high school scholarship. Ken is active in the church youth group and plays in the local soccer league.



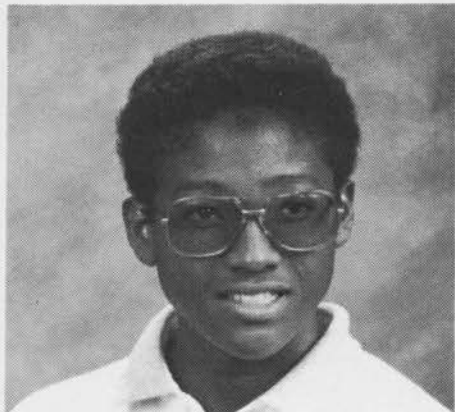
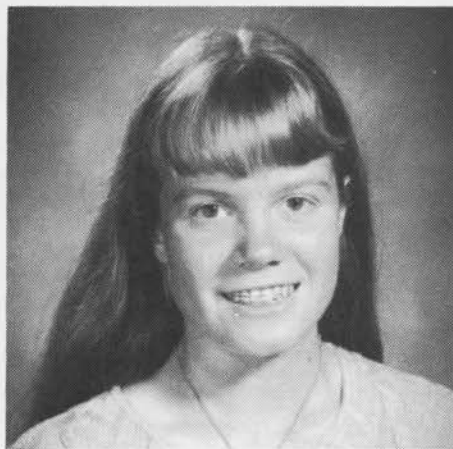
**JUNIOR DIVISION
CHERYL MOREFIELD**

*Sponsored by the Theatre Organ
Society of San Diego*

Cheryl is a fifteen-year-old honor student at Hoover High School, San Diego, California. Her recording was made on a 3/22 Wurlitzer theatre organ at the California Theatre in San Diego.

Cheryl has been studying organ for three years under Cheryl Seppala. Several local organ clubs have enjoyed her music and talent. Her music and school-work leave her little free time to pursue her favorite hobby, writing.

All her hard work is being rewarded by recognition in "Who's Who Among American High School Students" this year.



**SENIOR DIVISION
VINCENT MIRANDI**

*Sponsored by Mid-Florida
Theatre Organ Society*

Vincent is twenty-one years old and hails from Whippany, New Jersey. He is now a resident of Kissimmee, Florida. After serving a year on the Board of Directors of Mid-Florida Theatre Organ Society, he is now chapter Vice-President.

His interest in the organ was inspired by frequent trips to Radio City Music Hall. Largely self-taught, Vincent has been playing for ten years.

At his home in New Jersey, he has installed a pipe organ. His recording was made on a 4/21 Wurlitzer at the Alabama Theatre.

