Newsletter of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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Saturday, October 18, 2003, 7:30 PM Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton Stefan Engels, Organist

tefan Engels is recognized as "...one of the world's finest young artists" (The American Organist, December 2002). Recent and upcoming engagements include concerts and master classes in Asia, Australia, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Poland and the United States. Stefan Engels received his musical education in Germany and the United States. He studied organ, piano, harpsichord, conducting, and church music at the Musikhochschulen in Aahen, Düsseldorf and Cologne before moving in to the United States in 1993 for further organ studies with Robert Anderson and Wolfgang Rübsam. In 1994, he won first prizes at the William C. Hall Organ Competition in San Antonio, Texas and Concerto Competition at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, which awarded him its prestigious Artist Diploma the following year. In 1998, he was awarded the Concerto Gold Medal at the Calgary International Organ Competition. Stefan Engels has been on the organ faculty at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and organist at First Presbyterian Church in West Chester, Pennsylvania since 1999. He has recorded for Naxos and Priory.

The organ at Zion Mennonite was built in 1968 by Charles Fisk, who commented: "We ourselves feel that it

Continued on page 5

CRESCENDO, the official bulletin of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 1st day of the month preceding the date of issue, i.e. November 1 for the December issue. This must be type written and e-mailed (text only in the body of the letter), or mailed. Submissions on electronic media (3.5" floppy disks) in IBM format are appreciated. A hard copy should be included. Submissions become the property of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO and will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. CRESCENDO reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in Crescendo reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild. All advertising must be arranged through the Advertising Manager.

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The deadline for the next issue, November, will be October 1, 2003





DEAN'S LETTER

The State of the Profession — Philadelphia

What is it like to be a church musician in the Philadelphia area? What situations will face church musicians in the next five years? Ten years? Is there a future for organists? I have been asked these questions in the last several months, and, as a result have talked with a number of church musicians, and read books, journals, and newsletters. Generalizations are a mistake. Books such as Craig Whitney's All the Stops paint an optimistic picture, especially regarding pipe organs in concert halls. The U.S. Air August, 2003, issue of Attaché has a



great article on the Wanamaker organ. The September House and Garden highlights Los Angeles' new Disney Hall with its highly unique organ. But what about the churches?

In the church venue, five trends are taking place:

- some are moving toward praise music and/or other forms of non-traditional music;
- some churches use non-traditional music successfully and plan no changes;
- a number of churches have used alternative ("contemporary") forms of worship and have now returned to more traditional forms;
- some use traditional forms of worship and feel no need to change; and
- many "hedge their bets' by offering a variety of worship styles.

Even though "praise music" is the most common "contemporary" form of music, not all segments of church populations looking beyond normal hymnody prefer it. Many agree that today's young adults are looking for rootedness and traditions, often preferring hymnody and even chants.

However, there are other, more extreme occurrences among us — unwarranted dismissals of church musicians with little or no notice, often for no particular cause. Other musicians are faced with changes in job descriptions and/or salary agreements. At the same time, many church/synagogue musicians are working with clergy compatibly and productively.

Considering all this, the overriding thought that struck me is "Who are we about?" Are we working to please or entertain the person in the pew? Are we primarily trying to attract new members, perhaps of a particular age group? If so, we are heading in the wrong direction and, for those of us in church and synagogue settings, we must keep in mind that ours is a God-directed profession. Style is not the crucial point; quality is. Giving the best of our abilities with the best resources we have for the purpose of praise is the more appropriate direction to head. But most of us are subject to the expectations of clergy instead of following our own preferred path.

For additional thoughts and insights on our profession and ways of thinking about what we do, who we do it with, and who we do it for, consider spending some time with quality resource materials. For starters, here are some good ones that I have read or that have been recommended to me:

- Denominational publications. If you need contact information, I have names and addresses of publications of many denominational organizations.
- Grow Your Church from the Outside, by George Barna. Foreword is by Lee Strobel, with quotes praising the book by Charles Colsom and Bill Easum. Their research shows that the unchurched need many invitations by trusted friends before they come to church. Once in the door, they prefer anonymity, and look for sincere interactions between and among congregants. Traditional music appeals to this type of visitor. The publisher is Regal, and the ISBN is 0-8307-3087-7
- Good to Great, by Jim Collins. This discussion of the corporate world has many applications for the church. Collins' approach: Find the people who best work together as a group. Find what you do best not necessarily what you are doing. Find what you do with passion. Go beyond merely being good be great. Published by HarperCollins Publishers. 2001.
- Antagonists in the Church: How to Identify and Deal with Destructive Conflict, by Kenneth C. Haugk (Augsburg Fortress, 1988)
- Thank You for Being Such a Pain: Spiritual Guidance for Dealing with Difficult People, by Mark I. Rosen (Three Rivers Press 1999)







