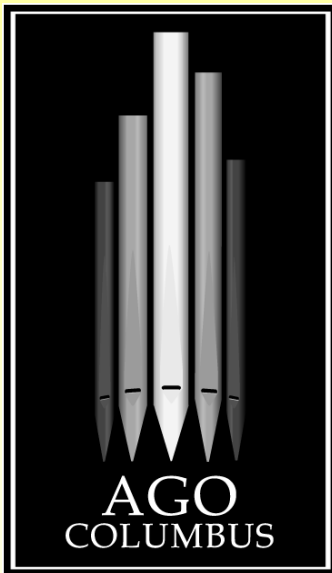


The Guild

NEWSLETTER OF THE COLUMBUS CHAPTER - AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



ISSUE #2 - FEBRUARY, 2005
agocolumbus.org

February Columbus Chapter Meeting

PIZZA and PIPES PROGRAM FOR YOUTH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2005 - 3:00 P.M.

BROAD STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

760 East Broad Street - Columbus, Ohio



DEAN'S CORNER

James Yeager

A debate over organ construction began at the end of the 19th Century as new technologies entered the trade and as the Romantic aesthetic reshaped organ tonal architecture. The organ world struck two opposing camps—the progressive, who favored innovation, and the conservative, who resisted change. In time authors dubbed the controversy, the "Organ-in-Fashion idea." Over the course of time, organ types traded places in the debate—the previously progressive organ style became the conservative and vice-versa. For example the progressive camp ca.1890 advocated new electrical devices and unified organs with copious foundation stops and no mixtures, perfect for playing symphonic and transcribed literature. Later progressives in the late 1930's under the banner of the Organ Reform Movement touted the "werk prinzip" and a principal chorus with mixtures and less unification. In the 1960's fashionable "tracker-backer" buttons proclaimed the emergence of a new progressive attitude to return to mechanical action rather than electrical action and to neo-baroque tonal specifications slim of foundation tone with copious mixtures. By mid-century, the Romantic and symphonic instrument fell from favor. Orchestral transcription became a thing of the past. Yet, in the 1980's interest revived in Cavaille-Coll and the French Romantic organ re-emerged. Subsequently several major builders (such as Fisk) have installed enormous romantic instruments. The art of organ transcription reappears today in numerous symphonic works for organ (e.g., Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, or Mahler Symphonies).

Although the historic summary above is a bit breezy, it sketches the idea. The organ in fashion idea may have merit as a general description. Organists can be caught within this ebb and flow of organ type pledging allegiance to today's progressive or conservative view.

Whether you choose to define yourself as progressive or conservative (in terms of organ design or type), you may concede that a person of the opposing view has reasons good enough to support it, just as you do your own. And some organists rest comfortably midway between the opposing sides seeing the good in both. For this reason, the Guild attempts to maintain a deferential stance that allows for the diversity of opinion. People who have lived through a few decades admit that their view has shifted over time with experience from one pole to the other. Of one thing there is a certainty, there are many great instruments all along the aesthetic or style continuum. And it is when organists hear and play such instruments that opinions get reshaped and refined.

In the end it is not so much the style or type of instrument that should incite polemics, it is the quality and craft, the artistry and mastery that inspire passions for certain organs. The Guild serves to avail us of the outstanding examples of organ art. Through our journal (TAO), meetings and conventions doors are opened. There are also humble instruments that manage to service the basic needs of weekly playing. The trick, in this regard, is to know how to make the most of even limited resources. Even this mundane need leads us back to another good reason for the Guild, to improve our art as it resides in our fingers and feet and in our hearts and minds.

What then of the debate regarding electronic instruments? Stay tuned for the next month's issue. And don't forget to attend the February meeting devoted to youthful encouragement!

