

CRESCENDO

MARCH 2004

VOLUME LXVI, NO. 7

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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Sunday, March 14, 2004, 7:00 PM

Andrew Megill/*Fuma Sacra*

PHILADELPHIA CATHEDRAL (EPISCOPAL)/SACRED MUSIC: SACRED SPACE

Andrew Megill, Assistant Professor of Choral Conducting at Westminster Choir College of Rider University and Conductor of Westminster Singers, will lead a session with a lecture, discussion, and choral examples on choral technique with *Fuma Sacra*, ensemble-in-residence at Westminster. *Fuma Sacra*, recognized as one of America's leading professional ensembles, specializes in Renaissance and Baroque vocal music. Following the session, you are invited to remain for Compline at the Cathedral, 9 to 9:30 PM preceded by a choral prelude by *Fuma Sacra*. If you've never been in the recently renovated Cathedral on 38th Street between Market and Chestnut and experienced its marvelous acoustics and organ, you won't want to miss this event.

Andrew Megill is recognized as one of the leading choral conductors of his generation, known for his passionate artistry and unusually wide-ranging repertoire, extending from Renaissance music to newly commissioned works. He has prepared choruses for the American Symphony Orchestra, National Symphony Orchestra, the Spoleto Festival Orchestra, and the Berkshire Opera for conductors including Zdenek Macal, Joseph Flummerfelt, Richard Bradshaw, Leon Botstein, Spiros Argiris, Joel Revzen, and Julius Rudel. Mr. Megill has also assisted Maestro Flummerfelt in preparing the Westminster Symphonic Choir for performances and recordings with the world's leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, New Jersey Symphony and The Philadelphia Orchestra under such conductors as Claudio Abbado, Kurt Masur, Zdenek Macal, Wolfgang Sawallisch, and Robert Shaw.

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, April, will be March 1, 2004.

MARCH 2004

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CRESCENDO

VOLUME LXVI, NO. 7

D E A N ' S L E T T E R

As this *Crescendo* hits your mailbox around March 1st, we will be long removed from the snowy, icy January day of its writing, but I expect this thought will still be accurate:

Bravo, Philadelphia AGO!

Do you remember the evening of January 5th with our "mixer" at Roy Harker's home? If you missed this rather impromptu event, you are the one who lost out. Thanks to Glenna Sprang, who called all who have joined our chapter in the last two years, we had a great turn out of newer members. We also had a good representation of those who have been part of this chapter for a longer time.

Some interesting things developed that evening. Nikola Sizgorich, Karen Whitney, and Doris Dabrowski, got caught up in a common interest — their concern about usage (or lack of it) of the Curtis Organ at Irvine. Others joined with them to find ways to encourage more exposure for this recently restored instrument. Nikola has more information elsewhere in this *Crescendo*. A Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event received a boost that evening. Lively conversations among individuals who had just met were the hallmark of the event, and smiles and comments floated around the twelve-foot Christmas tree and the table laden with an incredible variety of food. So many have asked for a repeat of this event that we are keeping it in mind for January, 2005.

Next came January 17th with the January JumpStart at Overbrook Presbyterian, coordinated by Katherine Reier, and hosted by Dennis Elwell. At the end of the first hour of workshops, people seemed pleased. By the end of the morning's three workshop sessions, excitement crackled as over 100 workshop participants joined together for lunch from Chef's Market. Most tables included some who were already acquainted, along with chapter members meeting for the first time. Not even the delicious lunch could tone down the noise level of everyone's conversation! The air was full of positive comments and requests to "do this again."

Although some left at lunch time, others arrived, and over 100 eager listeners joined to hear what Craig Whitney had to say. For those who had already read his book, much of the content was familiar, but it was absolutely fascinating to hear some of the background behind the stories in the book, as well as some current organ world "news." Pictures and comments from this event are also in this *Crescendo* on page 9.

It is most gratifying to see so many participate in chapter events. I have commented that one of the benefits of chapter events is the opportunity for exchanges and conversations between and among those who run into each other. In January, you have once more proven this to be true, and I sincerely hope this will keep you coming back again and again.

I look forward to seeing you at the White Dog Café for dinner and/or the Episcopal Cathedral for Andrew Megill and *Fuma Sacra* on March 14th and on our trip to Washington, D.C., on April 24th. Pick up where you left off with old friends, and meet new ones!



Ethel Geist



Ethel Geist

FROM THE SUB-DEAN

Dear Jeff -- Thank you so much for your invitation to speak to the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO. I thoroughly enjoyed it and was gratified and humbled by the members' complimentary response to my book and to my speech, and I will stay in touch. Please convey my appreciation to everyone who attended, and believe me when I wish every one of you success and great professional satisfaction in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Craig Whitney

REGISTRAR'S CORNER

JOE LEWIS, REGISTRAR

2004 PHILA. MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

By now, the 2004 Membership Directory should have been sent to you. If you see any information that needs to be updated or corrected based on what currently appears in this directory, please contact me ASAP so that I can make changes in the Chapter database. Further updates can also be made on the information labels that appear with each membership form that is sent at renewal time. Perhaps you have noticed that emails are now being used as reminders for upcoming chapter events. This email list is supplied by me to our Sub-Dean, Jeff Fowler, just prior to each event and represents the most up-to-date information we have. I count on all members to keep me informed so that they can receive our publications and information on time and to the correct address. Thanks for your input.

