



# THE OPUS

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

[www.agostlouis.org](http://www.agostlouis.org)

## Reception, Lecture-Recital Highlight May Meeting

The closing event for the 2005-2006 program series will be held Monday, May 22, at Second Presbyterian Church.

Traditionally, May is the month in which the St. Louis AGO Chapter recognizes

members of the Guild and of the community who have contributed their time and talent to promoting the organ and performance of organ music. Please join your fellow members at 6 p.m. for a reception honoring all past recipients of the Avis Blewett award.

The program for the evening will be a lecture and recital by Dr. Kathleen Thomerson, who received the Avis Blewett award in May 1994. Dr. Thomerson has been very active in the Guild, both on the local and national levels. She is a past Dean of the St. Louis Chapter. She has been elected to the office of National

Councilor, and served the national organization as director of the Committee on Educational Resources. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Austin, Texas, AGO Chapter.

Dr. Thomerson was born in Tennessee and grew up in Mississippi, California, and

Texas. Her music degrees are from the University of Colorado and the University of Texas. She also studied in Europe at the Flemish Royal Conservatory in Antwerp, Belgium, and took private lessons in Paris.

her husband was a biology professor at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. Dr. Thomerson taught organ in the music Department of SIUE for 25 years. She was music director at University United Metho-

dist Church in St. Louis, and was active in Guild activities both in St. Louis and in the metro-east area. Dr. Thomerson is currently organist and music director at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas.

Dr. Thomerson has a deep personal interest in creating hymn texts and tunes and continues to write new material. Her best-known hymn text is "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light," set to her original tune *Houston* (The Hymnal 1982, #490). In 2005, 16 of her new tunes, with texts by Patricia B. Clark of Austin, Texas, were published by MorningStar Music in the hymnbook titled "A Taste of Heaven's Joys."

The recital portion of the evening is open to the public. Please invite friends. Plan to attend to hear Dr. Thomerson play works by Peeters and Langlais, and to gain insight into these composers and their compositions.

—Martha Shaffer

### The Details

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, May 22, 2006</b>
<b>Event:</b>	Dr. Kathleen Thomerson, FAGO, ChM Lecture/Recital on the works of Langlais and Peeters
<b>Location:</b>	Second Presbyterian Church 4501 Westminster Place St. Louis, MO 63108
<b>Time:</b>	6:00 p.m. – Reception 6:30 p.m. – Dinner 7:30 p.m. – Program in sanctuary
<b>Host:</b>	Charles Collins
<b>Cost:</b>	\$8 for dinner
<b>Reservations:</b>	Kathleen Bolduan, 314-935-5517 or <a href="mailto:kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu">kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu</a>

(Vegetarians accommodated upon request. Please confirm your reservations by Friday, May 18.)

**Directions:** Second Presbyterian Church is located on the northwest corner of Taylor and Westminster Place in the Central West End.

**From I-64/U.S. Route 40:** Take the Kingshighway North exit. Go north on Kingshighway past the Barnes Hospital complex to Lindell (Chase-Park Plaza). Turn right. Go two blocks east to Taylor. Turn left. Continue four blocks north to the church. Turn left on Westminster to parking lot on right past the church. Street parking also Taylor.

Her program will be a discussion and demonstration of works by Flor Peeters, with whom she studied in Belgium, and Jean Langlais, with whom she studied in France and the USA.

Before retiring to Austin, Texas, Dr. Thomerson lived in Collinsville, Ill., when

## The End of Music?

The recent issue of *The American Organist* features a commentary by Haig Mardirosian on “the end of music,” conjecturing that perhaps classical music, having run its course, is defunct. His parting remark hints that he has more to say on the subject in the next issue of *TAO*. Nonetheless, one can hardly resist reflecting on his suggestion, as far as it goes.

My response is painted with a broad brush, and is concerned primarily with the music of the masters, whose standards of artistic integrity and discipline have provided the foundation for most serious musical endeavor. These standards may well encompass accomplishments in jazz and folk music, even traditional popular music; excluded from consideration, however, are most of the commercially successful entertainment and contemporary Christian forms in circulation today.

Art historian Kenneth Clark suggested that the greatest human cultural achievements arise from a confluence of factors: prosperity (but not excessive wealth); a prevailing confidence; a corresponding energy and enthusiasm; the providential appearance of men and women of genius; and a receptive and fertile social climate. Today, many of these vital ingredients are either lacking or misdirected—we would be hard-pressed to prove our times to be anything like a golden age of artistic achievement.