REGISTRAR'S CORNER

JOE LEWIS, REGISTRAR

- 1. To date we have had 369 renewals and/or new memberships for the Philadelphia chapter for the current 03/04 year. If you have yet to renew, please do so as soon as possible. Courtesy issues of the September Crescendo were sent to those who have overlooked their due dates as a gentle reminder. Note that subscriptions to the Crescendo run from September through June, whereas subscriptions to the TAO run from December through November. Therefore, lapsed members for 03/04 will not receive the October issue of the Crescendo, but will continue to receive the TAO through the November issue. Members renewing late may also experience a delay in getting their TAO December and January issues, since the national office experiences an enormous staff strain due to the fact that thousands of back issues have to be packaged and posted by hand from Headquarters during the fall period.
- 2. Please remember that address mailing labels of the always updated/most current membership list of the Philadelphia chapter are available at a cost of \$25 per set for members and \$40 per set for non-members. They can be sorted by zip code or alphabetically, and are great for publicizing your next recital, concert or special event. A statement is included with the labels, so there is no need to send payment until after you receive them. Please allow several weeks notice prior to the time you need them. Either call me at 610.935.0895 or email spiele88@icdc.com to request them. I would appreciate, however, being informed for my records if you have any label-addressed mail returned for any reason. That way our computer records can be constantly updated. Email addresses of members are not available for purchase, but are available in the 2003 Membership Directory.
- 3. Please consider inviting a neighboring musician or organ enthusiast to join our chapter. There are many categories of membership that will suit almost anyone, including Chapter Friend, which allows individuals to be a part of the organization and receive our local publication, Crescendo, and to learn firsthand all the exciting things that go on throughout the year. Please refer any names of interested individuals to me.
- 4. A word about the Substitute List: Several members were surprised that they did not appear on the September list, even though they may have been included previously. Each September the list is especially updated to reflect the names of those who 1) renewed their memberships by the publishing deadline date and 2) checked the specific box on the membership form indicating that they were still interested in continuing to be on the list. The Sub List is provided as an advertising courtesy for members only. If you are a member in good standing and wish to be added to the list, please contact Frank Orman, the Coordinator.
- 5. We welcome the following new members to the Chapter:

Justin Hartz Yardley, PA
Clair D. Maxwell III Doylestown, PA
Kenneth Westcott Conshohocken, PA
Karen Whitney Philadelphia, PA

Please greet them warmly at the next AGO event and make them feel welcome.

Joe Lewis Registrar

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

JOSEPH LEWIS, REGISTRAR

Want to join the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists? Need to report AGO Directory Changes on your current membership?

Contact our Registrar, Joe Lewis at: 49

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(Churches needing musicians; Musicians	needing churches)
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Marcia Mau	610.692.5009
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David Herman	302.733.0529
Director-National Convention Committ	
Dennis Elwell	610.658.2128

CHAPTER TELEPHONE NUMBER 215.727.2762

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OCTOBER 2003 VOLUME LXVI, NO. 2

SUBSTITUTE LIST

This list is published as a courtesy to the chapter membership. Only members of the Philadelphia AGO Chapter available for regularly-scheduled services are listed. Although the AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship or reliability of substitute organists, Guild certificates and other degree programs indicate preparation beyond the minimum.

