Juilliard’s Paul Jacobs In Messiaen Workshop in February

This month we have the opportunity to hear Paul Jacobs, who has re-invigorated the American organ scene with his once-in-a-generation gifts as a performer. His fellow organists have been quick to applaud his phenomenal technique and memory, his charismatic stage presence, his huge repertoire spanning five centuries, and the sense of showmanship he brings to an instrument more usually associated with staid and reserved performances. Paul Jacobs is also creating new interest for the organ in the wider musical world, which has recognized him as a musician of rare stature. He is in great demand in the United States and has growing recognition as a performer of unusual merit in Europe, South America, Asia and Australia.

He is the chair of the organ department at The Juilliard School, which recently honored him by appointing him to the William Schuman Scholars Chair for 2007. The award, named for a former president of the Juilliard School, is given annually to an artist and educator who has made significant contributions to both the intellectual and artistic life of the Juilliard community. Past recipients include the Juilliard String Quartet and composer Milton Babbit among a distinguished list of other faculty members.

On Monday, Feb. 19, at 7:30 p.m. Paul will present a workshop to the St. Louis AGO chapter, “The Organ and Olivier Messiaen,” showcasing the organ cycles of one of the most influential organists and composers of the 20th century. He is intimately acquainted with all of the composer’s works for the instrument, having performed many nine-hour Messiaen marathons in past years. You will find that Paul is an inspiring, articulate presenter and will give us all renewed appreciation for the composer and the pipe organ.

On Sunday, Feb. 18, at 2:30 p.m., Paul will perform a recital on the Cathedral Basilica’s 118-rank Kilgen/Wicks instrument, as part of the Cathedral Basilica’s ‘Music in a Great Space’ series. The program includes works by Bach, Franck, Reger, Messiaen, and Reubke’s ‘Sonata on the 94th Psalm.’ Tickets are $10 and can be purchased by calling 314-533-7662 or visiting their Web site, www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

These are two events you just won’t want to miss.

— Paul Vasile
Dear Friends,

In September I wrote about practicing during the heat of summer. Today I’m sitting at the computer, being ever-so-glad that the power is back on and the house is warm again after the last ice storm. Trying to read by candle light and practicing the piano with gloves on made me aware just how dependent I am on electricity and central heating! It made me think about being an organist in earlier centuries, practicing in buildings without central heating and light, and hiring someone to pump the organ.

Years ago in Pennsylvania, I was called to substitute one Sunday at a church which had a 3-manual Allen organ. When I arrived to practice I found that the congregation also owned a one-manual David Tannenberg tracker instrument, built in the early 1700s. A blower motor had been added, but nothing else had been changed. The pump mechanism was still intact, as were the candle holders on either side of the reading desk.

I was able to return to the church a few weeks later to spend some time playing on the old organ. The pipes had a lovely clear sound. It was a privilege to be able to touch an instrument made by a master-builder from the Colonial period - and to do it in air-conditioned comfort with plenty of light! — Martha Shaffer

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**Pipedreams Recitalist**

Ben Blasingame, a student of John Romeri, who participated in the St. Louis POE this summer, was one of the performers on the Pipedreams broadcast of Jan. 22. The program featured organ students who attended Interlochen arts camp. Ben played the first movement of Mendelssohn Sonata #4. Hear his performance on line at: www.pipedreams.publicradio.org/listings/0704

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**Players Needed For March Meeting**

The March AGO Chapter meeting will be a masterclass conducted by Christopher Young, organ professor at Indiana University. Paul Vasile is looking for 10 members who would like to participate in the class. The masterclass will focus on practice techniques and approaches to learning new literature. You do not need to bring a major recital piece — bring something that you would like to have Dr. Young help you with: critique of performance style, technical problems (fingering or pedaling), registration questions.

Contact Paul at 314-725-3840 or paul_jpc@swbell.net.

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**Conference at University of Notre Dame**

An invitation comes from Dr. Craig Cramer, professor of music, to attend the Lilly Fellows Regional conference, “Singing God’s Song Faithfully: Implications for Music and Theology Faculty Seeking to Prepare Music Leadership for the Church.” to be held at Notre Dame, April 12-14.

