

The Guilder

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Newsletter of the Columbus Chapter - American Guild of Organists



James Yeager

DEAN'S CORNER

Each organist has an opinion about the ideal instrument. And the opinions cover a very broad range from the totally historic instrument (you name the period) to the totally modern (you name the maker). The mere diversity of instruments available to enthrall such opinions is itself remarkable. Our instrument sets us apart from all other musicians. What violinist, pianist, trumpeter, bassoonist or even conductor faces such an enormous variety of types, specifications, and mechanisms in their instrument? The conductor, perhaps, is the closest to us since there can be the chamber orchestra, the period instrument orchestra, the modern symphony (ranging from the Mozartian to the Wagnerian in instrumentation). Nevertheless, even the conductor is faced with only a limited array of orchestral types. Strings tend to be standard in tuning and bowing, size and tone color, likewise the brass, the woodwinds and percussion. The repertoire of compositions for orchestra creates natural boundaries of orchestration and most symphony orchestras stick to the requirements of the score.

Yet we organists take it in stride when a church A provides us with a modern eclectic electro-pneumatic action with 61 note keyboards and 32 note radiating pedals tuned in equal temperament and a swell pedal and crescendo pedal etc.; church B an 18th century tracker with no swell or other mechanicals, 58 note keyboards, 30 note flat pedal board and Werkmeister III tuning; and church C will offer us a digital organ that will simulate A or B at the touch of a program card.

One wonders how the pianist or violinist might react if their instruments varied even one fourth as much. It's true that pianists encounter uprights, spinets, baby grands, and concert grands of all lengths (at least up to 9 feet) and the occasional Kurzweil or Clavinova. But all things being said, pianos are roughly similar in terms of the basics (a weighted key action, 88 keys, and two or three pedals). In this regard the professional pianist (whether teacher or concert artist), probably will express a strong preference for the standard concert grand given the choice. Few teachers or concert artists would likely say, "Oh, anything will do, as long as it has keys and plays in tune" at least when it comes to a professional event (let's say a piano jury at any school, or a concert with whatever symphony orchestra). I will let your own imagination run with the image of Emmanuel Ax showing up at the Ohio Theatre to play any concerto coming to discover that the (you name the instrument not a concert grand) humbly awaits him on the stage.

We organists are for the most part a tolerant and humble lot when it comes to the instrument we are given for better or worse. Yet we still have our opinions as to our favorite organ or type of organ. And it is the goal of the Guild to nurture such opinions with opportunities to experience the best of our art. In the end, if there is a debate over type or organ, the place for the debate is our professional forum-the Guild. And if people understand that membership and participation in the AGO draws a strength from the diversity of opinions and experience without surrendering our highest professional aims and ideals, then we should be reaching out to every person who plays whatever version of our instrument exists. This is the message we need to promote in building our ranks. My final article in this series, next month, will draw the topic to closure with this thought in mind. Think of your most respected organ teacher, your ideal mentor whom you give utmost respect. If such a person challenged your opinion of the ideal instrument, how would you react? Would you remain adamant in your opinion or would you pause and reflect enough to reconsider?

Don't forget our final meeting at First Congregational to reacquaint ourselves with an historic and important example of organ art-the mighty Kimball!

*See you soon and often,
James A. Yeager*



Countdown to Chicago!

The magnificent 2006 Chicago National Convention is just over a year away! We hope you can join us in the "Windy City" for our second AGO National Convention. We are thrilled to welcome you, as most of you were not at the first one; it was in 1925! Continue to watch your chapter's newsletter for upcoming interesting information about the 2006 ChicAGO convention!

APRIL AGO MEETING - MEET THE MIGHTY KIMBALL

Join us at First Congregational Church on Monday, April 11, at 7:30 p.m. Michael Herzog speaks about the restoration process and the resources of the 1931 IV/66 W. W. Kimball organ. Tim Smith will demonstrate stops along with Mike's commentary.

Organists Paul Thornock, Jim Hildreth and G. Dene Barnard will then play music of Franck, Ireland and Whitlock to demonstrate the organ's beauty and versatility. Following the program we will feast on sumptuous desserts! Please join us to celebrate a wonderful year for the Guild, and learn more about this remarkable instrument in downtown Columbus.

It's Election Time!

The nominating committee is pleased to announce these candidates for our officers and executive committee. Please complete the enclosed self addressed, pre-stamped ballot and drop it in the mail.