Substitute	Location	Phone Number
Lawrence C. Bandfield*	Philadelphia, PA	215.247.6439
Sharon Bertha-MacCabe	Royersford, PA	610.948.9055
Dr. Norman Caldwell-Coombs	Philadelphia	215.849.1514
Rosemary Colson	Philadelphia, PA	215.848.1995
A. David Deery	Phoenixville, PA	610.933.3666
Jeremy J. Flood, MD, CAGO	Philadelphia, PA	215.625.2747
Elizabeth Forsyth	Doylestown, PA	215.230.0593
Robert H. Frederick	Philadelphia, PA	215.755.7648
Lisa Guglielmo	Glenmoore, PA	610.913.0803
W. Franklin Hoxter, Jr.	Philadelphia, PA	215.424.5406
James D. Ingles	Ardmore, PA	610.658.5813
Dorothy M. Jennings	Feasterville, PA	215.357.1910
Joel E. Klingman	Southampton, PA	215.355.8445
Carl Kunkel	Drexel Hill, PA	610.356.4179
Sarah Leamy		610.279.7186
Monica Liggins	Wyncote, PA	215.572.6437
Bruce R. Marshall	Philadelphia, PA	215.844.8343
Dr. Mardia Melroy	Maple Glen, PA	215.646.1975
Dr. Kathleen J. Moyer	Drexel Hill, PA	610.394.9682
Michael B. Peters	Pottstown, PA	610.327.3010
Katherine Reier	Abington, PA	215.517.4160
Harry S. Solomon, Jr.	Philadelphia, PA	215.473.6228
Glenna M. Sprang	Boothwyn,PA	610.497.4135
Janet Stacy	Telford, PA	215.721.1897
Michael A. Taylor	Newark, DE	302.836.8122
Janet L. Tebbel	Philadelphia, PA	215.848.3915
Elaine E. Thomas	Bridgeport, PA	610.272.9946
Mary Louise Varricchione-Lyon	Doylestown, PA	215.348.9507
Karen Whitney	Philadelphia, PA	215.424.8450
Peter V. Young	Ardmore, PA	610.649.2526
Freda Zimmerman	Philadelphia, PA	215.698.1331

^{*}conducting only, no keyboard

CRESCENDO

Calendar of Events

Please include the following information when submitting items for inclusion in Crescendo or just copy and use this form. Calendar items are stored in a database so send them as early as you are able.

LOCATION INFORMATION:
Name
Address
Telephone #
Email address
Web site
EVENT INFORMATION:
Date
Time
Instrument
Name of Event (include performer, instrument, brief details)
□ Free □ Free-will offering □ \$ □ Other
Submitted by
T

OCTOBER 2003



Stefan Engles at the Mennonite Church Continued from page 1

is one of our most successful instruments. A good part of the reason for the organ's tonal success is the building's acoustics, which for music are simply elegant." This event is free. An offering will be received. If you are interested in joining a group for dinner before the concert at "The Century House," please email or phone Jon Leight (jonsings@enter.net 215-368-2884).

Directions

It is important to know that Zion has ample parking in the rear of the church. If the lot at the Cherry Lane entrance is full, pull in to this main lot and head towards the church. A driveway will take you around the back of the church where there are several entrances.

From 309 North: Proceed through the light at Unionville Pike. Take the next exit marked, "Bethlehem Pike/Sellersville." Pass through two lights close together. Travel 1/10 mile and bear left at the "Y" in the road just before the Indian Valley Camping sign. Proceed to first light turning left onto Cherry Lane. Zion is approximately 1/2 mile on the right.

From 309 South: Take the Souderton exit. At the stop sign, turn right. This is Rt. 113. Go straight through the first light, but be prepared to turn left onto County Line Road at the second light. Travel to the first light and turn right onto Cherry Lane. Zion is on the right hand side of the road about three blocks down.

From the PA Turnpike Northeast Extension: Exit at Lansdale and after paying toll proceed to light. Turn left (RT. 63 East). Proceed to second light and turn left onto Forty Foot Road. Stay straight, passing through 5 lights. At 6th light, turn left onto North Main Street (aka Cowpath Road). Continue to 2nd light turning right onto Leidy Road. (Be careful of the sharp "S" turns. Note also that the name of this road actually changes somewhere midpoint to Cherry Lane!) At light, proceed through intersection continuing on Cherry Lane. Zion is approximately 1/4 mile on the left.

