

Pipe & Pedal

Monthly newsletter of the Baltimore Chapter, American Guild of Organists
AUGUST 2009

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PIPE & PEDAL

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For forms and further
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www.BaltimoreAGO.org

From the Dean. . .

I hope this August issue of the *Pipe & Pedal* finds you relaxed and in the process of recharging for the year ahead. As we look toward the new season, you'll see a great lineup of Chapter programs (on page 2). The year includes opportunities to hear and see new instruments – such as the new Schantz at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Towson and the new Letourneau organ at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon with recitalists Ed Moore and John Walker respectively. The program year will get its start with a “Meet and Greet” dinner at the Church of the Redeemer featuring special guest speaker, the Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop of Maryland. In the spring there will be a Choral Techniques Workshop led by Towson University Professor Karen Kennedy. Finally, at the end of the season, there will be a recital and masterclass with Canadian organist and composer Rachel Laurin at St. Bartholomew's Church.

At this time I am pleased to announce the results of the 2009 Chapter Election in which we voted three new members as the Class of 2012. These new board members are **Janet Bowen**, **Kathie Metz** and **Katherine Scott**. Congratulations to the new board members and thank you to all six candidates for agreeing to serve your Baltimore Chapter.

From all reports, the Region III Convention hosted by the Tidewater Chapter was a wonderful experience for all. As promised, with the convention complete we can now announce the winner of our March 2009 Baltimore Chapter Competition. **Victor Li**, a student of **Donald Sutherland** at Peabody Conservatory, was the winner after a stellar performance of Bach, Franck, and Messiaen. Victor went on to represent our chapter at the Regional Convention. News traveled back to Baltimore that Victor played quite well in Virginia. In the end, however, Thomas Sheehan, a student of Ken Cowan at Westminster Choir College, was named the winner at the regional level.

Finally this month, I would like to encourage you to think about AGO Certification. Already we have a few chapter members signed up to take the November Colleague Exam. In addition, I have heard from members interested in the Associate Exam. Why not include yourself in this list of members seeking certification. The chapter can assist you in preparing for the exam. Please contact me for more exam information or if you are interested in a small exam-preparation group.

I wish you a relaxed August in preparation for an exciting year to come!

Paul J. Carroll, Dean

Clip and Save

Baltimore AGO Programs for 2009-2010

“Meet and Greet” with Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton, speaker

Tuesday, September 22

The Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 5603 N. Charles Street, Baltimore

(Henry Lowe, host)

6:00 p.m. - Wine and Hors d'oeuvres

6:30 p.m. - Dinner, with the Right Reverend Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop of Maryland

Cost: \$25 per person (your AGO membership is partially subsidizing the cost of the meal)

Tenzo Artisan Caterers

Reservation deadline: Friday, September 18

Edward Moore, organist

Sunday, November 15 at 4:00 p.m.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary R. C. Church, 8501 Loch Raven Boulevard, Towson

(Tom Bozek, host)

John Walker, organist

Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 811 Cathedral Street, Baltimore

Karen Kennedy, Choral Techniques Workshop

Saturday, March 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Towson University

(Jim Anthony, host)

Rachel Laurin, organist

Friday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 4711 Edmondson Avenue, Catonsville

(Ted Davis, host)

This event is being graciously underwritten by David M. Storey, Inc.

Masterclass & Improvisation with Rachel Laurin

Saturday, April 24 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 4711 Edmondson Avenue, Catonsville

(Ted Davis, host)

This event is being graciously underwritten by David M. Storey, Inc.

More details will appear in the *Pipe & Pedal* and on the chapter website
as they become available

The Roving Reporter.....D.S. Woods

This month, the "Pipe and Pedal" interviewed Mr. Michael Britt, Music Director /Organist at St. Margaret Catholic Church in Bel Air, MD. The "Pipe and Pedal" was eager to gain information about the life of a music director at a large 18,000 member parish as well as the details of a recital which Michael performed on May 3rd at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris.

