

Total Langlais Immersion Highlights February Meeting

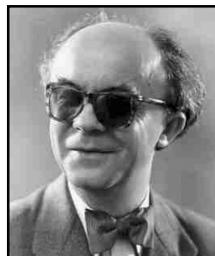
Join us as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of French organist and composer, Jean Langlais. We will view portions of a DVD, *Life and Music of Jean Langlais*, produced by the Los Angeles AGO Chapter and will hear live performances and commentary by Dr. Ann Labounsky, the leading American disciple of Langlais. There will also be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Jean Langlais was born on February 15, 1907, in La Fontenelle (Ille-et-Vilaine, Brittany), a small village near the Mont-Saint-Michel. Blind from the age of two, he studied in Paris at the National Institute for the Young Blind

with Albert Mahaut, a former pupil of Cesar Franck, and the blind organist André Marchal. At the National Conservatory of Music in Paris, he obtained a First Prize in organ in Marcel Dupré's class of 1930 and a Composition Prize in Paul Dukas' class of 1934. He also studied improvisation with Charles Tournemire, receiving in 1931 the "Grand Prix d'Exécution et Improvisation des Amis de l'Orgue."



Dr. Ann Labounsky



Jean Langlais

Professor for 40 years at the National Institute for the Young Blind, he also taught at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, where between 1961 and 1976 he influenced both French and foreign students. His reputation as pedagogue, improviser and concert artist drew pupils

and audiences of many nationalities, especially from the USA where he gave 300 recitals and countless master classes. In 1945 he became the successor to Cesar Franck and Charles Tournemire at the prestigious organ tribune of Sainte-Clotilde in Paris. He left that position in 1987 at the age of 80, having been titular for 42 years. A prolific composer, his catalog of works comprises 254 opus numbers, including vocal and instrumental sacred music, secular music and numerous organ pieces.

Dr. Ann Labounsky has earned an international reputation as a virtuoso

performer and improviser at the organ, and particularly, as a leading American disciple of Jean Langlais. From 1962 to 1964, Ann Labounsky lived and studied in Paris as a recipient of a Fulbright grant. As an organ student of André Marchal and Jean Langlais, she immersed herself in the French organ tradition; she studied most of Langlais's compositions with the composer, and

(Continued on Page 2)

The Details

Date: Monday, Feb. 25
Event: Jean Langlais Celebration
Location: St. Louis Cathedral Basilica
 4431 Lindell Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63108
Time: 6:30 p.m. - Dinner (Boland Hall cafeteria, behind the Cathedral, Newstead and Maryland)
 7:30 p.m. - Program (Enter sanctuary through west doors off parking lot between school and Cathedral)
Host: John Romeri
Cost: \$10 for dinner
Reservations: Kathleen Bolduan (314-725-1251;
 or kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu)
 (Please confirm your reservations by Wednesday, Feb. 20)

Directions:

From I-64/U.S. Route 40 East/Westbound: From either direction, take Kingshighway North (exit 36B). Proceed north on Kingshighway about one mile and turn east (right) on Lindell. Cathedral will be on your left.

Parking: Available in the lot behind the Cathedral, on Maryland Ave. behind the Cathedral, and on Lindell Blvd. Additional parking available in the Cathedral Center lot to the west of the Cathedral and Cathedral Rectory.

Moving from One Season to Another

It's the afternoon of Groundhog Day, and I'm watching the snow melt off the deck. My sister e-mailed from Pennsylvania to say that Punxatawney Phil saw his shadow this morning, and we will have six more weeks of winter. Lent starts so early that Ash Wednesday through Palm Sunday and half of Holy Week are part of winter this year. I'm still filing away my Christmas music, along with pulling things for this very special season. I hope that March "goes out like a lamb" so that Easter is a

bright beginning of spring!

Nothing profound to say on the State of the Chapter this year – we are continuing to hold our own financially and in membership numbers (more than 200). The Executive Committee has been discussing submitting an application to host another POE in 2009. The fall programs were very successful with an average attendance of 35. Please look ahead at the programs for the coming months and plan to attend. The Guild is YOUR organization – your

participation is what keeps the group strong and cohesive.

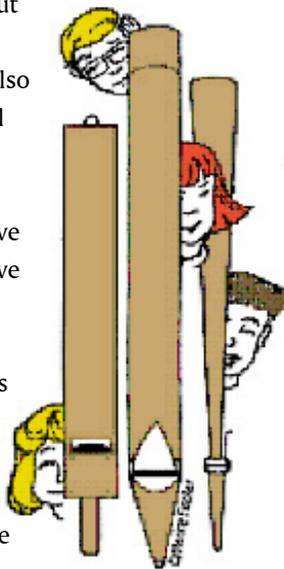
A reminder that The Chenaults will be in St. Louis at the Cathedral Basilica on Sunday, February 24, at 2:30 p.m. – your chance to see and hear this exciting duo in recital on the mighty Kilgen. We will meet at the Basilica the next evening as John and Karen Romeri host our March meeting with Langlais expert Dr. Ann Labounsky as guest speaker. Hope to see you there!

