

The Lost Chord

Seated one day at the Organ,
I was weary and ill at ease,
And my fingers wandered idly
Over the noisy keys.

I do not know what I was playing,
Or what I was dreaming then;
But I struck one chord of music,
Like the sound of a great Amen.

It flooded the crimson twilight,
Like the close of an Angel's Psalm,
And it lay on my fevered spirit
With a touch of infinite calm.

It quieted pain and sorrow,
Like love overcoming strife;
It seemed the harmonious echo
From our discordant life.

It linked all perplexéd meanings
Into one perfect peace,
And trembled away into silence
As if it were loth to cease.

I have sought, but I seek it vainly,
That one lost chord divine,
Which came from the soul of the Organ,
And entered into mine.

It may be that Death's bright angel
Will speak in that chord again,
It may be that only in Heaven
I shall hear that grand Amen.

— Adelaide Procter



Pictured, from left, are Shawn Portell, dinner host; Bill Symes; Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart, Chapter historian; Frank Perkins; Madreen Meyer, and Dean Martha Shaffer.

Blewett Awards Presented at May Dinner

It seemed entirely appropriate that one of this year's Avis Blewett award recipients should be honored in the church where she served for many years. Gertrude Dickson (Gene) Symes provided music direction and leadership at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church for over 40 years. She had also been director of music at Salem United Methodist Church, Ladue, for several years.

Mrs. Symes and Professor Glenn Freiner, both of whom died within the past year, were recognized posthumously at the Chapter's annual award banquet in May at

the Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, hosted by Shawn Portell. Freiner headed the music department at McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill., for 30 years and was minister of music at First United Presbyterian Church, Belleville, Ill., for 40 years.

Award presentations were made by Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart to Bill Symes, Gene's husband, and to Madreen Meyer, Freiner's sister.

Dr. Frank Perkins, past Chapter dean and a teacher and colleague of both honorees, delivered special remembrances.

Membership Elects Three New Chapter Directors

Chapter members elected the following to serve as the Class of 2010 directors:

- Brent Johnson, organist, Third Baptist Church
- Regina Morris, music teacher, St.

Roch School, and recently organist at St. Agatha/St. Francis de Sales churches

- Shawn Portell, director of music ministries/organist, Webster Groves Presbyterian Church



Hawn Provides Ways To Expand Repertoire

At the April Chapter meeting, Dr. C. Michael Hawn shared ways that chapter members can use music from around the world to expand the cross-cultural worship experience. Dr. Hawn, professor of church music at Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology, offered interesting suggestions and demonstrations during his presentation at University United Methodist Church.

Felix Hell Joins in POE Summer Reunion

As a follow-up to last summer's highly successful St. Louis AGO Chapter-hosted Pipe Organ Encounter (POE), Chapter members hosted a POE reunion July 18-19.

The event began with the Felix Hell recital at the Cathedral Basilica. The following morning, eight POE students assembled in the organ loft at Christ Church Cathedral for a masterclass with Cathedral Music Director Pat Partridge. The group then traveled a few blocks north to the Shrine of St. Joseph and climbed to the organ loft on the top balcony. Long-time Shrine organist Ralph Ellerbrock gave a short lecture on the architectural features of the sanctuary. Martin Ott, president of the Ott Pipe Organ firm in St. Louis, explained the techniques he used in doing a historical restoration of the 1890 Pfeffer tracker instrument, after which the students took turns pumping the bellows and playing the organ.

After lunch at Vito's Pizza restaurant, it was time for the afternoon masterclass at the Cathedral Basilica. Felix Hell joined the

group, and the students had an opportunity to talk with him and ask him questions about his career. He then joined Cathedral Basilica Director of Music and Organist John Romeri in working with the students as they played their performance pieces.

A big thank-you to all who helped make the reunion a success: to John Romeri for planning and organizing the event and hosting at the Cathedral Basilica, to Pat Partridge for hosting and teaching the masterclass, to Martin Ott for hosting at the Shrine of St. Joseph, and to Max Tenney and Dean Martha Shaffer for help with chaperoning and transportation.

