



SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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From the Dean...

The summer months offer opportunities for professional growth for organists and directors of music serving ecclesiastical congregations, parishes, and synagogues. For members of the American Guild of Organists, there is the National Convention on even numbered years, with Regional Conventions on odd-numbered years. The schedules of our conventions, years in planning, offer multiple organ recitals, choral concerts, worship experiences, and workshops.

Summer months offer a more relaxed professional schedule for many organists and choral directors, which may include additional time for professional reading. Listed are seven recommendations for professional summer reading:

- Forster, Stuart: *Hymn Playing; A Modern Colloquium*. Missouri: Saint Louis. MorningStar Publishers, Inc. 2013. MSM-90-44. 336 pages. Quoting: "Playing Hymns on the organ is a centuries-old tradition that has been passed down largely through osmosis and guesswork. To address a growing need for more explicit instruction, Forster surveys available resources about hymn playing, and then launches a discussion expounding twenty vital aspects encompassing the art of accompanying hymns. To equip the organist with a palette of tools for every occasion, he has amassed the expertise of eleven leaders in the world of hymn playing. The panel considers everything from learning and teaching hymns through the instruments and people involved in growing a community of engaged singers within a congregation. The character and artistry of the participants is revealed through frank anecdotes from their collective 300+ years of experience. Here, we learn from David Cherwien, Mark Dwyer, David Erwin, John Ferguson, Peter Jewkes, Stephen Loher, Walden Moore, Bruce Neswick, John Scott, Jeffrey Smith, and Tom Whittimore." Highly recommended.

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Annual Music Exchange

WHAT: ANNUAL MUSIC EXCHANGE

WHEN: JULY 11-15. 9:00 A.M. 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 70th and CASS

CONTACT: MARK KURTZ, JULIE SANDENE, OR DR. CHRISTENSEN

NOTE: Mark Kurtz received about a dozen boxes of organ music from an estate initially offered to a University Library, which declined the offer. Included are several complete editions of Bach's organ works, etc. Much of the music is in good condition; some of it is tattered." This exchange may offer opportunity for expanding and/or updating libraries. Members: bring items that are doing nothing more than taking space in your files. Julie Sandene and Dr. C. will tidy up the display on a daily basis.



From the Dean...continued



Summer Reading

*"Hymn Playing; A
Modern Colloquium"*

*"The Journey was
Chosen;
The Life and Work of
Paul Manz."*

*"The Church
Musician"*

*"TE DEUM
The Church
and Music"*

"Chiff Chat"

*"The American
Organist"*

- Hyslop, Scott M. *The Journey was Chosen; The Life and Work of Paul Manz*. Missouri: Saint Louis. MorningStar Publishers, Inc. 2007. MSM-90-39. 246 pages. Quoting: "*The Journey Was Chosen* includes a full biography of Manz's life, a section devoted to the analysis and examinations of his chorale based organ and choral works, and a brief festschrift. This last section feature contributions from various composers (David Cherwien, Emily Maxson Porter), theologians (Paul Westermeyer, Frank Senn), musicians (Jane Kriel Horn, Lorraine Brough), and a touching family portrait provided by Rev. John Manz..." "... A feature unique to this book is the inclusion of a companion website...contains rare photos, letters, articles, sound clips, radio interviews, and many examples of his most famous works in their manuscript form..." Highly recommended.
- Westermeyer, Paul. *The Church Musician*. Revised edition. Minnesota: Minneapolis. Augsburg Fortress, 1997. 10-33999. 159 pages. Quoting: "...this practical resource has become a basic text in the study of church music, as well as a handbook for church music leaders, pastors, music committee members, and others. Westermeyer has updated and expanded the volume to reflect the current challenges of contemporary culture, musical and worship styles, and integrity to the gospel. ...More than a "how-to" manual for musicians, this book is an interdisciplinary study of worship, music, and theology accessible to everyone." Highly recommended.
- Westermeyer, Paul. *TE DEUM. The Church and Music*. Minnesota: Minneapolis. Augsburg Fortress Press. 1998. 1-3146. 412 pages. This volume is: "A Textbook; A Reference; A History; An Essay," including 18 chapters covering the Old and New Testaments and the chronological development of the music of Christianity. Included is an extensive bibliography (34 pp); General Index (44 pp); and Biblical References (two pp). Quoting: "...Paul Westermeyer has provided the church music community a cogent yet complete text on western church music practice centered on the people's song. ...combines the rigor of a church historian and theologian with the experience of a practicing church musician—a rare combination." Highly recommended.
- The June issue of the Lincoln Chapter AGO newsletter *Chiff Chat* includes a list of professional growth summer reading.
- *The American Organist*. Each issue includes professional growth articles that are applicable to members of the AGO.

Additional suggestions for summer reading? Send them to mrc@chase3000.com.

