

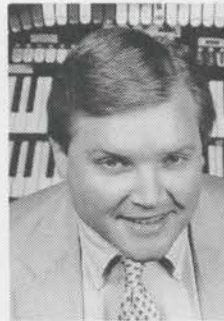
We Proudly Present Our Judges For The 1990 YOUNG ORGANIST COMPETITION



Alfred Buttler



Gordon Kibbee



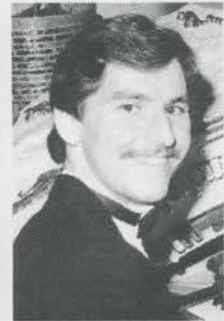
Jim Riggs



Walter Strony



Dwight Thomas



David Wickerham

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."

Alfred J. Buttler

A.J. Buttler has been a member of ATOS for over twenty-five years. In addition to collecting over 1,000 theatre organ LP's and many original recordings, he has been active in professional pipe organ restoration in the New York area for thirty years. Mr. Buttler is the president of a New Jersey advertising agency.

Mr. Buttler says, "The Young Theatre Organist Competition is vital to the future of ATOS. With most of the instruments now passing sixty years of age, these artists will be the ambassadors of theatre organ music for the next sixty years. The overall playing caliber of the 1991 entries proved to be musically rewarding as was the experience of being one of the adjudicators of the competition."

Gordon Kibbee

A member of the group which founded ATOE, and a member of the first board of directors, Gordon was soloist for evening program at first national convention of ATOE in 1958 at Fairfield, California. At the 1979 convention he was the guest organist that played the Simonton Wurlitzer.

Election to the ATOS Hall of Fame in 1986 was the outgrowth of many years of study that started with piano lessons at the age of seven. His high school and college courses included study in harmony, solfege, arranging and orchestration, math, physics, engineering, and musical acoustics. Gordon went on to study at the California Academy of Music, where he studied counterpoint, composition and conducting. After WWII, Gordon played alone and in orchestras for many network radio and television programs.

Also served as arranger-conductor on several programs using large orchestras. He was consultant for design and installation of the 4/36 Wurlitzer in the Simonton residence in Toluca Lake, California, working closely with Jesse Crawford and Henry Pope on the tonal regulation and finishing. In 1965, was engaged by Radio City Music Hall to supervise the restoration of their organ, the largest Wurlitzer in a theatre. He is currently at Burbank Adult School and Los Angeles City College, teaching organ, harmony, arranging and improvisation.

Jim Riggs

Jim Riggs is a dedicated partisan of orchestral 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: "It's always a pleasure to adjudicate the Young Theatre Organist Competition and hear just how well our young theatre organists are shaping up. There's a great deal of talent out there and this competition, along with member and chapter support, really helps to foster interest in the theatre organ. Notable also is how frequently our young artists go back to the music of Kern, Gershwin, Porter and the like. Theatre organ is an historic instrument and these kids are really showing a sense of that history. Good for them!"

Walter Strony

ORGANIST OF THE YEAR 1991. Walter Strony was born in 1955 in Chicago and began music lessons at the age of seven. His theatre organ teacher was the famous Chicago organist Al Melgard, who played the huge Barton

organ in the Chicago Stadium for many years. His classical organ studies were with Herbert L. White and Karel Paukert. Walt made his public debut at the age of 18, and has since played throughout the United States, as well as in Japan, Australia, England and Canada. He consults on pipe and electronic organ installations, is organist and choirmaster in a Phoenix church, and composes choral and organ music. Walt has made eleven recordings to date, and the first live theatre organ video recording.

Walt says, "It has been a pleasure to listen to these many fine young people play the organ. I hope that every one of them is encouraged by their local chapter and wish them all success."

Dwight Thomas

Dwight Thomas began piano at an early age, and later studied classical organ. He began study with John Ferguson and became Associate Organist at the Paramount Music Palace in 1982. He has since received a bachelors degree in Piano Pedagogy at Butler University and a Masters Degree in Organ and Church Music at Indiana University, studying with Marilyn Keiser. He is currently one of the staff organists at the Paramount Music Palace, assistant organist at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Indianapolis, one of the staff accompanists at Butler University, as well as teaching organ and piano privately. He has two recordings to his credit, the latest, "The All American Music of Irving Berlin" was selected by *Time* magazine as one of the top ten recordings of 1990.

Dwight says, "I certainly do consider it an honor to be one of the first young artist winners as a judge for this year's competition. I know how difficult it is to play knowing that the red-light is on; recording competition music for the very first time, and trying to play as perfectly as you possibly can, let alone submitting part of your very being to the scrutiny of an

unknown judge. Sound unnerving? It certainly was for me, but it was also one of the most rewarding experiences I've been a part of. I'm sure this year's entrants can share with me in these sentiments, and I applaud each and every one of them for their efforts."

David C. Wickerham

With an early concert debut at the age of seven, David played many recitals, concerts and pageants. This led to competitions and finishing with highest honors. Scholarships and awards of merit for outstanding achievement helped and encouraged him to continue his musical education.

In 1976, Dave moved to Arizona. He continued his career as an associate organist with the famous Organ Stop Pizza Restaurants in Phoenix, Mesa, and Tucson. While in Arizona, his higher musical education continued with Roseamond Crowley, one of the few living descendants of the Louis Vierne line of students. Dave attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, on a full musical scholarship, pursuing classical organ studies for six years with Dr. Roy Johnson. In 1984, Dave moved to the Chicagoland area to take the position as staff organist with Pipes & Pizza in Lansing, Illinois. Aside from his performances at the restaurant, he enjoyed concertizing regularly, as well as ministering musically at various churches. August of 1990 Dave moved to Hales Corners, Wisconsin, with his wife and two children. January of 1991 he purchased his new home in Wauwatosa. He works at Organ Piper Music Palace in Greenfield, Wisconsin. He enjoys recording and is now enthusiastically working in the digital audio field.

His comments: "I feel from personal experience, that participating in competition is an EXCELLENT building block for the evolving musician! It helps set goals as well as defining boundaries."