[Information: www.lillyfellows.org/regional_conferences.htm.](http://www.lillyfellows.org/regional_conferences.htm)

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**In Memoriam**

Former long-time member Glenn Freiner passed away on Friday, January 12, at the age of 79. Professor Freiner taught piano, organ and voice in the music department of McKendree College. He was organist at Belleville Presbyterian Church for over forty years. A memorial service will be held in May. Details will appear in The OPUS when they are available.

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**From James Thomashower, National AGO Executive Director**

“Kindly advise your members that the National Council has approved a very modest dues increase for 2007-2008. Dues for all categories of membership will rise by $2, with $1 designated for the chapter and $1 for national. The dues for a regular member will be $86. The current dues structure has remained unchanged for the last three years. Additional information will be published in The American Organist in the spring and distributed in a future mailing from headquarters.

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**THE OPUS**

The official publication of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

February 2007

Volume 23, No.5

Wayne King, Editor

You are invited to submit material to the editor for publication consideration. Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to opusstlago@aol.com.

February issue deadline: March 1, 2007
Lincoln to Host Region VI Convention

“Why would 12 to 15 people meet EVERY MONTH since February 2005 planning an organ convention? Why would those same people spend time getting bids, making phone calls, recruiting members for sub-committees, driving to churches, printshops, visitors’ bureaus and hotels, and spending their own money to carry out their committee responsibilities? To give YOU the BEST TIME at the Region VI AGO Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 18-21. “Winds on the Prairie” will be four days of world-famous organists, interesting clinicians and workshop leaders, two beautiful cities to see, and, most important, world-famous organists playing the newest organs in Lincoln and Omaha.

These organists include Paul Jacobs, James David Christie, Victoria R. Sirota, Samuel Gaskin, 14-year-old organ prodigy from Beaumont, Texas, Jeffrey Blersch, David Spicer, Marie Rubis Bauer, Jonas Nordwall, and Brett Valiant. Check out our Web site: www.agolincoln.org. Hope to see you in Lincoln in June!”

Exam Application Deadlines

March 1 - Deadline for applications to take the CAGO and SPC tests in May.
April 1 - Individual applications for June FAGO, AAGO, and ChM examinations must have reached Headquarters and the Examination Center.

Upcoming Meetings...

Put the remaining chapter meetings for the 2006-2007 year on your calendar:
- Monday, March 26 — Masterclass with Christopher Young. Venue: Parkway United Church of Christ, Des Peres.
- Monday, April 30 — Global Hymnody with Dr. C. Michael Hawn. Venue: University United Methodist Church, University City.

Watch for more information about each meeting in the monthly OPUS newsletter.

Daniel Roth
Organist of Saint-Sulpice, Paris
performs at
Principia College
Cox Auditorium
Elsah, Illinois

Tuesday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Roth will perform on the magnificent new 3-manual, 55-rank mechanical-action Casavant Frères organ.

He will include a brilliant improvisation as part of his all-French program.

Admission is open to all, free of charge.
Organlive.com, based in St. Louis, is an Internet audio station dedicated to the music of the classical organ. Founded by Chapter member Brent Johnson, organist at Third Baptist Church, and broadcasting since August 2003, Organlive has become the most heard organ station on the Internet with the largest library of music online. The ever-growing library currently holds over 5,900 tracks from more than 500 albums of music recorded by organists all over the world.

Organlive plays albums recorded on pipe, digital, and combination organs played by the world’s best concert organists, as well as tracks recorded and submitted by less renowned organists. Included are pairings of organ and orchestra, solo instruments, choir, or vocal solos. The listener is presented with the work title, composer, album title, a link to purchase the album online, the organ, its builder, size, and location, and a link to the specification of the organ being heard. The broadcast is completely free to anyone with a broadband Internet connection and only requires the quick, automatic installation of a browser-based player to tune in.

Listeners can also tune in via Windows Media Player, WinAmp, iTunes, or any MP3 player. The audio stream reaches over 100 countries around the world, with more than 300 listeners per day tuning in. The station is funded by the listeners, and an annual budget covering all operating expenses is raised every spring.