REDUCED DUES NEW MEMBER PROGRAM ENDS MARCH 31

Reminder: Each year the National AGO office sponsors a special REDUCED DUES RATE for the remainder of the 2003-2004 membership year. This reduced rate is for NEW MEMBERS ONLY who join between February 1 - March 31, 2004. This rate allows these new members to receive nine monthly issues of *The American Organist* (beginning with the March 2004 issue) and, of course, our local *Crescendo* (through the June issue). This is a great way to get anticipated new members to become part of the chapter prior to our normal membership drive, and for them to receive *TAO* sooner instead of waiting for the usual first issue in December (*TAO* subscriptions run Dec.1 - Nov.30).

Please consider encouraging your fellow organists and choir directors who are not yet members to join during this special reduced rate period. We have plenty of exciting events still left ahead for this current year, and this is the best time ever to get involved with a vibrant, active chapter with plenty of potential. Take a few moments to sell the AGO to musician friends now, while you're thinking about it. Have them contact me and I'll give them the reduced rates and send them a membership form. (Note that our website form still contains the current dues amounts and does NOT reflect the reduced rates. Interested new applicants need to contact me directly before sending the downloaded form.)

E-MAIL UPDATE

Please correct Stephanie Liem's email address in the 2004 Directory to read as follows:

stelephant87@hotmail.com

Contact information: eMail: spiele88@icdc.com or 610.935.0895

Respectfully submitted,

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 North Spring Lane
Phoenixville, PA 19460
610-935-0895
spiele88@icdc.com**

PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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TREASURER Gerald Troy	610.626.5486
RECORDING SECRETARY Maria DeJ. Ellis	610.896.6189
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY Sister Paula Napoli	215.637.3838
REGISTRAR Joe Lewis	610.935.0895

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Term ending 2005	
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Term ending 2006	
James Batt	215.233.3970
Phil Shade	215.723.7907
Katherine Reier	215.517.4160
Yoshiko Seavey	610.688.6268

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Alan Morrison	215.735.8259
Education Chair	
Mib Campbell	610.917.0649
Examinations Coordinator	
Gary Garletts	610.853.8295
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Andy Heller	610.789.0146
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David Furniss	215.699.6374
Volunteer Coordinator	
Loretta Hartnett	610.352.5441

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David Herman	302.733.0529
Director-National Convention Committee	
Dennis Elwell	610.658.2128

CHAPTER TELEPHONE NUMBER

215.727.2762

www.agophila.org

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
John P. Ayer	Princeton, NJ	609.688.0731
Lawrence C. Bandfield	Philadelphia, PA	215.563.5552
<i>(conducting only, no keyboard)</i>		
Sharon Bertha-MacCabe	Royersford, PA	610.948.9055
Dr. Norman Caldwell-Coombs	Philadelphia, PA	215.849.1514
Rosemary Colson	Philadelphia, PA	215.848.1995
Doris J. Dabrowski	Philadelphia, PA	215.387.6635
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
Peter J. Gowen	Philadelphia, PA	267.531.2212
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
Sarah Leamy		610.279.7186
Monica Liggins	Wyncote, PA	215.572.6437
Bruce R. Marshall	Philadelphia, PA	215.844.8343
John J. Melchior	Glen Mills, PA	610.361.0143
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
Rev. Eugene C. Root	Philadelphia, PA	215.242.5951
Rachel A. Scheible-Yost	Warminster, PA	215.672.7227
Samuel Singer	Wynnewood, PA	610.642.2371
Nikola Sizgorich	Philadelphia, PA	215.833.2247
Jane Dougherty Smith	Haddonfield NJ	856.428.5334
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 Varrichione-Lyon	Doylestown, PA	215.348.9507
Karen Whitney	Philadelphia, PA	215.424.8450
Freda Zimmerman	Philadelphia, PA	215.698.1331

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 _____

Telephone # _____

Andrew Megill/*Fuma Sacra*
Continued from page 1

Since 1989, he has served as artistic director of *Fuma Sacra*, which currently serves as ensemble-in-residence at Westminster and is recognized as one of America's leading professional ensembles specializing in Renaissance and Baroque vocal music. Mr. Megill also serves as chorus master for the Spoleto Festival U.S.A., where he was recently acclaimed for training "the finest opera chorus in the world," (*Charleston Post and Courier*); as music director of the Concert Chorale of New York, and as associate conductor of the Westminster Symphonic Choir. Mr. Megill is also music director of the Masterwork Chorus and Orchestra. He has led the Masterwork Chorus, one of New Jersey's finest volunteer choirs, in major choral-orchestral repertory throughout New Jersey and New York, including at Avery Fisher and Carnegie Halls.



