Let’s ‘Sing Up a Storm’ at March Meeting

This month we offer an anthem-reading session. There will be a selection of seasonal and general titles, new releases and older pieces, all from easy to moderately difficult. There will be a few titles for unison/two parts. Several publishers will be represented. The goal for the evening is to help you plan ahead and find a new piece or two for the end of this liturgical year, for your summer choir, and for next fall.

As part of the selection process, I’ve been visiting various publishers’ Web sites. A lot of information is available online, both as pdf files and recorded performance samples. I’d like to compile a listing of publishers Web sites to distribute at the meeting, and would like help from the membership in drawing up the list. If there are to your colleagues as good reference sources, would you please send them to me at mnmshaffer@att.net.

Hope to see you on March 27. Please come and sing.

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Our April meeting will especially important for Chapter membership. We’ll hear a comprehensive review of the upcoming Pipe Organ Encounter. Some of the details are included in this OPUS issue, and I encourage you to pull out your copy of the February issue and reread Dean Stephen Mager’s fine column with 31 suggestions for how you can be of help in this major project.

— Martha Shaffer
On the Subject of Digital Technology

Last month our chapter presented a program on MIDI and digital organ technology. Judging by the attendance, there is lively interest in this subject. I was pleased to make the acquaintance of some delightful people at that event, including several who are not AGO members. One person told me, in effect, that he was not a member because the Guild only seems to recognize pipe organs and those who play them. Naturally, I was sorry to hear him say that, but his remarks were not surprising, and I am prompted to attempt a constructive response.

I suggest that the great “divide” between those who play pipe organs and digital organs is largely illusory. Most of us keyboard players, in the course of our careers, are called upon to make effective music on instruments of variable type, character, and quality. And unlike the violinist, whose instrument is almost an extension of his body, the organist is remarkably unattached, like an itinerant frontier pedagogue in search of a schoolhouse. All of us at one time or another have had to make the best of a ciphering electro-pneumatic, or an old Hammond with a single octave pedal-board, to say nothing of out-of-tune spinet pianos with broken keys.

I think it is fair to say that the pipe organ remains the archetype for digital instruments. For decades, electronic models have imitated pipe organ nomenclature, principles of voicing, and console design, and newer versions feature sampled sounds from historic instruments. Hence, our coming summer education institute is called “Pipe Organ Encounter,” not to exclude digital organs, but to acknowledge the historic prototype of ecclesiastical instruments.

Every organist, even the most traditional, enjoys the benefits of technology, if only to dispense with manually operated bellows. Many of the ingenious advances in solid-state and digital technology have proven immensely helpful, and we would do well to consider new developments with open minds. Nonetheless, at some point we are compelled to raise some incisive questions. I will not presume to give definitive answers, and each reader may very well arrive at different conclusions than mine. Still, it is in our interest to ask the questions and think carefully about the implications of our answers.

Is music in worship ancillary or atmospheric, or can it be in itself a worshipful expression? Can the playing of an instrumental solo be construed as an act of worship? To what extent is it necessary that music in communal worship be “live?”

One impressive technological development is the “sequencer.” Available on pipe and digital instruments, this device enables the “recording” of one’s own playing, permitting the instrument to replicate that performance. To what extent does the use of sequencer playback in worship constitute “live music?” How does such use of the sequencer differ from the pre-recorded accompaniment tapes offered by many choral publishers, or other recorded music?

Is the use of a digitally sampled instrumental sound a suitable substitute for engaging an instrumental soloist? Would it be valid to substitute digitally sampled sounds for, say, a handbell ensemble? To what extent is this likely to broaden or narrow the scope of church music ministry?

The artistic use of illusion is a vital creative technique, such as we hear in the suggestive art of the organ transcription. Likewise, the distinctive character and beauty of the “orchestral organ” arises from its imitation rather than replication of orchestral sounds. What is the impact of “virtual reality,” with accurate, digitally sampled sounds, on musical imagination and genuine artistic inventiveness?

Those are my questions; you fill in the answers. Ultimately, whatever our view of digital organ technology, we should be deeply concerned about how we use it, because the discussion is about more than the purely aesthetic.

— Stephen Mager
PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER (POE) UPDATE

The Planning Continues…

It’s March, and that means that there are only 101 (as of Ash Wednesday) days until the beginning of our Pipe Organ Encounter! Last month our out-of-town teachers and performers were announced. I would like to add the name of Naomi Rowley to that list. Naomi is the national chair of the Committee on the New Organist, and will be joining us here in St. Louis for our POE.

