

# By-Laws of the American Association of Theatre Organ Enthusiasts

## PREAMBLE

Article 1. The name of the association shall be, "The American Association of Theatre Organ Enthusiasts", hereinafter referred to as ATOE.

Article 2. The Association shall be a non-profit organization devoted entirely to furthering the ideals set forth in Article 3.

Article 3. The purposes for which this Association is formed are: To Preserve the Tradition of the Theatre Organ, to Further the Understanding of the Instrument and its Music, and to have published a periodical to be called "THEATRE ORGAN".

Article 4. It is hereby expressly stated that the use of the name of the Association (ATOE), the publication "THEATRE ORGAN", or its letterhead must be for the good of all the group and not for personal gain and that the Officers of the local Chapters will be held responsible for any such use, in poor taste, of the good name of ATOE.

The following by-laws are the result of efforts and desires of the ATOE to accomplish these objectives:

## SECTION I. MEMBERSHIP

Article 1. The membership of the association shall consist of individuals interested in furthering the purposes of the Association as stated in Article 3 of the Preamble, and spouse.

Article 2. There shall be two classes of membership, to be known as regular and Charter. The rights and privileges of each class of membership shall be the same and identical.

Article 3. An honorary member shall be chosen by the members at the Annual Meeting of Members, each year, who will enjoy the privileges of membership without the payment of dues for the ensuing fiscal year, and who shall serve as an honorary member of the Board of Directors with power to vote for the ensuing fiscal year.

## SECTION II MEETINGS OF MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS

Article 1. The policies of ATOE shall be determined at an Annual Meeting of Members, to be held on a date and place to be designated by the Board of Directors.

Article 2. A special meeting of members may be called by the President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, and shall be called by him at the written request of twenty-five (25) members, at a place to be designated by the President.

Article 3. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at least once each year immediately after the Annual Meeting of Members and at any other time necessary to handle the affairs of ATOE, as determined by the Executive Officers.

Article 4. At least five (5) members of the Board of Directors, including one of the Executive Officers, shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Article 5. The members present at an Annual or Special Meeting of Members shall constitute a quorum.

Article 6. No written notices of either the meetings of members or the meetings of the Board of Directors shall be required, except for the Annual Meeting of Members, and as may be provided for elsewhere in these by-laws.

## SECTION III ADMINISTRATION

Article 1. The business and property of the Association shall be administered by the Board of Directors consisting of nine (9) members elected by the members at the Annual Meeting of Members, eleven (11) chapter chairmen and the honorary member as provided in Section 1, Article 3.

Article 2. The Executive Officers of this association shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor, and Assistant Editor, all of whom shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. The Executive Officers shall be elected from among the directors and shall serve for a term of one year, with no limit on the number of terms to which they may be re-elected.

Article 3. Five (5) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members held on the odd-numbered years, and four (4) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of Members held on the even-numbered years.

Article 4. Duties of the Executive Officers and the Board of Directors.

### THE PRESIDENT

1. Preside at all meetings of Members

and Directors of ATOE, or arrange for a presiding chairman in his absence or as the situation may dictate.

2. Call together meetings of the members and those meetings of a special nature on approval of the Board of Directors.

3. To act on matters of policy and business relating to the Association and the publication when approval from the Board of Directors is impossible to obtain on short notice and the delay in obtaining such approval would result in a hardship to the best interests of the Association or its publication.

4. To appoint such committees and individuals as he deems necessary in aiding him in his efforts to carry out the business of ATOE.

### The VICE-PRESIDENT

1. To assist the President.

2. To assume the duties of the President in his absence.

### The SECRETARY-TREASURER

1. To take care of correspondence relative to the finances and records of the Association.

2. To assist others in the preparation of reports.

3. To keep account of receipts and expenditures of the Association.

4. To sign checks and otherwise disburse the monies of the Association in payment of debts accrued by the Association.

5. To report on the finances of the Association at the meetings or at the request of the President or the Board of Directors.

6. To prepare written reports annually

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## A.T.O.E. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1960

### INCOME:

1959 Dues Received	\$ 653.36
1960 Dues Received	3,804.74
Prepaid Dues	319.00
Charter Fees	15.00
Advertising Income	678.10
Total Income	\$ 5,470.20
Cash on Hand, January 1, 1960	<u>2,031.25</u>
Total Income and Cash on Hand	\$ 7,501.45

### EXPENDITURES:

Printing Volume I, Nos. 2, 3, 4	\$ 2,084.69
Printing Volume II, Nos. 1, 2, 3	1,791.44
Magazine Layout Volume II, Nos. 1, 2, 3	240.00
Office Supplies, Telephone and Postage	692.18
Accounting	250.00
Advertising	100.34
Cinema Organ Fund Donation	25.00
Miscellaneous	70.30
Annual Meeting - Salt Lake City	296.17
Total Expenditures	\$ 5,550.12

Cash On Hand December 31, 1960 \$ 1,951.33

### Accounts Payable Volume II, No. 4

Printing	\$ 533.00
Layout	<u>80.00</u>

\$ 613.00

Cash Balance after paying for Volume II, No. 4 \$ 1,338.33



for the benefit of the members.

7. To determine the status of a Chapter as stated in Article 2 of Section IV.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Make decisions regarding the policy and business of the Association when a referendum to the members is not convenient. Such decisions must have the approval of the President.

#### The EDITOR

1. In general, to be responsible for the material for publication in "THEATRE ORGAN".

a. Obtain, edit, and prepare material for inclusion in "THEATRE ORGAN".

b. Work with the publisher in preparing the material for publication in "THEATRE ORGAN".

