

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

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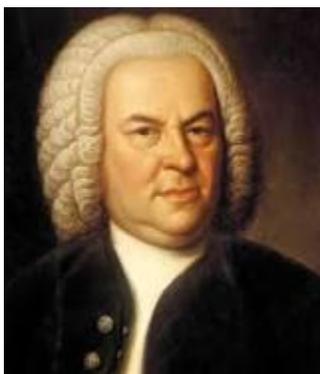
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 62 – September 2015



Potluck • Bach-a-thon & Officer Installation



September 20, 2015 - 1:30 Potluck lunch

3:00 – Bach-a-thon Recital

Officer Installation Following the Recital

Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church

2490 N. Cramer Street

Milwaukee, WI 53211

Chapter Directory
www.agomilwaukee.org
chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Chapter Officers
Dean

Larry Wheelock
414.617.2535
chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Sub-Dean

Sheri Masiakowski
414.403.1046
subdean@agomilwaukee.org

Secretary

Nicole Moritz
414.625.0318
Nicole.r.moritz@gmail.com

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Steven Jensen
414.688.7838
SJJ0923@aol.com

Registrar

David Beyer
414.871.6307
registrar@agomilwaukee.org

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Springfield, MO
jchesman@missouristate.edu

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Jeffrey Verkuilen, FAGO
Green Bay, WI
jeffverkuilen@new.rr.com

The Milwaukee Chapter of the American Guild of Organists along with All Saints Cathedral and Summerfield United Methodist Church, Milwaukee, are pleased to present the third annual Pedals, Pipes & Pizza program to introduce pianists 11-16 years of age to the organ. Encourage your young musicians to attend!



Students will have the opportunity to hear “spirited” music, find out about how the organ works along with visiting the organ chamber (and possibly find bats in the belfry!), play a piece that they know on the organ and enjoy yummy pizza all while meeting some new friends with an eerily shared interest in music!

The Pedals, Pipes & Pizza program will be held at All Saints Cathedral and Summerfield United Methodist Church, Milwaukee, on Saturday, October 31st, 2015, from 10:30 AM-2:30 PM. Please encourage students to attend this exciting introduction to the organ. Further information and a registration form may be obtained from the AGO website, www.agomilwaukee.org.

Thank you for the support and encouragement of our young musicians. Your influence in developing interest in the organ for the young musicians of our future is greatly appreciated!

Audrey Rhinehart, Chair, PPP Program
rhinehart@archmil.org

September 2015

4 (Fri) 5:00 Karen Beaumont, Organ
Grace Lutheran Church
1209 N. Broadway
Milwaukee, WI

8 (Tues) 7:30 Jeff Verkuilen, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

9 (Wed) 12:15 Jerod Reetz, Counter tenor
Sheri Masiakowski, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

12 (Sat) 9:00 A Workshop for
Church Musicians
Dr. John Behnke, Clinician
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
1046 N. 9th St
Milwaukee, WI

16 (Wed) 12:15 Estrella Piano Duo
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

**20 (Sun) Chapter Event
1:30 Potluck
3:00 Bach-a-thon
& Officer Installation
Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church
2490 N. Cramer St
Milwaukee, WI**

23 (Wed) 12:15 Amanda Fenton, Violin
Allan Hommerding, Piano
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

27 (Sun) 3:00 Mike Keegan, Horn
Steve Wolff, Piano/Organ
St. Mark's Episcopal Church
2618 N. Hackett Ave
Milwaukee, WI

27 (Sun) 3:00 Jared Stellmacher, Organ
Immanuel Lutheran Church
204 N. 10th St
Watertown, WI

30 (Wed) 12:15 Emma Koi, Flute
Josh Flemming, Bassoon
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

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The Deadline is the 20th of the preceding month.

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Positions Available – for the most current positions available please login to the website and look under the member's only section.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Stonebank is looking to hire a pianist or pianist/organist who is also a skilled accompanist to play for weekly Sunday morning worship starting immediately. This player should also be available for occasional weekday evening music rehearsals. We are a small ELCA church just a few miles northeast of Oconomowoc. We have just called a new pastor and we are looking to refresh our worship. Joyful musicians may call our church office on weekday mornings at [414-630-0689](tel:414-630-0689).