RR-When and where did the playing of the organ capture your interest?

MB-I clearly remember at age 9 attending a theatre organ concert with a friend of my mother's-Lois King, organist at Lansdowne United Methodist for 50 years (and whose funeral at age 100 I just played). After the film/concert, I remember thinking, "This is what I want to do!" I grew up in the Arbutus section of Baltimore, where I attended Arbutus United Methodist Church. The parish organist and choir-director were degreed musicians who exposed the congregation to quality choral and organ literature. I sang in children's choirs and took lessons from a local piano teacher. I went to high school at Lansdowne Senior High School where our choir sang such works as Vivaldi's "Gloria" and the "Mass in G Minor" by Vaughan Williams. I was not originally interested in "stained-glass music," but was drawn principally to the romantic excitement of the theatre organ repertoire. I eventually attended Peabody Preparatory where I studied piano with Joyze Sutherland and organ with Gretchen Benchoff. I took my first job at age 12 at Yale Heights Baptist Church where I learned to sight-read hymns because of the Baptist tradition of spontaneous hymns requests. My second job, at age 14, was at Stone Chapel United Methodist Church where I had the opportunity to conduct my first choir. The majority of my parish experience was at the Shrine of the Little Flower (26 years) in the Bel Air/Edison section of Baltimore City.

RR-Who were the mentors/teachers who guided you on your path to the organ?

MB-Besides the teachers whom I've already mentioned, I credit my teacher at the Peabody Conservatory, Dr. Paul Davis, for bringing me back to the center of organ repertoire and giving me the full gamut of classical organ literature. My theatre organ roots, however, still show as well as my love of the French Romantic literature.

RR- Describe some of your favorite duties at your current parish. Which are your least favorite?

MB- I really enjoy the fact that you make music WITH other people in your church. Whether I'm working with choir members, cantors, priests, or instrumentalists, I really enjoy the relationship you build while making music together. My least favorite are, of course, the administrative duties which come with the job. Time at the computer doing scheduling, choir library, etc. is not my favorite.

RR-All of us in the AGO membership are eager to learn about your recital at Notre Dame. Can you tell us how this experience came to happen and what it was like to play in this "holiest of holy" place?

MB-My recital at Notre Dame was the most glorious and, at the same time, the most humbling experience of my career. The invitation to play in the Sacred Music series at the Cathedral came through the tutelage and coaching of Dr. John Walker. I submitted two proposed programs, with length of pieces, to the cathedral, and after much revision and communication, the program -mainly of American composers- was accepted and scheduled for May 3rd, 2009.

I arrived in Paris in late April and was immediately whisked to an 8:30pm recital that evening in order to hear the organ from outside the gallery. The place was packed!! Over 2,000 people came to hear this organ. This is a city where people readily enjoy and support the riches of the arts in their midst.

I was given two evening "after-hours" practice times to prepare my recital on the instrument-a total of 7 hours. The 5-manual Cavaille-Coll instrument, originally built in 1868, was the most glorious instrument I've ever played in my life. Imagine sitting at the same instrument where Louis Vierne and -Pierre Cochereau played and composed! The power of that time and place was overwhelming! It was a truly a spiritual moment! A few challenges presented themselves: the manuals were only 56 keys and the swell and crescendo pedal placement was reversed! Despite these adjustments, I felt that the recital was well-received by a large and appreciative audience. Notre Dame Organist Olivier Latry was extremely gracious. We were allowed to remain in the organ gallery following the recital to hear and watch him improvise for Vespers and the mass that followed. He was brilliant!

During the rest of my three week stay in Paris, I took some lessons with Marie-Louise Jaquet -Langlais and soaked up as much art and culture as possible in this city. I was truly amazed at the "joie de vivre" which the French exhibit as they conduct their daily lives. There is no rushing or stress-driven anxiety-just a sedate and gracious attitude towards all. I think we Americans have something to learn from their way of life.