In Sympathy. . .

Chapter member Elizabeth Towne Schmitt, organist at First Presbyterian Church in Rolla, Mo., passed away in June. She was an active member of the Organ Historical Society, serving at the national level as co-chair of the Pipe Organ Database Committee. She also researched and wrote articles about Missouri organ builders, including the J. G. Pfeffer company of St. Louis, and its successor, the Kilgen company.

The Guild extends sympathy to her husband, John, and her family.

OPUS Publication Guidelines

General News

You are invited to submit material to the editor for publication consideration. If you took part in educational tours or denominational workshops over the summer, heard recitals abroad or at major summer concert venues in the U.S., please consider writing a paragraph or two and sharing your experiences with your fellow members. Material should be e-mailed to OPUS Editor Wayne King at opusstlago@aol.com. **The deadline is the FIRST day of every meeting month.**

"On the Concert Horizon..."

To submit information for the events calendar column in The *OPUS*, please send information according to the following format:

day / date / time / venue / address / program / admission and/or contact information

Announcements with incomplete information cannot be published; lengthy press releases can not be accommodated. **Please allow at least two months' lead time.** We can control when The *OPUS* is published, but cannot control the actual delivery date by the Post Office. Sometimes the newsletter gets delivered in just a few days; other times, it takes more than a week after printing to go through the mail. And not everyone gets the issue on the same day. Send notices via e-mail to opusstlago@aol.com.

THE OPUS

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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.

Next issue deadline: September 1, 2007

St. Louis Chapter, American Guild of Organists

2007 - 2008 Programs

Sunday, September 23, 2007, at 5 p.m.
(*Note the date*)

Dr. Alec Wyton Memorial Evensong
Location: Christ Church Cathedral, St. Louis

We kick off the year with an Evensong service honoring Dr. Alec Wyton, who died in March 2007. He served as organist/choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral from 1950 to 1954, and then for 20 years at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. Several Chapter members will participate in the service, and all are invited to greet friends and colleagues at a reception following the service.

Monday, October 22, 2007

Workshop/Masterclass with John Weaver
Venue: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Ladue

Dr. John Weaver, one of the most notable teachers and performers in the country, will give a workshop for Chapter members. He served as director of music and organist at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church for 35 years and was head of the Organ Department at both the Curtis Institute of Music and the Juilliard School. Dr. Weaver will perform a recital at St. Peter's the following day (Tuesday) at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 26, 2007

***Abendmusik*: Celebrating the 300th Anniversary of Dietrich Buxtehude's Death**
Venue: St. Louis Abbey (Priory Chapel), Creve Coeur

This program will feature organ, choral and instrumental music by Dietrich Buxtehude and contemporaries, modeled on the *Abendmusik* services that the composer organized in Lübeck.

Friday, January 4, 2008

Epiphany Party
Venue: Chapter member's home (TBA)

Saturday, January 26, 2008
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
(*Note the date*)

Paraclete Press Workshop/Reading Session
Venue: TBA

Jim Jordan from Paraclete Press in Orleans, Mass., will present a Saturday morning workshop featuring choral and organ music from their catalog. The workshop will also include discussion about how we can raise the sights and spirits of our choirs through thoughtful repertoire choices.

Monday, February 25, 2008

Jean Langlais Celebration
Venue: St. Louis Cathedral Basilica, St. Louis

Join us as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of French organist and composer, Jean Langlais. We will view a DVD produced by the Los Angeles AGO Chapter featuring performances of his music, information about the Cavaillé-Coll organ at Sainte-Clotilde and commentary by Ann Labounsky, the leading American disciple of Langlais. There will also be opportunity for questions and discussion.

