Noted French Organist in Recital and Masterclass in April

The St. Louis Chapter, American Guild of Organists, takes pleasure in co-sponsoring a visit to St. Louis by noted French organist Pierre Perdigon. Pierre Perdigon received a first prize in harmony, counterpoint and fugue in Lyon, where he studied organ with Marcel Paponaud and composition with Charles Montalang. He continued his studies in organ with Marie-Claire Alain, Anton Heiler and Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini. He taught organ at the Conservatory of Marseilles. He has been regularly teaching at summer academies in Royal Valley, Saint-Die-des-Vosges for more than 20 years. He is active as a recitalist and continuo playing, appearing as a recitalist throughout Europe, Canada, Chile and Japan. Among his numerous recordings are albums featuring organ music by French and Italian Baroque composers.

I hope to see you at both events in April.
— Henry Evans

The Details

Special Event: Saturday, April 25, 2009
7:30 p.m.
St. Louis Abbey Church
Pierre Perdigon in recital

Meeting Date: Monday, April 27, 2009
Event: Masterclass on Italian Baroque organ music conducted by Pierre Perdigon
Location: St. Louis Abbey Church
530 South Mason Road
St. Louis, MO 63141
Time: Dinner – 6:30 p.m.
Program – 7:30 p.m.
Host: Andrzej Zahorski
Cost: $10 for dinner
Reservations: Chuck Peery (314-664-8015 or cepeery@earthlink.net)
(Please confirm reservations by Wednesday, April 22.)

Directions:
From I-64/U.S. 40 East/Westbound: Take the Mason Road North exit (#24). Follow Mason Road north for a short distance until you see the Abbey on the right.

Canzona Prima by Girolamo Frescobaldi; and the Bach/Vivaldi Concerto in A minor. The organ is a two-manual, 28-rank Hradetzky instrument.

The St. Louis Chapter, American Guild of Organists, takes pleasure in co-sponsoring a visit to St. Louis by noted French organist Pierre Perdigon. On Saturday, April 25, Mr. Perdigon will play a concert at the St. Louis Abbey Church. Chapter members are encouraged to attend.

On Monday, April 27, Mr. Perdigon will present a masterclass on Italian Baroque organ music as the subject of the chapter’s April monthly meeting. He will be assisted by players Doria Dawson, a senior at McKendree University, Lebanon, Ill.; Andrew Kenney, an organ major at Webster University; and chapter Sub-Dean and Program Chairman Henry Evans. The following pieces will be the musical subjects: Canzona Prima and Canzona Quarta by Girolamo Frescobaldi; and the Bach/Vivaldi Concerto in A minor. The organ is a two-manual, 28-rank Hradetzky instrument.

Pierre Perdigon received a first prize in harmony, counterpoint and fugue in Lyon, where he studied organ with Marcel Paponaud and composition with Charles Montalang. He continued his studies in organ with Marie-Claire Alain, Anton Heiler and Luigi Ferdinando Tagliavini. He taught organ at the Conservatory of Marseilles. He has been regularly teaching at summer academies in Royal Valley, Saint-Die-des-Vosges for more than 20 years. He is active as a recitalist and continuo playing, appearing as a recitalist throughout Europe, Canada, Chile and Japan. Among his numerous recordings are albums featuring organ music by French and Italian Baroque composers.

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Annual Ballot Issue

Included in this Opus issue, on Page 5, is the annual ballot for election of personnel to oversee the workings of the St. Louis Chapter, American Guild of Organists. You are encouraged to give careful consideration to the candidates and mail your marked ballot by the May 8 postmark deadline.
Greetings! On the Monday morning of our March meeting, we had 13 dinner reservations. Joan, our wonderful cook and caterer, insists on a minimum of 25. The night before, Cathy Bolduan and I had talked about canceling the dinner. The problem was that we always have a certain number of people who simply show up without reserving, and that usually works because Cathy knows about how many it usually is and pads the numbers. How would we let people know that we were canceling, not exactly knowing who might show up? So we gave Joan the go-ahead for a “skimpy 25.”

On Monday I sent an e-mail to the Board and Committee chairs, asking them to come and bring a friend. That might have accounted for an additional five people. Thanks, Board and Chairs!

But—and what a nice problem to have—we had THIRTY PEOPLE! Someone (you know who you are) had the brilliant idea of secretly cutting all the chicken breasts in half, and that’s what we did! Can you imagine the furor in the serving line had we not? It would rival a midnight madness sale at Penney’s, or the vicious surging crowd at the Walmart doors at 5 a.m. on the day after Thanksgiving!

