



Newletter of the

Spokane Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

December is always a busy time of the year for many of us, whether it be obligations with churches, civic groups, or families. I hope this time of the year brings you, your family, and friends much joy and happiness.

Your board continues to work for advancing the goals of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) in the life of Spokane. To that end, we have “unofficially” designated 2015-2016 the “year of the organ” and planned several events that highlight the organ and music.

Upcoming Event

On December 26th at 4:00pm, the Chapter is sponsoring (we really hope only the first of many) the First Annual Downtown Spokane Christmas Carol Church Walk and Carol Sing. Carol Payne initiated the discussion of our Chapter’s sponsoring this event, based on the highly successful “Christmas Walk” held annually in Boise, which attracts over 700 participants. She has done a marvelous job in planning for this event. We have already advertised our Christmas Walk widely among the participating churches and other organizations through the Fig Tree. The pastors hosting this first Carol Sing are very enthusiastic. They see this as an occasion to invite the larger Spokane community to share in the hospitality that they have been offering for many years. The Walk will begin at Central United Methodist Church at 4:00pm, continue to Westminster United Church of Christ, and end up at Central Lutheran Church. At each church, musicians will offer Christmas music and we will sing a few Christmas carols. At Central Lutheran, carolers will be offered refreshments. It is our hope that the Christmas Walk and Carol Sing will expand to other neighborhoods through the years and become a post-Christmas “must-attend” event. I am attaching the official flyer to this email. Please print and distribute among friends and churches.

2015-2016 Events

For 2015-2016 your Chapter is planning to bring at least three nationally recognized organists to Spokane for concerts. There will also be opportunities for master class sessions for aspiring organists in our midst and in the larger Northwest area. We are also planning educational events, films and demonstrations, which will provide us with the opportunity to come together to view and discuss topics relevant to the organ and music.

Organ Concerts

The first of the organ concerts will be on Sunday, October 11th, 2015, 4:00pm, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, 127 East 12th Ave. Andrew Unsworth, LDS Tabernacle organist in Salt Lake City, will be presented in concert. He will also give a master class on Saturday, October 10th. The time for the master class has not yet been confirmed.

In 2016, we will also be bringing in a rising star in the organ world, Christopher Houlihan. This young artist is known for his masterful performances of French Romantic organ literature and has received rave reviews wherever he performs. We hope to set the date for this event very soon.

We are also planning on bringing yet one more organist in 2016. Discussions are ongoing about who that will be, but I can assure you that he will be an astounding presence in Spokane. Todd Wilson's name has been mentioned.

Educational Events

We have planned two events that we hope will be both educational and entertaining.

The first event will be a showing of the BBC series, *Music and Monarchy: British royal history as told by its music*.

"Britain's monarchs have molded the story of British music as patrons, tastemakers, and even composers...Each episode is lavishly scored...recordings include music by William Byrd, Thomas Tallis, Henry Purcell, George Frederic Handel, Edward Elgar, and William Walton...performed in the spectacular locations where the monarchs first heard them: Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, the chapel of King's College at Cambridge..." (Cited from liner notes)

This event will be held in two parts; the first (episodes 1 and 2) will be on February 6th, 2015, at 6:30pm. The second part (episodes 3 and 4) will be on February 20th, 2015, at 6:30pm. Both parts will be shown at St. Mark's Lutheran on Grand in their very comfortable media room on a large screen TV. Tasty refreshments will be provided.

You may view the trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ubvVNk24beU>

The second of these two educational events will be on April 21st, 2015, at 7:00pm. This event will be hosted by the Allen Organ Company and Northwest Organ and co-sponsored by your Chapter. Bruce Roerbach, from Allen, will be in town and will present a documentary program on the French organ builder, Cavaille-Coll. The documentary DVD, *The Genius of Cavallé-Coll, "celebrates the life and work of Aristide Cavallé-Coll (1811 – 1899), the great French organ builder whose work inspired the magnificent compositions of the French Romantic Organ School – Franck, Widor, and Guilmant."* (Cited from liner notes) This event will be at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 6906 N. Country Homes Boulevard, at 7:00pm. It's my understanding that portions of the documentary will be played through St. Matthew's Allen using the Cavaille-Coll stop list. Sounds very exciting.

You can view the DVD trailer here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G36AJppo4lo>

Two social events are also planned: the Epiphany Party (January 2nd, 6:00pm) hosted by Vince and Carla Roland at their house, 4019 S. Suncrest Dr., 6:00pm; and the Summer Picnic (June 14, 3:00pm) at Floyd Czoski's house, 4802 W. Shawnee Ave.

Below are the minutes from the November 8th Board Meeting.

You are always invited to contact any of your Board members with ideas and concerns.

Sincerely,

Jim Holmes, Dean
Spokane Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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AGO Board Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2014 at Carolyn Payne's home

In attendance: Robert, Carolyn, Milt, Jim H., Byrl, Janet, Kent, Nisha,
An enjoyable social time was held over Carolyn's generous and delicious brunch food.

It was decided to give away the organ CD's at the Central Lutheran hymn sing. Milt has stored these. Jim H. will store leftovers. Nisha will pick up the cased CD's from Milt and present them at the event.

The idea of the Christmas Carol Walk from Boise's example was adopted. Jim H. will make a flyer to be made available at the hymn sing and to be given to the churches for their newsletters. The event will begin at 4 pm at the Methodist Church (3rd and Howard), progressing to Westminster Congregational Church, and on to Central Lutheran. Each stop will include organ music and carol singing amounting to about one-half hour. Refreshments will be served at Central. Nisha will pick hymns, hoping to use the on-site church hymnals. Janet will contact radio outlets.

Christopher Houlihan has been offered to do a recital in Spokane at a reduced rate sometime in the next year and a half.

A calendar for next year was discussed but no final decisions were made, pending artist contact.

Oct. Andrew Unsworth (2nd weekend, master class Oct. 10 ?, recital at St. Johns Oct.11?)
Dec. Dec.26-Carols (I added date—Jim)
Feb. Chris Houlihan
Mar/Apr. Todd Wilson?

Report from Vince on radio broadcast per Roger Sherman: Pipe Dreams is \$1000 a year. The suggestion was made that we underwrite the air time as well as pay for the program. Janet, Vince, Robert will contact KPBX.

Janet moved to put move money into Scott Trade. Byrl 2nd. We will put \$14,000 into Scott Trade, leaving \$6,000 in the bank. The money in ST is available whenever we want to pull it out.

Discussions continue about how to get access to the Lewis and Clark organ. A brief history of the organ was recited: gift of 1923 graduating class.

Louis Vierne played there. In the year 2000, \$240,000 organ restoration was paid for by local taxes. It is necessary for everyone to realize it is there for the benefit of the wider community. Organ preparation time for performance needs to be recognized. The chambers are secure from vandalism. The drama teacher uses the stage as a class-room. Sue Powers does scheduling for organ playing. Kent will talk to Jeremy Oaks, the principal, about maybe Mark Anderson playing (not sure if this is the correct topic. Kent will obtain a schedule of available times for practice. The organ's 90th anniversary was 2013.

Kent announced that April 20-25, 2015, Bruce Roerbach from the Allen Company will be in town and probably be available to do a concert.

Respectfully submitted,
Nisha Coulter