• • •

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CHAPTER EVENTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2003, 7:30 PM

Zion Mennonite Church, Souderton Stefan Engels, Organist

See cover article

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2003, 8:00 PM

Girard College, Philadelphia Harry Wilkinson, Organist

Philadelphia organ legend, Harry Wilkinson, PhD., FAGO, for many years, chair of the Music Theory and Composition Departments and Professor of Organ at West Chester University, will play the famous 1933 Girard College Chapel E. M. Skinner Organ. Dr. Wilkinson has twice recorded on this 102 stop instrument in CDs entitled, Girard: The Definitive Recording. The concert is free to AGO members and the public. Concert preceded by a 6:00 pm dinner in Founders Hall at Girard College. Reservations required for the dinner.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 2004, 9:00 AM

Overbrook Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia January JumpStart / Author: Craig R. Whitney

A workshop experience geared toward the church musician seeking fresh ideas for a new year. Includes choral techniques, reading sessions for mixed choirs, youth, small choirs, children; and organ repertoire. After a catered noon luncheon, Craig R. Whitney, author and Assisting Managing Editor of the New York Times, will speak regarding his new book, All the Stops: The Glorious Pipe Organ and Its American Masters. This interesting book is built around the controversies which were generated over Ernest M. Skinner vs. G. Donald Harrison and Virgil Fox vs. E. Power Biggs. The book has been hailed as, "The best thing to happen to the pipe organ since the Erzahler." Let the wars continue! Lunch by reservation.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2004, 8:00 PM

Philadelphia Legends I Celebrating the Legacy of Organ Culture in Philadelphia Joseph Jackson, Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia

This is the first in a series over the coming years highlighting the people, instruments, churches (et cetera) and their music programs which have shaped the Philadelphia organ/music scene. Joseph Jackson will host the first event of this series, speaking about the church, its music program, its organs and organists. This will be followed by a recital on the recently installed Reuter Organ. A tour of the organ and a reception follows.

March 2004

Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal) Sacred Music: Sacred Space Details TBD

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004

Road trip to Washington, DC Washington National Cathedral Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Bus transportation will be provided for 45 people to travel to Washington, DC to tour the organs of the Basilica and the Cathedral with an opportunity to play the National Cathedral organ. Dinner in the Washington, DC area. Cost and other details will be forthcoming.

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2004: 8:00 PM

Wayne Presbyterian Church, Wayne Matthew Lewis, Organist

A native of Massachusetts, Dr. Lewis has been on the organ faculty and a graduate of the Juilliard School since 1993 (DMA). He is Organist and Director of Music at Church of the Incarnation (Episcopal) in New York City, as well as Organist and Choirmaster at Temple Israel, Lawrence, NY. He will perform on Wayne's IV / 87 1963 Austin Organ (new draw-knob console in 2003). He will also give a masterclass Saturday morning at 10 AM.

JUNE 2004: TBD

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If any of this applies to you, contact Ethel Geist at 215/529-1603 or ethelgeist@comcast.net

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OCTOBER 2003 VOLUME LXVI, NO. 2



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October

Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rd & Mt Carmel Ave, Glenside

- 7: Joseph Jackson
- 14: Timothy Evers
- 21: Scott Myers
- 28: Russell Patterson

November

Ardmore Presbyterian Church, Montgomery and Mill Rds, Ardmore

- 4: Paul Feiko
- 11: Gary Garletts
- 18: Robert Gallagher
- 25: Kevin Freaney

December

Trinity Episcopal Church, Old Bethlehem Pike and Highland Ave, Ambler

- 2: TBA
- 9: Katherine Reier
- 16: Barbara Hartenbauer
- 23: Stephen Schreiber
- 30: Andrew Heller

January

Zion Mennonite Church, Front St & Cherry Ln, Souderton

- 6: Vincent Ryan
- 13: Marian Archibald
- 20: TBA
- 27: Martha Johnson

February

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1000 W Main St, Lansdale

- 3: TBA
- 10: Kevin Daly
- 17: Rev. Bruce Thorsen
- 24: Yoshiko Seavey

March

White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester and Gradyville Rds., Newtown Square, PA

- 2: Philip Gehman
- 9: Roy Harker
- 16: Michael Trinder
- 23: TBA
- 30: Michael Stairs





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Roy Harker

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ERIC GOMBERT, COORDINATOR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 4:00 PM

Wesley Parrott, organ. Free-will offering to benefit organ rebuilding. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Frankford & Sellers Ave, Frankford PA 215.535.0635

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 4:00 PM

Latin Fiesta. Free-will donation. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1000 W Main St, Lansdale PA 215.368.1710 www.trinitylansdale.com/concerts