Chapter Leadership Changes

The Baltimore AGO experienced an unexpected turnover of leadership last year, and no doubt many of you have now heard of the imminent departure of our current dean and sub dean. Of course, there is no hidden meaning in any of this, merely the unpredictable circumstances of life manifesting themselves! Paul Carroll, who ably and courageously stepped into the dean's position last summer, will begin a DMA in Sacred Music this fall at Catholic University of America. Coupled with his full-time church job, he will not have the time available to continue as dean. Dan Fortune has been appointed Organist and Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio. His last Sunday in Baltimore is August 23.

Soon the Executive Board will meet to appoint a new dean and sub dean. These appointments will continue through next spring at which time those positions will be included in our annual election. Stay tuned – we hope to make an announcement in the next few weeks!

The Executive Board

A note from your Chapter Treasurer

Since our chapter was so fortunate to have a profit from our Regional Convention, we are now required by the IRS to fill out a form 990 for non-profit organizations at the end of our fiscal year which is June 30th. Therefore I was not able to deposit any 09-10 dues receipts until after that date. In addition, my vacation, which included the Organ Historical Society Convention in the Cleveland area, was scheduled for the beginning of July.

Thank you for your patience with this check clearing delay, as I know all organists keep their checkbooks very up-to-date!

For those who have not yet sent in their dues, this is a friendly **reminder** that **September 1st** is fast approaching.

Elise Hoermann

BRITT Interview, cont.

RR-What advice would you give to prospective organ students?

MB- Try to be involved in as many diverse musical experiences as possible. Learn as much about other musical styles (such as pop and jazz) as possible. This exposure will make you a stronger musician. Take every gig —weddings, funerals, etc.—which you are offered. These connections will build relationships which will aide in your future development. As the old saying goes, “the more you do, the more you can do!”

ORGANS FOR SALE

For Sale: Rodgers 960 three manual digital organ. Harris mechanical drawknobs, large specification, divided expression, crescendo, sub/super couplers in SW and CH, eight channel audio system but can be expanded. MIDI capable. Privately owned for 10 years. Asking \$75,000.00. Offers will be considered. Installation and voicing available for extra charge. Fully pipe compatible. Great replacement console for a pipe organ..

For Sale: Rodgers Masterpiece 958 three manual digital organ. Lighted drawknobs, velocity sensing keyboards for enhanced MIDI voice control, eight channels of audio but can be expanded, total stoplist can be re-configured, divided expression, programmable crescendo with two sequences, sub/super couplers in SW, Rodgers' Voice Palette system, headphone jack, and much more. Light oak finish. This organ is six months old and was privately owned. Was traded for new 4 manual. Excellent condition. \$85,000.00 includes audio, installation, voicing, 3 years labor warranty, 9.5 years remaining on factory warranty. As a Masterpiece series Rodgers, this organ if fully upgradable with both software and hardware as new features are announced. Fully pipe compatible. Great replacement console for a pipe organ.

For Sale: Rodgers Trillium 927 three manual digital organ. Lighted drawknobs, velocity sensing keyboards for enhanced MIDI voice control, eight channels of audio but can be expanded, total stoplist can be re-configured, divided expression, programmable crescendo with two sequences, Rodgers' Voice Palette system, headphone jack, and much more. Light oak finish. This organ is nine years old and was privately owned. Excellent condition. \$55,000.00 includes audio, installation, voicing, 3 years labor warranty, and will include 2 years factory warranty. Fully pipe compatible. Would make a great replacement console for a pipe organ.

For Sale: Rodgers pipe/digital organ with 40 ranks of pipes and 43 digital ranks. Full specification and price can be seen at http://www.dafferorgans.com/media/used_hybrid_organ.pdf.

For all, contact: Al Murrell @ 800-419-4448 (work) or 443-812-5999 (cell) or amurrell@dafferorgans.com.

