

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Jonas Nordwall - Chair of ATOS Youth Summer Camp Program

The ATOS Summer program continues to be very successful. The 2010 camp will be held in Phoenix, Arizona again. Last year the Summer Camp had wonderful support from the Valley of the Sun Chapter and they have graciously extended an offer for this year as well. Using our reorganized plan, the principal in instructors will be Donna Parker, Jelani Eddington and me. Our guest instructors are Lyn Larsen and Charlie Balogh.

I have made a special request to Lyn. Since there are very few people remaining that remember George Wright's remarkable performances at the Pasadena Rialto Theater's 2 manual Wurlitzer, I asked Lyn to do a session demonstrating George's techniques playing small instruments. Lyn was at those concerts plus was around George during his rehearsals. This will provide very valuable information to the youth as they will encounter many more smaller instruments than larger instruments.

A personal comment regarding camp costs to ATOS. Each successive year the cost of presenting the YSC has been reduced.

While last year's cost to ATOS was dramatically reduced from the first YSC in 2007, this year's cost should be even less. With the assistance of Adrian Phillips III, ATOS has secured rental vans for less than last year and additional plans are being made to reduce food service costs.

Next year's YSC will be in the Boston area. With the assistance of Bob Evans, we will secure some wonderful instruments for campers to enjoy.

The committee has been in contact with potential guest instructors for next year's camp.

This is the first camp using our reorganized camp structure. There are three important facts to consider –

1. This concept uses organizational structures of very successful summer arts camps regarding allocation of teaching and coaching responsibilities.
2. There is no difference in the total teaching compensation and compensations to principal instructors have been equalized.
3. This structure will improve overall “quality time” for students.

Finally, it is important not to link the ATOS Youth Summer Camp Program to the ATOS Young Organist Competition. They are independent programs.

While it may seem that the YSC should produce competitors to the ATOS competitions, we must remember-

1. The camp lasts only five days out of 365.
2. Almost every camp participant has a private instructor for the remainder of the year.
3. The student and private instructor make the final decision about the student being a competitor.
4. The purpose of the Summer Youth Camp program is to provide motivation, inspiration and useful information about the theatre organ- not as a vehicle to produce competitors.

I continue to enjoy serving as chair for the ATOS Youth Summer Camp program and look forward to assisting one of ATOS’ most valuable contributions to the theatre organ art form for the future.

Jonas Nordwall