Andrew Megill

Megill is also in frequent demand as a guest conductor for groups such as the New York Choral Artists, the Choral Arts Society of Washington D.C., Princeton Opera, the National Christian Fine Arts Council, and the Charleston Singers' Guild. He served as associate conductor and chorus master for the Garden State Philharmonic for six years and as conductor of the West Village Chorale in Manhattan. Last year, Mr. Megill was appointed conductor of the Westminster Singers. In addition to his activity as a conductor, he is widely recognized as an educator. He is a member of the conducting

faculty at Westminster, where he has taught graduate and undergraduate conducting and choral literature, and has led workshops in choral technique and conducting, choral repertoire, group vocal techniques, diction, and performance practice for many organizations.



Andrew Megill is also an accomplished pianist and singer. As a rehearsal accompanist, he has played for many of the world's leading conductors, including Bernstein, Flummerfelt, Masur, Mehta, Muti, Shaw,

Slatkin, Tilson Thomas, and Wolff; he has sung with professional choirs and orchestras across the United States, particularly in contemporary and Baroque repertoire (including the Bach Evangelists). Mr. Megill may be heard as a singer or conductor on numerous recordings, including *Fuma Sacra*'s CDs *The Best Nowells That E'er Befell* (1996), an album of music for Christmas from 10 centuries in seven languages, and *Mater Dolorosa*, a collection of Italian sacred music of the 17th century (including a

Continued on page 8

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PATRONS FOR 2003-2004

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CHAPTER EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2004, 7:00 PM

Andrew Megill / *Fuma Sacra*
Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal) / Sacred Music: Sacred Space
Dinner at White Dog Cafe 5:00

See Cover Story

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2004

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

Cost: \$30 for transportation only. Minimum 25 participants; maximum 49

Transportation: Starr Bus Company (the company that provided such incredible bus service for the 2002 National Convention)

We will have opportunities to play at most sites.

Itinerary:

8:30 AM - Leave from Wayne Presbyterian Church.

Accessible from Route 30, just east of I-476. Train station and all-day parking behind church.

If we have a number of people going from further north or east, we can add an earlier stop, since the bus will be coming from Trenton.

10:15 - Early lunch in Baltimore (We will have reservations for the group; each person pays for his/her own meal.)

Noon to 1:15 - Peabody Institute with Donald Sutherland

2:15 to 3:15 - Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
- Bob Grogan

3:30 to 4:30 - Foundry Methodist Church — Eileen Gunther

5:00 to 6:00 - National Cathedral — Eric Suter (The organ is "ours" to play for that hour.)

Stop for dinner on the way home. (We will have reservations; each person pays for his/her own meal.)

Around 9:30 to 10:00 PM - Return to Wayne Presbyterian

Contact Ethel Geist to reserve a spot for the trip.

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.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 2004, 7:00 PM

Rev. Dr. Paul Westermeyer, speaking on "Contemporary Issues in Church Music" following dinner at the Pyramid Club on the 52nd floor of the Mellon Bank Building. \$60 / cash bar.

Paul Westermeyer is perhaps the leading spokesperson of the church musician in America. Dr. Westermeyer is on the faculty of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota and has written several books on the subject of church music, the most recent being *Te Deum* (Fortress Press). We are honored to host someone as distinguished as Paul Westermeyer, and pleased that he will speak to us from the renowned Pyramid Club atop the Mellon Bank Building at 1735 Market Street in a room that affords breathtaking views of City Hall, the Delaware River, and points east. You are encouraged to invite clergy to this event as well. Continuing Education funds would be wisely spent on this event. Entrée will be crab cake and filet mignon. Space is limited and details on securing a reservation will be forthcoming.

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TUESDAY NOON RECITALS



ANDREW HELLER, COORDINATOR

March

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

2: Philip Gehman
9: Roy Harker
16: Bradford Winters
23: Andrew Heller
30: Michael Stairs

April

Wayne Presbyterian Church

6: Jeff Fowler
13: Mary Elizabeth Campbell
20: H. L. Smith II
27: William Gatens

May

St. John's U.C.C., Lansdale

4: David Furniss
11: Ethel Geist
18: John Sall
25: Rudolph Lucente

June

St. Mary's at the Cathedral, Philadelphia [Ridge ave, Roxborough]

1: Esther Wideman
8: Linda Wilburger Egan
15: Terrence Farley
22: Wesley Parrott
29: Anthony Ciucci

Thanks to all who vounteer their talents in service to the AGO Philadelphia chapter.

...



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David Furniss: Organ Repertoire Session from the January JumStart. For more photos, see page 9.

Andrew Megill/Fuma Sacra
Continued from page 5

performance of Domenico Scarlatti's *Stabat Mater* which "left the audience gasping in amazement" (Classical New Jersey).