In addition to lessons, classes, and the “Build Your Own Pipe” session, other fun events for the week include: an opening hymn festival, a trip to the Fox with Stan Kann, an organ crawl to several area churches, the opportunity to learn about and play the harpsichord. Of course, no summer week in St. Louis would be complete without a trip to Ted Drewes! Chapter members are invited and encouraged to participate in and attend all events that week.

I hope you will save and reread Dean Stephen Mager’s column from the February *Opus*. In it, he listed 31 ways to help with the POE. All are easily manageable tasks. Additionally, several churches are considering donating to the POE. In addition to a personal donation, consider asking your church to contribute to this wonderful outreach. Checks may be made to St. Louis POE 2006 and may be sent to Denis Doelling, treasurer.

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Event

[Thanks to chapter member Nancy Massar-Sewell for submitting this information.]

The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Missouri will hold its 2006 General Assembly, April 28-29, at Kirkwood Baptist Church. The program will include a performance by pianist Joseph Martin, worship, and a leadership seminar by Dr. Diana Butler Bass. Register online at www.cbfmo.org/. For information call 816-415-0009 or visit the Web site.

Wanted: Student Recitalists For April Meeting

Our April 24 chapter meeting, a POE Preview event, will include a recital by young local organists. Students with prepared repertoire are invited to participate. Teacher approval is required. Repertoire should be 3 to 7 minutes in length. Venue: Grace Methodist Church. It is open to the first five applicants. Apply by March 21. Contact Dr. Marie Kremer at 314-421-3749 or marjkrem@aol.com.

Welsh Heritage Choir of St. Louis Open to New Members

Everyone interested in singing the beautiful music of Wales is invited to join the Welsh Heritage Choir of St. Louis. There are no auditions. Performances are in Welsh as well as English, but thanks to our Welsh language advisor, it is not necessary for members to be able to speak Welsh. Rehearsals are 1:30-3:30 p.m. the first and third Sundays of each month at St. Francis DeSales Church, 2653 Ohio, St. Louis, Mo. For more information, e-mail Nadine Eddington, director, at nadinee402@hotmail.com or call Marion McGuinn at 314-830-0154.

Call for Nominations to the Executive Board

The chapter nominating committee is now deliberating on nominees for the three "at-large" executive members of the Class of 2008. Members of the chapter, on private initiative, may submit nominations for inclusion on the ballot. Such nominations require five or more signatures of members in good standing. The election will take place, as stipulated in the chapter by-laws, in combined balloting by either U.S. Mail or in person at the April 24 chapter meeting. Nominations should be sent by U.S. Mail to Stephen Mager, dean. The deadline for nominations is April 17.

Next Executive Board Meeting May 8

The Chapter Executive Board recently convened on March 13. The board will convene for the final time this season on May 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethel Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsyth at Big Bend.
**On the Concert Horizon…**

**MARCH**

**Sunday, March 19, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. worship services,**
Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood Ave.,
Webster Groves, MO 63119. “A Perfect Fifth” performing music of
women composers in celebration of *Women in Music Month.*
Information: 314.962.9210 x 3108.

**Sunday, March 19, 2:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and
Olive, downtown St. Louis. Dr. Barbara Harbach, organ (Faculty,
University of Missouri-Saint Louis). Music by Women Composers
for the Organ: Fanny Mendelssohn, Elizabeth Stirling, Mary
Jeanne van Appledorn, Barbara Harbach. Information:
314.231.3454.

**Sunday, March 19, 3:00 p.m.** Saint Louis Abbey Church, 500
South Mason Rd. near I-64-Hwy. 40. Concert by the Saint Louis
Women’s Chorale. *Play of the Virtues.* The open, circular space and
the generous acoustic of the St. Louis Priory is a perfect venue
for Hildegard von Bingen’s beautiful opera, *Ordo Virtutum.* The
work was written in 1150 for the religious community where
Hildegard was Abbess. *Ordo* will be semi-staged with professional
singers and Chorale members singing the title roles as well as the
chorus parts. Information: 314.434.0031.

**Sunday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.** Saint Francis Xavier (College)
Church, Grand and Lindell, on the campus of St. Louis University.
Bach Society of Saint Louis, A. Dennis Sparger, conductor, J. S.

**Tuesday, March 21, 7:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and
Olive, downtown St. Louis. Southern Illinois University-
Edwardsville Choirs, Dr. Joel Knapp, Director. Music of Bach,
Mozart, Whitacre. Information: 314.231.3454.

