Chapter Members Will Hear a New Organ at November Meeting

In November, STLAGO members will join Trinity Episcopal Church for the dedicatory concert on its new pipe organ. Quimby Pipe Organs, Inc., of Warrensburg, Mo., has built a beautiful instrument of two manuals and 23 ranks. This instrument has a wonderful array of diapasons, flutes, strings, and several distinctive and highly colorful reed stops. The instrument’s action is electro-pneumatic with slider chests based on the Blackinton design, which allows pipes to speak very clearly and practically instantaneously. The new console is exquisite. Stops are accessed through banks of drawbars. The keyboard naturals are covered in synthetic plastic, like that used on Steinway grand pianos. The sharps are done in ebony. Pedal sharps are made of rosewood. The organ, console, cases, and pipes are a work of art. The organ builder has also provided a Peterson combination action with 99 memory levels. Michael Quimby and members of his staff will be present at the concert.

The dedicatory concert of this first-class instrument will be played by a first-class organist and “hometown boy who has made good,” St. Louisan Zach Hemenway.

Zach began playing the organ at St. Simon the Apostle Church in south St. Louis County. He studied organ with our own Dr. Marie Kremer. Zack received a BM from the Eastman School of Music, where he was a scholarship student, and an MM from Yale University. His college teachers included David Higgs and Thomas Murray.

He is currently the organist and choirmaster at Saint Paul’s (Episcopal), Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa. (a rather lofty position). He held similar positions at the Yale University Chapel, Christ Church Guilford and was assistant organist at St. Pauls, Rochester. He has played for functions of the Archdiocese of St. Louis and at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica. For several years he served as a summer assistant to Bill Aitken at St. Peters Church, Ladue.

Immediately following the recital, the St. Louis AGO chapter will sponsor a reception at the church.

Please join us for this great event.

- Henry Evans
Advent = Rodney Dangerfield?

As far as The Opus goes, we’re about to go ‘round the dark side of the moon and you won’t hear from us again until January. We don’t do a December newsletter, figuring you’re all way too busy to read it!

We hope to see all of you November 15 at the dedication concert at Trinity Episcopal. We’re proud to think of Zach Hemenway as one of us, and it will be nice to have him back.

I’ll give thanks for all of you this Thanksgiving — the work you do, the support you provide, the talent you share. I enjoy Thanksgiving. It’s generally unencumbered by a lot of work issues, except there is that nagging foreboding, that voice that’s whispering “Advent…”

And then I think of RODNEY DANGERFIELD! I can’t help it, I really feel that poor little Advent gets no respect. Increasingly our culture and our places of worship want to rush over (or skip entirely) any thought of penitential preparation. I really treasure this period in worship; it seems like a moment frozen in amber, a suspension waiting for resolution. Beautifully timed and theologically vast, I believe Advent is to be explored and savored.

But I know these very issues are truly a danger field. Carols too early, carols too late, the ones we know, the ones we don’t know. The non-stop schedule, the missing second trumpet part, the basses all going out of town for Christmas Eve. This creates a real conflict with some sort of nostalgic gene in me that wants it all to be perfect. By gum, this year it WILL be perfect. Right?

No, it will not. And I’ve adjusted to that; I have even learned to embrace it. I found a rationale for it in, of all things, “The Shack.” The protagonist is walking through a garden with the Holy Spirit. Inwardly he’s thinking that it’s a total mess, but there’s something oddly familiar about it. He mentions this, and the Holy Spirit replies: “…This garden is your soul — this mess is you…And it’s wild and beautiful and perfectly in process. To you, it seems messy, but to me, I see a perfect pattern emerging and growing and alive — a living fractal.”

So…may we learn to respect Advent a little more — and may your December be one big, beautiful mess. — Chuck Peery

Wrongful Termination? What’s the Next Step?

So…I have been “wrongfully terminated” from my church job. Can the AGO help?