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 5:00 PM

Choral Évensong. The St. Martin's Choir, Ken Lovett, director. Works of Jayson Engquist, Bruce Neswick & Moses Hogan. Childcare provided. Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Willow Grove Ave & St Martin's Ln, Chestnut Hill PA 215.247.7466

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 12:00 PM

JOSEPH JACKSON, organ. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rd & Mt Carmel Ave, Glenside PA 215.887.1074

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 8:00 PM

Wister String Quartet. Masterworks by Haydn, Beethoven, & Ravel. Free, donations accepted. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rd & Mt Carmel Ave, Glenside PA 215.887.1074

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2:30 PM

Sparx. Joan Sparks, flute and Anne Sullivan, harp. Gardens admission: \$14/\$6/\$2 Longwood Gardens-Special Events Pavilion, US Rte 1, Kennett Square PA 610.388.1000 www.longwoodgardens.org

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 3:00 PM

Young Musicians Community Orchestra. Stan Yoder, Director; Marian Archibald, organ. Free-will offering. Zion Mennonite Church, Front St & Cherry Ln, Souderton PA 215.723.3592
www.zionmennonite.org

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4:00 PM

Evensong. St. Paul's Choir & soloists. Richard Alexander, organist-choirmaster. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 22 E Chestnut Hill Ave, Philadelphia PA 215.242.2055 www.stpaulschestnuthill.org

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4:00 PM

Hector Olivera, organ. \$10. Prog incl "Symphonie Concertante" by Jongen. 4M 1962 Moller, renovated 2001. Trinity Lutheran Church, 31 S Duke St, Lancaster PA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4:00 PM

Russell Patterson, organ. Free. ursinus College-Bomberger Hall, Collegeville PA www.ursinus.edu

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 4:00 PM

Tom Hazleton, organ. St. Paul's United Church of Christ, 104 Green St, Sellersville PA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 12:00 PM

TIMOTHY EVERS, organ. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rd & Mt Carmel Ave, Glenside PA 215.887.1074

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 8:00 PM

The Saint Paul's Cathedral Choir, London, England with John Scott, director & Huw Williams, organist. \$25. St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh, Bethlehem Pk & Camp Hill Rd, Fort Washington PA 215.233.3970 www.stthomaswhitemarsh.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7:30 PM

STEFAN ENGELS, organist. Zion Mennonite Church, Front St & Cherry Ln, Souderton PA 215.723.3592 www.zionmennonite.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 8:00 PM

Singing City Fall Concert. "Paths to Peace-A Celebration of Singing City's Touring Legacy." Works by Prokofiev, Brahms, Whitacre, Flummerfelt, Ives, & Mendelssohn. \$20/\$16. 215.569.9067 Friends Meeting House, 4th & Arch Sts, Philadelphia PA

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 3:00 PM

Pine Forge Academy Concert Choir. Jason Ferdinand, Conductor. Call for free tickets. Zion Mennonite Church, Front St & Cherry Ln, Souderton PA 215.723.3592 www.zionmennonite.org

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 3:00 PM

Robin Massie, soprano & Steven Condy, bass. Vocal duet performance. Suggested offering: \$5. First Presbyterian Church, 771 N Pennsylvania Ave, Morrisville PA 215.295.4191 firstmpc@aol.com

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 4:00 PM

Organ "INformance" Cj Sambach, organist. Free-will offering. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 355 St John's Cir, Phoenixville PA 610.933.3947

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 4:00 PM

Traditional Anglican Evensong. Music of Titcomb, Vaughan Williams & Tallis. Grace Church, 19 Kings Hwy E, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0007 www.gracehaddon.org

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 7:00 PM

Cantores Vocal Ensemble performs Brahms' Op. 52 Liebeslieder, Debussy's Trois Chansons, & music of Healey Willan & Halsey Stevens. Free-will offering. Church of the Redeemer, Pennswood & New Gulph Rds, Bryn Mawr PA 610.525.8547 info@redeemer.org

Continued on following page



VOLOME EXVI, INC. 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ERIC GOMBERT, COORDINATOR

Tuesday, October 21, 12:00 PM

SCOTT MYERS, organ. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rd & Mt Carmel Ave, Glenside PA 215.887.1074

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25-NOVEMBER 23, 10:00 AM-5:00 PM DAILY Chrysantehmum Festival. Concerts throughout the day, Saturdays & Sundays. Gardens admission: \$14/\$6/\$2 Longwood Gardens, US Rte 1, Kennett Square PA 610.388.1000 www.longwoodgardens.org

