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President's Message



Let's start with a little quiz! Can you name three uniquely American musical instruments? Having a little trouble? Think a little longer . . . can you think of at least one? Come on, you can think of one . . . it's right on the tip of your tongue. That's right, you're getting the idea, keep thinking, just a little longer THE-that's it! keep trying! THE- THE- Come on! Come on! You've got it! THE THEATRE ORGAN. GREAT! You have one. Let's stop there and examine your answer.

Sure, the theatre organ was conceived by an Englishman, but who developed it into the magnificent instrument it was to become? An American company . . . the Wurlitzer Company. What country manufactured the vast majority of theatre organs . . . the United States. What country produced the largest number of musicians to operate these mechanical machines . . . the United States! Doesn't that qualify the theatre organ as a unique American musical instrument? The United States developed it, manufactured it and produced the musicians to play it.

The theatre organ is part of Americana, past and PRESENT. Present it as a piece of Americana past, but play it like a piece of Americana TODAY. With the great nostalgia movement going on in this country present the theatre organ as a piece of this nostalgic craze. Once you've got them listening "knock their socks off" by showing them that this piece of nostalgia can not only bring back memories, it can make new ones!

So much for my soapbox this month! Oh, I forgot, the quiz, the other instruments . . . I can only think of one other truly American musical instrument and I'm not going to tell you here, however it is somewhere in the Journal, if you read it all you will find the answer. Maybe you can think of a third . . .

Enough of this jazz! But what better time of year than the Holiday Season to introduce people to the theatre organ. The organ does this type of music so magnificently. Use the Americana theme to get the uninitiated interested, then let the theatre organ sell itself. Introduce a friend to the world of theatre organ, take them to a concert, a social or a work session. Let them see what it's all about. Tell them about ATOS and what we are working for and see if they won't join and become a part of a viable organization interested in taking a piece of Americana and preserving it for future generations. It's a big task, we need help and most important, we need YOUR help.

On behalf of the officers and directors of ATOS National, I wish you and yours a most wonderful Holiday Season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
John Ledwon

1989 Young Organist Competition

CATEGORIES:

JUNIOR	13-15
INTERMEDIATE	16-18
SENIOR	19-21

TAPE FOR COMPETITION

MUST BE SENT BY
APRIL 1, 1989

A chapter may submit an entry
in one or all three categories.

Rules and requirements
will be furnished upon request.

Look Around You . . .
THERE IS A LOT
OF TALENT WAITING
TO BE CONTACTED.

Notify Dorothy VanSteenkiste
9270 Reeck Road
Allen Park, Michigan 48101

by January 15, 1989 if your chapter will have an entry.