2. Appoint a staff to aid him in securing material for publication in "THEATRE ORGAN".

3. It shall be his right to ask for and receive reports from the Secretary-Treasurer and the various chapters for use in "THEATRE ORGAN".

#### The ASSISTANT EDITOR

1. To assist the Editor in his duties.

2. To carry out assignments and duties as may be designated by the Editor.

3. To assume the duties of the Editor in his absence.

#### SECTION IV CHAPTERS

Article 1. Chapters may be organized by a group of at least ten (10) members, subject to, (1) the approval of the president, and (2) the provisions of the following Articles in Section IV.

Article 2. The request for a Charter for a Chapter must be submitted in writing and signed by at least ten (10) members in good standing, as determined by the Secretary-Treasurer, who will be members of the Chapter, together with a list of the names of the members who will serve as Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary of the Chapter. All Chapter members must be ATOE members in good standing.

Article 3. The request for a Charter for a Chapter shall be accompanied by a payment of five dollars (\$5.00).

Article 4. The Charter shall be issued for a period of one (1) year with automatic renewal so long as (1) the membership in the Chapter is not less than ten (10), and (2) the chapter has held at least four (4) meetings during the present fiscal year.

Article 5. The Board of Directors shall have the right to withdraw a Charter if an investigation shall determine that continued existence of a Chapter's Charter is detrimental to the purposes of ATOE subject to review at the next Annual Meeting of Members. There shall be no liability on the part of the Board of Directors to return any part of the initial five dollar (\$5.00) fee as a result of withdrawing a Chapter's Charter.

Article 6. Additional dues may be levied by a Chapter for its own use after approval of the amount to be levied by the Board of Directors or the President, subject however to a two-thirds majority vote of the Chapter's members approving the additional dues levy.

#### SECTION V DUES AND FINANCES

Article 1. Each member shall pay to the Secretary-Treasurer four dollars (\$4.00) per year, which sum shall be due and pay-

able on January 1st of each year.

able on January 1st of each year.

Article 2. The said annual dues of four (\$4.00) shall be the total of the member's obligation to the Association.

Article 3. The membership and fiscal year of this Association shall be from the 1st day of January of each year through the 31st day of December of the same year.

#### SECTION VI DISSOLUTION

Article 1. In the event of the dissolution of the organization, after all liabilities have been met, the property shall be distributed equally among the current mem-

### MEL DONER

(concluded from page 3)

head of this department for the J. R. Watkins Company Mel was fortunate in taking field trips to practically every part of the United States. After his official duties had been completed, anyone looking for him would have had the best success finding him by checking the aforementioned stores in the particular town he was in at the time. He has often ridden all night in a train coach rather than stay comfortably in a hotel, just to gain a few extra hours in the next town to search for records! Suffice it to say, name it and he has it!

Gradually, Mel's acquaintanceship with organ enthusiasts grew. He was one of the original seven on the old round-robin gang of Al Miller's letters. It was only natural that he would be present at the organization meeting of A.T.O.E. in Los Angeles in 1955. For several years he served as Editor of The TIBIA which was the original Official Journal of A.T.O.E. This task was indeed close to Mel's heart, as at last he could reach not just a few organ enthusiasts, but literally hundreds. He put almost unlimited time into the job, unselfishly giving up his record search to serve the members of A.T.O.E.

Some years back, Mel suffered a nearly fatal coronary, but came through with colors flying. More recently, a second attack laid him low for several months, but again his great spirit and love of the fine things in life contributed to his recovery.

This brief review of Mel Doner's theatre organ activities would not be complete without mention of his lovely wife, Eleanor. A really grand person, Eleanor has no doubt played the role of hostess to visiting firemen more than once when she was long ago ready for bed...for the record sessions and just plain organ talk often went far into the wee hours of the morning!

Mel and Eleanor, now grandparents, have four children, all nearly grown.

bers in good standing as determined by the Secretary-Treasurer.

#### SECTION VII AMENDMENTS

Article 1. These by-laws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority vote, except that a by-law fixing or changing the number of Directors may not be adopted, amended or repealed without the vote or written assent of members entitled to exercise a majority of the voting power, or the vote of a majority of a quorum at a meeting of members duly called pursuant to the articles or by-laws.

To one who has done so much to share his enjoyment of a favorite hobby, and who has done it without thought of reward, no honor in the theatre organ field is too great. Election to Honorary Membership is little enough to do in the way of showing the members' appreciation for Mel's untiring work in their behalf, done modestly, quietly but unflinchingly. It is the heartfelt wish of the A.T.O.E. staff that Mel Doner continue for many, many years to enjoy his beloved hobby -- the theatre organ!

#### 1960-61 ROSTER

THE ROSTER of the ATOE membership for 1960-61 is now available at 50¢ per copy. Just write National Secretary Ida James, P.O. Box 248, Alameda, California, include your half dollar, and your copy will be forthcoming.

#### "VOX"

"VOX", newsletter of the Theatre Organ Society of Australia, covers organ activities 'down under'. Annual Subscription from the U.S. Foreign Money Order from the post-office for \$1.50 (Australia pound.) Please, no checks or cash. Send to either Mr. V. J. Arnold, 67 New St., Brighton Beach, S5 Melbourne, Australia, or John W. Clancy, 10 Caloola Road, Wentworthville, N.S.W. Australia.

OF ALL THE FAMOUS THEATRE ORGAN BUILDERS, Robert Morton seems to be the one whose history is the least known. It is known that Morton was combined with American Photoplayer for the production of bigger and better theatre instruments and they gave Wurlitzer, Kimball, and some of the others considerable competition. The factory was located on the West Coast at Van Nuys, California. Judging by the number of Mortons still around - both in theatres and homes - they must have built a good share of the total output of all theatre organs.