Originally the station required the input and maintenance of several hands to grow, gain a listenership, and to survive through the first year of broadcasting. Through upgrades in equipment and software, the station is virtually self-operating, requiring human input only for routine maintenance and additions. To continue Organlive’s growth in the future, however, we are seeking volunteers. Opportunities include assistance with monitoring the broadcasts and handling requests, editing audio for library additions, promoting the station online, recording voiceover material when needed, collecting composer biographical material, and assistance with annual fund raising. We are looking for people who are comfortable working with a computer, and possibly have experience with HTML, MySQL, or PHP.

In addition, we are seeking people who may own remote digital recording equipment. Most of all we need people who have two or three hours a month to spare for proofreading new information, sending out the occasional e-mail or posting on Internet forums. Most work can be done from any computer with a broadband Internet connection. If you are willing to help, then please Brent at brentj@organlive.com for more information.

If you’re unable to volunteer, please tune in and enjoy the broadcast.
On the Concert Horizon...

Sunday, Feb. 18, 2:30 p.m. St. Louis Cathedral Basilica, 4431 Lindell Blvd. Paul Jacobs, organist, in concert. Jacobs has re-invigorated the American organ scene with his once-in-a-generation gifts as a performer. His huge repertoire spans five centuries. His fellow organists are quick to applaud his phenomenal technique and memory, as well as his particular kind of audience-friendly showmanship. Tickets $10. Purchase by calling 314-533-7662 or online at www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, Feb. 18, 3 p.m. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 115 South Sixth St., St. Charles, Mo. St. Louis Chamber Chorus presents “Luther’s Legacy” with Philip Barnes, artistic director. Tickets: 636-458-4343.

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. Cox Auditorium, Principia College, Elsah, Ill. Daniel Roth, organist at Saint-Sulpice, Paris, will play an all-French program which will include a brilliant improvisation. Free admission.


Sunday, March 4, 7 p.m. Hope United Church of Christ, 6273 Eichelberger Ave. at Tamm Ave., St. Louis Hills. Choral Concert - Kenyon College Chamber Singers from Gambier, Ohio. Free will offering.

Monday, March 5, 8 p.m. St. Louis Cathedral Basilica, 4431 Lindell Blvd. St. Thomas Choir, New York City, in concert. The choir is considered by major critics both at home and abroad to be the outstanding choral ensemble of the Anglican music tradition in the U.S. today. Don’t miss their first visit to St. Louis. Tickets $35, $25 and $15. Purchase by calling 314-533-7662 or online at www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.


Sunday, March 18, 1 p.m. Congregation Shaare Emeth, 11645 Ladue Road. Concert performance of Houston Bright’s “The Vision of Isaiah” and Donald McCullough’s “Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps” with chancel choir of First United Methodist Church of Webster Groves, speakers, and instrumentalists. Dr. Robert J. Hutcheson conducting. Congregation Shaare Emeth, 11645 Ladue Road. Information: 314-569-0010.

Sunday, March 18, 7 p.m. St. Joan of Arc Church, Hampton and Pernod. An Evening of Song and Prayer featuring the St. Joan of Arc choirs and musicians.

Sunday, March 25, 4 p.m. First United Methodist Church of Webster Groves, 600 North Bompart Ave. Concert performance of Houston Bright’s “The Vision of Isaiah” and Donald McCullough’s “Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps” with chancel choir, speakers, and instrumentalists. Dr. Robert J. Hutcheson conducting. Childcare available. A salad reception follows in Fellowship Hall. Information: 314-961-4133.

Sunday, April 15, 3 p.m. St. Ambrose Church, 5130 Wilson Ave. “on The Hill.” St. Louis Chamber Chorus presents “Italian Salad” with Philip Barnes, artistic director. Tickets: 636-458-4343.
Some Things You Probably Didn’t Know about Music

Of the many difficult-to-attribute gems knocking around on the Internet these days, the following is one of our favorites. All that can be said with certainty is that it contains actual quotes from elementary music students collected by a nameless teacher in St. Louis over a 22-year career.

