

October, 2010



Voices

Spokane Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Members and Friends of the Spokane Chapter of The American Guild of Organists,

Our 2010 – 2011 season began with the flurry of activity associated with Gail Archer's return visit to Spokane. While her travels were delayed and her planned time with students at Lewis and Clark High School did not materialize, her September 18th workshop and September 19th recital (both held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church) were well supported by our chapter and the larger community!

The September 18th workshop was attended by around thirty organists and focused on both organist/composers from the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries and how their contacts with one another influenced the development of their individual writing and performance and, indeed, that composing and performance practice of that period. Gail also focused on the music of Mendelssohn, with references to his large family. I found the presentation to be fascinating! Robert Carr and Janet McCullough performed prepared pieces for comment by Gail, as well. A "meet and greet" time preceded the workshop and a lovely lunch followed.

The Sunday concert was also well attended and included a variety of music from the Baroque and Romantic periods and the 20th century. Gail play with great confidence, poise and was unflappable, particularly as she experienced problems with the combination of the combination action. Repertoire included the music of composers celebrating birthdays in 2010 – J.S. Bach (325 years), Robert Schumann (200 years) and Jean Guillou (80 years). Music of the twentieth century was overrepresented on the program and a greater degree of consultation will occur with future guest artists to achieve a more balanced program.

I extend special thanks to all that assisted with all aspects of the planning (arrangements, publicity, logistics, hospitality, baking cookies and etc.) to all those that attended. Thank you for your part in this special weekend.

Mark Haberman, Dean

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2010-2011

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“The Swell Diapason chorus now acts as a dynamic and character compliment to the Great”

Salem Lutheran Church Organ gets Tonal Update

STOPLIST/TONAL DESCRIPTION by Rene Marceau

The history of this pipe organ through 2009 has already been well documented. The intent of this document is to provide information about what has been in 2010 and how these changes have helped to evolve the musical resources of this historic instrument into what it is today.

GREAT ORGAN

This division is the workhorse, providing the backbone of musical sound necessary for inspired congregational singing. The existing 8' Diapason was never intended to be the foundation stop of the Diapason chorus. The pipes, made in Holland, were not dynamic enough to work with the other Diapasons. A replacement rank of Diapasons (vintage unknown) replaced this rank and the results were extraordinary! By reregulating the rest of the Diapason chorus to match the color and dynamics of the 8' rank created a true and musical Diapason chorus. The rest of the stops in this division are duplexed from the Choir.

CHOIR ORGAN

This division suffered from a lack of color and character. The existing 8' Melodia was replaced by a similar rank of pipes (Estey) that brought color and character to this stop. The 4' Flute d'Amour (wooden pipes) was replaced with the existing Swell 4' Rohrflute. This addition/change allowed for the Rohrflute pipes to be regulated to work more successfully with the new Melodia and to also act as the 8' Flute stop on the Great. The 8' Dulciana and 8' Unda Maris were also reregulated for a sound that compliments the dynamic character of the Swell string stops.

SWELL ORGAN

This division received the most dramatic changes of the organ. While the existing 8' Diapason was of adequate capacity, the division sadly lacked a 4' Principal. This added rank was installed where the previous 4' Rohrflute had lived for all these years. The Swell Diapason chorus now acts as a dynamic and character compliment to the Great. The existing 8' Salicional, missing its low octave, was too thin and acidic sounding to function in any musical format. A replacement rank (Tom Anderson) was introduced that included a complete bottom octave. This makes it possible to play this stop alone; a feat that was impossible with the previous stop. The 8' Voix Celeste was reregulated to work more musically with the new 8' Salicional. The organ lacked a 1 3/5' Tierce to complete a Cornet ensemble; a vintage rank was installed on the vacant 8' Aeoline toeboard. This stop now makes it possible to have a very musical and colorful solo capacity in the Swell. The only reeds on the organ are located in the Swell. While the 8' Trumpet serves as the loud reed stop of the organ, the 8' Vox Humana was of limited tonal flexibility. Its replacement is an 8' Clarinet (Wicks) that allows for more soloistic functions and it also can function in ensemble settings.

PEDAL ORGAN

The only work in this division was the repair of the 16' Diapason electronics.



Upcoming AGO Chapter Events

Friday, October 8 – 6:30 p.m.

2010 National AGO Convention (Washington DC) Report Illustrated

(note change in time from September Newsletter).

Vince and Carla Roland's home (4019 S. Suncrest Drive, Veradale)

Dessert Potluck and picture show of the National in July at Washington DC, featuring the 3 caballeros, Carla, Janet, and Vince (with a special side tour to Philadelphia to see and hear the Wanamaker). Special added attraction -- pictures from Robert Carr's musical stint at Oxford earlier this year.

Sunday, November 7 – 3:00 p.m.

**Salem Lutheran Church Organ Re-Dedication – Chapter Member Recital
(1428 W. Broadway Avenue, Spokane)**

The dedication of the organ at Salem Lutheran Church, following its renovation by Marceau Pipe Organs, Inc. of Seattle, will feature a recital by members of the Spokane Chapter, AGO. Carolyn Payne, organist at Salem, is inviting members of the chapter to play in this recital. Please let her know of your interest in playing (535-7145 or thepaynes@comcast.net). The renovation is detailed on page 2.

Special guests will include family members of the late Eleanor Peterson, whose bequest provided funds for this project, and Rene Marceau, organ builder, who performed the work. A reception will follow the recital. All are invited!

Other Musical Events of Note

Sunday, October 10 – 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Paul Grove Concert

Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist (127 E. 12th Avenue, Spokane)

Second Sundays at St. John's presents classical guitarist Dr. Paul Grove, with music spanning 16th through 20th centuries. Dr. Grove has played concerts throughout the United States and around the world, including performances in Russia and India. All are welcome. Suggested donation at the door: \$5.00.

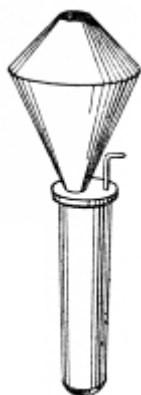
***Salicional
is derived
from the
Latin salix,
meaning
"willow".
Salicis
Fistula
means
"willow
pipe"***

Spokane Daily Chronicle—Dec. 23, 1931



Something new in musical numbers will be given just before the opening of the midnight mass Thursday evening at St. Alcyon Catholic church, when pipe organ duets will be given by Mrs. Sylvia Hrabe and her son, John James. Mrs. Hrabe is the church organist and John is well known in Spokane and on the Coast as a child player.

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Gail Archer talks about the history of the organist composers at the very successful Master Class at St. Marks Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 18th.