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25, 8:00 PM

Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia. Alan Harler, conductor. This chorus of over 120 singers will perform Charles Fussell's "The Bridge" & Ralph Vaughan Williams' "Toward the Unknown Regions." Ticket info: 215.735.9922. Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal), 3723 Chestnut St (38th & Chestnut), Philadelphia PA 215.386.0234 x122 music@philadelphiacathedral.org

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 7:30 PM

Gordon Turk, organ. Free-will offering. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Easton Rd & Mt Carmel, Glenside PA 215.884.3005

Tuesday, October 28, 12:00 PM

RUSSELL PATTERSON, organ. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rd & Mt Carmel Ave, Glenside PA 215.887.1074

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 8:00 PM & 10:00 PM

The Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia. David J. Tang, Artistic Director. The Choral Arts Society's debut in the cathedral features an array of music on the eve of Halloween. Get ready for HALLOWIRED! Costumes required! Tphil 215.893.1999 Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal), 3723 Chestnut St (38th & Chestnut), Philadelphia PA 215.386.0234 x122 music@philadelphiacathedral.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 12:00 PM

The Philadelphia Classical Symphony-Musical Ghosts & Goblins. Karl Middleman, Artistic Director. This Family Halloween Fair & Concert in the grand cathedral space will be out of this world! Tickets: 610.664.8481. Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal), 3723 Chestnut St (38th & Chestnut), Philadelphia PA 215.386.0234 x122 music@philadelphiacathedral.org

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 8:00 PM

Ursinus College Choir. John French, conductor; Alan Morrison, organ. Ursinus College-Bomberger Hall, Collegeville PA www.ursinus.edu

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 4:00 PM

Solemn Evensong for All Saints & All Souls. St. Mary's Choir & Soloists. Gordon Turk, Choirmaster. Music of Poulenc. Free-will offering. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lancaster & Louella Aves, Wayne PA 610.688.1313

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 4:30 PM

Choral Evensong for All Saints sung by the Parish Choir, William J. Gatens, Choirmaster. Works to include Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in B-flat by Purcell and "O quam gloriosum" by Victoria. Preceded at 4:00 with a vocal recital by section leaders. Church of the Good Shepherd, Lancaster and Montrose Aves, Rosemont PA 610.525.7070

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 5:00 PM

Choral Evensong. The St. Martin's Choir, Ken Lovett, director. Works of James Buonemani, Jack Ossewaarde & C.V. Stanford. Childcare provided. Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Willow Grove Ave & St Martin's Ln, Chestnut Hill PA 215.247.7466

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 9:00 PM

Sunday Night Prayer for the Departed-All Soul's Day. Gregorian chant, incense, and contemplative silence in commemoration of the departed. Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal), 3723 Chestnut St (38th & Chestnut), Philadelphia PA 215.386.0234 x122 music@philadelphiacathedral.org

Dean's Message Continued from page 2

- How Can I Keep from Singing? Conversations in Renewal for the Church's Musicians, by Gerald Patrick Coleman (Concordia Publishing House 1991)
- Reaching Out without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for the Turnof-the-Century Culture, by Marva Dawn (Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995). A "classic" well worth reading.
- Jubilate II: Church Music in Worship and Renewal, by Donald P. Hustad makes many strong points, and may surprise you by the time you get to the end
- *Te Deum: The Church and Music*, by Paul Westermeyer (Augsburg Fortress 1998). This is worth while for musicians, choir members, worship and music committee members and others interested in music in worship.

If you have been subjected to treatment that leaves much to be desired, learn what you can to try to build bridges. Remember, there are fellow musicians whose insights and experiences may be helpful. Take advantage of assistance that is readily available. The AGO has procedures that can be followed to warn others of intolerable conditions.

If you have a congenial and productive relationship with colleagues, communicate and maintain your good relationships. Count your blessings, for making music in this kind of situation is most rewarding and fulfilling.

