



# THE OPUS

May 2008  
Volume 24  
Number 9

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

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

## Recording, Fellowship Highlight Annual Meeting Activities

Our May meeting will, as usual, be the annual meeting and banquet. We have a wonderful location this year in the newly renovated Parish Hall at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood. Arrive early for light refreshments in the reception room (6-6:30 p.m.). During this half hour you can also see the beautiful stained glass in the adjacent Tree of Life Chapel, and hear an informal recital on the new Martin Ott tracker organ. Dinner begins in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30, followed by installation of

officers and a short Chapter meeting.

At this point, we will move to the sanctuary and participate in a recording session! The Wicks Pipe Organ Company celebrated its 100th year in 2006, and as part of that celebration, Barbara Wick commis-

sioned Stephen Mager to write a hymn anthem in memory of her husband Martin, a past recipient of

After a short rehearsal, we will record the premiere performance of the new work. The composer will

conduct; Bill Stein will preside at the console of the church's Wicks organ; and Barry Hufker of Hufker Recording will have his equipment ready to produce a copy of the performance. The evening will close with a return to Fellowship Hall for coffee, dessert, and an opportunity for fellowship.

The first year that I was sub-dean, Pat Partridge told me, "You know, there's nothing wrong with

having an occasional meeting that is just a social event without a formal program." May 19 will be one of those times. Bring your best singing voice to help with the recording, and greet and visit with each other. See you then! — *Martha Shaffer*

### The Details

**Date:** Monday, May 19  
**Event:** Annual Banquet and General Meeting  
**Location:** First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood  
100 East Adams  
Kirkwood, MO 63122  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. - Reception  
6:30 p.m. - Dinner  
7:30 p.m. - Annual Meeting and Program  
**Host:** Bill Stein  
**Cost:** \$10 for dinner  
**Reservations:** Kathleen Bolduan (314-725-1251;  
or [kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu))  
(Please confirm your reservations by Friday, May 16.)

**Directions:**  
First Presbyterian Church occupies the south side of Adams Avenue between North Kirkwood Road and Taylor in downtown Kirkwood, 1.2 miles south of Manchester Road and two blocks north of the historic train station.

**From I-270:** Take either Ladue Road or Manchester Road east to Lindbergh Blvd. Go south on Lindbergh to Adams Ave., turn left, go one block to church parking lot on the right. (Lindbergh becomes Kirkwood Road after crossing Manchester.)

**From I-44 East or West:** Exit at Lindbergh Blvd. and turn north. Go approximately 2 miles to Adams, turn right, go one block to church parking lot on right.

the Avis Blewett Award. The resulting composition, a setting of Henry Baker's text "O Praise Ye the Lord" to a new tune appropriately named Highland, is a British-style piece for organ, unison congregation, and SATB choir.

## My Final Inspiration...

This is my last letter to you as Dean of the St. Louis AGO Chapter. Writing these little missives has been a bane/blessing, and involved many appeals for Divine Inspiration as I faced the blank “new document” page...

When I moved from chairing the Program Committee to chairing the Executive Committee, I had a lofty goal in mind – to implement the national “Each One Reach One” initiative and build up Chapter membership numbers. In reality, the “Each One Reach One” instructions never left the folder. Instead the

Executive Committee and I concentrated on some necessary work on Chapter operating procedures, so that our written manual now conforms to national format and truly reflects our current operating practices.

The membership numbers have quietly taken care of themselves. This year we have had quite a few transfers as people moved to the St. Louis metro area. The 2006 POE brought a new spirit to the Chapter, and that is reflected in a steady rise in attendance at Guild programs. The monthly average this season is

35-40. Significantly, it’s not always the same 35-40 members, and it’s good to see so many of you at the meetings!

Though listing names is a slippery slope with potential for omissions, I need to express my thanks for help in the past four years. Thanks to everyone who hosted meetings, and who planned and participated in programs. To the Executive Committee, it’s been a pleasure to work with you, and thanks for putting up with my inability to master the most basic of Robert’s Rules. To the standing committee chairs (Fern, Al, Cathy, Luella, Wayne, Barb, Dawn, Mary, Rene, Denis, and Maxine), and to Dennis, Cindy, and Paul – thanks from me and the whole membership for taking care of the day-to-day business that makes the Chapter work.