Monday, March 31, 2008

Program: TBA
Venue: TBA

Monday, April 28, 2008

Program: TBA
Venue: TBA

Monday, May 26, 2008

Avis Blewett Award Dinner
Venue: First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

Organ Competition Applicants Sought

The Carlene Neihart International Pipe Organ Competition will hold its third competition April 12, 2008, at the Village Presbyterian Church of Prairie Village, Kan., on the church's 90-rank pipe organ. The first place award is for \$2,500, second place is \$1,500 and the third place is \$1,000.

The Carlene Neihart Pipe Organ Foundation, with a 501(C)(3) tax-exempt status, was formed to organize and present the competition, fund the prize money and sustain the future of the event. After extensive research and study, the founding directors determined a competition of this stature is paramount for the continued development of organ performance.

Donations of any amount would be greatly appreciated. Donors can request that the award contain, *subject to approval of the Competition Board of Directors*, the donor's name. This would provide an opportunity to honor a family name, pay

New Advertising Manager for OPUS and Directory

We are pleased to announce that Luella Foster has accepted the position of advertising manager for the Chapter. Please contact her for information about size, format and cost of advertising. Discounted rates are available for multiple ads in The OPUS and for OPUS/Yearbook combinations.

Revenue from ads in The OPUS and in the Yearbook/Directory goes directly to offset printing and distribution costs of these publications. Please support our advertisers with your business. Luella can be reached at luafoster@sbcglobal.net.

tribute to a friend, or commemorate others who are deserving of this symbol of recognition.

For the rules, required repertoire, organ description and stop list, application and more information about the competition, copy and paste the Web address into your browser: organcompetitions.com.

On The Concert Horizon

Sunday, Sept. 16, 4 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster, St. Louis, Mo. Organ recital by the church's new pastoral musician Andrew J. Peters. Program will include works of Buxtehude, Keith Chapman, Andrew Clarke, Pamela Decker, Andre Fleury, Daniel Gawthrop and Sweelinck. Peters and his family come to St. Louis from Brentwood United Methodist Church, Brentwood, Tenn.

Summer Organ Events

Did you attend any organ recitals this summer as you traveled? How about a regional convention other than Region VI? Was there an exciting program at your denominational conference? Please consider writing a short paragraph for The OPUS, send in a recital program, share your experiences with your fellow members. Information to Wayne King, newsletter editor, at opusstlago@aol.com.



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Positions Available

Choir Accompanist

St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 2761 Telegraph Road, St. Louis, MO 63125, seeks a part-time choir accompanist. Candidates must possess good piano skills and be able to work with volunteers and music director. Experience in leading sectionals preferred. Requires a 1.5 hour choir rehearsal each Tuesday evening (except summer) and services at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sunday. Additional rehearsals required for Christmas and Easter and other performances as needed. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Contact Rev. Jon Thompson (314-892-5595) for further information or send your resume and references to the church.

Director of Music/Organist

St. Joan of Arc Roman Catholic Church, 5800 Oleatha, St. Louis, MO 63139, seeks a director of music/organist. This position is full-time, although $\frac{3}{4}$ time may be considered. Responsibilities include four weekend liturgies, directing the adult choir and the contemporary ensemble. Resources include a 3-manual, 22-rank Wicks pipe organ and an upright piano. There are plans to purchase a new piano and synthesizer. Contact Msgr. Michael Turek (314-832-2838) for more information.

Worship Leader

Southwest Baptist Church, 6410 Scanlon, St. Louis, MO 63139, seeks a part-time worship leader to direct the chancel choir, lead congregational singing and work with ministerial staff in worship planning. Person will also serve as a resource for other areas of the church's music ministry. Send resume to Personnel Committee, P.O. Box 21728, St. Louis, MO 63139.

