



*ATOS Celebrating its 50th Year
1955 ~ 2005
www.atos.org*

AMERICAN THEATRE ORGAN SOCIETY

ATOS DIRECTOR

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Date: June 2010
To: Bob Evans, secretary
Re: Public Relations Committee Report

The Public Relations Committee continues with on-going articles to appear in *Theatre Organ*, fundraising efforts, meeting with the membership, and gaining exposure of the instrument to the general public. Listed below are some specific items.

Donnie Rankin has expressed an interest in video/audio taping theatre organ artist interviews. Each year, more and more of our history slips away with the passing of people in our business. I have encouraged him to pursue his first interviews at the ATOS Summer Youth Camp this July in Phoenix, beginning with interviews of Adrian Phillips, Jr., Jonas Nordwall and Lyn Larsen. This is a project that would be historically significant for the organization.

With the closer linking of the journal to the ATOS website, we will begin a section of artists who have passed away. ATOS should have this historic presentation of theatre organ artists on the website as an important part of our history. This would be similar to what Tom Blackwell has created for the Puget Sound chapter website—a stellar example often referred to by people worldwide.

A DVD about the ATOS Summer Youth Camp will be produced at the conclusion of this year's camp. This is to be shown at the Eastern Massachusetts Convention 2011, may be viewed on the ATOS website, and additional copies will be available for chapters to show their membership. Ken Double will narrate and Vickie Power will be the production manager. We are also enlisting Danielle to work on a printed brochure using photos from the first four camps as well.

We are working on providing chapters with a few different design templates for concert presentations that will include posters, postcards, programs and tickets. These could be accessed through the website with a code that would allow only our own chapters and organization to use them.

A Youth Corner continues in the *Theatre Organ* journal. Sometimes articles are included in Vox Pops or as a larger stand-alone article, depending on their size. The youth remain very appreciative of including their writing and thoughts in *Theatre Organ*, and it gives our membership an insight into what is important to these future caretakers of the instrument and art form.

I was approached by a member for permission to reprint a 1963 article by Lloyd Klos on Marr & Colton that appeared in *Theatre Organ*. This will be reprinted in *Historical Wyoming*. *Theatre Organ* continues

to be our written historical record of the instrument and its art form, and hopefully valuable to those researching theatre organ.

Fundraising efforts continue as I travel around the country. I continue to speak personally to chapters and members regarding these efforts, the general goals, and state-of-affairs of ATOS. We are currently working with some potential large donors, and our members continue to seem very pleased with the forward movement that is taking place in the organization.

We are proceeding on a suggestion from Nathan Avakian (Portland, OR) for a possible competition for youth on devising a new percussion or trap addition for the theatre organ. They would have to explain how it would be accessed and used, and how it could enhance the instrument. So many times artists lack percussions or traps to be able to authentically perform some of the more modern music, and I think it would be fantastic to see what the kids could do if they had the opportunity presented to them.

I am staying in communication with David Blacker of the Death Valley Natural History Association (DVNHA), working with him on their goal of having an artist-in-residence at Scotty's Castle. Due to the economic situation, they are on hold but still interested in pursuing this in the future. Don Thompson is playing the annual concert series this month, so their dedication to the presentation of the instrument continues.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Parker