

To: ATOS Board of Directors

From: Tedde Gibson, Vice Chairman, Board of Directors

Subject: 2020 Report, Vice Chairman Report

I was looking forward to attending the 2020 annual convention and see so many of you and meet more of you who, perhaps, were attending a convention for the first time. It would be a week of work as a board member, but work I look forward to doing as we continue to preach the theatre organ gospel. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has postponed our convention. I do feel comfortable with that decision, as many would probably not have attended.

Not knowing what the immediate future holds for performances, conventions and the like, I have been encouraged by the number of theatre organists who have used livestreaming technology and other social media platforms to perform for an even larger global audience. As a performer, I do feel the pain of not doing what I love with a live audience but know that a time will come when the 'new normal' will allow live audiences in venues across the country and the world.

Your board has had a busy year looking at the future of our organization and continuing to do the work to sustain it. I continue to diligently work with chairman Dave Calendine- we speak on the phone weekly about the needs of ATOS and what we can do to make it better.

I had the opportunity to work as a guest instructor at the SYA in Atlanta, GA in 2019, and enjoyed the comradery with colleagues Jonas Nordwall, Donna Parker, and Martin Ellis.

Chairman Dave Calendine also came along and helped immensely. The Atlanta Chapter were terrific hosts, providing transportation and even a few home cooked meals. Several parents of the SYA students also helped with daily planning and logistics.

This past March 2020, I was invited by the Indianapolis ATOS chapter to perform at the Warren Performing Arts Center. Two days prior, I spent a day working with music students at Warren Central High School which houses a 3-18 Barton theatre organ. I had several classes where I worked with the keyboard students, and even engaged a few in a sing-along. I feel it is of the utmost importance for all of use to reach out to the younger generation and help them feel the excitement for the theatre organ that we do.

In closing, let us all remain diligent, energized and focused on promoting and protecting the theatre organ.

Respectfully submitted,

Tedde Gibson

Vice-Chairman of the Board
American Theatre Organ Society
Friday, June 19, 2020