For those who are interested, reservations for dinner for up to 35 people have been made at the White Dog Café in the University area at 3420 Sansom Street, Philadelphia at 5:00 pm. Each person is responsible for his/her own costs which include a 20% gratuity. Entrees range in price from \$18 to \$26. We will be in a private room, the Piano Parlor. Go to www.whitedog.com and go to the Private Parties page where you may see a picture of the Piano Parlor. A sample menu may be seen at the site as well. To make a reservation to join the group having dinner, contact Jeff Fowler at 610-688-8700 ext. 24 at any time of day or night, or email him at jeff.fowler@agophila.org

DIRECTIONS to MARCH EVENT

From Interstate 95 - I-95 - South

Exit at Exit 11, proceed across Platt Bridge, Take Interstate 76 West (Schuylkill Expressway) to University Avenue Exit. Continue through the exit which will lead you to 38th Street. Continue straight ahead approximately six (6) blocks to the Cathedral.

From Interstate 95 - I-95 - North

Take I-676 West, the Vine Street Expressway, and use the exit for 30th Street Station and Airport to the Market Street Exit. At the top of the exit, 30th Street Station is immediately in front of you. Turn right (west) and drive around the station to the second traffic light which is Market Street. Turn right and follow Market Street to 38th Street. At 38th Street turn left. The Cathedral is in the first block, east side of the street.

From Interstate 76 West - I-76 The Schuylkill Expressway

Take the Market Street Exit - 30th Street Station is immediately in front of you. Turn right (west) and drive around the station to the second traffic light which is Market Street. Turn right and follow Market Street to 38th Street. At 38th Street turn left and the Cathedral is in the first block on the east side of the street.

Public Transportation

Commuter trains as well as inter-city trains (Amtrak) all stop at 30th Street Station.

A taxi ride from the station is about 8 blocks and costs under \$5.00.

Alternatively, the Green Line streetcar lines and Blue Line Subway can be taken from 30th and Market Streets station, outside of the railway station at the corner.

On the Blue Line Subway ("El") ride to 40th Street. At 40th and Market walk back (east) to 38th. The Cathedral is a half-block to your right.

On the Green Line (subway-surface) streetcar ride any line to 36th Street. At 36th, walk one (1) block to 36th and Chestnut, then left (west) 2 blocks to 38th and Chestnut. The Cathedral is a half block to your right.

The Cathedral is located near the following bus routes: 21, 30, 40, 42 and LUCY Green and Gold Loops.

EVENT PHOTOS

JANUARY JUMPSTART



It's really amazing to have all those people! Over 100 chapter members and guests were entranced by speaker Craig Whitney, author of *All the Stops He* is as interesting as his book!



Vince Ryan leads a reading session for Small Adult and Youth Choirs



David Furniss: Organ Repertoire - New & Old. Many examples of "must have" music for all levels of organists



Good food and conversation were an important part of the day. Chef's Market outdid themselves on tasty, interesting food, and AGO members and friends did a great job on providing stimulating conversations!



Sherry Adams leads a session on Working with Clergy



Paul Jones leads a workshop session on Adult Choir Techniques.



Jeff, David and Dennis



Small Adult and Youth Choir session

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

M I B C A M P B E L L , C H A I R

A Spring Tune-up for Your Congregation

How is the health of your congregation's singing these days? Could they use a dose of Vitamin C-Sharp? Or is a regular diet of B-Flat good enough? While many of us are blessed with talented choirs in our churches, we often need to be reminded that the primary singing group in any community of faith is the congregation. As organists, I hope that we are all experts at hymn accompaniment that encourages good singing. But are there some other things we can do to give our congregational singing a boost? Let's look at a few ideas — many of which I hope are things you are already doing!

Are there opportunities outside of Sunday morning worship where your church members can be encouraged to sing? Check with Sunday School classes to see if just a few minutes of singing can be included each week. These are great opportunities to teach children the basic hymns and songs of the church. Is it possible to include singing in other gatherings of church members such as Bible study groups, youth groups, women's groups, and meetings of the governing body of your church? Again, just a few minutes with these groups can reinforce the importance of singing together and enhance their meeting time.

Consider including in your worship bulletin a few words about the background of some of the hymns that your congregation will be singing that day. Deeper understanding of a hymn can encourage more engaged singing. Consider teaching your congregation a new hymn once in a while — there are so many great resources and relatively inexpensive ways to legitimately copy music for one-time use in your worship bulletin. How about organizing a hymn festival with a few neighboring church choirs? This is a great way to establish some camaraderie among area church choirs with a very reasonable amount of rehearsal and preparation. If logistics allow, consider occasional informal hymn singing sessions as your congregation gathers for worship, perhaps on summer Sundays.