Director of Sacred Music

St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Oratory, 2653 Ohio Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118, seeks a director of sacred music, a half-time position with potential to develop into a full-time position for a qualified candidate. Ideal candidate will have significant experience with Gregorian notation, including propers, and the other sung parts of the Holy Mass, and Roman polyphony. Significant organ experience is also desired. Sunday schedule is an 8 a.m. Low Mass and a 10 a.m. sung Solemn High Mass. There is also a Tuesday evening Low Mass with organ and First Fridays are celebrated with a sung Solemn High Mass at 7 p.m. The Oratory has a 3-manual pipe organ in the rear gallery, and a 2-manual antiphonal instrument in the sanctuary. A refurbishment of the organs is planned. Visit the Oratory's web site at www.institute-christ-king.org/stlouishome.htm or contact Fr. Karl Lenhardt, vice provincial for the United States and rector of the Oratory at SFdS@institute-christ-king.org or by calling 314-771-3100.

Interim Organist

Lafayette Park United Methodist Church, 2300 Lafayette Avenue, St. Louis, is seeking a substitute organist to cover maternity leave. Two Sunday services at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Rates negotiable. Contact Senior Pastor Kathleen Wilder or Associate Pastor Sharon Kichline (314-771-9214).

Organist/Music Associate

Manchester United Methodist Church, 129 Woods Mill Rd., Manchester, MO 63011, seeks an organist/music associate. This position includes senior organist and primary accompanist, with both accompanying (organ and piano) and conducting responsibilities, as well as administrative duties. Special services, concert series, weddings and funerals are all a part of this position. This team-minded individual should be comfortable with all styles of music, and have strong interpersonal and conducting skills along with the ability to embrace all types of music. Priority will be given to those individuals with experience in conducting youth choirs. This is a salaried, $\frac{3}{4}$ time position, requiring 30-35 hrs./week. Salary includes benefits, funding for continuing education and teaching privileges. Submit current resume and representative programs and worship bulletins to the attention of Kevin McBeth at the church. Recordings/video may also be submitted, but cannot be returned.

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The OPUS

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St. Louis Chapter**

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Open Positions

(Continued from Page 5)

Contemporary Music Director

Manchester United Methodist Church, 129 Woods Mill Rd., Manchester, MO 63011, seeks a motivated individual with strong interpersonal skills and experience leading vocal and instrumental contemporary music. An accomplished keyboard player is preferred. The program currently consists of one worship service with plans to expand to two, and two Praise and Worship Teams: one adult and one youth, including band members for each. This is a salaried, half-time position requiring 20-25 hrs./week. Submit current resume and representative programs and worship bulletins to the attention of Kevin McBeth at the church. Recordings/video may also be submitted, but cannot be returned.

Director of Music

St. Gabriel's Catholic Church, 6303 Nottingham Ave., St. Louis, MO 63109, seeks a full-time director of music. Duties include directing the adult and children's choirs and handbell ensembles and playing for weekend, school, funeral and wedding liturgies. A part-time assistant director of music will also be hired. Instruments include 3-manual organ, Kurzweil synthesizer and Malmark handbells. Salary and benefits commensurate with education, experience, and Archdiocesan guidelines. A Master's degree is preferred. Other income possibilities include the availability of the church instruments for private lessons. Please

visit www.saintgabs.net for more information about the parish and music department. Contact Fr. Bob Samson, pastor (314-353-6303/fax 314-353-7704).

Organist

St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church, 1424 First Capitol Dr. South, St. Charles, MO 63303, seeks a part-time organist. Duties include playing for Masses at 5 p.m. on Saturday, at 7:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Sunday, anticipated Holy day at 5 p.m., Holyday at 7 p.m., weddings and funerals. Duties also include accompanying the adult and children's choirs except during summer months. Contact Father Pat Ryan (636-946-6799; fax 636-946-0380).

Organist/Accompanist

Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 W. Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122, seeks applicants for this position. This is a half-time, salaried position, compensation based on skills and experience. Primary tasks include playing service music and accompanying two choirs, soloists and ensembles for two traditional services. Organ and keyboard skills are a priority. Resumes and applications should be submitted to Dolan Bayless, director of music ministries, by e-mail dolan@kirkwoodumc.org or by U.S. mail to 201 W. Adams, Kirkwood, MO 63122.