DEADLINE - BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 29, 2005 - DEADLINE

Officers

Dean Robert Wisniewski
Sub-Dean Laura Silva
Secretary Julia Parker
Treasurer Al Adcock
Auditors Clark Becker and Leo Klise
Chaplain Cynthia Adcock

Executive Committee Class of 2007 (three to be elected)

Eunjin Choi
Scott Hayes
Bill Miller
Linda Nolan
David Robinson
Anne Saylor

BIOGRAPHIES OF CANDIDATES

EUNJIN CHOI - Eunjin possess a Bachelors degree from Yonsei University in South Korea. Majoring in Church music-special instrument in Organ. Masters Degree from University of Iowa, teacher Dr. Disselhorst. Degree in organ performance. Expecting Masters from Trinity Lutheran Seminary expecting to graduate in June, 2005. Degree in Church Music. Former organist at Clinton Heights Lutheran Church. Present organist at Trinity Lutheran Church down town.

SCOTT HAYES - Scott is the choir director and organist at First Baptist Church in Springfield, Ohio. He has been at this position since the fall of 2000. In addition, Scott works as the Assistant Tonal Director for Muller Pipe Organ in Croton, Ohio. He studied Organ Performance at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio.

BILL MILLER - Bill moved to Columbus in 1995. His positions have included St. James Episcopal (current), Harcourt Parish at Kenyon College, and St. Mark Lutheran. Prior to moving to Columbus, he was Director of Music/Organist for First Presbyterian Church (York, PA), Northminster Presbyterian Church (Cincinnati), Greene St. UMC (Piqua), First Presbyterian (Youngstown), and St. Philip s Episcopal (Durham, NC). He is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College (B.A) and UNC-Chapel Hill (M.M.-Organ Performance), and has taught at Youngstown State University and York College of PA. He holds the Choirmaster certificate of the AGO, and has served as Dean for the Durham, NC, and Youngstown AGO Chapters. In addition to conducting various major works in the church setting, he has conducted area hand bell festivals and toured as a Conductor for John Kenley Players productions of Camelot and Brigadoon.

LINDA NOLAN - Dr. Linda Nolan is an accomplished organist, composer and pianist. She has been organist of Worthington United Methodist Church since August, 2003. She also directs the WUMC Youth Music Group, Youth & Children's Handbell Choirs, and is co-director of the WUMC Children's Choirs. Other churches she has served include St. Mary's Groveport, Holy Name, St. Catharine's and North Congregational. Linda received her bachelor, master and doctor of music degrees in organ performance from the Ohio State University. She studied organ with Wilbur Held, Gordon Wilson and William Haller. Linda taught piano and organ at Otterbein College for 5 years and accompanied and directed children's choirs for Kinderchoir at Otterbein College for 11 years. She has accompanied choirs under the direction of Maurice Casey and James Gallagher at OSU as well as Robert Shaw at the Robert Shaw Institute at OSU. Linda has composed extensively for treble voices as well as mixed chorus and organ. Her works have been published by E.C. Schirmer, Colla Voce, Roger Dean, and the Henry Leck Choral Series at Plymouth Music Company.

DAVID F. ROBINSON - Organist emeritus, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 1985-2003. Currently organist, Ascension Lutheran Church. Harpsichordist, Southport Baroque Ensemble and other early music groups. Calliope with Peter Schickele on Telarc CD "The Short Tempered Clavier."

ANNE SAYLOR - I have been an organist in the Lutheran church for 13 years and I am currently at Peace Lutheran Church in Gahanna. I have also enjoyed directing children's choirs, handbells, and adult choirs, as well as occasionally singing solos. I graduated from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in 1997 where I studied with Dene Barnard, receiving a Master of Arts in Church Music degree. I would be honored to serve in the AGO.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO AGO MEMBERS

GODSPELL - APRIL 8th & 9th

The Youth Choir of Northwest Christian Church will present Godspell on Friday and Saturday, April 8th & 9th at 7:30 p.m. Godspell is a musical with lyrics and music by Stephen Schwartz. Programs will be both evenings in the Northwest sanctuary. Dinner will be offered each night before the program starting at 6:00 p.m. Please call the church office for dinner reservations at (614) 457-6290. The program is free. Northwest Christian Church is located at 1340 Fishinger Road in Upper Arlington.

TIMOTHY EDWARD SMITH & DENE BARNARD - DUO ORGANISTS - APRIL 10th

On Sunday, April 10, 2005 at 4:00 p.m., WOSU-FM host Christopher Purdy teams with Minister of Music Timothy Edward Smith in Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals plus the overture to Mendelssohn's A Midsummer Night's Dream at The First Congregational Church, Columbus. Also on the program: the world premiere of a commissioned work for two organs by Gerre Hancock, with Dene Barnard playing the Beckerath and Tim Smith playing the Kimball. The church is located at 444 East Broad Street, Columbus. For further information, please call (614) 228-1741.