Happy reading.



Featured Organ: The Wilhelm Organ

St. Mary's Catholic Church, Omaha

The Wilhelm organ which was blessed and introduced to the Omaha music community in November 2015, was constructed in 1976. It was privately commissioned and owned until last fall when it was moved to Omaha from Kansas. Even so, it was conceived as a chapel organ rather than a practice organ. Your own ears will bear that out today. The instrument has nine stops plus one extension. The instrument has all the pipes for the two manuals on one wind chest in the case and the pedal pipes behind on a separate wind chest at floor level. It is a model of compactness. The pipes were made by an independent pipe maker in Germany. They are made of alloys ranging from 40% tin for the flutes to 70 % tin for the principals.

Organ Specifications:

MAN. I C-g;"	MAN. II, C-g;"
Rohrfloete 8'	Gedackt 8'
Prinzpal 4'	Rohrfloete 4'
Kornett III f-c;"	Gemshorn 2'
Mixtur III 1'	

PEDAL: C-P (behind)

Bourdon	16'
Bourdon	8' extension from 16'
Rohrgedackt	4'

One manual coupler, two pedal couplers.
Suspended key action.
Winding on flexible bellows wind.
Casework is constructed of solid white oak.



“Even so, it was conceived as a chapel organ rather than a practice organ. Your own ears will bear that out today.”

About the Builder

Karl Wilhelm. Organ manufacturer, b Lichtental, Rumania, 5 Jul 1936, naturalized Canadian 1966. He was of German ancestry and learned his trade in Germany with the firm of Laukhuff and in Switzerland with Metzler. In 1960 he moved to Canada to initiate the production of mechanical-action instruments at Casavant Frères. There he collaborated in the construction of many organs which since have become widely known. In 1966 in Quebec, he went into business for himself, first in St-Hyacinthe and then at Mont-St-Hilaire. In 1990 Wilhelm was working on his 124th instrument. His organs are found not only in 7 Canadian provinces, but also in 24 US states. Sought after as much for his small instruments, regal or positive, as for his large-scale organs with several manuals, Wilhem has remained faithful to the principles of the 17th and 18th centuries: Werkprinzip, tracker action, suspended action, flexible wind pressure. The sound quality of his instruments, whether of German type (St Matthias, Montreal), French (St Andrew's, Toronto) or a hybrid (Ascension Church, Knoxville, Tenn), are characterized by the richness of the ensembles and the purity of the individual stops, giving to the instrument a strongly marked personality. Wilhelm also restored the old Warren and Sons organ in Deschambault, Que.

~ from the Canadian Encyclopedia





*Board of
Directors*

next meeting

July 13th

*New
Newsletter
Coordinators:
Claire Eason
and
Rosemary Paul*



*News
from
the
Lincoln
Chapter*

Short Box...

The four chapter meetings for the 2016-2017 are scheduled for August, October, January, and May. Members of the Omaha AGO Board of Directors have met twice this summer. Their 3rd meeting is scheduled for July 13th.



Pedaling around...

- St. James Episcopal, Fremont Nebraska (Jeff Hoffman, organist) is enjoying their newly installed Allen organ. Well voiced and excellent match for the sanctuary.
- Sinai Lutheran in Fremont is currently removing their Reuter organ, which is moving to a new home in Minnesota. They will be installing a new Juget-Sinclair pipe organ this fall. Their workshop is in Montreal, Canada. Claire Bushong, David Schack, and several members of the congregation's organ committee traveled to Montreal around Memorial Day to visit the workshop.
- St. Mary's Catholic Church, Omaha, held their final dedicatory recital for the Wilhelm organ which was moved from the Kansas City area. Wilhelm was another Canadian organ builder with a background at Casavant Freres.

New newsletter coordinator: Claire Eason will be coordinating the items to go into the newsletter this year. She will be assisted by Rosemary Paul. In addition to the regular newsletter, you will be receiving *Cyphers* from our Dean and Claire. These will be reminders, updates, and someone-just-told-us-about-this news items you might find interesting. Please *Cypher* Dr. C, Claire, and Rosemary, if you have items you would like us to share.

ON THE BENCH

Amusing stories and comments to share: All of us have experienced funny situations while *On the Bench*. Please send us a funny story that we can share with other chapter members. A wedding photographer shared this comment with me. He arrived at the church early but couldn't find the light switches. He phoned the manse next door and the minister replied, "Oh, they are here. I'll turn them on for you." Makes you wonder about that church situation.....

Further down the road ...from Lincoln AGO

LINCOLN ORGAN SHOWCASE REPORT

- September 25th Thomas Heywood at First-Plymouth Church.
This is a joint sponsorship with Abendmusik and the Lincoln Chapter.
- October 9th - Ben Sheen at Grace Lutheran Church ELCA.