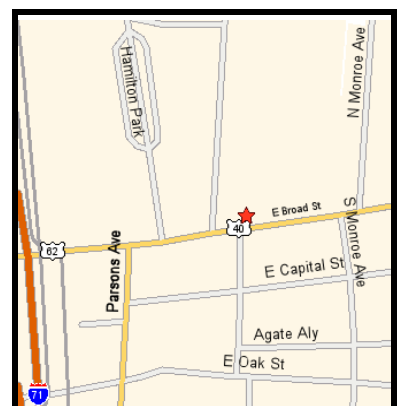
See you soon and often,

James A. Yeager

DIRECTIONS TO OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

Broad Street
Presbyterian Church

760 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio



PIZZA AND PIPES

Please bring along the young people in your life to our February chapter Pizza and Pipes program. Your children's choir, church school, friends, neighbors, nieces, nephews, and/or offspring would probably love to experience some of the excitement of the King of Instruments. The program is targeted toward upper elementary students, nominally ages 8-12, although everyone is welcome.

Some of the fun things planned are:

- T **DINOSAURIA** - a Mesozoic Menagerie for Organ and Narrator by Robin Dinda. Narration will be provided by Chuck Gillespie (channel 6 news anchor and weatherman) with performances by chapter members.
- T **EXAMPLES OF ORGAN PERFORMANCE** - from beginning (students) to advanced (our own James Hildreth).
- T **EXAMPLES OF PIPES** - chance to sound individual pipes supplied by Muller Pipe Organ Company.
- T **HANDS-ON** - open console time for trying out the organ. No keyboard experience necessary.
- T **FOOD** - Complimentary pizza!
- T **WHEN** - Sunday, February 6, 2005 beginning at 3:00 p.m.
- T **WHERE** - Broad Street Presbyterian Church, 760 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio



If you plan to bring a group, we would appreciate an RSVP to
Laura Silva at (614) 798-4875; LauraSilva@aol.com) by February 1st.

Don't Go Extinct!

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST TO AGO MEMBERS

REJOICE IN THE LAMB - Sunday, February 6, 2005 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Joseph Cathedral

The Saint Joseph Cathedral choir will perform Benjamin Britten's famous Rejoice in the Lamb, the centerpiece of this program celebrating British choral music. The church is located at 212 East Broad Street. Please call (614) 241-2526 for further information.

G. DENE BARNARD, ORGANIST - Sunday, February 13, 2005 - 4:00 p.m. - First Congregational Church

On February 13, 2005, G. Dene Barnard will present a program of Americans - Myron Roberts, Seth Bigham, Leo Sowerby and Geroge Shearing; Franck and Vierne are also on the program. Mr. Barnard will share the stage with Stephen Secan, English Horn and soprano Lynn Roseberry. The church is located at 444 East Broad Street. Please call (614) 228-1741 for further information.

KEN COWAN, ORGANIST - Sunday, February 13, 2005 - 4:30 p.m. - Worthington United Methodist Church

One of the most sought-after young organists in North America, Ken Cowen serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor of Organ at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey and is the Associate Organist and Artist in Residence at St. Bartholomew's Church, New York City. Worthington UMC is located at 600 High Street, Worthington, Ohio. Please call (614) 885-5365 for further information.

OLD TIME RELIGION - Sunday, February 20, 2005 - 3:00 p.m. - Northwest Christian Church

The choirs of Northwest Christian Church will join together to offer once again this favorite program in the Chalice Arts Series. We will celebrate the music of our past by lifting up great arrangements of many familiar old hymns. Accompaniment will include piano, guitar, organ, handbells and for a special bit of nostalgia a pump organ. The church is located at 1340 Fishinger Road. Please call (614) 457-6290 for additional information.

DOROTHY RILEY, ORGANIST - Sunday, February 27, 2005 - 7:30 p.m. - St. Joseph Cathedral

Dorothy Riley will present a program of Rheinberger, Guilmant, and Reger. Dorothy is an institution among Columbus organists, and is known for her interpretation of romantic organ repertoire. This will be the last chance to hear her perform on the present organ. The church is located at 212 East Broad Street. Please call (614) 241-2526 for further information.