THE JOSEPHINUM CHOIR - APRIL 10th

Annual Spring Concert, April 10, 2005 at 4 p.m. (James Yeager) and St. Patrick Choir (Kathleen Tulley) perform works of Byrd, Hassler, Taverner, Casals, Mendelssohn at others. Followed by Solemn Vespers at 5 p.m. St. Turibius Chapel, The Pontifical College Josephinum 7625 N. High St. Columbus Ohio 43235. Public is welcome, free of admission, freewill offering.

CASAVANT DEDICATORY RECITAL - APRIL 15th

St. Edward the Confessor Church will hold the Service of Blessing and the dedicatory recital for their newly acquired Casavant organ on Friday, April 15, 2005, at 7:00pm. Mr. Tom Marshall from William and Mary College in Williamsburg, VA will present the recital. The church is located at 785 Newark Rd in Granville, OH. Please call (740) 587-3254 or (614) 985-2277 for further information.

RIEGER RECITAL SERIES 2005 - APRIL 22nd, MAY 14th, MAY 20th

Summit United Methodist Church in Columbus hosts three recitals on its beautiful Rieger organ this April and May. The Rieger organ, built in Austria and installed in 1988, is a delight to both ear and eye. It has the mechanical action characteristic of European organ design, and is of a beautiful red hue. Our programs are as follows: Friday April 22, 2005 at 7.30 pm-Jamila Javadova; Saturday May 14 at 7.30 pm-Narmina Aliyeva; Friday May 20, at 7.30 pm-Paolo Oreni. Summit United Methodist Church is at 82 E 16th Street (off Indianola), in the OSU campus area. Access to the parking lot from Waldeck. For detailed directions, please see the church web site www.summitumc.org. Admission is free of charge but a collection will be taken. Please call 614-268 6295 (Sheena Phillips, Director of Music) / 614-291 3324 (Cheryl Zeigler, Administrator) for further information.

JIM HILDRETH, ORGANIST - APRIL 24th

18th Annual Recital - Sunday, April 24, 2005, 4:00 p.m. Broad Street Presbyterian Church, 760 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio. Jim's program will include works by Frank Cordell, J.S. Bach, Jehan Alain, Sergei Liapanov, John Ireland, Max Reger, Louis Vierne, and Searle Wright's Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue.

A CELEBRATION OF FIVE HUNDRED YEARS OF ANGLICAN CHURCH MUSIC - MAY 1st

On Sunday, May 1, 2005 at 4:00 p.m., Trinity Episcopal Church located at 125 East Broad Street, on Capitol Square, Columbus will present a program entitled A Celebration of Five Hundred Years of Anglican Church Music. This program will be performed by The Choir of Men and Boys and The Saint Cecelia Girl's Choir of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Akron, Ohio. Jamie Hitel is the conductor. Tickets are required for the event and all proceeds benefit the Building Fund. Please call the church at (614) 221-5351 to order tickets.

MATTHEW SCAVO, ORGANIST & PIANIST - MAY 15th

Sunday, May 15, 2005 at 3:00 p. m. - Broad Street Presbyterian Church. Matt Scavo will present a program of Franck, J.S. Bach, Fedeaq, Chopin. Matt is the only organist that has Cerebral Palsy. Matt will be share the stage with Roger Mace, mandolin and Pianist Lucas Pellegrini. The church is located at 760 East Broad Street. Please call (614) 221-6552 for further information.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church located at 1801 Saint Paris Pike in Springfield, Ohio 45504 is seeking a Principal Organist. 12 hours weekly, salary per AGO guidelines, position available after June 1, 2005. Please send resume or inquiries to the above address with "Principal Organist Task Force" on the envelope or email: grace.music@sbcglobal.net. The church also has a web site with the job posting listed at www.grace-elca.org. Phone calls can be directed to (937) 399-6257 or fax at (937) 399-7692.

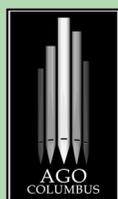
Region V AGO Convention

Grand Rapids, Michigan • June 19-22, 2005



Opening program features the Grand Rapids
Symphony Orchestra conducted by David Lockington
Featured speaker is Fred Swann, AGO National President
Closing recital by Dame Gillian Weir
For full schedule and registration information visit:

www.grago.org



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