

June 23, 2008

To: The Membership of ATOS
Fr: Ken Double, President
Re: The situation in Cedar Rapids, IA

Dear Friends:

By now I am sure you have seen and heard much about the devastation in Cedar Rapids, IA and how it has affected two very special theatre organ installations, the 3/14 Barton at the former Iowa Theatre, and the 3/12 Wurlitzer at the Paramount Theatre.

A quick summary finds that the Wurlitzer console at the Paramount Theatre has been all but totally destroyed by the flooding, with a stoprail and a scant few parts salvageable. Also, the blower has been submerged along with the lift mechanism.

The Barton console was not totally destroyed, but water reached up to the keyboards and restoration, if possible, will be both extensive and expensive.

ATOS leadership has been in contact with Cedar Rapids Chapter President Darren Ferreter to learn the latest news, and discuss the best way ATOS can help.

We do not yet know the extent nor the timing of any financial assistance from the City of Cedar Rapids, FEMA, or insurance. We do know there is a definite and most immediate need of funding just to take care of simple immediate tasks to even prepare these instruments for the long-range work that must take place.

At times, we at ATOS get involved emotionally with an instrument or installation that needs our attention. Sometimes neglect, sometimes well-meaning but poorly executed workmanship, sometimes just a simple mishap can cause damage that needs repair.

In this instance, the flood of the ages has wreaked havoc on this city and these two instruments and the cry for financial assistance is sincere.

ATOS is formulating plans to act during the upcoming convention in Indianapolis. Some 500 are currently registered and will be in attendance, and will have the opportunity directly to provide some assistance. For the other 3500 and more who will not be in attendance, I urge you to think about responding with a check, no matter how big or small, to help our friends at CRATOS in this time of need. Two wonderful instruments need our attention. The stewards of these fine organs deserve our assistance.

If you wish, you can send your donation for the Barton organ to CEDAR RAPIDS BARTON, INC. If you wish to support the Wurlitzer organ, you can send a check to CRATOS.

Please note, these are two separate organizations, each in control of one instrument. You might wish to send two checks, which would be accepted graciously.

Mail all donations to: Darren Ferreter
1702 Fox Tail Drive, NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

For those who see this on-line, and know of members who are not computer-oriented, please print this message and pass it along.

For chapter Presidents and officers, please share this with your chapter members.

Thank you in advance for your generosity on behalf of our friends in Cedar Rapids. We extend to them our sincerest best wishes in this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Ken Double, President
ATOS