Our musical heritage is in large part a European gift. We often hear of the 1900’s as “the American century.” However, the case could be made that the era from Napoleon until 1945 was really the last great European age. It began with such promise, in the springtime of Romanticism, but it ended in the ignominy and cataclysm of the World Wars—conflicts that history may someday view as a single, broad conflagration. After Hiroshima, the world

became inexorably smaller, increasingly frenetic, and potentially more violent than ever.

Following the World Wars, European civilization was no longer in any shape to assert itself. Ours had become preeminently an American world, and the lingering of “Old World” culture was largely honorary, an afterglow that has gradually given way to the abiding principles, values, and climate of the market economy. This “cross-fade” of cultures marks the world in which most of us music professionals have come of age.

One of the noblest of American values is our fundamental sense of egalitarianism, and our democratic system of self-government, for all its flaws, is a miracle of political history. In this context, the common denominator, the will of the people, is a good and necessary consideration. A less admirable American trait is the widespread inclination to dismiss or dismantle anything that fails to be readily profitable. Here, the common denominator, the “bottom line,” can often be a destructive consideration.

Free market principles are not all bad, but they are inherently hostile to religion and art, or at least, to art in the service of religion. The work that we do as sacred musicians ideally seeks to elevate truth above profit, and pursues the eternal rather than the temporal. What we do with heart and soul doesn’t sell, yet there are indeed profits to be won, however intangible. Great art, like vital religious faith, strives to reconcile the comprehensible with the ineffable; there’s no reward without appreciable intellectual and spiritual investment. As the saying goes, ‘no pain, no gain.’

While it is true that music offers an occasion and a means for building faith and charity among our spiritual communi-

ties, it can be so much more. Great music, like sacred art, like the Holy Scriptures themselves, can be a veritable expression of divine revelation—God with us. Once we’ve experienced something so transcendent, how can we possibly relegate it to a mere market niche?

I believe our calling at this moment in history is to stand firm, and uphold the artistic traditions that we know to be humanizing and life-giving. All this presupposes, of course, that we are discerning in the music we choose, and that we teach it and perform it well. In some measure we share the work of the prophets, rarely understood by their own times or their own people, but unswervingly committed to the truth. We may be swimming against the tide, but we need not be bitter or recalcitrant. We should bear in mind that truth without charity is counterproductive, and a little bit of diplomacy will go a long way. But hold the line, we must, to preserve our musical patrimony for future generations who may need it even more that we do—or better yet, for some unimagined golden age of music.

— Stephen Mager

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The official publication  
of the St. Louis Chapter  
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**Wayne King, Editor**

You are invited to submit material  
to the editor for publication consid-  
eration. Material and calendar  
items should be e-mailed to  
[opusstlago@aol.com](mailto:opusstlago@aol.com).  
Next regular issue –  
September 2006



## PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER (POE) UPDATE

### *Here's the abbreviated schedule*

As of May 1, we had 21 registrants for the St. Louis POE. Our goal is 25, and we're almost there! The following is a schedule of events for the POE week. In addition to the listed events, the students will have lessons and practice time each afternoon. We encourage all chapter members to attend as many events as you would like. We also encourage you to help out at any event as well. To volunteer, send a note to POE Chair Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart at [mary@thevillagesquare.org](mailto:mary@thevillagesquare.org).

Sunday, June 11	Afternoon: Evening:	Registration Hymn service at Bethel Lutheran Church
Monday, June 12	Morning: Late Morning: Evening:	Classes/Workshops with Michael Bauer Fox Theater Lobby Organ with Stan Kann Organ Crawl/Progressive Dinner incl. Ted Drewes (Cathedral Basilica, St. Monica's, St. Anselm)
Tuesday, June 13	Morning: Late Afternoon: Evening:	(9-1) Pipe Building session and lunch at Martin Ott's Carillon at Concordia Seminary Harpsichord exploration at Bethel Lutheran
Wednesday, June 14	Morning: Evening: (7:30)	Classes/Workshops with John Ditto Recital by James David Christie at St. Peter's Episcopal
Thursday, June 15	Morning: Evening:	Classes by James David Christie (Grace UMC) Shakespeare Festival, Forest Park
Friday, June 16	Morning:	Student Recital at Grace UMC

## On the Concert Horizon...

**Sunday, May 14, 2:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13<sup>th</sup> and Olive, downtown St. Louis. *Mother's Day Concert*. Annette Burkhardt and Jennifer Lim, duo pianists. Music of Mozart, Schubert, Dvorak. Information: 314.231.3454.