**Thursday, March 23, 12:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13th
and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Organ concert by William
Partridge, Cathedral Organist, [or by a guest organist].
Information: 314.231.3454.

**Friday, March 24, 12:00 noon.** First Presbyterian Church,
Kirkwood, 100 East Adams. *ConSpirito* series—Lenten Music for

**Sunday, March 26, 1:00 p.m.** Third Baptist Church, 620 North
Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63103. Organ recital by Brent
Johnson, organist: *Organ Music from France.* Free.

**Sunday, March 26, 4:00 p.m.** Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church,
9450 Clayton Rd. Organ Recital by David Erwin; works by Cook,
Clérambault, Bach, Karg-Elert, Franck and others. Free. Contact
David Erwin, 314.993.4771.

**Sunday, March 26, 5:00 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and
Olive, downtown St. Louis. Lenten Evensong. The Cathedral
Choir, William Partridge, Organist and Choirmaster. Information:
314.231.3454.

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Monday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. AGO-St. Louis Chapter event.
Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington Ave., University City, MO 63130. Choral Reading session: Anthems for Pentecost and Trinity, and general anthems for the summer. Dinner precedes at 6:30 p.m. Make dinner reservations ($8) to Dr. Kathleen Bolduan, at 314.935.5517 or kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu. Information: See the Opus newsletter.

Thursday, March 30, 12:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Organ concert by William Partridge, Cathedral Organist, [or by a guest organist]. Information: 314.231.3454.

Thursday, March 30, 7:00 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Recital by Lee Riecki, organist. Music of Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, Boellmann, Bainton, and Vierne. Information: 314.231.3454.

Friday, March 31, 12:00 noon. First Presbyterian Church, Kirkwood, 100 East Adams. ConSpirito series—Lenten Music for Meditation: Mieko Hironaka, piano & Robert Myer, viola. Freewill offering.

Friday, March 31, 7:30 p.m. Shryock Auditorium, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Illinois. Annual Subscription Series Organ Recital: Bruce Neswick, Organist and Choirmaster of St. Philip’s Cathedral, Atlanta, Georgia. Free. Information: Sid Smith at ssflt2@msn.com.

APRIL

Saturday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington Ave., University City, MO 63130. The Saint Louis Stompers performing jazz, swing and Dixieland. Free. Reception follows. Info: 314.725.3840 or www.trinityucity.org.

Saturday, April 1, 7:30 p.m. Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsyth at Big Bend, University City (across from the campus of Washington U.). Millikin Children’s Chorus, Beth Holmes, director. Ursuline Academy Chorus, Neal Frederiksen, director. Concert of music for young people. Free. Reception follows. Information: 314.863.3112.

Sunday, April 2, 2:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Kingsbury Ensemble, Maryse Carlin, Director. Vocal and Chamber Music from Baroque Italy and Spain. Information: 314.231.3454.


Sunday, April 2, 4:00 p.m. Parkway United Church of Christ, 2841 North Balls Road, St. Louis, MO 63131. Organ Recital by Barbara Raedeke. Music of Bruhns, Brahms, Bach, Hindemith and Widor. Free admission. Information: 314.872.9330.

Sunday, April 2, 5:00 p.m. St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, Ladue and Warson Roads. Organ Recital by Earl Naylor of Emmanuel Episcopal Church. 5:30 p.m. Choral Evensong with music of Darke and Poulenc. Free.

Thursday, April 6, 12:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Organ concert by William Partridge, Cathedral organist, [or by a guest organist]. Information: 314.231.3454.

Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 115 West B Street, Belleville, Ill. St. Paul Fine Arts Series: The University of Illinois British Brass Band. Freewill offering. Info.: 618.233.3303, ext. 118.

Friday, April 7, 12:00 noon. First Presbyterian Church, 100 East Adams, Kirkwood. ConSpirito series—Lenten Music for Meditation: Robert Anderson, clarinet. Freewill offering.


(continued on next page)
April (continued)

Sunday, April 9, 8:30 and 10 a.m. worship services. Salem United Methodist Church, 1200 S. Lindbergh, 63131 near I-64/Hwy 40. Fauré Requiem. Salem Chancel Choir and instrumentalists. Charlene Parkinson, conductor; Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart, organist. Information: 314.991.0546.

Sunday, April 9, 3:00 p.m. Wartburg Hall on the campus of Concordia Seminary, Clayton, Mo. Bach at the Sem Series: The Arianna Quartet. Franz Joseph Haydn, The Seven Words of Christ, with brief meditations by Dr. Robert Bergt. Free will offering.