This strikes fear into my very heart. It is wonderful to have everyone there, but, please, for your own safety and our sanity: RESERVE AHEAD FOR THE DINNER. Call, e-mail, whatever. Note that for this issue, you are directed to reserve with me instead of Cathy. This was arranged between us long ago for the April meeting, and is not related to the recent chicken scare.

I would like to thank the nominating committee: Martha Shaffer, Stephen Mager, and Cathy Bolduan, for their hard work in assembling the slate you will find on Page 5 in this OPUS issue.

I encourage you to vote. It is something you can do to help the Guild and is not time- or labor-intensive. I appreciate those who said they are willing to serve.

Enjoy the budding spring!

— Chuck Peery

Executive Committee Meeting Summary
March 16, 2009

The Executive Committee of the Saint Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists met at Trinity Presbyterian Church on March 16, 2009.

• In response to an inquiry about the availability of scholarship funds for participants in the upcoming Kansas City Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) June 21-26, 2009, the executive committee discussed the importance of supporting organ students of Chapter instructors. The committee approved a process to receive a letter of application and request for scholarship assistance from the student and his/her teacher. After review of the applications and requests by the executive committee, if approved, the scholarship assistance will be forwarded to the Kansas City POE on the student’s behalf.

• The Chapter office nomination procedure was included in the January OPUS issue. The Nominating Committee has selected candidates for the three 2012 members at large positions. Their biographical sketches and the official ballot are included in this OPUS issue.

• The executive committee received a nomination for the Avis Blewitt Award to be presented at the May annual meeting. The format of the May meeting, to be held at Centenary United Methodist Church, was discussed.

• The Program Committee is well underway in its planning of an exciting and engaging program for the 2009-2010 program year. The St. Louis Chapter will also be hosting a POE in 2010. We are still in need of someone willing to chair the 2010 POE effort. If you have an interest in chairing this event, please contact the Chapter Dean, Chuck Peery, via e-mail at cpeery@earthlink.net.

• The treasurer reported that we have a positive balance of $16,306.91 in the Chapter account.

— Dr. Bill Wade, Chapter secretary

THE OPUS
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Wayne King, Editor
You are invited to submit material to the editor for publication consideration. Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to opusslago@aol.com.
Next issue deadline: April 24, 2009
ORGAN RECITAL & CHORAL EVENSONG

FIRST SUNDAYS from OCTOBER through MAY
The St. Peter’s Singers - S. William Aitken, Director

Sunday, May 3
Recital & Choral Evensong for Eastertide
5:00 p.m. - Barbara Raedeke, Parkway United Church of Christ
5:30 p.m. - Final Evensong of the Season
Music of Arthur Baynon, Sasha Johnson Manning and Charles Wood

Organ Recitals and Choral Evensongs
Resume on Sunday, October 4

SAINT PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Warson and Ladue Roads • Saint Louis, Missouri
(One block east of Lindbergh Boulevard on Ladue Road)
Robert Chamberlin

Robert Chamberlin is director of music theory and musicianship and teaches music theory and composition at Webster University. He holds degrees in music theory and composition from St. Olaf College and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He did additional graduate work in composition at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and spent a month in Haarlem, The Netherlands, learning how to play the 31-tone-per-octave pipe organ at the Tyler’s Museum.

Bob has composed for a variety of ensembles and media and his music has been performed throughout the U.S., Canada, the Netherlands and Poland. He is the recipient of a Creative Artists Award from the Missouri Arts Council and has received a variety of commissions including those from the Webster Symphony Orchestra, the USAF Band of Mid-America, Metro Theatre Company and the Mid-America Dance Company.

Bob is currently the organist at Webster Groves Christian Church. Prior to that he was organist at Gethsemane Lutheran Church (ELCA).

David Erwin

David Erwin has been director of music ministry at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church and a member of the St. Louis AGO chapter since 2005, serving on the program committee for three years. He is a graduate of Westminster Choir College and has done extensive organ study in Paris with Marie-Louise Langlais. Prior to Ladue Chapel, he was director of music at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria, Va., and at First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, Conn. He is a member of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians and was on the faculty for the 2008 Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, N.C. He serves on the Community Partnership Advisory Board of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, and is a member of the St. Wilfrid Club of New York City.

Emily Pearce

After a hiatus of several years, Emily Pearce has returned to Guild membership. She was recently a choir member and substitute organist at Trinity Presbyterian and assistant organist at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church. In 2007, she accepted the organist’s position at First Unitarian Church in the Central West End, where she plays the Dobson tracker instrument and assists with the womens’ voices group.