If you are not already a member of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, consider joining. Just as the AGO is devoted to serving the organ and choral music fields, the Hymn Society is for all who value congregational song. Tons of knowledge and inspiration can be gained from the Hymn Society's annual conferences, quarterly and semi-annual publications, workshops, and book service items. Hymn Society membership consists not only of musicians, but clergy and worship leaders, poets and composers, professors, students, and scholars from all denominations in the United States and Canada — and they tend to be really friendly people! More information can be obtained by visiting the Hymn Society web site at www.hymnsociety.org or by calling 1-800-THE-HYMN.

Here's hoping that you will give your congregation a spring "tune-up" and provide them with a good dose of vitamins to help their singing!

David Furniss

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza Anyone?

This month gives us two opportunities for young people to explore the organ—in two different locations. Two Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza events give us a chance to encourage even beginning musicians.

Saturday, March 13, Doylestown
(contact: Clair Maxwell, 215.348.3531, x230 or clairm@dtownpc.org)

Saturday, March 27, Paoli
(contact: Martha Johnson, 610.644.2261 or martha.johnson@comcast.net)

See the Calendar of Events for additional information. Contact the appropriate host for more information and to register.

Continued on page 11

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza
Continued from page 10

Interested in hosting a Pedals, Pipers, and Pizza? Here are some ideas on how to get started from Abigail Palmisano.

Hosting a "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza" event at your church can be very exciting. Church choir children, Sunday school children, local piano students and the entire community will enjoy an invitation from you to see and play the church's own pipe organ.

The first thing you will need to do is pick a date and time. Look at church, school, and any cultural event calendars to find the best date for this event to be held. (Don't even bother looking at a sports calendar.) Saturday morning is a good time, and is also a great time for many adult volunteers to help out with this event. Also decide right away how many children you could accommodate, since most children would probably like to have a chance at playing the organ.

After you've chosen a date and time you'll want to get the word of this event out to as many people as possible. Run any free ads you can place in local papers. Make up a flyer describing the activities occurring during the session. Make sure to have a registration form attached. These flyers can be sent to local church organists to pass out to any interested church members. Of course flyers should be sent out to all children at your church. Another good place to put flyers is in your local library. Even try asking local piano teachers if they wouldn't mind passing them out to their piano students.

On the registration form itself indicate the maximum number of people the event can accommodate. The flyers also need to say what grades the event is best suited for. (I recently invited children coming from grades 4-12.) Then sit back and enjoy watching the registration forms come in the mail.

As the forms are sent in, divide them according to grade. (For example keep the lower and upper elementary age children in one group, and the Junior and Senior Highs in another. You will also need to enlist the help of at least six adult volunteers. Volunteers will need to help with everything including registration and name tags, video equipment, giving directions to different parts of the church, chaperoning groups, setting up pizza and drinks, and clean-up.

Activities during a demonstration may include videos about the organ according to your choice. There are many available through AGO headquarters such as "Close Encounters" (9 minutes long), "Make a Joyful Noise" (15 minutes long), "Pipe Works" (14 minutes long), "Pulling Out all the Steps", and "The Organist ... A Total Musician"

Demonstrate differences between the organ and the piano. Demonstrate loudest softest, highest and lowest sounds on the organ. Demonstrate basic tone color. Demonstrate the pedals. Show attendees pipes inside the organ case. Have them hold and blow into some old organ pipes. Schedule an opening and closing brief organ recital. And best yet, let each child play a piano piece on the organ while you register it for them. Be creative and have fun. For further information, a booklet entitled "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza" can be obtained from the American Guild of Organists.

A sample schedule for the event could be as follows:

9:30 AM Registration (pass out name tags and show a video to arriving children)

9:45 AM Meet the King of Instruments recital

10:00 AM Demonstration of the different pipes/families

10:45AM Rotation of activities: Break into two groups (Great Group and Swell Group) for video viewing of organs and playing the Carmel organ

11:45AM Wrap-up time with questions and answers and grand finale performance

Noon Pizza and beverages are served

12:30PM End - pick up time

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ERIC GOMBERT, COORDINATOR

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 12:00 PM

PHILIP GEHMAN, organ. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 12:00 PM

William Lowden, organ. Free-will offering. Grace Church, 19 Kings Hwy E, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0007 www.gracehaddon.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 7:30 PM

Erik Wm. Suter, organ. \$5 suggested donation. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 32 S 5th St, Allentown PA 610.435.1641

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 8:00 PM

Daniel Roth, organ. No tickets req'd. Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0403

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 8:00 PM

Peter Westerbrink, organ. Princeton Theological Seminary-Miller Chapel, Princeton, NJ 609.497.7890

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2:30 PM

Philadelphia Harp Ensemble. Five performers. Works by Bach, Joplin+. Gardens admission: \$12/\$6/\$2 Longwood Gardens-Special Events Pavilion, US Rte 1, Kennett Square PA 610.388.1000 www.longwoodgardens.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 4:00 PM

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 4:00 PM

Eric Mintel in Concert. Includes the Choirs of Saint Paul's Church featuring the music of Dave Brubeck & Eric Mintel. \$10. Benefits the Doylestown School of Music and the Arts. St. Paul's Church, E Oakland Ave at Pine St, Doylestown PA 215.230.7098