• “When I learned we were going to take a trip to hear a symphony orchestra, I told my feet to quiet down but they felt too Saturday to listen.”
• “I would like for you to teach me to play the cello. Would tomorrow or Friday be best?”
• “If you keep moving two fingers real fast on the piano, you get a thrill.”
• “I can’t reach the brakes on this piano!”
• “The best way to tune up is to use a pitchfork.”
• “A good thing to remember about trying to pick up a tuba is don’t.”
• “Will we ever get to the point where music is no longer taught in schools? The chances are 999 out of a hundred.”
• “A diminuendo is something only encyclopedias know for sure.”
• “Tutti means everybody toot at the same time.”
• “I know what a sextet is but I would rather not say.”
• “Fortissimo means real loud. It is the way a composer yells on music paper.”
• “Refrain means don’t do it! A refrain in music is the part you better not play.”
• “Flats are okay in music but bad in tires.”
• “Pieces written in minor keys sometimes make me feel nervous, like when my mom is looking at me under her breath.”
• “Just about any animal skin can be stretched over a frame to make a pleasant sound once the animal is removed.”
• “By shortening and lengthening tubing filled with air, high and low sounds can be made. Only wind instruments can understand this well enough to make it work for them. When electric currents go through them, guitars start making sounds. So would anybody.”
• “When we blow into a whistle, the air is pushed together in some places and pulled apart in others. Naturally it screams and that is the sound we hear.”
• “Many things about electronic instruments that were once thought to be science fiction now actually are.”

• Question: Who composed The Hallelujah Chorus? Answer: “George Fredric Doorknob.”
• “Although Rossini was once considered a great composer of operas, we now know of operas he failed to compose.”
• “I like to listen to the Sorcerer’s Appendix.”
• “Richard Wagner was born in 1813, supposably on his birthday.”
• “Beethoven expired in 1827 and later died from this.”
• “Haydn got married when he was 28 years old and became the father of classical music.”
• “Handel was deeply religious because in some of his music he talks about Ye and Thee and people like that.”
• “Handel was half German, half Italian and half English; he was rather large.”
• “Felix Mendelssohn seems to have been happy, honest and well-liked, although a musician.”
• “Berlioz proved he was a wonderful composer by going insane.”
• “Music is one of our most anesthetic arts.”
Positions Available

Music/Choir Director

*Our Lady of the Rosary*, 11725 Bellefontaine Road, St Louis, MO 63138 is seeking a music/choir director. Duties include two masses on Sunday at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., weekly rehearsals with the Schola and participate in monthly and other special liturgy meetings. Music program includes traditional and contemporary music. For more information contact Fr. Tom Haley at 314-741-7700.

Director of Liturgy

*St. Alban Roe*, 2001 Shepard Rd., Wildwood, MO 63038. Duties include selecting liturgical music for the weekend liturgical celebration, schedule cantors, conduct weekly adult choir rehearsal, form children’s choir for the 4 p.m. mass on Saturday, play for holy days and Parish School of Religion masses. Contact Fr. Mike Bors at 636-458-2977 or fax resume to 636-405-1276.

Worship Leader

*Mt. Zion United Methodist Church*, 1485 Craig Road, Creve Coeur, Mo., is seeking a worship leader for a new contemporary service beginning in January. Duties include music selection, play an instrument, attend practices, sing and help the pastor lead the congregation through the service. Contact the church at 314-432-4251 for more information.

Organist/Accompanist

*John Knox Presbyterian Church*, 13200 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63033, is seeking a part-time organist and accompanist. Duties include playing for the traditional Sunday worship service at 8:45 a.m. and attending Wednesday choir rehearsal from 7:30-9 p.m. Salary is $75 for each service and choir rehearsal. Contact Kim Kolander, director of music, at 314-412-7021.

