

November, 2010



Voices

Spokane Chapter, American Guild of Organists

Dean's Notes

Dear Member or Friend of the Spokane Chapter of The American Guild of Organists, Thank you to Vince and Carla Roland and Janet Ahrend for providing leadership for our October 8th program, a report on their participation in the Washington DC 2010 National Convention of The American Guild of Organists. Thanks to Vince and Carla for hosting the event, as well! I'm sorry to have missed the event, but have heard great reports!

Your Spokane Chapter AGO board met on Sunday, October 17 and conducted a wide variety of business. Included were the following topics and decisions.

- Approval of a working budget for the 2010 – 2011 program year of \$6,588.35. Revenue for the year is expected to be \$6,004.67 and is based upon receipt of a portion of member dues from the national AGO, concert donations, gifts/grants and other income. The projected deficit of \$553.68, should it occur, can be covered by transferring funds from our education savings account, given the educational nature of a variety of this year's programs. A copy of the budget is available (in electronic or hard-copy form) by request from Judith Temple, treasurer.
- Received a membership report showing a chapter membership of 58, including 21 Regular members, 22 Special Members (65 and over, under 21, or disabled), 1 Student Member, 2 Partner members, 2 Dual chapter members and 10 Chapter Friends (chapter member only, no national privileges or subscription to The American Organist). A 2010 – 2011 membership directory will be available in November. An electronic copy will be sent to all chapter members with e-mail. Hard copies will be mailed to members without e-mail. A limited number of additional hard copy directories are available from Judith Temple, by request by November 15. If you have changes to the contact/employment information you included with your membership renewal, please communicate the changes to Judith Temple immediately.
- Re-activated the chapter Scholarship Committee. Watch for more information as this process unfolds.

- Addressed opportunities and concerns regarding the Lewis and Clark High School organ, our involvement with its use, care and maintenance. To this end, I am appointing a Lewis and Clark High School Organ Committee from our chapter membership. If you would like to be part of this committee, please contact me.

Discussed possible programs for February and March 2011. Information about November 2010, January, May and June 2011 programs are included in this newsletter.

Hope to see you all at our November program at Salem Lutheran Church on Sunday, November 7th.

Mark Haberman, Dean

Chapter Officers, 2010-2011

Dean:

Mark Haberman
208 661-1743 coeurhabes@hotmail.com

Sub-Dean

Robert Collins
(509) 994-1748
bcollins@zionorgan.com

Secretary

Nisha Coulter
327-2827

Treasurer

Judith Temple
927-8674
jtemple2@earthlink.net

Corresponding Secretary

Vincent Roland
927-8365
vince_roland@comcast.net

Chaplain

Rev. Bob Christian
624-5090
pilgrimpastor@comcast.net

Board Members

Janet Ahrend
624-5627
ahrend@gonzaga.edu

Carolyn Payne

535-7145
paynecarolyn@comcast.net

Janet McCullough

325-0816
jan1127@webband.com

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***"replaces a
4-rank
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Pipe Organ installed at Queen Anne Lutheran

Seattle, Washington

The Queen Anne Lutheran Church congregation celebrates the arrival of a new world class pipe organ to strengthen and enrich the church's 90-year history of excellence in worship and music. A singing congregation is one of the strong hallmarks of Lutheran worship and QALC has invested in the future by providing a quality instrument to lead and support the congregational song.

The organ was built to specifications for this church sanctuary located atop Queen Anne Hill by noted Organ Builder, Robert Wech, President of Orgelbau Wech of Buchloe, Germany, near Munich. On Friday (October 30) Wech completed the assembly and the voicing of the new instrument which is contained in twin pipe towers that flank the Holy Spirit floor-to-ceiling window in the rear of the church's worship space.

The new instrument is a "tracker" or mechanical action instrument, meaning that slender, strong, and sometimes long pieces of wood (trackers) connect the keyboards of the organ directly to the valves that open beneath pipes chosen to "speak." This is the oldest and most sensitive key-action system used, allowing the organist to have maximum control over how the organ will play.

The organ consists of 25 stops and more than 1,500 pipes. The two towers of pipes and mechanism are constructed of beautiful German maple wood acquired from high in the Alps. The north tower houses the Great and Swell divisions, and the Pedal division is housed in the south tower. A reversed console of German white oak sits in front of the Swell/Great division tower and has electric stop action.

In early 2007 the Church Council appointed a Pipe Organ Committee and engaged David Dahl, organ professor emeritus from Pacific Lutheran University, to be the church's consultant for this project. The group studied the instrument needs for the congregation's worship, visited other churches, studied the principles of pipe organ building and sound, interviewed several builders and recommended to the Council that Wech be the builder. A contract was signed in the summer of 2008. The new pipe organ replaces a 4-rank Moeller Artiste pipe organ purchased in the late 1950s for the original and much smaller church building of Queen Anne Lutheran.