**A Workshop for Church Musicians
"Discovering New Repertoire and Improving Techniques"
Clinician – Dr. John Behnke**

Saturday, September 12, 2015

at
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
1046 N. Ninth St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233

To register, call 414-271-2219 or email john.behnke@cuw.edu
(Please include your name, phone number, email address, and name of church.)

Fee: \$20 (includes a parking pass)
Attend one, two, or all three sessions for just \$20.

9:00 AM-10:15 AM
Organ Workshop and New Music Reading Session
10:30 AM-12:00 PM
Choral Workshop and New Music Reading Session
12:00 PM-1:00 PM
Lunch on your own
1:00 PM- 2:30 PM
Handbell Workshop and New Music Reading Session

*New music will be from Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, MO and
AGFHR Publishing – Handbell Musicians of America.*



*Together with Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Milwaukee,
the St. John's College Alumni Association of Winfield, Kansas
is sponsoring this event for the training and edification of all interested church musicians,
for the benefit of the Church's worship life, and to the praise of our God.*

This workshop received a Thrivent Action Team grant from Thrivent Financial.



Dean's Column

Larry Wheelock

The Great Lakes Regional Convention - Indianapolis, Part 2

Starting Monday Morning at 9am we went right to work. The choices were: a workshop on the SPC exam, a workshop on Global Music, a Choral Reading Session, and a masterclass with David Higgs. I chose the masterclass primarily for Mr. Higgs stellar reputation as a teacher and was not disappointed. Engaging and erudite, he addressed the almost-full Christ Church Cathedral using a microphone and standing at the edge of the console of the Wolff instrument in the chancel. The first performer was named Mitch Miller (really!) and he did a confident

reading of Mendelssohn's Sonata 3 in a-minor, Op. 65 No. 3. Mr. Higgs had a great deal to teach us about Mendelssohn's music and did so in an entertaining and non-threatening way. The gist of the message was that from the very first publication, editors messed-up Mendelssohn's phrase-marks because they found them too unconventional and modern research has uncovered Mendelssohn's true intentions regarding the slurs and other phrase-marks. Mr. Higgs gave examples and Mr. Miller incorporated them into his reading of the piece. If one were performing Mendelssohn frequently, it would likely be worthwhile to invest in a new urtext edition (but if, like me, you only play one of those quiet ending-movements once a year, probably not.) Unfortunately, I did not record the name of the second performer. He played a work of the late Calvin Hampton with which I was not familiar. It seems Mr. Higgs actually played the premier of the piece under the tutelage of the composer and actually knew about the changes which had been made in the score including an alternate ending different from the published edition. This was fascinating as a piece of first-hand musical history and I'm sure the student got a great deal from it. The audience, probably, less so, but it was still interesting. I would attend a masterclass by David Higgs any time.

The masterclass was followed immediately by a recital by James David Christie on the magnificent Taylor & Boody instrument for which the cathedral built the west gallery on which it stands. I had been waiting impatiently to hear this instrument having attended 3 events at the Cathedral and still not hear a note from this instrument. It was well-worth the wait. Christie put the instrument thru its paces with a program of Böhm (Praeludium in D,) an anonymous Dutch manuscript via Camphuysen (Daphne — 3 variations,) Buxtehude (Te Deum, BuxWV 218,) Krebs (Chorale Prelude (*Zeuch ein zu deinen Toren,*) and J.S. Bach's "Partite Diverse sopra "Sei gegrüßet Jesu gütig", BWV 768 (one of my all-time favorites.) This artist and this instrument were a match made in musical heaven and the organ brought to life the music in a way seldom heard, meeting all the artist's demands. This was a splendid performance all-around and received a well-deserved ovation.