Step One – The Preliminary Evaluation

Yes the AGO can help – not to get your job back – but to offer a healing process that might lead to your termination being in good standing – which is important in securing a new job. First, though, you have to help yourself.

The guild is not a union. We do not have laws, etc., only procedures to help you get through such situations. First step is:

1. Contact the Chapter Dean in writing with a copy sent to our Regional Councilor (call to get address). In this letter, outline your work history at the institution and fully explain your claim of wrongful termination. It is important to include employment documentation, e.g., letter of agreement, employee manual, termination notice, contracts and all other signed documents in connection with the employment. A “paper trail” is essential. Copies of all correspondence, e-mails, faxes, summaries of phone calls, and documentary evidence should be archived indefinitely. Be willing to cooperate fully, in a timely manner, and be honest in your conversations. Hearsay is not considered evidence.

2. Next the Chapter Dean (or other chapter officer) will send the request along with documentation to the Chapter Coordinator for Professional Development, Regional Councilor, Regional Coordinator for Professional Development and the National Councilor for Professional Development. These people will meet (via phone conference) to decide if your complaint will be acted upon.

If it is determined that your complaint deserves further consideration, a local committee will be appointed in consultation with the Regional Councilor. More next time.

Shawn Portell, Professional Concerns

THE OPUS

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

November 2009
Volume 26, No. 3

Wayne King, Editor

You are invited to submit material to the editor for publication consideration. Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to jason418@aol.com.

Next issue deadline: December 31, 2009
The POE Steering Committee is seeking additional income as it plans for the 2010 St. Louis POE. The tuition that each student pays to attend the POE covers room and board and a one-year student membership in the AGO. For each student there are several additional expenses which tuition does not cover. Some costs include travel expenses for out-of-town guest faculty, student transportation during the POE between events, a student recreation activity, and potential recitals during the POE by well-known organists.

Please consider donating to the POE! Additional funding from our chapter members and friends will help the POE Steering Committee plan for a successful program for these young organists. Further income will help defray some of the expenses mentioned above. In addition, extra income may provide scholarship assistance for some potential students.

All contributors will be acknowledged in an upcoming issue of The OPUS newsletter. Contributors will also be acknowledged in recital programs during the POE week.

Here is my tax-deductible gift to support the 2010 St. Louis POE!

Please make your check payable to St. Louis AGO POE and mail to:
Denis Doelling, POE Treasurer
1210 Brownell Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63122

_____ Angel $150+ _____ Benefactor $100 _____ Patron $75

_____ Associate $50 _____ Donor $25 _____ Friend $10

Name as I would like it to appear in future The OPUS & POE programs:

__________________________________________________________________________
On the Concert Horizon
(Continued from Page 5)


Saturday, December 19, 4 and 7:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. National Lutheran Choir, David Cherwien, conductor. Tickets $20. Information 888-747-4589.

Sunday, December 20, 10 a.m. (worship service), Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, Mo. Festival of Lessons and Carols. K. Lee Scott’s Christmas Cantata. Chancel Choir, soloists and brass Free. Information 314-962-9210, ext. 3108.

Sunday, December 20, 4 p.m. Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, Mo. Director of Music Ministries/Senior Organist Shawn Portell presents organ music for Advent and Christmas on the Gress-Miles pipe organ. Free. Information 314-962-9210, ext. 3108.

Sunday, December 27, 5 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Evensong. Gloria – Francis Poulenc. The Cathedral Choir, William Partridge, organist and choirmaster.

Sunday, January 17, 4 p.m. St. Elizabeth Roman Catholic Church, 2300 Pontoon Road, Granite City, Ill. Sixty-voice Millikin University Choir in concert. Doors open at 3 p.m. Freewill offering (suggested donation is $10). Information 618-876-1708.

Sunday, January 17, 4 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo. Israeli-born soprano Yael Handelman performs art songs of Purcell, Ravel, Schubert and others, as well as Israeli and Jewish music. Free. Information 314-367-0367.

