



AMICA International

Automatic Musical Instrument Collectors' Association

Honor Roll

Genevieve Pitot

An excerpt from the Aug/Sept 1979 AMICA

Obviously I need a proper write-up on this ... please sent one in!! - Web Manager

We next met Genevieve Pitot. Those of us with Duo-Art mechanisms in our pianos were familiar with her pianism through her piano rolls only. Boy, did we get a surprise! She had to play what she was told on the rolls she explained, but that wasn't the *real* Pitot at all! Pitot, as she enjoys being called, spent twenty years on Broadway as an arranger of story ballet. Now I play a little piano (very little - I teach it, remember?) and it is still almost impossible for me to describe exactly what it is she can do. She can take a melodic written line written by, say, Cole Porter and improvise a style of music that will be reminiscent of what he wrote, but not really a copy of it, and she can further a story with music for the dance and make it appropriate to the play, but with action and movement rather than words. She played some of this music for us after describing it to us, and it was delightful to look around at the audience and see the comprehension on their faces. She finished her program with lowdown blues she had written. They were bluer than blue but she was in total command of the piano! A wonderful experience for all of us!