

CLOSING CHORD



David L. Thurman

David Thurman, ATOS Charter Member, passed away on December 4, 1990. He was 64.

Dave had been organist and choirmaster of downtown Miami's Trinity Episcopal Cathedral since 1970. A native Miamian, Dave's credentials included graduation from the University of Miami's School of Music and from Northwestern University's Masters Degree program in music. He also attended Union Theological Seminary in New York City and the Royal School of Church Music in England.

Upon returning to Miami for his position at Trinity, Dave became a member of South Florida Chapter and was its President in 1986 and 1987. It was through Dave's affiliation with and as past Dean of the Miami chapter of AGO that many church organists took an interest in ATOS.

In 1985 when Darrell Calvin became managing director of the Olympia Theatre in Miami's downtown Gusman Cultural Center, Dave was prevailed upon to become house organist. Mr. Calvin embarked on an ambitious program of providing live music prior to stage presentations. Services were donated by Dave at the Wurlitzer 260 Special, the last remaining original theatre installation in Florida, maintained by the South Florida chapter.

Needless to say, Dave Thurman's devotion to organ music was unexcelled. He remembered attending the Coconut Grove Theatre as a small child and hearing the Wurlitzer Style F played at kiddie matinees, then playing his first organ at age 12 and first church organ at 14. It is with great sadness that we say "Goodbye" to a compassionate friend and musician par excellence.

G.W. Gerhart

Tess Moses

Tess Moses, a member of the Central Indiana Chapter for nearly 25 years, passed away from liver cancer on February 5, 1991, after a month-long stay in the hospital. She was 72.

Tess and her husband, Les, were fixtures at every ATOS Convention for many years, and she served as Registrar for the 1984 and 1990 ATOS National Conventions in Indianapolis. Her smiling face greeted each person, and she did her best to insure all requests were granted.

Tess served the Central Indiana Chapter in nearly every capacity, including two terms as President, seven terms as Treasurer, three terms as Newsletter Editor, Chairperson of the Chapter's Young Organist Competitions that have produced four national winners. Whenever a job needed doing, whether it be publicity for a local concert or serving as chairperson of the nominating committee, Tess accepted the challenge cheerfully and worked tirelessly to accomplish it without fuss or bother, and all tasks were performed quite effectively. She was the type of member all chapters would love to have, and the Central Indiana Chapter mourns her as a fine friend and a hard worker who will not be easily replaced. May she rest in peace.

Tim Needler

Bobby Pagan

Bobby Pagan, one of Britain's longest-serving theatre organists, died in December at the age of 85.

Born at Cupar, Scotland, in 1905, Bobby grew up with first-class amateur music all around him and, at an early stage, acquired a keyboard facility which enabled him to play by ear; this talent was to overthrow two careers and, after some Law and a spell of Locomotive Engineering, he became a professional organist at the Doncaster (England) Picture House in 1926.

Two years later he went to London, then to Glasgow's La Scala and Regal from where he made his first broadcast in 1932. 1933 found Bobby in London for the opening of the giant Troxy, and he stayed with Hyams Brothers until the Battle of Britain, except for a period at the Palladium in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Fore and aft of his Naval Service, Bobby was at the Aberdeen (Scotland) Astoria, returning to London for a winter with Granada in 1946-47. He toured with Louis

Mordish and Terance Casey as "Six Hands in Harmony," and after a period of free-lancing, joined ABC Cinemas until his retirement in 1970.

1981 found Bobby seated again at the Troxy console as he opened the famous Worthing Wurlitzer, and visits to that location became very much a part of his concert schedule. He continued to play for organ societies until shortly before his death.

John Leeming



Mrs. John C. Sharp

We are sorry to report the passing of a very dear friend to many all over the world. Mavis Sharp, age 64, passed away January 19 at Crowborough Hospital. She had suffered a severe stroke in May 1990 and did not recover.

Mavis was a loyal worker and one of the founders of the London and South of England Chapter. Members always appreciated her dedication to her husband John's hobby of photography and to the high class photographs they have provided for many years. We have missed Mavis so much these past months as she always attended to the box office at our events.