Organs and Organists in the Netherlands: Some Reflections

by Tom Spacht

A recent research trip to the Netherlands gave me the opportunity to learn a number of interesting things about Dutch organs and the organists who play them. Unlike the other countries of Northern Europe, the Netherlands has had as the basis of its reformed worship the Genevan psalter. Because of this the music and organ playing is quite different from Germany or the Scandinavian countries where the Lutheran churches predominate and the Calvinist churches are few in number.

Of course, the trip included the chance to play many of the famous Dutch organs - the choir and main organs of the Oude Kerk in Amsterdam, the famous St. Bavo in Haarlem, older organs in the province of Groningen such as Zeerijp (Faber 1649) and Noordbroek (1696 Schnitger, later re-worked by Freytag, restorations in 1958 by Edskes and 2002 by Ruiter). But the core learning experience centered on the Genevan psalter and its use in the service. I attended two services, the first at Amsterdam's Noorderkerk on Ascension Day (a national holiday in the Netherlands) and the second at St. Bavo in Haarlem on a Sunday morning. The former is a strict Calvinist church, thus the forty-minute sermon on Ascension was considered fairly short. Bavo is a more progressive congregation, with a female clergyperson leading the service (the more conservative branches of the church do not ordain women). At both services improvisations by the organist were the principal musical feature (no choir at either). For this, the organist must play an "inleiding" for each hymn or psalm and often must improvise during the "collecte" (which, as you might imagine, is the money collection - this is not a state church). Preludes are optional and indeed Anton Pauw, the city organist at the Bavo in Haarlem did not play one, but instead did a fairly elaborate introduction to the opening hymn.

On a Friday evening I also attended a psalm festival at St. Bavo - an unexpected bonus - which was simply the enthusiastic singing of favorites from the Genevan psalter with extraordinary improvisations before, between verses, and following the psalms. These were played by Gerben Mourik, winner of the 2008 International Improvisation Contest in Haarlem. Gerben ranged over a wide variety of musical forms from free, almost non-tonal excursions, to strict fugal expositions, all the while drawing upon the array of colorful solo stops contained on this very large instrument. For the singing, the range of organ sound went from a whisper to the full organ, including both 32' stops in the pedal (principaal and bazuin).

One comes away from these experiences with a new appreciation for the art of improvisation, here

entwined within the service and formed by the modal character of the Genevan psalms. Interestingly, several of the organists I met had studied in France with names like the late Jean Boyer, Jean Langlais, Marie-Louise Jacquet Langlais, and others. Here they extended their improvisational skills to include styles less often used in the Netherlands. Regardless of skill level, however, all organists are expected to improvise to some extent as this is integral to the service. One organist in the Groningen area, only 24 and not a conservatory student, was able to improvise for us in a very acceptable fashion. It was clear that he, like his older counterparts, was thoroughly familiar with the Genevan psalter and with the *Liedboek voor de Kerken*, the principal Dutch hymnal.

The art of improvisation is returning to prominence in America and, as we know, the AGO has a national improvisation competition preceding its national conventions. Increasingly conservatories and music schools are including instruction in improvisation in their curricula. It is to be hoped that a new generation of organists who "compose at the organ" will arise and bring a new dimension to American organ culture.

Some Summer Thoughts

In response to an e-mail requesting submission of resources or tools from summer workshops this summer, I heard from two members:

Richard Strattan (Trinity Episcopal Church, Easton, and Dale Music Co., Inc., Silver Spring) writes, "With a bare bones budget for continuing education, I opted for purchasing several books. By far the best from a musician's standpoint was Dick Staub's *The Culturally Savvy Christian*..

Kathie Metz, Towson United Methodist Church, who is recuperating from shoulder surgery, received a fun book to amuse her during her convalescence - *The Alto Wore Tweed: A Liturgical Mystery* by Mark Schweitzer. This is one of a series centering on choral voice parts. She laughed out loud!

