

**AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY  
NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HISTORIC OR SIGNIFICANT ORGANS**

**PURPOSE:**

The ATOS National Registry is to recognize preservation and stewardship of historic or otherwise significant theatre organs. This registry acknowledges that the owner(s) of an instrument identifiable by either builder's opus number or original installation location have maintained the integrity of the original instrument.

The National Registry may additionally recognize instruments of significance or historic interest in certain cases where said organ may have been assembled from components under conditions where the resulting instrument has been recognized as a significant advancement of the art or is a recognized part of the history of the theatre organ as a musical instrument.

**SCOPE:**

The National Registry will recognize preservation and stewardship but does not imply specific standards of excellence in restoration. The Registry will, however, categorize instruments into four levels of preservation, which will be designated as Levels 1-4 as outlined below.

**LEVELS OF PRESERVATION:**

The organ must be installed and playable.

**LEVEL 1:**

**HERITAGE:** Instruments which present a faithful picture of what the theatre organ was like in its golden age. Any theatre organ which has been preserved intact recognizable as its original opus. Allowable modifications include replacement of generator with a rectifier, minor stop changes without modification of console operating mechanisms, minor modifications in winding or electrical system if such was necessary in order to solve an inherent problem or was dictated by needs of installation if relocated.

**LEVEL 2:**

**VINTAGE:** Assembled as new or modernized but to a specific company's standards. Any theatre organ not meeting the Level 1 criteria due to replacement of the relay or combination action system done in the process of a complete restoration of the instrument. Organs in this category must still be recognizable as their original opus.

**LEVEL 3:**

**LANDMARK:** Modernized, not necessarily to strict restrictions of use of different components, etc. Any theatre organ which has been modified or enlarged to some extent, but where the original instrument remains intact and identifiable. Any components of the original organ not currently in service must be properly marked and carefully stored on the premises with the organ in such a way that the organ could be restored as original at some time in the future.

**LEVEL 4:** Any theatre organ which does not meet the above criteria, but which deserves recognition and documentation in its present state as an historic or significant instrument.

**STATUS PENDING:** Complete, but unrestored.

## **ADMINISTRATION:**

The National Registry shall be maintained by the Restoration and Preservation Committee. Application shall be in writing as outlined below. In those cases where an instrument clearly falls into one of the above levels, inclusion in the Registry may be by declaration. In cases where the level is not immediately clear, determination of the level of registry will be by committee vote.

The Level may be changed under the following conditions:

- a. By request from the owner, the level may be considered for upgrade to a higher level if its status or condition changes to the criteria of the higher level.
- b. By vote of committee should the status or condition be reduced to that of a lower level of recognition.

Registration may be suspended or revoked under the following conditions:

- a. Registration shall be suspended automatically if the organ is removed from its location of registry or disassembled. If the organ is later reassembled or installed without significant change in a new venue, a suspended registration may be reinstated.
- b. Registration may be revoked at any time by vote of committee should the status of the organ change significantly, such as through enlargement or major modification.
- c. Registration will be revoked automatically upon division or breaking up of the organ for parts.

## **APPLICATION:**

Application for Registration is to be made in writing by filing the appropriate form. All submissions are subject to verification by photo documentation and/or inspection by a qualified technician approved by the Restoration and Preservation Committee or the ATOS Technical Committee, or by a recognized outside organ consultant knowledgeable in theatre organ.

Applications submitted for the Restoration and Preservation Award will also qualify for Registration consideration as long as they meet the standards of the National Registry Application, whether or not the organ submitted has met the standards for the Restoration and Preservation Award.

Instruments qualifying for the Restoration and Preservation Award may be entered into the National Registry automatically without further application as long as they meet the criteria set forth above.

## **AWARD**

Each instrument Registered by the ATOS shall be entered into the National Registry and shall receive a Certificate Of Registration. Announcement of instruments placed in the National Registry shall be made annually at the ATOS National Convention.

The Award Certificate shall read as follows:

"The American Theatre Organ Society designates this as an organ of exceptional historic and musical merit, worthy of preservation"

"This organ has been entered into the ATOS National Registry of Historic and Significant instruments, Level \_"

"This Registration is to be given to the owner in trust as long as the organ is maintained in a manner consistent with its musical and historic significance."

The instrument shall be identified by manufacturer and opus number and/or location.

An engraved plaque may be attached to either the console or suitable portion of the organ itself. This plaque shall read as follows:

"This organ has been entered into the ATOS National Registry of Historic and Significant instruments, Level \_"

"The American Theatre Organ Society designates this as an organ of exceptional historic and musical merit, worthy of preservation"

The instrument shall be identified by manufacturer and opus number and/or location. The plaque may also be dated and/or numbered.

ATOS shall provide this plaque at no cost under the following conditions:

- a. The organ has qualified for the Restoration and Preservation Award.
- b. The organ has been selected by declaration of the committee.

In other cases, the engraved plaque shall be made available at nominal cost.

### **REVOCAION OR RECALL OF AWARD**

This award and Registration is to be given to the owner "in trust as long as the organ is maintained in a manner consistent with its musical and historic significance."

Should the owner or steward do something which would make the organ no longer eligible for the award, or should the organ become unplayable, ATOS may recall the award and any plaque.

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