

Pipe & Pedal

Monthly newsletter of the Baltimore Chapter, American Guild of Organists
MAY 2010

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PIPE & PEDAL

Deadline: 1st of each
month

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410-494-8589

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Placement

Bruce Eicher, director

410-561-9948

BruceEicher@verizon.net

For forms and further
information, see

www.BaltimoreAGO.org



From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

A few thoughts. . .

A weekend with organist Rachel Laurin

Our season of programs just concluded with a fabulous weekend (April 23-24) with Canadian organist-composer Rachel Laurin. We heard a fantastic concert on Friday evening featuring the performer's own music, her teacher's (Raymond Daveluy), and an improvisation on submitted themes. On Saturday morning, Rachel led a masterclass on improvisation that was wonderfully participatory. Her approach to the topic remarkably hands-on, and inspired many of us to rush to our instruments and believe we could learn to improvise! We are so indebted to David Storey for making the weekend's events possible. What a tremendous finale to our program year.

Baltimore AGO programs for 2010-2011

Michael Britt and his committee have been diligently at work on our programs for next year, and an exciting lineup is in the works. Details are soon forthcoming.

Details, [important] details

Please be on the lookout for a mailing which contains a membership renewal form and a ballot with bios for the candidates. While there is a little time until they are due (ballot on May 31, membership form and dues by July 15), please join me in completing and mailing them promptly, before they have the first opportunity to get "buried in the pile." These annoying "red tape" details are so important to keeping our chapter in order.

With my thanks,

Theo. S. (Ted) Davis

[Ed. Note: Much appreciation, too, to Ted Davis and St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church for providing the instrument and the setting for the Rachel Laurin weekend events.]

Are you receiving the Pipe & Pedal electronically? If not, we encourage you to help us save money and manpower by "going green" Please let us know!

Improving Improvisation

I almost didn't make it to Rachel Laurin's improvisation masterclass on Saturday April 24 because my car broke down, but I'm so grateful that I did! I came to the event feeling somewhat apprehensive because I don't consider myself to be a creative improviser at all, and didn't know what to expect, but I figured I'd make as good a guinea pig as any.

I needn't have worried. Rachel put me at ease at once with her light-hearted and friendly manner. She guided the participants through carefully controlled exercises that enable the player to focus on only a few things at a time. I had found it hard to improvise in the past because there were so many options that I didn't know where to start. We began with a simple plan: only two chords were allowed and the hands must be in perpetual motion (fast triplets) with a few pedal points to give rhythm. She encouraged us to make the most of the keyboard and not stay in the middle. This was harder than it sounded, but produced a pleasing result. Rachel took us through many other exercises that involved focusing on particular intervals, say only octave Cs in the manuals with a melody in the pedal, or only seconds in the manuals with a melody in the pedal. She also had us improvise question-and-answer-style melodies supported by a single (non-triadic) chord underneath. Though limiting the harmonies in the masterclass, she made me realize that changing the harmony can be exciting as you follow your ear, and that harmonic progressions don't need to be feared or even planned.

I went back to my church that afternoon and tried some of her ideas within the context of a modulation for my closing hymn and couldn't believe that I was improvising loud and fast (I usually stick to soft, quiet, and safe)! It was a thrill, and I feel empowered to be creative in new ways, thanks to Rachel Laurin.

– *Kate Scott*

The sympathy of the Baltimore Chapter

On behalf of the members of the Baltimore Chapter AGO, sympathy is extended to the family and friends of **MILTON A. (AUGIE) SOMERS** who died on March 29. A long-time member of this chapter, he was residing in Havre de Grace with friend and partner George Gonderman.

VERA CARROLL, former Dean of this chapter (1967-69), died on April 6. Services were held on April 24 at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Bel Air. Memorial gifts to the music program of that church were suggested in lieu of flowers.