Idea Sharing for Fall

If you have found or are planning a great new choral or organ piece for a church service this fall, please share your ideas in our next newsletter! Submit your ideas with a short description to Kitty Allen at kitty.allen@verizon.net. The next deadline is September 1. Music should be suitable for use anytime from September through December 2009. We look forward to hearing from you!

PLACEMENT SERVICE – August, 2009

BRUCE EICHER

202 Cinder Road, Timonium, MD 21093

410-561-9948 E-mail: BruceEicher@verizon.net

There is a non-refundable fee of \$15 for all church listings.

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 7859 Rick Neck Road, Pasadena, MD 21222. 150-member congregation seeking an Organist/Director for one weekly service and one weekly rehearsal. Approximately ten hours per week. 3-manual Rogers organ and Kurzweil keyboard. Salary: 13,500-\$17,000. Benefits: Four weeks paid vacation, Continuing Education, Music allowance.

Contact: The Rev. Shawn Hill, 410-255-1070.

Send resume to: secretarystandrewspasadena@verizon.net (Jun.09)

FALLSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 600 Fallston Road (PO Box 54) Fallston, MD 21047. 85-family congregation seeking Organist/Director for one weekly service and one weekly rehearsal. Approximately 17 hours per week. 1985 Allen Digital Organ. Salary: \$15,000. Two weeks paid vacation. Benefits include Continuing Education, Music Allowance and Study Leave. **Contact:** Susan Fiala, 410-893-0536. (Aug.09)

THE NEW WAVE SINGERS OF BALTIMORE, INC., Maryland's only auditioned GLBTS community chorus, is searching for an Artistic Director for the 2009-2010 season. The chorus rehearses on Tuesdays at 7:00 - 9:30 PM from September to June. This is a 12-month, part-time, contractor position that requires approximately 30 hours per month. Annual compensation is \$7,200.00. For a full description of the position please visit the organization's website at: www.newwavesingers.org Please e-mail resume, cover letter and references to directorsearch@newwavesingers.org (Aug. 09)

DICKEY MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 5116 Wetheredsville Road, Baltimore, MD 21207. 115-member church seeking Organist and Director for one weekly service and brief rehearsal on Sunday morning. Approximately 11-12 hours per week. Rodgers 1982 two-manual organ. Salary: \$10,000-\$12,000 per year with six weeks of paid vacation. **Contact:** Phillip Branner, 410-486-4665. E-mail: philbranner@comcast.net (Aug.09)



The Baltimore Chapter AGO "Summer Social" lunch at the Bare Bones Grill and Brewery in Ellicott City on July 24 was a lot of fun (as well as a tummy-filling occasion). Seventeen had made reservations (even though a couple then needed to drop out), but even as important, there were many who responded with regrets because of vacation travels, but agreeing that it was a good idea. Those present would all agree that we should do it again! Thanks to all who came and to those who helped to coordinate the happening.

SUBSTITUTE ORGANISTS

Listing is for a period of one year and is free to AGO members, \$40 fee (non-refundable) to non-members. It is the responsibility of the individual to renew the listing at the yearly registration. Contact Placement Director Bruce Eicher, 410-561-9948. **Publication of the names is a convenience to users and does not imply endorsement of individuals by the Baltimore Chapter AGO.**

(The names listed are available for any service as Organist/Director for all denominations any day unless indicated otherwise.)

