



Tim Needler accepts the Honorary Member for 1990 award from Lowell Ayars. JE photo

Honorary Member TIM NEEDLER

Tim Needler has been an active member of ATOS since the 1960s and has served Central Indiana Chapter in various capacities, including six terms as President and as Convention Chairman in 1984 and 1990. He has also served ATOS as a board member and secretary for a number of years in the 1980s. Tim has been the Convention Planning Coordinator for ATOS since 1985 and has been responsible for helping chapters plan and execute successful conventions and regionals. As a result of policies adopted under Tim's guidance, ATOS conventions and regionals are normally profitable for both the host chapter and the ATOS.

Tim is active in the musical community around his home in Indianapolis and has served as Dean of the Indianapolis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, president of the Hoosier Ragtime Society and was founder of the Classic Ragtime Society. He is also a collector of reproducing grand pianos and other mechanical musical instruments. His love of things historical led him to found Historical Indianapolis, Inc. which is involved in historic preservation endeavors. He restored and resides in the former home of U.S. Senator Homer E. Capehart, inventor of the famed Capehart turn-over record changer and the man who led the Wurlitzer Company out of pipe organ manufacturing into jukeboxes.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a degree in Marketing, Tim heads the family business, Needler Sales Company, a manufacturers' representative agency dealing in electronic components.

ATOS is most fortunate to have a man of Tim Needler's calibre and talent who is willing to give so much of himself to the cause which we all hold so dear — the preservation and presentation of the theatre organ.



Lowell Ayars presents Organist of the Year award to Jim Riggs. JE photo

Organist of the Year JIM RIGGS

Jim Riggs is, in this day and age, a true rarity, an in-theatre theatre organist. Ever since he was 13, when he first heard a Wurlitzer pipe organ, he knew that playing the theatre pipe organ was his calling and life's work. He has done his duty as a pizza parlor organist, most notably at the Organ Stop Pizza Restaurant in Tucson, Arizona.

However, his joy is playing the pipe organ in movie houses. In this most appropriate of settings he is able to present the theatre organ to the most important audience of all — the public. He has been privileged to play regularly at some of the San Francisco Bay Area's finest Wurlitzer-equipped movie theatres: the Grand Lake in Oakland, the Castro in San Francisco, and the late, lamented Avenue Theatre in San Francisco, last heard at the 1983 Convention.

He currently plays at the Stanford Theatre in Palo Alto (owned and operated by the Stanford Theatre Foundation — an arm of the David and Lucille Packard Foundation) and is proud to serve as house organist at the fabulous Oakland Paramount Theatre, warming the bench so suddenly vacated by the death of Jim Roseveare.

Jim estimates that he has, since 1986 when he started playing in theatres exclusively, performed for more than 400,000 paying movie patrons.

He has toured all across the United States and in England, has played for three national ATOS conventions and two regional conventions. He will be featured at the 1990 Regional in Fresno playing the 4/14 Robert-Morton in Warnors Theatre. He will also be heard at the 1991 National Convention in San Francisco when he will play the 4/26 Wurlitzer in the Oakland Paramount.



Allen Miller receives award for Technical Excellence from Alden Stockebrand. JE photo

Award For Technical Excellence ALLEN MILLER

Allen Miller has been a devotee of theatre pipe organs for as long as he can remember and is a Charter Member of ATOS. Both of his parents are organists, and his exposure to the instrument began when he was a mere infant. When he was in high school, he built an organ in his home and wrote his Junior research paper on the "History of Theatre Organs in Connecticut."

Miller has several of the best known organs in the country on his record. Shea's Buffalo, Proctor's Schenectady, and Thomaston Opera House are only three of his projects. He also worked for the Austin Organ Company for a number of years.

Allen Miller has written numerous articles for THEATRE ORGAN and is responsible for the production of the Technical Handbook that is available to our membership.

The Award for Technical Excellence is presented in recognition of exemplary contributions toward restoration and maintenance of the theatre organ as a contemporary art form. The award is intended to honor those who have raised the technical excellence of theatre organs that are regularly heard publicly. The recipient of the award is selected by a group of his peers who are themselves involved in the art of theatre organ building and maintenance.

This fall Miller co-chaired the convention of the American Institute of Organbuilders which was held in Connecticut.