TWO IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

▶ **May 31**

for returning your ballot indicating your selections for officers and board members

▶ **July 15**

for returning your membership renewal form and dues for 2010-2011

PLACEMENT SERVICE – May, 2010

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. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH GARRISON FOREST, 232 St. Thomas Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. 250-member congregation seeking Organist/Director for one weekly service and two weekly rehearsals. Paid professional and volunteer choir members. Approximately 12 hours per week. 3-manual Aeolian-Skinner Pipe organ (c.1949) refurbished in 2006. Salary: \$18,000-21,000. **For Information Contact:** The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Ellis, 410-363-1044 or **e-mail:** mellis@stthomaschurch.us. **Send application with resume and three references via e-mail in WORD FORMAT to:** Mr. James Wolgamott, Music Search Committee: stthomaschurch@stthomaschurch.us (Mar.10)

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF CHRIST THE KING, 1930 Brookdale Rd., Baltimore, Md 21244. 120-member congregation seeking Organist/Choir Director for one weekly service and one weekly rehearsal. Approximately seven hours per week. Rogers organ with Midi, Kurzweil keyboard and Kawai Digital piano. Salary: \$9,000. Four weeks of paid vacation. **Contact:** Diane Wilson, 410-788-5931 or send cover letter, resume and three references via email (word format) to: DWDFWilson@gmail.com (Apr.10)

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER, 5513 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212. 300-member congregation seeking Organist/Choir Director for one weekly service and one weekly rehearsal. Approximately 10 hours per week. 3-manual, 93-rank Wicks-Rogers hybrid organ, 2004. Salary: \$15,000. Four weeks paid vacation. Continuing Education fund. **Contact:** Parish Administrator Jeanne Macneal, 410-433-1801. **E-mail:** hclc2@verizon.net. (Mar.10)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, 2503 Belair Drive, Bowie, MD 20715. 150-member congregation seeking Organist/Director for 1-2 weekly liturgies and 1-2 weekly rehearsals. Approximately 10-15 hours. Rodgers 330 3-manual organ and Kurzweil keyboard. Salary: \$14,000. Two weeks paid vacation. **Contact:** Pastor Wendy Deeben, 301-262-7625. (Apr.10)

ST. LOUIS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, 12500 Clarksville Pike, Clarksville, MD 21029. 4800-family congregation is seeking an Assistant Organist for one weekly rehearsal and two-three liturgies per week. 3-manual Rodgers organ, 2006. Salary: \$19,000. One week paid vacation (first year) with subsequent yearly increases according to Archdiocese of Baltimore norms. **Contact:** Paul J. Carroll, *Director of Music*, 410-531-6040 or **e-mail:** PaulC1109@gmail.com (Apr.10)

ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH, 5502 York Road, Baltimore, MD 21212. 500-family congregation seeking full time Organist/Choir Director for three weekly services and two weekly rehearsals. Approximately 24-30 hours per week. 2008 3-manual Peragallo Pipe Organ. Salary: \$35,000. Benefits include Paid Vacation, Life, Health and Disability Insurance. Pension plan and other benefits. **Contact:** Rev. Raymond Harris, 410-435-5900. **E-mail:** stmarypastor@gmail.com (May.10)



Singers

wanted!!

A new, unique men's a cappella chorus is being formed to promote Maryland's musical heritage. Its director, Bill Biehl is organist/choir director at Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church. For over 20 years, he has been working on a book and choral arrangements about Maryland's music. To support this effort, the Maryland Heritage Men's Chorus will be forming and holding auditions on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 4301 Raspe Avenue in northeast Baltimore, off Belair Road.

Please do not call Epiphany for information, but call Bill Biehl at 410-435-1387 and/or visit www.marylandheritagemusic.com. Later a mixed chorus will be formed.

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@verizon.net
Douglas Barclay	(410) 225-3360	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	
Nelda Clelland	(410) 744-0809	neldaclelland@mac.com
Judith Daffer	(410) 381-2014	e-mail: Juude@aol.com
Ted Davis	(410) 859-3236	Unavailable Sunday AM
Keith Derrickson	(410) 882-7426	Unavailable Sunday, AM e-mail: Kderrickson@towson.edu
Theodore Feldmann	(410) 467-0443	No Sat eve or Sun AM. Cantor/Organist Mail4MrTed@aol.com
Larry Ford	(410) 529-1892	laftid@comcast.net
Richard Foss	(410) 823-8708	(Call around 9 PM) e-mail: RichardAFoss@hotmail.com
Dan Gleckler	(410) 243-5313	e-mail: adg2726stpaul@msn.com
Warren Glock	(410) 661-1004	Unavailable Sunday AM
Stephen Heaver, Jr.	(410) 235-6144	Unavailable Sundays from Sept.-May
John Holland	(410) 323-3322	Available as interim organist. Unavailable Sat. after 4 PM
John Igoe	(410) 869-8590	e-mail: jmidad@verizon.net
Diane Kline	(410) 337-4948	Unavailable Sunday AM
Melody Knight	(410) 790-6308	Org/Dir and Vocal soloist. Unavailable Sunday AM
Jack Lauderdale	(410) 531-2670	e-mail: lauderdale2@verizon.net
Vernene Rodgers Lenz	(410) 833-4427	
Diane Luchese	(410) 435-3424	Weekends only
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
Michele Prokopchak	(301) 989-2238	e-mail: mepschell@hotmail.com
Lori Ramser	(410) 922-2290	(Flute, voice, Cantor, organ) e-mail: staccato@comcast.net
Frank Ritterman	(410) 404-0040	Evenings and weekends. e-mail: fxr9@comcast.net
George Sack	(410) 821-0244	Available weekends only
Eleanor Timberlake	(410) 730-3222	
Susan Weisman	(410) 830-1791	Weddings& Funerals 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>

