



Voices

March, 2009 Newsletter
Spokane Chapter,
American Guild of Organists

Dean's notes...

It's March, and, just maybe, spring may be ready to make a surprise entrance any day now. Or not. Either way, we'll have a front row seat for what develops. What has happened is a very busy late winter, with Jim Christie's return to Spokane for the Northwest Bach Festival for openers, and certainly Chapter member John Bodinger's yeoman continuo service in the Festival's closing performance. Well done, John!

Nicely done also was the evening of performance at the Fox by Chapter members Helen Byrne, Keith Thomas, Janet Ahrend, Walter Kroon, Floyd Czoski, and your correspondent. The experience was delightful, instructive, and, let's hope, the first of many involving the instrument generously donated by Rich Trudell.

Lent is underway, and I'm sure we're all madly planning and rehearsing for the balance of the season and for the great, explosive joy of Easter and its season. A good time, surely for a break to join friends and colleagues for an evening of camaraderie, a bit of dessert, and the always wondrous tintinnabulation of bells, bells, bells. I'm referring, of course, to our March meeting, Monday the 16th at Messiah Lutheran. Let's plan to hold a Chapter meeting at 6:30 (see the homework reminder below), take in Blanche Kangas' presentation on handbells and worship illustrated by her de Colores ensemble, then gather for social time over dessert goodies that you will bring. Sounds wonderful, don't you think? See you there!

Calendar of Events

The world-famous Worcester Cathedral Choir of 16 boys and 12 men will present a concert in St. John's Cathedral in Spokane Tuesday, March 31, at 8:00 p.m., opening with Haydn's "Insanae et vanae curae" and including Orlando Gibbons' "Hosanna to the Son of David," the Francis Poulenc "Tenebrae," J.S. Bach's monumental double motet, "Singet dem Herrn," ("Sing to the Lord a new song"), BWV 225, and organ masterworks played by renowned Worcester Cathedral organist Christopher Allsop. For more information contact the Cathedral Office, 509-838-4277, stjohns@stjohns-cathedral.org. Tickets available from all TicketsWest outlets, by telephone at 1-800-325-SEAT and on line at www.ticketswest.com (subject to service charge).

Chapter member Scot Stout plays at Westminster Congregational Sunday afternoon, April 5th (Palm Sunday), at four.

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A note from the Pullman Chapter...

ORGAN ANNIVERSARY CONCERT on Sunday, April 5 at 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church (405 S. Van Buren, Moscow ID). Recognizing the ten years since Marceau & Associates, Pipe Organ Builders completed renovation and expansion of the church pipe organ and its dedication in January of 1999, Director of Music Mike Murphy and Organist Susan Billin are planning a celebratory concert which will feature music for organ, two choirs, and several solo instruments. Performers will include Organist Susan Billin, the Chancel Choir and the UI Vandaleer Concert Choir, conducted by Dr. Michael Murphy (UI Director of Choral Activities), as well as instrumentalists Bryan Fazzari (violin), Donan Nealon (trumpet), and Professor Torrey Lawrence (tuba).

This concert will showcase the organ in its multiple roles - both as a solo and ensemble instrument and as accompanist to choral and congregational singing. The program includes music from a variety of styles - Baroque "Prelude to TE DEUM" by Charpentier, "Psalm 150" by French Romantic composer César Franck, choral composers the Englishmen Herbert Howells and John Rutter, "Celestial Keys" for organ and tuba by contemporary American Gwyneth Walker, the highly-acclaimed spiritual "Ride on, King Jesus" by Moses Hogan, and Marcel Dupré's "Cortege et Litany". All present will have several opportunities to sing festive hymn settings with the choirs expressing gratitude for music and for musical instruments. Admission is free; however, your donations will be welcomed and encouraged in support of the church's Music Ministry. For more information contact Susan Billin <sbillin@verizon.net>.

Homework assignment:

Check you past issues of *The American Organist* for interesting meeting topics from chapters around the country (and Canada). Clip or summarize what you've found and bring it to the meeting on March 16th at Messiah Lutheran or, in the unlikely event you will not be present, send them to me, <jtevenan@msn.com>.

We're trying to find "can't miss" meeting ideas for next year. If possible, do attend. Your voice is significant!

Help wanted...

Our church is called Amazing Grace Lutheran Church and we currently worship at the Five Mile Grange. The address is 3024 W. Strong Road. Because we are a new congregation of about 30 people we cannot afford a full-time accompanist but would be willing to pay for Easter Sunday. I believe our service will be at 10:00 or 11:00 that Sunday. We would be happy to pay \$60. If there are any people who are willing to volunteer for a while that would be greatly appreciated. Our services are every Sunday from 11:00 to 12:00. Our priority right now is to have someone lined up for Easter. Any help you can give me is appreciated.

Thanks,
Mindy Turman <turman2510@comcast.net>