Organist

*Kirkwood Baptist Church*, 221 N. Woodlawn, Kirkwood, MO 63122, is seeking a gifted individual to serve as church organist. Responsibilities include two Sunday morning services and a 1-2 hour choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings, occasional special services and other music related responsibilities. The organ is an integral part of the church’s worship life. The organ is a three-manual, 43 rank instrument built by Quimby that has an excellent variety of stops needed for the performance of organ literature from all periods. The organ was updated in the spring of 2003. Required skills necessary for this position: a thorough understanding of worship, excellent musicianship, excellent accompanying skills, diversity and experience in a variety of musical styles as well as a flexible team spirit. A sense of humor is vital! A job description is available upon request. The desired start date is February 2007. Contact Greg Lundberg at 314-965-2349, ext. 20, or by e-mail glundberg@kirkwoodbaptist.org. Visit the church’s Web site www.kirkwoodbaptist.org to learn about the church ministries and activities.

Director of Music and Liturgy Coordinator

*St. Gerard Majella Catholic Church*, 1969 Dougherty Ferry Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122, is seeing a full-time director of music and liturgy coordinator. For more information, contact Father Thomas Molina, 314-965-3985. Resumes can be faxed to 314-965-7650.

Organist

*St. Giana Catholic Church*, 331 Charity Drive, Lake St. Louis, MO 63367, is seeking an organist. Duties include playing for masses on Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. Contact Mrs. Paula Brown, 636-561-4669 for more information.

Choir Director

*College United Methodist Church*, 701 E Main St., Warrenton, MO 63383, is seeking an adult choir director. The position is part-time Sept.-May for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Practice is Wednesday evenings. Resumes and inquiries may be sent to Pastor Christiane Batjer, 636-456-3390.

(Positions Available continued on back cover)
Positions Available

(Continued from page 7)

Choir Director
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 3600 Hampton, St. Louis, Mo., is seeking a part-time choir director. For more information, contact Pastor Kendra Nolde at 352-8050.

Choir Accompanist
St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, 2761 Telegraph Road, St. Louis, MO 63125, is seeking a part-time choir accompanist. Candidates must possess good piano skills and be able to work with volunteers and choir director. Experience in leading sectionals preferred. The position requires 1.5-hour choir rehearsal each Tuesday evening (except summer) and two services on Sunday morning at 8 and 11. Additional rehearsals for Christmas, Easter and other performances. Salary negotiable based on experience. Contact Rev. Jon Thompson at 314-892-5595 for further information or mail references and resume.

Director of Music Liturgy
Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 6603 Christopher Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129, is seeking a director of music liturgy to organize parish music program. Duties include coordinating with the directors of the contemporary ensembles, adult, youth and children's choirs. Candidate will be expected to play for some of the parish liturgies. Days and times to be determined at the interview. Contact Rev. Joseph Simon at 314-846-8207, ext. 204; fax 314-846-0636, or e-mail to jms@qasstl.org.

Organist
First United Methodist Church, 4349 St. John’s Road, Washington, MO 63090, seeks organist/pianist. Duties include playing for 10:30 Sunday worship, accompanying children’s and adult choir rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6 - 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9:45 a.m. Salary is $80 per week. For more information, contact the church office at 636-239-4477 or the pastor at 816-510-5283.

Director of Liturgy/Music
Mary Mother of the Church, 5901 Kerth Road, 63128, seeks full-time director of liturgy/music. Candidates to be assessed on basis of their collaborative liturgical competence, keyboard skills on piano and organ and choir direction talent. Salary to be negotiated based on skills and the Pastoral Musicians’ guidelines for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Resumes to The Search Team at the church. Fax 314- 894-3801; e-mail pastor@mmoc4u.org. Letters of recommendation and references are welcome.

Director of Music
St. Paul’s Catholic Church, 15 Forest Knoll, Fenton, MO 63026, seeks full or three-quarter time director of music. Duties include playing organ for Sunday 8:30 mass, holy days, funerals, weddings and school masses, direct choirs at 10 and 11:30 masses and planning liturgies. Want to form two adult choirs, children's choir and handbell choir as well as develop cantor program. Salary follows Archdiocesan scale. For more information contact Fr. Mike at 636-343-1234, ext. 138 or fax 636-343-4809.