Happy Holidays from Your St. Louis AGO Chapter Officers and Directors

Watch for the next OPUS issue in January 2010
On the Concert Horizon

Sunday, November 8, 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, 9450 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Mo. Bach Society Chorus, A. Dennis Sparger, conductor. Works by Christiansen, Hogan, Paulus and AGO chapter member Stephen Mager. Information 314-993-4771.

Sunday, November 8, 2:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Two Times True – cool jazz. David and Carolbeth True.

Sunday, November 8, 4 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo. Handbell concert featuring the St. Louis Archdiocesan Handbell Choir and Handbell Choir of Second Church. Free. Information 314-367-0367.

Friday, November 13, 7:30 p.m. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 115 West B Street, Belleville, Ill. Carol Williams, electrifying concert organist. Freewill offering. Information robert-krausz@stpaulucc.org.

Sunday, November 15, 2:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Jeanine York-Garesche, clarinet; Bjorn Ranheim, cello; Hyunsoon Whang, piano.

Sunday, November 15, 3 p.m. Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, Clayton, Mo. The American Kantorei Chorus and Orchestra, Robert Bergt, music director and conductor. Haydn organ/orchestra concerto, David Fienen, guest organist. Bach Cantata BWV 51 and Handel Psalm 112. Freewill offering.

Thursday, November 19, 2:30 p.m. and Friday, November 20, 8 p.m. Vienna Boys Choir. Tickets $42, $32, $22. Information 314-533-7662; www.cathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, November 22, 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. (traditional services), Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood, Webster Groves, Mo. Celebration Brass Quintet. Festival of Christ the King. Free. Information 314-962-9210, ext. 3108.

Sunday, November 22, 4 p.m. Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, 9450 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Mo. Configurations Ensemble - Alison Rolf, violin; Christine Banda, viola; James Nacy, cello; Diana Umali, pianist. Mozart Divertimento in E-flat and Schumann Piano Quartet in E-flat. Freewill offering. Information 314-993-4771.

Sunday, November 22, 5 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Evensong. The Cathedral Choir, William Partridge, organist and choirmaster.

Sunday, November 22, 9:30 a.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Cruell Quartet. Elsie Parker, clarinet; Alison Roff, violin; Christine Banda, viola; Natasha Rubenstein, cello; Ken Kenner, piano.

Friday, December 4, 7:30 p.m. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 115 West B Street, Belleville, Ill. Bach to the Future holiday concert. Freewill offering. Information norbert-krausz@stpaulucc.org.

Friday, December 4, 8 p.m. and Sunday, December 6, 2:30 p.m. Christmas at the Cathedral with St. Louis Archdiocesan Choirs and Orchestra. Program features John Rutter’s Gloria. Tickets $47, $37, $22. Information 314-533-7662; www.cathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, December 6, 10 a.m. First Unitarian Church, 5007 Waterman at Kingshighway, St. Louis, Mo. Adult Choir presents Mozart Missa Brevis in D Major, K194, and Lloyd Pfautsch’s Day for Dancing accompanied by the Rosewood String Ensemble. Dr. Joel Knapp, conductor. Free. Information 314-361-0595.

Sunday, December 6, 4 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo. Advent vespers. Free. Information 314-367-0367.

Sunday, December 6, 6 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols. Ten choirs and instrumentalists.

Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. S.I.U.E. Wind Symphony, Dr. John Bell, conductor.

Sunday, December 13, 2:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Students and faculty of Webster University. A holiday celebration using all four corners of the cathedral.


(Concert Listings continued on Page 4)
American Guild of Organists
St. Louis Chapter
8056 Blackberry Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63130-2732

Return Service Requested

Dated material. Please deliver promptly.

St. Louis Pipe Organ Co., Inc.
Excellence in organ rebuilding and maintenance since 1922.

Inquiries invited on
• New organs
• Restorations
• Modernizations
• Service

6128 Madison Ave
St. Louis, MO 63134
314-521-0085
Fax 314-521-2646

Schantz
Organ Company