**Thursday, May 18, 12:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13<sup>th</sup> and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Organ concert by William Partridge, Cathedral Organist, [or by a guest organist]. Information: 314.231.3454.

**Sunday, May 21, 2:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13<sup>th</sup> and Olive downtown St. Louis. Jane Price, violin, Kurt Baldwin, 'cello, and Mino Mehta, piano. Info.: 314.231.3454.

\* **Monday, May 22, 6 p.m.** AGO-Saint Louis Chapter event. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, MO 63108. Chapter Banquet; Wine and cheese reception precedes. **7:30 p.m. Lecture-recital** by Dr. Kathleen Thomerson, FAGO, ChM: *Memoirs of a Student of Langlais and Peeters*. Make dinner reservations (\$8) to Dr. Kathleen Bolduan, at

314.935.5517 or [kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu). Information: See the Opus newsletter.

**Thursday, May 25, 12:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13<sup>th</sup> and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Organ concert by William Partridge, Cathedral Organist, [or by a guest organist]. Information: 314.231.3454.

**Sunday, May 28, 3:00 p.m.** Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 5020 Rhodes Ave. at South Kingshighway. Saint Louis Chamber Chorus, Philip Barnes, Conductor. Music of Brahms; world premiere of Sasha Johnson Manning's *Requiem for Saint Louis*. Ticket information: 636.458.4343 or Metrotix at 314.534.1111.

**Sunday, May 28, 5:00 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13<sup>th</sup> and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Memorial Day Evensong. The Cathedral Choir, William Partridge, Organist and Choirmaster. Information: 314.231.3454.

(Continued on Page 4)

## JUNE

**Saturday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.** St. John's Lutheran Church, 3517 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, MO. *Talent Cabaret III*: an evening of light-hearted music and fun. Information: 636.464.0096 [www.sjlcarnold.org](http://www.sjlcarnold.org).

**Monday, June 5, 12:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 13<sup>th</sup> and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, "A Little Lunch Music." Information: 314.231.3454.

\* **Sunday, June 11.** AGO-Saint Louis Chapter event. Campus of Fontbonne University, Big Bend at Wydown, Clayton. Opening of **Pipe Organ Encounter 2006**. Institute concludes Friday morning, **June 16**. Information: See the Opus newsletter.

**Wednesday, June 14. 7:30 p.m.** AGO-Saint Louis Chapter event. Saint Louis Abbey Church, 500 South Mason Rd. near I-64-Hwy 40. Organ recital by POE guest artist, James David Christie. Information: See the Opus newsletter.

## Chapter election in progress

Chapter membership should by now have received ballots for the election of Chapter officers and "at-large" executive officers (Class of 2009). The ballot also includes a proposition for a procedural amendment to the chapter by-laws. Completed ballots must be **postmarked by May 17** to be counted. Any chapter member in good standing who has not received an official ballot,

## Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous

Here's a tale involving a composer in a tavern that is attributed to Franz Josef Haydn. As a young man, Haydn was a friend of the composer Dittersdorf. The two were out carousing one night,



when they came upon a beer hall whose musician entertainers were performing, quite poorly, a minuet by Haydn. The composer approached the principal fiddler, and very casually asked, "Whose minuet?" The musician responded curtly, "Haydn's!" The composer replied with mock disdain, "What a wretched minuet!" Whereupon, the

fiddler and his band arose in a rage, brandished their instruments as weapons, very nearly assaulted the visitors and chased them away, who for their part found the whole episode uproariously funny.

may request another. Please contact the dean by telephone, 314-453-0987, or by e-mail at [agostidean@aol.com](mailto:agostidean@aol.com), before May 15. We thank our nominating committee of Regina Morris, chair; Cathy Cassie; Greg Caldwell; and Stephen Mager and Martha Shaffer, ex officio.

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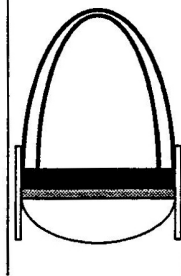
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# Positions Available

## Assistant Organist/Music Assistant

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119, seeks a part-time assistant organist/music assistant. Duties include being principal organist for all 11:15 a.m. Sunday chapel services of worship; coordinating soloists/ensembles from the Chancel Choir and/or congregation for anthem material for this service as needed, and serving as Chancel Choir accompanist (piano and organ) for Thursday night rehearsals and 9 a.m. Sunday services and other worship services/concerts where the choir is present. This is a nine-month position from September-May. Position is open immediately but will begin in September. Please e-mail resumes to [spp@wgpc.org](mailto:spp@wgpc.org) or send to Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, Attention: Shawn Portell, Director of Music Ministries/Sr. Organist.