Dawn Riske

Dawn Riske is currently teaching middle school music in the St. Louis City school system and pursuing a master’s degree in education at UMSL. She was formerly the organist at St. Joan of Arc parish. Dawn is a dual member of AGO and NPM. She has served as coordinator of AGO/NPM certification exams for the chapter for the past five years. (Dawn was formerly Dawn Riske Hoy.)

Dr. Ypma Presents Lecture & Recital on Church Musicians in Time of War

Dr. Nancy Ypma, second from left, chats with Barbara Raedeke and other chapter members following her presentation about the Second World War and its effects on four specific church musicians at the March chapter meeting at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church. Dr. Ypma chose as her subjects Paul Hindemith, Hugo Distler, Jehan Alain and Jean Langlais and discussed their music as it was influenced by social and political pressures of the time. She played an example of each composer’s music.
Executive Committee Members Election

OFFICIAL BALLOT

For Executive Committee Membership:
Term of Office: July 1, 2009, to June 30, 2012

VOTE FOR THREE NOMINEES

___ Robert Chamberlin

___ David Erwin

___ Emily Pearce

___ Dawn Riske

Send your ballot by First Class U.S. Mail to:

Denis Doelling, Auditor
St. Louis Chapter, American Guild of Organists
1210 Brownell Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63122-3208

Ballot must be postmarked by May 8, 2009.
Positions Available

Music Director
Clayton United Methodist Church, 101 North Bemiston, Clayton, MO 63105, is accepting applications for a part-time music director. Complete job description and information about how to apply can be found at www.claytonumc.org/jobs.

Organist/Pianist
Clayton United Methodist Church, 101 North Bemiston, Clayton, MO 63105, is accepting applications for a part-time organist/pianist. Complete job descriptions and information about how to apply can be found at www.claytonumc.org/jobs.

Organist
Arlington United Methodist Church, 3770 Mckelvey Rd., Bridgeton MO 63044, seeks an organist for traditional Sunday morning worship services at 8:30 and 11 a.m. The position entails providing introit, offertory, and benediction responses as well as accompanying the hymns and the choir anthem. The position also includes participation in the weekly choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Candidates should be able to embrace a wide variety of musical styles in worship. Please send an e-mail to aumc_sprc@yahoo.com for a complete job description.

Organist/Pianist
Delmar Baptist Church, 1001 Municipal Center Drive, Town & Country, MO 63131 (near Hwy. 40 and 270), seeks an organist/pianist. Duties include playing for one Sunday morning service year round plus Wednesday evening choir rehearsal for 9 months. Extra services during Advent, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Music in a broad range of styles, including classical European, American hymnody, and contemporary choruses. Contact Marsha Hussung, minister of music (314-432-1960 or delmarbc@hotmail.com).

Organist
Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, 14820 Conway Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63017, seeks an organist. Primary duties include playing for two traditional services each Sunday (8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.), seasonal services, and serving as accompanist for the chancel choir, which rehearses Wednesday at 7 p.m. 35-rank Reuter pipe organ which was built in 1969 and was updated/restored in 2003. For more information, contact Lynn Packwood (636-532-3486, ext. 715). Resumes may be sent to the church, ATTN: Organist Search.

Director of Music
St. John United Church of Christ, 405 S. Fifth St., St. Charles, MO 63301, seeks a director of music. St. John has a strong music program with a variety of musical groups including adult chancel choir, hand bell choir, youth and children choirs, and special musical groups. Director will minister within a team environment, seeking to inspire people of all ages to develop and use their musical gifts, use music as a vehicle to reach out to the larger community, and use music for fellowship within our the congregation. Must be proficient in both choral and instrumental music. For more information and a detailed job description, visit www.stjohhucc.org or e-mail friends@stjohhucc.org. To apply, e-mail your resume, a short (one page) statement as to how you would fit this position, and your most recent salary history to Amy Nunn at friends@stjohhucc.org.

Section Leaders
Saint Francis de Sales Oratory, 2653 Ohio Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118, seeks tenor and bass section leaders. The choir rehearses Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. and sings at Sunday 10 a.m. Solemn High Mass (9 a.m. call). For more information or to schedule an audition, contact Nick Botkins, director of sacred music/master of the choirs at nbotkins@institute-christ-king.org (e-mail preferred) or 314-771-3100, ext. 17. To learn about the Oratory visit www.institute-christ-king.org/stlouis/.

For Sale
Rodgers 7408 Glasgow organ. Purchased 1987. Very complete specification with 32’ pedal and transposer. Voicing includes harp, carillon, piano and harpsichord. For additional information contact Larry Rhodes, associate pastor, worship & discipleship, First Baptist Church of Bethalto, 220 South Prairie, Bethalto, IL 62010; phone 618-377-6472.
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