The new pipe organ was assembled in the Orgelbau Wech shop in Germany. It was pre-voiced, and disassembled before being shipped through the Panama Canal to Oakland, then on rail to Seattle, by truck to Queen Anne Lutheran Church arriving September 1, 2010. Volunteers from the church assisted Wech and his crew in unloading the shipping container.

Robert Wech was raised in Augsburg, Germany and began his education as an organ designer and builder in 1984 with the firm of Hubert Sandtner in Dillingen/Donau and in the Technical School for Musical Instrument Design and Production in Ludwigsburg. After many years of schooling and on-the-job experience in all aspects of organ craftsmanship, Wech opened his own firm in 2001. Wech's most recently completed instruments are located at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Sioux City, Iowa (2006) and at the Pontifical North American College in Vatican City, Italy (2009).

A Dedicatory Concert for this new addition to Seattle's great pipe organ tradition will take place on December 5th at 3:00pm with recitalist David Dahl, Professor of Music and University Organist Emeritus, Pacific Lutheran University.

Upcoming AGO Chapter Events

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 chapter. 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! Last month's newsletter included additional information about the renovation.

Friday, January 7 - 6:00 p.m.

**12th Night Party – Bob and Judith Temple's home
(20024 E. 8th Avenue, Greenacres)**

This is our annual post-Christmas party, complete with a great potluck spread and an open console.

Sunday, May 15 - 4:00 p.m.

**Member Recital – The Cathedral of Saint John the Evangelist
(127 E. 12th Avenue, Spokane)**

Sunday, June 12 - 5:00 p.m.

**Annual Picnic – Kent and Ruth Brocklebank's home
(1125 E. 33rd Avenue, Spokane)**

Other Musical Events of Note

Friday, November 12 - 7:30 p.m., St. Aloysius Church

Gonzaga University Choirs, under the direction of new choral director Timothy Westerhaus, singing Charpentier's "Te Deum" and Durufle's "Requiem." Organists Robert Carr, Anders Forsman, and Janet Ahrend. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Student and senior rates available. Call 313-6733 (GU music office) for exact information.

Sunday, November 14 - 4:00 p.m., Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

Organ recital by Kristoff Saurette, student of member Michael Bulley. No charge, open to the public.

Friday, November 19 - 6:30 p.m.

Spokane First Nazarene Theatre Organ Society's (SFNTOS) Dinner/Open Console.

A roast beef dinner will be followed by an open console session. Cost is \$15; RSVP with Pres. Ken Fuller, 509-999-2057, or through the church. Information: www.sfntos.org/events.

Saturday, November 20 - 7:00 p.m. / Sunday, November 21 - 3:00 p.m.

Northwest Sacred Music Chorale's Fall Concert, at the Coeur d'Alene Kroc Center (1765 W. Golf Course Road in Coeur d'Alene). The program will include the Saint-Saens "Christmas Oratorio" with chamber orchestra. Tickets are \$10 adults and \$8 seniors/students. Season tickets are also available for \$26 adults and \$20 senior/student. They are available at www.nwsmc.org. Chapter Member Marietta Hardy is accompanist for the NWSMC.

Sunday, November 21 - 4:00 p.m., Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist

"Songs in Waiting," a multi-media production of readings, choral music, and art.

Based on the book "Songs in Waiting: Spiritual Reflections on Christ's Birth" by the Rev. Paul-Gordon Chandler, Rector of the Church of St. John the Baptist/Maadi in Cairo, Egypt. Special choir, Spokane Choral Project featuring some of Spokane's finest singers, with some of the most beautiful 20th century settings of the Magnificat, Benedictus, Gloria, and Nunc Dimittis. Guest conductor David Bruner, Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Central Florida. Artwork of Daniel Bonnell, living sacred painter whose work is found in churches and cathedrals throughout England, the Holy Land, and the United States. Paul-Gordon Chandler will be present - special connection to us: his wife is First Presbyterian organist Bonnie Robinson's niece. Advance tickets \$12, \$15 at the door.

**"Geigen,
comes
from the
German
geige,
meaning
"violin"**

Spokane Daily Chronicle—Oct. 2, 1981



Organist Barbara Top Rockwood demonstrates the incredible variety of possible sound combinations at the organ console at Manito Presbyterian Church (left) and shows off just one of the 41 ranks of pipes (right). Every organ has its own personality, she said, and organists confronted with an unfamiliar instrument must spend long hours at rehearsal before performing.

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Great and Swell tower façade pipes in place during assembly of the new organ at Queen Anne Lutheran Church in Seattle, WA