## Organist

Curby Memorial Presbyterian Church, 2621 Utah, St. Louis, MO 63118 is seeking an organist to play at their 10:30 a.m. service beginning May 28. Instrument is eight-rank pipe organ. Salary is negotiable. Contact Rev. Gordon Senechal at 314-771-0242 or e-mail [curbychurch@juno.com](mailto:curbychurch@juno.com).

## Music Director

Zion Lutheran Church, 123 Carson Road, Ferguson, MO 63125 is seeking a part-time music director, beginning June 1. Duties include accompanying two Sunday services (one during the summer months), special seasonal (Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Holy Week), and directing a senior choir, gospel choir, and praise band. Prefer someone with ability on both the pipe organ and keyboard/piano, who is proficient in a variety of musical styles. Send resume and/or inquiries to Rev. Jeffrey Lindgren at the church. Phone 314-522-0100 or e-mail [zionferg@juno.com](mailto:zionferg@juno.com).

## Minister of Music

Ivy Chapel UCC, 620 North Woods Mill, Chesterfield, MO 63017, is seeking a part-time minister of music. Duties include playing the organ and piano, as well as directing the Chancel and Youth choirs. Fax resume to 314-434-5077, Attention: Search.

## Organist/Choir Director

Epiphany Lutheran Church (LCMS), 4045 Holly Hills Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63116, is seeking applicants for the position of organist-choir director available in July. Responsibilities include playing for two Sunday liturgies, a Wednesday evening liturgy, and the typical feast days; conducting the adult and youth choirs, and meeting with the pastor regularly to plan the liturgies together. The church has a two manual, 22-rank Reuter Organ (1972), utilizes The Lutheran Hymnal (1941) and the Hymnal Supplement 98 (1998). Applicants should have experience as a church musician working within a liturgical and traditional environment; college level training is highly desirable. Applicants should contact Rev Timothy Landskroener (314-752-7065) for more information.

## Music Director

Clayton United Methodist Church, 101 N. Bemiston Ave., Clayton, MO 63105, is seeking a part-time music director. Duties include continued development of an adult choir as well as creating a new children's choir. Prefer person who is creative, energetic and imaginative with a ready command of musical resources. The position is available immediately; salary and hours are negotiable. Please contact Rev. James Christy (314-721-2282) for more information.

## Organist

Christ Lutheran Church, Webster Groves, Mo., is seeking an interim organist/choir accompanist from Aug. 1, 2006 to Aug. 1, 2007, to fill in for organist who will be on academic sabbatical. Responsibilities include two services each Sunday morning, accompanist for Wednesday evening choir practice, as well as Wednesday evening services during Advent and Lent. 14 rank Schlicker organ. Send resumes to Organist Search, Christ Lutheran Church, 1 Selma Ave., St. Louis, MO 63119 or e-mail to [christwg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:christwg@sbcglobal.net) or fax to 314-962-4810.

## Organist/Choir 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 Mass and 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday Masses. Direct adult choir and cantor program. Choir practices on Thursday nights.

(Positions Available continued on back cover)

## Positions Available

*(Continued from Page 5)*

Instruments include 3-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 a choir director to be responsible for the choral ministry of our traditional worship service, including weekly rehearsals (Sept.-June) and Sunday morning worship participation. Resumes and inquiries may be sent to Rev. James Brooks at 618-656-7498 or e-mail to [jbrooks@fccedwardsville.org](mailto:jbrooks@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 our 8 a.m. celebration/contemporary service and 10 a.m. traditional service. They conduct weekly choir rehearsals preparing the choir for the worship services from Sept.-May. They also coordinate/direct the music for special services such as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Good Friday. This position provides for 4 Sundays of vacation each year. Please contact Rev. Kathleen Wilder at 314-479-8446 or e-mail to [lpastor@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lpastor@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### Director of Music

*Dardenne Presbyterian Church, 7400 Hwy. N, Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368*, is seeking a full time director of music to oversee and direct the channel choir, music program and music staff. Proficiency in piano, strong leadership abilities, and a competency in a broad range of music genre. Please e-mail resumes to [music-director-search@charternet.org](mailto:music-director-search@charternet.org) 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, Susan Venable at 537-243-2243, or Jane Hull at 573-243-5484 or send an e-mail to [reddoorswarmhearts@yahoo.com](mailto: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 two weekly Sunday services (8 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 during the traditional services. Organ is a recently refurbished single manual tracker organ. Send inquiries to the attention of the Organist Search Committee at the church.