Hoping to see you all at the May meeting.

— Martha Shaffer

## Change in Professional Concerns Leadership

Effective in June 2008, Maxine McCormick will be resigning as Professional Concerns councilor for the Chapter. She has served in this position for many years, and we thank her for her faithfulness and her help to chapter members. Shawn Portell has volunteered to become the new councilor.

In 2004, Maxine and Shawn worked together to produce the second edition of “How to Develop and Maintain Quality Musical Leadership in Worship: A Congregational Handbook.” This booklet is a basic reference for the business side of being a church musician, and contains resource material on contracts, job descriptions, and personnel issues. Copies are still available.

## The Opus Will Take Annual Summer Hiatus

With this issue, *The OPUS* will begin its annual summer “vacation.” Publication will resume in August,

with a deadline of August 1. If you are planning concerts after approximately August 24 and later, please submit your listings to the editor via e-mail at [opusstlago@aol.com](mailto:opusstlago@aol.com). Review a past newsletter issue for the format. It is preferable that you submit material in this abbreviated form, rather than send a lengthy news release for extraction.

As always, we welcome your contributions for the newsletter.

### For Sale

Yamaha Clavinova CLP270, new. Details on [www.yamaha.com/clavinova](http://www.yamaha.com/clavinova). MSRP \$4,995, will sell (and deliver) for \$2,995. Call Ken Rueter at 314-921-2698 or 314-398-0084 for more information.

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May 2008  
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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 [opusstlago@aol.com](mailto:opusstlago@aol.com).

**Next issue deadline: August 1, 2008**



## Organ and Solo Instruments Participants

Pairing of the organ with a solo instrument was the topic of the March Chapter meeting, hosted by Phil Rowland at Central Presbyterian Church.

Varied combinations and levels of musical difficulty were presented. Those who played in the collaborations were, pictured above from left, Chuck Peery, harp; Marc

Thayer, violin; David Erwin, organ; Susannah Arana, flute; Paul Vasile, organ; Bob Herman, saxophone; Gregory Caldwell, bassoon; and Henry Skolnick, contra bassoon.

A special highlight was the introduction of the prize-winning piece "Ornament of Grace" for organ and flute by Bernard Wayne Sanders. Guild members are encouraged to perform this music for Organ Spectacular, a world-wide series of concerts to be presented on Oct. 19.



### *On the Concert Horizon*

**Monday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.** Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, 9450 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Mo. Duet recital with organists David Erwin, Dub Koon, Gretchen Ross, Patricia Webster, and pianists Gretchen Ross and Anne Peacock.

**Sunday, May 11, 2:30 p.m.** Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Mother's Day concert. Annette Burkhart and Jennifer Lim, piano four-hands.

**Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m.** Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood, St. Louis, Mo. "Motion in the Ocean" Children's choir musical.

**Sunday, June 1, 3 p.m.** Union United Methodist Church, 721 East Main, Belleville, Ill. "Four Hands at a Piano" featuring Nancy Lawrence and Gail Long. Includes works by Mozart, Poulenc, and lighter selections. Free-will offering.



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## Is Your Eventual Replacement Pictured Here?

On Saturday morning, March 8, 27 students age 11 through 16 plus assorted teachers, parents, and young siblings gathered at Grace United Methodist Church for the Chapter-sponsored Pipes Pedals and Pizza program. After check-in and greetings, they divided into three groups and circulated through the activities: time at the console to play the organ, a video about Pipe Organ Encounter, and a walk through the organ pipe chambers. All of the students are currently studying piano, strings, and/or band instruments; a few had started basics on the organ. They were a very bright, polite, interested group

of young people, AND they were very good at eating pizza and cookies!

Many thanks to Cathy Bolduan and the staff at Grace Church for hosting; to Marie Kremer, Cathy Bolduan, Pat Partridge, John Romeri, Darlene Reiner, Hank Glass, Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart, Martha Shaffer, and Elaine Simpson for planning and staffing the event; to Max Tenney for designing flyers and providing office support; to Rene Zajner for taking photos; and to Bob Dial for conducting the pipe chamber tours and speaking about various types of organ pipes.