Chapter Historian/Archivist wanted!

There is one file box of printed material spanning nearly 100 years of the Baltimore Chapter's history. This box includes recital programs, news clippings and photographs from Chapter events. We are looking for someone to properly organize and catalog this information. The opportunity may also exist to visit the collection of our Chapter's materials housed in the Peabody Archives, and to possibly incorporate this box of documents into that collection. If you might be interested in taking on this fun and educational task, please contact Jason Kissel at 410-728-5545, or via e-mail: jasonvirgo@aol.com.

Noteworthy

SATURDAY, MAY 15

Baltimore Boychoir Festival with outstanding ensembles throughout the US
tiered seating: \$22, 18, 15, 12 (410-554-8644)
Kraushaar Auditorium, Goucher College
7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 16

12th Annual French Organ Marathon:
Michael Britt, Henry Lowe, Victor Li, John Walker,
Diane Luchese, Randall Williams, Mary Hamlin-
Spencer, Bill Wisnom, Victor Fields, Randall Mullin
Grace United Methodist Church
5407 N. Charles Street
3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Bach Easter & Ascension Oratorios
Choir, Orchestra and Hyunah Yu, soprano
Central Presbyterian Church
7308 York Road, Towson
3:00 p.m.

New Artist Preview/Three Pianos
Eric Zuber, Grace Kim, Hanchien Lee
Community Concerts at Second
4200 St. Paul Street
3:30 p.m.

Nicholas Houhoulis, tenor
Art songs and arias reflecting Greek heritage
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1900 St. Paul Street
2:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 23

WORLD MUSIC FESTIVAL
Dr. Eileen Guenther, conductor
Daniel Ssuuna, percussionist
Choirs of First & Franklin Presbyterian
and Cathedral of the Incarnation
Information: 410-728-5545
Cathedral of the Incarnation
4 E. University Parkway, 21218
2:30 p.m.

Gerre Hancock, organist
St. David's Church
4700 Roland Ave. at Oakdale
4:00 p.m.

Chamber Music by Candlelight
Musicians from the BSO
Community Concerts at Second
4200 St. Paul Street
7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

Motet: Jesu, meine Freude
Cantata 59: Wer mich liebet, der wird mein Wort halten
Paul Carroll, organ soloist
www.bachinbaltimore.org
Christ Lutheran Church
701 S. Charles Street
4:00 p.m.

FRIDAY/SATURDAY, JULY 9/10

Terry Taylor Children's Choir Director Workshop
This is Your Faith (and Brain) on Music! Children's
Choir Advocacy for a New Era
St. John's U. Methodist Church
5312 Backlick Road
Springfield, VA 22151-3313
Register: www.choristersguild.org/conferences or
call 1-800-CHORISTER (800-246-7478)
Friday - 4:30 p.m./Saturday 3:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 13

Mozart *Requiem*
St. Bartholomew Choir and friends with chamber
orchestra, Theo. S. (Ted) Davis, conductor
www.stbartholomew.ang-md.org
St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church
4711 Edmondson Ave.
7:30 p.m.

On the lighter side. . .

Subject: Piano recall:

Yamaha has recalled 20,000 pianos due to a problem with the pedal sticking, causing pianists to play faster than they normally would, resulting in a dangerous number of accidentals.

The sticky pedal also makes it harder for jazz pianists to come to a full stop at the end of a piece making it extremely risky for audiences.

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
Baltimore Chapter
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Towson, Maryland 21204