Her personality will always be remembered, and we are all very proud that Mavis was part of the London Team, always providing hospitality and good fellowship.

We extend our sympathy to John and his family. His loss is great, and we have all lost a very dear friend. It is hard to realize that she is no longer with us, but she will be forever in our thoughts.

Edith Rawle



Rob Calcaterra

Robert G. Calcaterra, Jr., passed away on February 9 in Illinois Masonic Hospital. He was 35. He leaves his parents, Robert and Dotty, a brother, Kevin, and his grandparents, Jacob and Jenny.

Rob's lifelong interest in music was well known to those who follow the world of theatre organ. At age 12 he was the organist for St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Rockdale. He subsequently earned Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Organ Performance and in Music Education at Indiana University in Bloomington.

Rob was truly a versatile musician. He wrote, arranged and conducted the music for a college musical entitled "The King of Swing," as well as music for television and radio commercials. He taught keyboard and music theory in Indianapolis for a time and was Chorus Master and rehearsal accompanist for the Indianapolis Opera Company.

After his first album in 1981, which was made on the 4/22 Rochester Theatre organ, Rob auditioned for the position of head organist at Radio City in New York. He got the job and provided on-stage piano accompaniment for the Rockettes and for as many as 17 shows a week.

In 1982 Rob wrote the grand finale for Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade with Peter Nero conducting the televised portion while 1400 instrumentalists played it live on the street.

He was the organist when Frank Sinatra reopened the Chicago Theatre.

When he toured Europe, Rob charmed audiences because he not only entertained them with his music, but also because he was able to speak to them in their language.

Rob's most recent appearance at a National ATOS Convention was in Los Angeles in 1987 where he played the Orpheum Theatre 3/13 Wurlitzer.

Teacher, artist, composer, arranger, Rob will be missed.



Ed Gress

Ed Gress died February 8. He was born in Springfield, Massachusetts, on January 5, 1933. He grew up in Detroit and took advantage of all the wonderful organs in and around the area. He performed repairs on the Fox organ and cut a record on the instrument in the 1950s.

Ed graduated from the prestigious Detroit County Day School and attended the University of Michigan. Although he had scholarships to both Yale and Harvard Law School, he chose to follow his love of organs, donned an Army uniform and got to travel and dissect numerous European instruments.

Following his discharge from the Army, he joined Roger and Ruth Miles to form the Gress-Miles Organ Company. The firm built more than 100 organs, including instruments for Vassar College, Middlebury College, St. John's Church in Washington, D.C., and other prestigious locations.

Ed played a "mean" theatre organ and made discs on the Detroit Fox as well as at the ex-Paramount studio four-manual Wurlitzer at Loderhose's studio in Jamaica, New York. He made a point of visiting every major Wurlitzer he could, and stayed abreast of the activities in the theatre organ world. He was very smart about many subjects, but when the conversation came around to Wurlitzers he'd light up, and if you struck the right chord, he'd open his memory bank to all the first-hand information he had about original installations and the organists who played them.

Eddie was very smart about organs. He took advantage of his Army years to survey everything he could about organs in Holland and Germany. For more than 30 years, he was a successful organbuilder. His organs reflected superb classical design, but their noted thrilling aggressiveness and instantaneous speech, his special trademark, was probably the result of his knowledge, respect and appreciation for the real thing, the Mighty Wurlitzer!

Mike Foley

Journal of American Organbuilding

Quarterly Publication of the
American Institute of
Organbuilders

This publication is devoted to the dissemination of knowledge regarding the design, construction and maintenance of pipe organs in North America. Although primarily a technical journal for the benefit of organbuilding professionals, it is also a valuable resource for architects and project consultants, church musicians, building committees, seminary and university libraries, and anyone involved with the design or renovation of contemporary worship space.

Far from being the "lost art" that the average person believes it to be organbuilding in the United States and Canada is maturing and thriving in hundreds of small and large shops throughout the continent. At the same time, serious challenges lie ahead for those promoting the pipe organ in an era of limited budgets and competing options. Readers of the *Journal of American Organbuilding* will benefit from the thoughtful exchange of information and ideas intended to advance this time-honored craft.

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