

Directors' Corner

■ Vern Bickel

The 1990 ATOS Archives/Library surplus record album auction was received so enthusiastically by members that we are going to have another record auction this year. You will be able to bid on theatre organ recordings, classical organ recordings, electronic organ recordings, and mechanical music instrument recordings. Many of these recordings are rare and have not been available for years. This auction is truly a bonanza for collectors.

Remember, all proceeds from the record auction go directly to the operating expenses of the ATOS Archives/Library. Last year over \$4,000 was raised. Funds generated like this help to keep membership fees from being raised.

All 152 record albums available for bid are listed in this issue. All bids must be in writing and arrive by U.S. Mail. No phone bids will be accepted. The minimum bid is \$2.00 per album, plus shipping and handling charges (\$2.50 for the first album, plus 50¢ for each additional album). Where two or more members bid the same amount, the bid with the earliest postmark will be selected as the winning bid. Please do not send payment with your bid. All winners will be notified by mail. Use the auction bid form printed on the mailing cover of this issue. ALL BIDS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JUNE 1, 1991.

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■ Gary Jones

With a new year at our doorstep and with current situations as they are, as I sit and write this brief message, I must reflect a moment and be thankful for several things. I am thankful that we live in such a musical country — a country where all forms of music are accepted and regarded and appreciated. I am thankful that we as an organization have a mission. I am thankful that we have an opportunity to hear music made from an instrument that produces "the happiest sound known to man" — the theatre organ. And I am thankful for continuity. Theatre organ IS past, present, and future. It represents all of these things for us. It is the thread that, in so many of our lives, holds together the constant change in our worlds. As a relic of yesteryear, theatre organ represents a more genteel time. It represents a simpler way of life, a link to the past when things were less complicated (although I'm sure in 1927 people longed for things from "long ago"!)

As something which emotes and speaks to people, it is an instrument of great power which continues today to move and stir from within. Its great power entertains much as it did in yesteryear. It IS an instrument for today. And it is an instrument for the future. Don't be fooled into believing that theatre organ is on the brink of extinction. More and more instruments are being preserved today than ever before and even though some of these instruments are being consolidated into large conglomerates (I'm waiting for a 6/132 Wurliter/Morton/Moller/Kimball/et al), the effort is being made to preserve "the happiest sound..." I'm truly a "Pollyanna." I believe that everything always works out for the best in the end. I'm certain that theatre organ will survive and grow, not into the "FanciFull Frivilous Fawn" relic so many people have destined it to be, but rather the artistic and musical outlet it was intended. True, you can't play "Rap" on the theatre organ, but musical trends come and go and fads are short lived. Quality music and musicianship endure the test of time. Let us look to the future and plan for future generations the continuation of this most unique musical medium.

Gary W. Jones
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■ Dorothy VanSteenkiste

Our Young Theatre Organist Competition for 1991 is in full swing. We have heard from several contestants and are looking forward to an exciting year. You still have time to submit an entry or entries until April 1. We have five judges ready to review your entry. How you choose your candidate is strictly up to you, but you must follow the rules and regulations set up by National for the competition. 1990 brought us three winners from overseas. Where will they be from in 1991? What chapter will have the honor of presenting a winner in 1991? Get your entries in.

Arrangements have been made with San Francisco for a cameo performance of our three 1991 divisional winners during the concert of our 1990 over-all winner, Mark Aston.

All chapters and members have been informed of our new Scholarship Program. Requests have already come in from various students. We have ten \$500 scholarships available. There are two categories:

■ A. Students working toward college organ performance degrees.

■ B. Music students studying with professional theatre organ teachers.

Applications for 1991 scholarships must be submitted by May 1, 1991, and following a review by committee members, recipients will be awarded their scholarships by June 1, 1991.

Remember this is a pilot program, approved by the Board of Directors for this year. There will be revisions as we continue the program. Suggestions are encouraged.

I would like to thank members of the Scholarship Committee: John Ledwon, David Love, Connie Purkey, Charlotte Rieger, Lois Segur and Jinny Vanore. Their input was greatly appreciated. Also, I would like to thank Robert Leutner, Gordon Schwacke and Fred Wolfram of Dairyland Chapter in Wisconsin for sharing their scholarship program with us. It was a big help in setting up our National Program.

We are hoping our members will submit the names and addresses of their local colleges so that we can interest their organ students in applying for our scholarships.

As Liaison to several chapters, I am very pleased that the ones I represent are faithfully reporting their activities in the Journal. By reading their reports it gives other chapters suggestions for future programming. Their support of our Young Theatre Organist Competition is greatly appreciated. Our Young Theatre Organ Competition and the new Scholarship Program should enhance the purpose and goals of our organization.

Let's also keep in mind our organ technicians. The crews that keep the theatre organs playing. We have technicians training technicians, another area in which scholarship money could be directed.

We should continue informing ALL PEOPLE that we are one of the oldest and greatest arts, "THEATRE ORGAN." Let's work together and SPREAD THE WORD.

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■ ■ ■ ATOS Archives/Library

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