We were then bussed to Trinity Episcopal Church, a very Norman-esque building with a squat and quite formidable tower. The interior of the church was decorated in a strict medieval style in keeping with the architecture and felt very authentic and majestic. The organ was a 1983 Schantz with some newer work (2011) and a new console from Goulding & Wood, and placed in open chambers on one side of the chancel. The console was moved to the center for the program. This was the recital of the winner of the RCYO competition and the building was packed. I ended-up in a side-aisle shoved-up against a grand piano (one of the few non-medieval elements in the room) and never actually got my hands on a program. Apparently the crowd was greater than expected. The winner of the RCYO was Madeleine X Woodworth, a freshman at Eastman, where she studies with Nathan Laube. One did not need a program to know that we were hearing a masterful performance from such a young artist. She, also, got an ovation.



We were then bussed to Christian Theological Seminary (Disciples of Christ) — Sweeney Chapel for a hymn Festival, “In God’s Time.” The festival was led by: The Rev. Robert Schilling, Officiant, Dr. Paul Thomas, Reader, Ryan Brunkhurst, Organist (Organist and Director of Music at Episcopal Church of the Nativity) and a bevy of uncredited musicians including a string quartet, drums, recorder, and a few more I can’t recall.

As we entered each was handed an octavo of Alice Parker’s arrangement of “I Will Arise and Go to Jesus” and we did a very short rehearsal (pretty-much unneeded except to point out phrasing and dynamics). Then followed a very moving alternation of readings: Patricia B. Clark, the Reform Jewish Prayer book, John, Lucille Clifton, Merritt Malloy, Christianna Rosetti, George Herbert, Acts, and Maya Angelou, interspersed with a remarkable selection of hymns (mostly early American or contemporary global music). Sweeney Chapel is a breathtaking room with an impossibly high ceiling and perfect acoustics. It houses Holtkamp Op 1919 or 1987. (What a sound it made in the space!) The readings and hymns moved us thru the cycle from creation to

resurrection and I, personally, found it very moving. Near the end the congregation all sang the anthem (I Will Arise...) and the effect was hair-raising — in a good way. We were seated for a rousing Postlude of “Prelude and Fugue in B-Major Op. 7 No. 1 — Marcel Dupré.

After supper on our own we were bussed to the Warren Performing Arts Center for something completely different; a Theatre Organ program by Mark Herman. This is an unexpected venue for a fine Barton Theatre Organ. Warren Performing Arts Center is a high-school auditorium seating 1200 built in 1983 to serve the cultural interests of both the school and the east side of Indianapolis. In the early 1990s the Central Indiana Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society acquired and installed the 3/18 original 1928 Barton from the (downtown) Indiana Theatre and installed it on either side of the stage in this auditorium. The chapter retains ownership and stewardship of the instrument and is engaged in a long-term lease of the organ to the Warren Township School System with the Chapter insuring and maintaining it at no cost to the school. In return, the chapter gets to use the auditorium and organ. What a wonderful arrangement! While not the largest in the Midwest, this Barton is certainly one of the best-sounding and most meticulously cared-for instruments I have ever experienced (excluding some in private ownership.) It is almost entirely intact but a Barton oboe was added replacing a synthetic stop.

Mark Herman gave a rousing and virtuoso performance, showing-off the organs many effects and ear-tickling sounds. He is to be ranked among the very best of theatre-organists concertizing today and he is only 28. His program included accompanying the silent film “Neighbors” with Buster Keaton (1920) and a cornucopia of standards and some off-the-beaten-path selections (Shostakovich on a theatre organ) (including one of his own compositions). His program was thoroughly enjoyable and we all left the auditorium impressed and uplifted. I had the pleasure of sharing a seat in the coach on the way back from Bloomington the next day and found Mr. Herman to be as engaging a conversationalist as he was an organist. What a pleasure!

We adjourned to the exhibits area where we were provided with a large selection of Hors d’ Oeuvres and a cash bar. We made merry and many folks did so way past my curfew. (*To be continued...*)





American Guild of Organists/Milwaukee Chapter
Membership 2015-16

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