## Chapter-Sponsored High School Organ Competition

In the afternoon of March 8, three high school students played in a competition at Grace United Methodist. Each was required to prepare and play a piece of basic Bach (one of the Eight Little Preludes and Fugues, chorale prelude from Orgelbuchlein, or work of equal difficulty) and a selection of their own choice in a contrasting style. First place went to David Ball (student of John Romeri), second place to John Schneier (student of Hank Glass), and third place to Stephen Eros (student

of Randy Asbury). These talented young men played a joint program at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, May 3, as part of the Flower Festival events.

Thanks to Pat Partridge for organizing the competition; to Ed Wallace, Andy Peters, and Martha Shaffer for serving as judges; and to Pat and the Cathedral staff for providing the opportunity for the public performance at Christ Church.

**St. Louis  
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American Guild  
of Organists**



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# Positions Available

## Organist/Pianist

*First Church of Christ, Scientist*, 10939 Ladue Road, Creve Coeur, MO 63141, will hold auditions for regular and substitute organists/pianists on Saturday, May 10. Responsibilities include playing for a Sunday morning and Wednesday evening service. Both services include the playing of a prelude and postlude and accompanying the congregation for three hymns. In addition on Sunday, duties include accompanying a vocal soloist and playing an offertory. The church has a new Rodgers Trillium Masterpiece digital organ. For an application and more information, please contact Sue Wilson, music chair, at [suewilson1@charter.net](mailto:suewilson1@charter.net) or call 314-569-0204.

## Music Director

*St. Martin's Episcopal Church*, 15764 Clayton Rd., Ellisville, MO 63011, is seeking an experienced organist/music director for a full-time position. Music director will serve as principal organist, bell director, and adult choir director. The music director will develop new ensembles to meet the emerging needs of St. Martin's. Position reports directly to the rector. It is expected the music director will fully participate in St. Martin's team ministry, working towards the mission and goals of the parish. St. Martin's serves the west St. Louis County area. Salary commensurate with experience. Submit resumes to the Rev. Susan K. Crawford, interim rector, [scrawford@stmartinschurch.org](mailto:scrawford@stmartinschurch.org). Church phone 636-227-1484.

## Director of Music

*Incarinate Word Catholic Church*, 13416 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, MO 63017, seeks a director of music and organist. Weekend liturgies are celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Additionally, the successful applicant will be responsible for wedding, funeral, and school liturgies. Ensembles include adult, children, and handbells. The church utilizes a two-manual Rodgers organ and a grand piano. The church also owns a set of Malmark handbells. A cantor program is in place. Salary is per Archdiocesan scale. Interested persons should forward pertinent materials to the Rev. Timothy Vowels, pastor, at (phone 314-576-5366, fax 314-576-2046, or e-mail [frvowels@incarnate-word.org](mailto:frvowels@incarnate-word.org)).

## Director of Music

*St. George Catholic Church*, 4980 Heege Road, St. Louis, MO 63123, seeking a part-time director of music and organist. The instrument is a two-manual Wicks pipe organ. Weekend liturgies are at 9 and 11 a.m. on Sunday. The choir rehearses on Wednesday at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Fr. Thomas Robertson (314-352-3544, fax 314-832-6916).

## Choir Accompanist

*Wentzville United Methodist Church*, 725 Wall Street, Wentzville, MO 63385, seeking a choir accompanist to rehearse and perform with the Sanctuary Choir. The position requires a one-hour evening rehearsal with the choir during the week and one anthem at the traditional-style 8:30 a.m. Sunday service. Candidates should possess proficient piano skills and reliable transportation to arrive punctually for each rehearsal and service. Those with organ and/or voice training are preferred. The position pays \$75 weekly with an opportunity for added responsibility/compensation. Contact the church office (636-327-6377) or Jeremy Melton (636-497-5380).

(See St. Louis Chapter Web site – [www.agostlouis.org](http://www.agostlouis.org) – for more listings.)



# The OPUS

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St. Louis Chapter

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