Ethel Geist

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VOX HUMANA

THE KIMMEL CENTER ORGAN-THE REAL STORY-Part II The Building of the Kimmel Center Concert Hall Organ Part Two: Setting the Stage

Jeffrey Brillhart, Frederick R. Haas

he first task of the RPAC organ committee was to define the qualities of successful concert hall organs. Our hope was to provide Philadelphia with a world-class instrument worthy of the hall that was being built and worthy of the ensembles with whom it would perform. The range of repertoire this organ would perform would be much broader than a standard church organ. The organ would have to function as a solo instrument in recital, so it would require a diversity of stops appropriate to perform the organ literature from the past 400 years. It would be featured as an accompanist with choral groups, so it would need the dynamic range and the stops appropriate to support singers from both large and small ensembles. It would perform the orchestral literature as an ensemble instrument in baroque continuo groups and in large orchestral works, as well as fulfilling the demands of organ concerti. And, as with virtually all recent important concert hall organs, it would be mechanical action; an additional electric action console would be provided to add additional flexibility.

With these criteria as our guideposts, we turned to recently built organs we felt met most or all of these goals.

Because of the short time allotted for the selection process, we were forced to focus our attention on those few builders who had recently built large successful instruments that met our criteria. The importance of the builder having built a recent instrument was crucial, in that the style and methods of an organ builder can change over time. An organ builder's early opus may differ substantially from a more mature effort. The setting of the instrument was also important, with our focus being on concert hall organs. We wanted to both see and hear how the builders worked with the space in which the organ was installed.

Dobson organs had impressed us with its track record of mechanically reliable instruments, their extraordinary success of marrying an instrument with the architecture of the space, their ability to successfully build an organ in a bad acoustic, and their obsession with learning from all periods of organ building.

In late 1998 the newly formed RPAC organ committee swung into action. The committee: Fred Haas, Jeff Brillhart, Simon Woods - representing The Philadelphia Orchestra, Robert Anderson - responsible for two acclaimed Fisk Organs in Dallas, with Ashley Goodall from Artec Acoustical Consultants in an advisory capacity, set out to audition the latest, and best of the recently built large concert hall or church organs in the country. George Schaeffer representing the administrative and construction side of the hall remained in Philadelphia to focus on construction issues.

Time and budget constraints limited our travel to the US, although any builder from any country was taken into consideration. We settled on a short list of instruments. One of the first organs we considered was the Fisk organ in the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. This organ represented an example of a new style of American organ building that hearkened back to the grand 19th century Romantic symphonic scaled organs, and the venerable American classic organs by Aeolian-Skinner from the first half of the 20th century.

A church organ by the German builder Glatter-G_tz Orgelbau with tonal design and voicing by Manuel Rosales, at the United Church of Christ Congregational in Claremont, California was visited. Manuel Rosales, in particular, was a name that had garnered much praise and attention among fellow organists as a builder and voicer of important instruments. Mr. Rosales was also slated to collaborate with Glatter-G_tz Orgelbau to build a monumental pipe organ for the new Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles.

OCTOBER 2003





Kimmel Center Organ Continued from page 12

The Hellmuth Wolff Organ of Bales Recital Hall at the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas was selected. One of our strong desires was that the new organ would serve as a teaching instrument for various historical playing styles.

Dobson Organ Builders had just finished an important organ for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Minnesota; they were also beginning to build a large organ for Our Lady of the Angels, the new cathedral for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles. While it was to incorporate some of the pipes from the organ in the previous cathedral, most of the instrument would be new. Dobson organs had impressed us with its track record of mechanically reliable instruments, their extraordinary success of marrying an instrument with the architecture of the space, their ability to successfully build an organ in a bad acoustic, and their obsession with learning from all periods of organ building.

The recent work of N. P. Mander was considered, particularly the large organ at St. Ignatius Loyola church in New York City. Members of the organ committee visited this installation individually.

So, with our list in hand, we compared our calendars and set off on a series of trips, logging thousands of cross-country airplane miles to visit each of these organs.

Our approach upon arriving at the organ's space was to have one organist play while the other would walk about the hall and listen with the members of the committee. Trading places allowed each organist to hear every stop and various registrations played. Each of us played a wide variety of pieces, from Couperin, Bach and Buxtehude to Widor, Franck and Vierne; from Healy Willan to Messiaen. We even sang with each organ.

We focused on several areas: Tonal quality and color, variety of stops, acoustical considerations, dynamic range, intensity of bass tone, and ease of navigating the console.