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 5:00 PM

Choral Evensong. St. Martin's Choir, Ken Lovett, director, w/choir of St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh, James Batt, director. Works of Howells, Mendelssohn & Shakarian. Rev. Marek P. Zabriskie, rector of St. Thomas' Church, Whitemarsh, guest preacher. Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Willow Grove Ave & St Martin's Ln, Chestnut Hill PA 215.247.7466

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 9:00 AM

Singing City Founder's Day with Andre Thomas. Advance registration reqd. www.singingcity.org Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr PA 610.525.2821 www.bmpc.org/finearts

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 12:00 PM

ROY HARKER, organ. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 12:00 PM

William Lowden, organ. Free-will offering. Grace Church, 19 Kings Hwy E, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0007 www.gracehaddon.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 9:30 AM

Singing City Founder's Day Workshop featuring Dr. Andre Thomas. \$45-advance registration req'd. 215.569.9067 Bryn mawr presbyterian Church, 625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr PA

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 10:00 AM

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza for youth ages 10-16. Hosted by Clair Maxwell & Timothy Evers. Doylestown Presbyterian Church & St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Doylestown PA 215.348.3531, x230 claim@dtownpc.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 7:30 PM

Voices in Duet. Marian Stieber, soprano/Catherine Stoltz, mezzo-soprano. Free-will offering. First Presbyterian Church, 35 W Chelton Ave, Germantown 215.843.8811 www.fpcgermantown.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 7:00 PM

ANDREW MEGILL/FUMA SACRA. Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal), 3723 Chestnut St (38th & Chestnut), Philadelphia PA 215.386.0234 x122 music@philadelphiacathedral.org (Dinner at White Dog Café 5:00)

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 12:00 PM

MICHAEL TRINDER, organ. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 12:00 PM

William Lowden, organ. Free-will offering. Grace Church, 19 Kings Hwy E, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0007 www.gracehaddon.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 7:30 PM

Piano Trio. Molly Fung, violin/Bryan Dumm, cello/Samuel Hsu, piano. Tenth Presbyterian Church, 1701 Delancey St, Philadelphia PA www.tenth.org/music

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 8:00 PM

Bel Canto Lyric Opera w/orchestra, chorus & soloists in a program of operetta and opera selections, concluding w/the Intermezzo & Easter Scene from Cavalleria Rusticana, w/Bruce Shultz, organ. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rd at Limekiln Pk (rt. 152), Glenside PA 215.887.1074

Continued on following page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ERIC GOMBERT, COORDINATOR

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 8:00 PM

Tom Hazleton, organ. Free. Fourth Presbyterian Church, 5500 River Rd, Bethesda MD 301.320.3600

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, & SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 7:30 PM

Wayne Oratorio Society. W.A. Mozart: Grand Mass in C Minor, K. 427 & Te Deum, K. 141. 180 voice choir, orchestra & soloists. Free. Wayne Presbyterian Church, 125 E. Lancaster Ave, Wayne PA 610.688.8700
www.waynepres.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 3:00 PM

Philadelphia Youth Orchestra. Messa da Requiem by Verdi. Joseph Primavera, conductor. Germantown Oratorio Choir & Choral Society of Montgomery County. Free-will offering. First Presbyterian Church, 35 W Cheltenham Ave, Germantown 215.843.8811 www.fpcgermantown.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 4:00 PM

Bel Canto Children's Chorus. Joy Ondra Hirokawa, director. Free. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1802 Skippack Pk, Center Square PA 610.277.1086

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 4:00 PM

Gordon Turk, organ. "Organ-Fest" celebrating the renovated organ and J.S. Bach's birthday. Free-will offering. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Lancaster & Louella Aves, Wayne PA 610.688.1313

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 4:00 PM

Joseph J. Lewis, organ & The Commonwealth Brass Quintet & Percussion in music by Bach, Karg-Elert, Woodman, Franck, Dupre, Vierne, Barber & Phillips. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 355 St John's Cir, Phoenixville PA 610.933.3947

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 4:00 PM

Mark Laubach, organ. Bach's Birthday & Things B.A.C.H. Donation: \$5 Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 321 Wyandotte St, Bethlehem PA 610.865.0727 www.nativitycathedral.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 4:00 PM

Requiem, by Johannes Brahms. Choir, orchestra & organ. Solists: Barbara Shirvis & Stephen Powell. H. Ray Hunsicker, conductor. Free. Childcare available. Reception following. Calvary Lutheran Church, Rosedale Ave & New St, West Chester PA 610.696.2475

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 4:00 PM

Stephen Karr, organ. Annual Memorial Concert. Boellmann Fantasie Dialogue, + works by Bruch, Bruckner, Amundson & Mendelssohn. Free-will offering. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4580 www.apcusa.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 4:00 PM

The Allentown Band, Ron Demkee, conductor w/Stephen Williams, organ. \$5 suggested donation. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 32 S 5th St, Allentown PA 610.435.1641

SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 4:00 PM

Messiah Sing. Martha Johnson, conductor. James Batt, accompanist. \$10 suggested donation. (selected portions, reschedule from 12/14) St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, Church Rd-between Swedesford Rd & Yellow Springs, Malvern PA 610.644.2261 www.stpetersgv.org

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 12:00 PM

ANDREW HELLER, organ. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 12:00 PM

William Lowden, organ. Free-will offering. Grace Church, 19 Kings Hwy E, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0007 www.gracehaddon.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 8:00 PM

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 10:00 AM

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza. Grades 3-7. Limited to 25, reserve by 3/15. Contact Martha Johnson. St. Peter's Church in the Great Valley, Church Rd-between Swedesford Rd & Yellow Springs, Malvern PA 610.644.2261
[www.stpetersgv.org martha.johnson@comcast.net](mailto:martha.johnson@comcast.net)

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 4:00 PM

Chancel Choir presents Bradley Ellingboe's "Requiem" w/organ, string orchestra & harp. Robert F. Morris, director. Free-will offering. Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 W Pleasant Grove Rd, West Chester PA 610.399.3377 www.westminsterpc.org

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 4:00 PM

Shelly Moorman-Stahlman, organ. Free. Ursinus College-Bomberger Hall, Collegeville PA www.ursinus.edu

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 7:00 PM

Carmina Burana/Cantata Profana. Mendelssohn Club. 130th Anniversary Concert. Alan Harler, conductor. Chamber Orchestra of Philadelphia. Tickets: 215.893.1999 Verizon Hall-Kimmel Center, Broad & Spruce Sts, Philadelphia PA

Continued on following page

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ERIC GOMBERT, COORDINATOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 28, & MONDAY, MARCH 29, 7:30 PM

New Jersey Master Chorale & members of the Philadelphia Orchestra & friends present Elijah. Free tickets needed. Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0403

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 12:00 PM

MICHAEL STAIRS, organ. White Horse Retirement Community, Delchester & Gradyville Rds, Newtown Square PA

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 12:00 PM

William Lowden, organ. Free-will offering. Grace Church, 19 Kings Hwy E, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0007 www.gracehaddon.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 4:00 PM

Cathedral Choral Society of Bethlehem. Fisher: Madrigals; Rutter: Gloria/Requiem. Donation: \$5 Cathedral Church of the Nativity, 321 Wyandotte St, Bethlehem PA 610.865.0727 www.nativitycathedral.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 4:00 PM

Mozart Requiem. Chancel Choir w/orchestra & soloists. First Presbyterian Church, 130 W Miner St, West Chester PA 610.696.0554 www.firstpreswc.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 4:00 PM

Organ & instruments. With David Furniss, organ. Free-will offering. St. John's United Church of Christ, 500 W Main St, Lansdale PA 215.855.5489 www.st-johns-ucc.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 4:00 PM

Woodcrest UCC Gospel Choir. Cheryl Brittingham, director; Eddie Baldwin, Jr., vocals/piano. Free-will offering. Zion Mennonite Church, Front St & Cherry Ln, Souderton PA 215.723.3592 www.zionmennonite.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 5:00 PM

Festal Procession and Evensong. St. Martin's Cantorei, Ken Lovett, director. Works of Orlando Gibbons & Thomas Tallis. The Rev. David Canan, rector of Trinity Church, Ambler, guest preacher. Childcare provided. Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Willow Grove Ave & St Martin's Ln, Chestnut Hill PA 215.247.7466

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Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont
Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park
American Record Guide

Roy Harker

Church of Saint Asaph
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

VOX HUMANA

Pipedreams program listings: www.pipedreams.org

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AGO will sponsor a Gala Benefit Reception honoring GERRE and JUDITH HANCOCK on Sunday, May 2, 2004. The event will be held in Andrew Hall at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue (at 53rd Street) in New York City following their 5:15 p.m. farewell recital. Reception tickets, which include preferred seating at the recital, are available from AGO National Headquarters. The cost is \$100 per person, and proceeds will benefit the AGO Endowment Fund. To order tickets, please call 212.870.2311, x 4308, e-mail gala@agohq.org or visit the AGO Web site, www.agohq.org/store.

One of the largest pipe organs in the world, with 10,731 pipes, is located right here in Philadelphia, PA on the University of Pennsylvania campus. It is the Cyrus H. K. Curtis Sesquicentennial Organ (Austin Opus 1416, IV-161, 1926), housed in Irvine Auditorium at 34th and Spruce Streets.

The Curtis Organ at Irvine Auditorium

By Paul Marchesano and Nikola Sizgorich

One of the largest pipe organs in the world, with 10,731 pipes, is located right here in Philadelphia, PA on the University of Pennsylvania campus. It is the Cyrus H. K. Curtis Sesquicentennial Organ (Austin Opus 1416, IV-161, 1926), housed in Irvine Auditorium at 34th and Spruce Streets.