Clinton Adams	(410) 663-0161	Unavailable Sunday AM
Patricia Amato	(410) 391-8750	e-mail: pmcamato@comcast.net
Douglas Barclay	(410) 225-3360	Weddings and Funerals. e-mail: dblyco21@hotmail.com
David P. Beatty	(215) 518-1025	
Paul Binko	(410) 561-9928	e-mail: PaulBinko@comcast.net
Naomi Binko	(410) 337-0304	
Janet Bowen	(410) 252-5454	
Nelda Clelland	(410) 744-0809	neldaclelland@mac.com
Ted Davis	(410) 859-3236	Unavailable Sunday AM
Jeffrey Ehmsen	(443) 756-0413	
Theodore Feldmann	(410) 467-0443	No Sat eve or Sun AM. Cantor/Organist Mail4MrTed@aol.com
Larry Ford	(410) 529-1892	lafitd@comcast.net
Richard Foss	(410) 823-8708	
Dan Gleckler	(410) 243-5313	e-mail: adg2726stpaul@msn.com
Warren Glock	(410) 661-1004	Unavailable Sunday AM
Aaron Goen	(760) 703-5619	e-mail: aaron@osp1692.org Unavailable Sunday AM (In June, available weekends and evenings.)
Stephen Heaver, Jr.	(410) 235-6144	Unavailable Sundays from Sept.-May
John Holland	(410) 323-3322	Funerals, weddings, weekday services.
John Igoe	(410) 869-8590	e-mail: jmidad@verizon.net
Jonel Jones	(410) 889-8688	
Diane Kline	(410) 337-4948	Unavailable Sunday AM
Melody Knight	(410) 790-6308	Org/Dir and Vocal soloist. Unavailable Sunday AM
Len Langrick	(443) 257-3300	Unavailable Sunday AM, RC Masses, weddings, funerals e-mail: llangrick@towsonpres.org e-mail: lauderdales2@verizon.net
Jack Lauderdale	(410) 531-2670	Unavailable Mondays and evenings.. e-mail: vollund.leysing@gmail.com
Vollund Leysing	(410) 905-8626	
Vernene Rodgers Lenz	(410) 833-4427	
Ruth Loyer	(717) 424-6739	Also plays Viola.
Diane Luchese	(410) 435-3424	Weekends only
Kathryn Master	(410) 340-2212	(Also plays flute) e-mail: kmastermusic@aol.com
Louise Null	(410) 484-2825	
Renata O'Reilly	(410) 300-2710	Unavailable Sunday AM
Daniel Bennett Page	(301) 946-0919	Weekends and evenings. cell: 301-821-7230, Cantor/organ/choral e-mail: DanielBennettPage@hotmail.com e-mail: mepschell@hotmail.com
Michele Prokopchak	(301) 989-2238	(Flute, voice, Cantor, organ) not available Sunday AM
Lori Ramser	(410) 922-2290	e-mail: staccato@comcast.net
Frank Ritterman	(410) 404-0040	Evenings and weekends. e-mail: fxr9@comcast.net
Bryan Rowe	410) 744-5260	e-mail: bbrowe4450@verizon.net
George Sack	(410) 821-0244	Available weekends only
Eleanor Timberlake	(410) 730-3222	
Heather Traxler	(443) 929-0057	Pianist. Service playing, teaching. htraxler@hotmail.com
Brenda Weiser	(301) 865-6113	e-mail: brenda.weiser@comcast.net
Susan Weisman	(410) 830-1791	Unavailable weekdays e-mail: 3weisman@comcast.net

Please visit the National Headquarters Website for the 2008 Salary Guide showing a fee schedule for Worship Services, Weddings and Funerals. Go to: <http://www.agohq.org/profession/indexsalary.html>

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
Baltimore Chapter
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Towson, Maryland 21204

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NOTEWORTHY

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Timothy Albrecht, (Emory University Organist)
works of Bach and Liszt
Christ Lutheran Church
701 South Charles Street
8:00 p.m.

The sympathy of the
Baltimore Chapter AGO
is extended to David Huggins
and family
on the death of his mother in July

“Meet and Greet” with Bishop Eugene Taylor Sutton
Tuesday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. Episcopal Church of the Redeemer

Dinner Reservation form

I plan to attend the catered dinner on Tuesday, September 22 and enclose \$25.00 per person (your AGO membership is partially subsidizing the cost of the dinner)

NAME(S): _____ PHONE: _____
HOW MANY? _____

Mail to Kitty Allen, 307-B Charles Street Ave., Towson, MD 21204 DEADLINE: September 18