One yardstick we used to judge an organ's effectiveness in tonal quality and color was, does it hold one's interest over time, after many repeated hearings? With so little time to spend with each organ, a basic test was devised to listen for color, personality and depth of each rank. If there was a 4' flute on the Great division and a 4' flute in the Swell, how did they compare? Were they strikingly different in tone and color, or somewhat the same? How did they blend and complement each other?

Extensive improvising helped us to hear how the organ handled symphonic treatment.

Of great importance to us was how the organ and the hall interacted in each setting. If the acoustic of the hall or church was dry and unsympathetic to the organ's sound, how did the builder address that problem? If the acoustics were warm and the hall had a long reverberation, was clarity preserved?

We were very interested to see how well the console could be navigated. It was important that the console be thoughtfully laid out and quickly understood since many organists would use the instrument. Did the console

impede the organist? Did it facilitate musical playing? Given the restricted amount of time an organist typically has to prepare for a concert hall performance, was the console intuitive?

A question was posed to several builders: if you were given the task of building a large pipe organ for the Philadelphia hall, to share the stage with the great Philadelphia Orchestra and other renowned ensembles, what would you build? What would be your guiding principles? These basic questions elicited some interesting and enlightening responses.

Hearing these various organs and the results the builders had achieved helped to crystallize our concept of what we desired for Philadelphia: a world-class pipe organ for a world-class concert hall. The pivotal moment arrived. As we met to vote on the selection of the builder, the choice was clear.

VOX HUMANA

PIPEDREAMS PROGRAM LISTINGS: WWW.PIPEDREAMS.ORG

In October, Pipedreams is featuring a number of enormously talented people including Peter Conte, who talks about what it's like to play on the Wanamaker organ.

Pipedreams is going on a tour to Mexico. Led by Michael Barone and Ed Pepe, this trip will depart on November 8th and return on November 18th. In Mexico, you'll see the Catedral Metropolitano in Mexico City, the Puebla Cathedral, as well fascinating instruments in Tlaxcala, Oaxaca and Tlacochahuya. For anyone not familiar with instruments from this region, this is an adventure not to be missed!

OK CHORALES

We always wondered what choirs were singing when they burst into Latin. This hint comes from the bulletin board of the rehearsal room of St. Martin-in-the-Fields of Chestnut Hill, a long time ago.

NEWLY DISCOVERED PALESTRINA MOTETS FROM HIS "SECULAR" PERIOD

Tibi gratias agimus quod nihil fumas (Thank you for not smoking)

Credo Elvem ipsum etiam vivere (I believe Elvis is still alive)

Quomodo cogis cams tuas sic videri? (How do you get your hair to do that?)

Credo nonnullos hic mortuos esse (I think several of the people here are dead)

Ecce magnitudinem illae molae piperi! (Look at the size of that peppermill!)

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Pennsbury High School Choral Music Department

705 Hood Boulevard, Fairless Hills, PA 19030 (215) 949-6779 PennsburySings@aol.com

James D. Moyer, Director of Choral Activities Jason Vodicka, Choral Director Elizabeth Hohwieler, Choral Director Suzanne Schmidt, Music Theory Instructor Leone Lee, Accompanist



The Pennsbury Bernstein Festival

Thursday, November 6th –

An Evening of Bernstein, Sondheim, and Weill

Cabaret at Odette's, New Hope, PA

Friday, November 7th – Music for the Theatre PHS East Campus Auditorium

Saturday, November 8th – Chichester Psalms & other works. Guest speaker Mr. Alexander Bernstein PHS East Campus Auditorium

Featuring the Pennsbury High School Choirs, the Pennsbury Community Chorus, and guest singers Sara Blann, Alyson Harvey, Cindy Lesser, Robin Massie, Kathryn Thomas, Charles Walker, Scott Williamson, and Leon Williams.

North American Premier

Carl Heinrich Graun (c.1703-1759)
Weihnachts-Oratorium
(Christmas Oratorio)

Sunday, December 7th - 4:00 pm

The Pennsbury Chamber Choir and guest orchestra James D. Moyer, conductor Kathryn Thomas, soprano Alyson Harvey, mezzo-soprano Scott Williamson, tenor Steven Condy, bass



Tickets available for all events by calling the Choral Music Office. (215) 949-6779



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Boehm's United Church of Christ 571 Pennlyn-Blue Bell Pike Blue Bell, PA 19422 215-646-6132

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References & Samples available upon request.



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NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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