Both originally built in 1926, Irvine Auditorium and the Curtis Organ were recently restored to their former glory. Architectural details were restored, adaptive use modifications were made to the building and a new four manual console in a mahogany case was built by Austin Organs, featuring a computer-based combination action and switching system with a color LCD display, touch screen controller and the ability to store up to 10,000 memory levels.

However, since the rededication in 2002, this wonderful pipe organ has not been used to its fullest potential. We are committed to cooperating with Penn and working with the administration to maximize use of the Curtis Organ. Organists and organ enthusiasts are encouraged to support this magnificent organ by writing a letter and making a fully tax-deductible donation to the University of Pennsylvania (IRS 501c3 registered nonprofit) to support recitals, concerts, and organ encounters:

Endowment Fund for the Curtis Organ
Vice Provost for University Life
University of Pennsylvania
3611 Locust Walk
Philadelphia PA 19104-6222

Please make your donation payable to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania and indicate that it is for the Curtis Organ Endowment.

For more information, please contact Nikola Sizgorich at niksiz@comcast.net or 215-833-2247. Thank you for your help in making beautiful music with the Curtis Organ at Irvine Auditorium.

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Vox Humana
Continued from page 15

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

Charismatic: Only one. Hands already in the air.

Pentecostal: Ten. One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

Presbyterians: None. Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

Roman Catholic: None. Candles only.

Baptists: At least 15. One to change the light bulb and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad and fried chicken.

Episcopalians: Three. One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

Mormons: Five. One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

Unitarians: We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, that is fine. You are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, three-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

Methodists: Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Church wide lighting service is planned for Sunday. Bring bulb of your choice and a covered dish.

Nazarene: Six. One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy.

Lutherans: None. Lutherans don't believe in change.

Amish: What's a light bulb?

• • •

On behalf of the chapter, we gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a donation in memory of Geri Frawley, "a great organist and friend" from Christine Weidner.

• • •

I had another commitment, couldn't play for a funeral, and left a note for the supply organist, Pastor Richard Miller. "When you first hit a piston, you'll get a two-note cipher on any stops drawn on the Swell. If you hit the high A and B on the Great, it will usually stop — for a while. If it starts again, keep playing and within a stanza of a hymn, the cipher usually quits. Good luck!"

When I returned, I found the note he left me: "This organ and I had a chat before I began playing. "Look," I said, "this is a funeral. This is a serious occasion. Don't you DARE act up!" Completely stunned at this stranger

(almost) talking to it this way, the organ gulped, and performed admirably — with the help of a bit of manipulation on my part. Thanks for your note!"

Ethel Geist

• • •

The Vernon deTar Scholarship competition was established by the Delaware Chapter, AGO to honor the late Dr. Vernon deTar. The scholarship provides for two prizes annually, one each for a pianist and an organist. This year, prizes include a cash award of \$200, and tuition for a Summer, 2004, AGO-sponsored Pipe Organ Encounter. The goal of the competition is to immerse these young musicians in events focusing on the organ, and to foster in them a keen interest in the organ and in church music.

Competition is open to piano and organ students who are from 12 to 18 years of age, as of the date of the competition, and who reside within Region III of the AGO. Applicants must perform at the competition, which will be held at First and Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington on Saturday, April 17, 2004, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The minimum repertoire requirements for the competition are as follows: for pianists, one of the Bach two-part inventions or an equivalent piece; for organists, one of the eight "little" preludes and fugues of Bach. Additionally, applicants must also perform a second work, of contrasting nature.

Application forms are available from Ethel Geist or David Schelat, the audition coordinator. David may be reached at First and Central Presbyterian Church; 1101 Market Street; Wilmington DE 19801; phone 302.654.5371; fax 302.654.5932; email schelat@fandc.org

• • •

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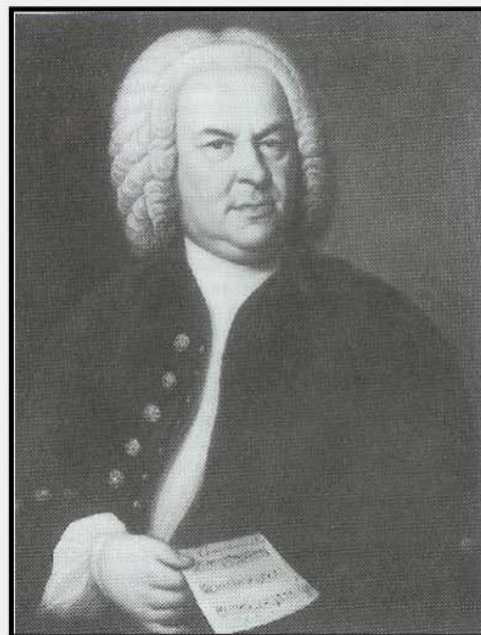
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Westminster Opera Theatre, Actors Company at Westminster,
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References & Samples available upon request.

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NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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