Thursday, April 13, 12:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Organ concert for Maundy Thursday by William Partridge, Cathedral Organist, or by a guest organist. Information: 314.231.3454.

Good Friday, April 14, 12:00 noon. First Presbyterian Church, 100 East Adams, Kirkwood. Con Spirito series—Lenten Music for Meditation: Theodore Dubois, The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross. The Chancel choir, soloists, organ, harp and timpani. Dr. Franklin E. Perkins, conducting. Freewill offering.

Friday, April 14, 12:15 p.m. Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, 7001 Forsyth at Big Bend, University City (across from Washington U.). Good Friday observance, featuring The Seven Last Words of Christ, by Heinrich Schütz. Willard Cobb, tenor, Bruce Carvell, tenor, with instrumental ensemble. Stephen Mager, director. Information: 314.863.3112.

Friday, April 14, 7:00 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, MO 63108. Good Friday organ recital by Charles Collins. Works by Bruhns, Franck, Hindemith, Pinkham. Information: 314.367.0366 or music@secondchurch.net.

Friday, April 14, 7:15 p.m. St. John’s Lutheran Church, 3517 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, Mo. St. John’s Festival Choir and Chamber Orchestra. The Seven Last Words of Christ by Théodore Dubois. Information: 636.464.0096 or www.sjlcarnold.org.

Sunday, April 16, 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. worship services. Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119. New Century Brass Quintet. Information: 314.962.9210, x 3108.

Tuesday, April 18, 7:00 p.m. Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, 801 Seminary Pl., Concordia Seminary, Clayton, Mo. Bach at the Sem Series. The American Kantorei, Robert Bergt, Music Director and Conductor. Portions of Bach’s Mass in B Minor, music of Buxtehude and Schütz. Freewill offering.

Thursday, April 20, 12:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Organ concert by William Partridge, Cathedral Organist, or by a guest organist. Information: 314.231.3454.


Sunday, April 23, 3:00 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 237 N. Kansas, Edwardsville, IL 62025. Recital by Katherine Jolly, soprano; Amanda Blaikie, flute (First place winners, 2005 Southern Illinois Young Artist Competition, part of the 2005-06 Concert Series). Information: 618.656.4550.

Sunday, April 23, 4:00 p.m. Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood Ave. Webster Groves, MO 63119. Vaughan Williams’ Mass in G minor (double chorus); music from The Mission by Ennio Morricone. The choirs of Webster Groves Presbyterian and First United Methodist Church of Webster Groves, Shawn Portell and Robert Hutcheson, directors. Free. Information: 314.962.9210, ext 3108.

Sunday, April 23, 4:00 p.m. Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, 9450 Clayton Rd. Recital by Ladue Chapel soloists Amy Schwarz and Anna Kreisle, sopranos; Tasha Nicholson, mezzo; Chip Broze, baritone; Sebastian Deken and Rob Humble, bass. Program of arias, art songs, popular music; solos and ensembles. Free. Contact David Erwin, 314.993.4771.

Sunday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. Manchester United Methodist Church, 129 Woods Mill Road, Manchester, MO 63011. Handel’s Messiah (excerpts), other choral masterworks. MUMC Chancel Choir and Orchestra. Contact Ted Cronbaugh: 636.200.4728.

* Monday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. AGO-Saint Louis Chapter event. Venue: TBA. Pipe Organ Encounter Preview. Dinner precedes at 6:30 p.m. Make dinner reservations ($8) to Dr. Kathleen Bolduan, at 314.935.5517 or kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu. Information: See the April Opus newsletter.

Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 p.m. Faith United Methodist Church, 2950 Drosto Road, St. Charles, Mo. Concert by J. David Hart, organist. Dedication of new Makin organ. Free. Contact Cheryl Purcell, Director of Worship Arts. 636.946.6398.

Thursday, April 27, 12:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Organ concert by William Partridge, Cathedral Organist, or by a guest organist. Information: 314.231.3454.

Blewett, Honor Awards Deferred for 2006

In recent deliberations, the chapter executive board, by the power vested in it by the chapter by-laws, has decided to suspend the conferral of the Avis Blewett Award and the Guild Honors Awards for this year. This does not mean that the awards are being suspended indefinitely. Nominations for the awards will be considered next year at this time. Furthermore, our annual awards banquet will take place as scheduled on May 22 at Second Presbyterian Church in the Central West End. On that evening, the chapter will honor past recipients of the Blewett Award, including our guest lecturer-recitalist, Dr. Kathleen Thomerson, FAGO. We urge the membership to attend.
Positions Available

Organist/Director
Little Flower Catholic Church 1264 Arch Terrace, Richmond Heights, MO 63117, is seeking an organist/choir director. Duties include playing for the 5 p.m. Saturday and 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses. Direct adult choir and cantor program. Choir practices on Thursday evenings. Instruments include a three-manual pipe organ and grand piano. Possible opportunity to teach in school. Contact Fr. Larry Herzog at (314) 645-1445 for more information.