Alden Stockebrand, Chairman

ATOS Honorary Members

1959	Jesse Crawford
1960	Farney Wurlitzer
1961	Mel Doner
1962	Leonard MacClain
1963	Eddie Dunstedter
1964	Reginald Foort
1965	Dan Barton
1966	W. "Tiny" James
1967	Erwin A. Young
1968	Richard C. Simonton
1969	Judd Walton
1970	Bill Lamb
1971	George & Vi Thompson
1972	Stu Green
1973	Al & Betty Mason
1974	Lloyd E. Klos
1975	Joe Patten
1976	Floyd & Doris Mumm
1977	Les & Edith Rawle
1978	Len Clarke
1979	J.B. Nethercutt
1980	Sidney Torch
1981	No Selection Made
1982	Lloyd G. del Castillo
1983	Marian Miner Cook
1984	William P. Brown
1985	Preston M. "Sandy" Fleet
1986	Robert M. Gilbert
1987	Lowell C. Ayars
1988	Lois Segur
1989	John Muri
1990	Timothy Needler

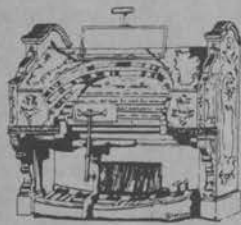
Past Presidents

Richard Simonton	Feb. 1955 - Oct. 1958
Judd Walton	Oct. 1958 - July 1961
Tiny James	July 1961 - July 1964
Carl Norvell	July 1964 - July 1966
Dick Shrum	July 1966 - July 1968
Al Mason	July 1968 - July 1970
Stillman Rice	July 1970 - July 1972
Erwin A. Young	July 1972 - July 1974
Paul M. Abernethy	July 1974 - July 1976
Ray F. Snitil	July 1976 - July 1978
Preston M. Fleet	July 1978 - Nov. 1978
Tommy Landrum	Nov. 1978 - July 1980
Richard R. Height	July 1980 - June 1981
Lois F. Segur	July 1981 - July 1983
Rex Koury	July 1983 - Aug. 1985
Jack Moelmann	Aug. 1985 - July 1988



Mark Aston receives Young Organist Award from John Ledwon. WS photo

THEATRE ORGAN



Hall of Fame

Mildred Alexander
 Lowell C. Ayars
 Donald H. Baker
 Stuart Barrie
 Raymond F. Bohr
 Al Bollington
 Dessa Byrd
 Paul Carson
 Gaylord B. Carter
 Milton Charles
 Edwin L. "Buddy" Cole
 Bernie Cowham
 Helen A. Crawford
 Jesse J. Crawford
 Francis J. Cronin
 William R. Dalton
 Lloyd G. del Castillo
 Reginald Dixon
 Edward J. Dunstedter
 Lee O. Erwin, Jr.
 Francis "Gus" Farney
 Frederick Feibel
 Mildred M. Fitzpatrick
 Reginald Foort
 Paul H. Forster
 Dean L. Fossler
 John Gart
 Irma Glen
 Betty Gould
 Tom Grierson
 Arthur Gutow
 John F. Hammond
 Elwell "Eddie" Hanson
 W. "Tiny" James
 Henri A. Keates
 Gordon Kibbee
 Frederick Kinsley
 Rex Koury
 Sigmund Krumgold
 Edith Land
 Ambrose Larsen
 Ann Leaf
 Richard W. Leibert
 Leonard MacClain
 Quentin MacLean
 Roderick H. "Sandy" MacPherson
 Albert Hay Malotte
 Dr. Melchiorre Mauro-Cottone
 Kay McAbee
 William H. Meeder
 Alfred M. Melgard
 Ashley Miller
 F. Donad Miller
 Charles Sharpe Minor
 John T. Muri
 Henry B. Murtagh
 Dr. Milton Page
 Henry Francis Parks
 Dr. C.A.J. Parmentier
 Harold Ramsay
 Alexander Richardson
 Rosa Rio
 Edna S. Sellers
 Preston H. Sellers, Jr.
 Gerald Shaw
 Raymond G. Shelley
 Arsene Siegel
 Milton Slosser
 Kathleen O. Stokes
 Firmin Swinnen
 Sidney Torch
 Emil Valazco
 Deszo Von D'Antalfy
 G. Oliver Wallace
 Thomas "Fats" Waller
 Jack Ward
 Edward J. Weaver
 Lew White
 Jean Wiener
 George Wright

1990 Hall of Fame WILLIAM H. MEEDER

Born in South Orange, New Jersey, July 14, 1901, to Henry Meeder and Mary Chandler Meeder, he received his education at Columbia High School in South Orange. He married Dorothy Powell, and from 1921 to 1922 served as organist at the Lyceum Theatre in East Orange, New Jersey.

From 1922 to 1928, he was organist at the Regent Theatre in Elizabeth, New Jersey after which he moved to the E.F. Albee Theatre in Brooklyn, New York. He also played the three-manual Robert-Morton at RKO Richmond Theatre and did considerable radio broadcasting and recording. In 1935 he was broadcasting regularly over radio station WJZ, New York. He became staff organist for the National Broadcasting Company in New York and did organ work for the radio show, *Search for Tomorrow*.

In 1946 Meeder recorded twelve 12" 78s for Summit Sound System Company on the CBS studio organ in New York, which was formerly Lew White's studio organ (3/9 Kimball). These recordings were converted to LPs in 1950.

Rosa Rio remembers Meeder as a large man; actually, he was 6'4" tall and weighed about 190. When he died suddenly in 1969, Ashley Miller became organist for *Search for Tomorrow* and remained with the show until 1974.



John Ledwon presents Organ Pipe Memento to outgoing Board Member Ashley Miller. WS photo