Choir Director
First Christian Church, Edwardsville, Ill., seeks choir director who will be responsible for the choral ministry of the traditional worship service, including weekly rehearsals (Sept. through June) and Sunday morning worship participation. Resumes and inquiries may be sent to Rev. James Brooks at (618) 656-7498 or jrbrooks@fccedwardsville.org.

Organist/Choir Director
Lafayette Park Methodist Church, 2300 Lafayette Ave., St. Louis, MO 63104, is seeking a part-time organist/choir director. This position enhances the worship experience of a small, diverse urban congregation that has an amazing outreach ministry into its community through playing the organ, piano, and directing the choir. This person supports the music in the 8 a.m. celebration/contemporary service and 10 a.m. traditional service. Conduct weekly choir rehearsals Sept. through May. Coordinate/direct music for special services such as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Four Sundays of vacation annually. For information, contact Rev. Kathleen Wilder at (314) 479-8446 or lppastor@sbcglobal.net.

Director of Music
Dardenne Presbyterian Church, 7400 Highway N, Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368, seeks a full-time director of music to oversee and direct the chancel choir, music program and music staff. Proficiency in piano, strong leadership abilities, and competency in a broad range of music genre. Submit resumes to music-director-search@charter.net or send to Dardenne Presbyterian Church, Attention: Music Director Search Committee.

Organist
First Presbyterian Church, Jackson, Mo., has an immediate opening for an organist. Primary responsibilities include Sunday worship at 10 a.m. and Wednesday night choir rehearsal. Special services as the seasons require are also included. Please contact the Rev. Grant Gillard at (573) 243-4265, or Susan Venable at (537) 243-2243, or Jane Hull at (573) 243-5484 or send an e-mail to reddoorswarmhearts@yahoo.com.

Organist
Zion United Methodist Church, 3652 State Hwy Z, Gordonville MO 63701 (just west of Cape Girardeau) is seeking an organist for our two weekly Sunday morning services (8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.), and several special services throughout the year. Organist prepares prelude, offertory and postlude, and plays several hymns and other service music (i.e., doxology) during the two traditional services. Organ is a recently refurbished single manual tracker organ. Send inquiries to the attention of the Organist Search Committee at the church.

Organist and Bell Choir Director
Church of the Master, U.C.C., 1325 Paddock Dr. Florissant, MO 63033. Play for 9:30 a.m. service and accompany choir. Direct 2 bell choirs. Bell choir rehearsals are Thursdays at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. Choir rehearsals are at 6:45 and 7:45 p.m. The salary for a bell director is around $3,200 per year, and the salary for the organist is approximately $9,000 per year. Contact the search committee through the church office at (314) 921-3344, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.

Positions Available continued on back cover
Positions Available

Substitute Organist Leader
Mother of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Maryville, Ill., is seeking a substitute organist/leader. Annual salary $100. Contact Fr. Tom Haley (636) 946-6641.

Organist
St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 10, Pocahontas, MO 63779. Organist to play for worship services one, two or three times a month. Smaller church with good equipment. Partial compensation. Contact Pastor Bruce Ritter at (573) 833-6260 or e-mail at stjohns@showme.net.

Singer Seeking Position
Experienced tenor, seeking paid position as section leader or soloist. Call John Thomas at (314) 894-0342.

Music/Leadership
Our Lady of the Rosary Catholic Church, is seeking an experienced organist/pianist. Contact Fr. Tom Haley at (314) 741-7700.

For Sale
Packard Grand manual organ [harmonium] for sale. Photos available online by e-mail. Contact Susan Winkelmeyer Boehner of Winkelmeyer Furniture, 1309 Locust St., P.O. Box 522, Chillicothe, MO 64601. Phone: (660) 646-3903. E-mail: jboehner@greenhills.net.

Positions Continued from Page 7

Positions Available

Choir Director and Organist
Saint Peter Catholic Church, 324 South Third Street, St. Charles, MO 63301. Contact Father John Ghio (636) 946-6641.

Organist
Dover Place Christian Church, 701 Dover Place, St. Louis, MO 63111. Organist for one service on Sunday morning. Contact Rev. Bill Woodard.