— Martha Shaffer

Pipes Pedals Pizza and Student Organist Competition

Please remember the upcoming PPPizza and Student Competition on Saturday, March 8. Both events will take place at Grace United Methodist Church, Waterman and Skinker Blvd., with Cathy Bolduan as host. Pipes Pedals Pizza is free, but registration is required. Call Max Tenney in the Archdiocesan Music Office (314-533-7662) to sign up. Pre-registration is also required for the afternoon Student Organist competition. Call the same number and ask for a pre-registration form. The registration deadline for both of these events is February 29. Those of you who receive e-mail notices from the Chapter have received promotional fliers to print out. We hope that you have posted those notices in highly conspicuous places and have encouraged participation in these events.

A Special Note: Marie Kremer is spearheading these events and could use some help with either or both. The PPPizza activity runs from 10 a.m. to noon, wrapping up with a pizza lunch by 12:30 p.m. The Student Competition begins at 1:30 p.m. If you have some spare time on Saturday, March 8, please contact Marie (314-421-3749 or e-mail marjkrem@aol.com) and let her know she can count on you for assistance.



Langlais Immersion *(Continued from Page 1)*

played them for him on the organ at Sainte-Clotilde. In 1964, while she was Langlais's student at the Schola Cantorum, she earned the Diplôme de Virtuosité with mention maximum in both performance and improvisation. Additional study was with Suzanne Chaisemartin and Marcel Dupré.

Dr. Labounsky has recorded the complete organ works of Jean Langlais for

the Musical Heritage Society. To date, 18 CDs have been released with critical acclaim in leading publications including *The New York Times*, *The American Organist*, and *The Diapason*. She is also Chair of Organ and Sacred Music at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa., where she oversees both the undergraduate and graduate programs in sacred music.

Region VI Blog

Jan Kraybill, our regional Councillor, has set up a blog for Region VI. This site will feature AGO and concert news for the upper Midwest. The main feature is a calendar on which the 50+ chapters in the region can post events which are open to the general public. Check it out at www.agor6.blogspot.com.

Epiphany Party

A big thank you to Bill Wade and Mike Kaberline for hosting the Chapter Epiphany Party at their home. Those who attended enjoyed good food and good company in a wonderful Victorian setting!

THE OPUS

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

February 2008
Volume 24, No. 6

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: March 1, 2008

International Year of the Organ Composition Competition Winners Named

The American Guild of Organists sponsored a composition competition as part of the 2008-2009 International Year of the Organ (IYO) initiative. Thirty-six composers submitted pieces for organ and C instrument, of easy to moderate difficulty, unpublished, and no more than five minutes long.

Judges for the competition were Mary Beth Bennett, Emma Lou Diemer, and Mark Sedio. Winning composers are Bernard Wayne Sanders for "Ornament of Grace" for organ and violin or oboe; Paul Ayres for "Tocatta Duo" for organ and trumpet, flute or violin; and Jon Naples for "Reach for the Stars" for organ and oboe. The first prize composition will be published by Concordia this spring.

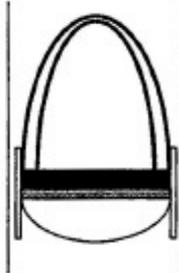
The principal intent of the competition was to generate new music for presentation at the Organ Spectacular!, a world-wide series of concerts to be presented on Oct. 19. It is hoped that one or more of the winning competitions will be included in each concert. An additional work, by Stephen Paulus, also has been commissioned for use in the concerts.

Organ Spectacular! is a follow-up to the 2000 World's Largest Organ Recital, the most successful community outreach effort in the history of the Guild. The goal for this upcoming event is to increase public awareness of the organ, the instruments, and the music.

Organ Spectacular! will feature the organ in its historic and evolving roles as a solo instrument, as an accompanying instrument, and as an ensemble instrument. AGO chapters are encouraged to develop collaborative programming with local arts and cultural organizations. This may include adult and children's choirs, instrumentalists, orchestras, even marching bands. "Informances," multimedia, and audiovisual technology that can be integrated into the concert to put the organ "on stage" are encouraged.

It is anticipated that there will be more than 200 family-oriented concerts involving more than 2,000 performers in this country and abroad. The Organ Spectacular! is designed to entertain, inform, and engage new audiences for organ music, while giving seasoned listeners a fresh perspective on the organ's expansive repertoire. Moreover, it will bring organ music to a new audience of listeners, generating new friends, and reinvigorating existing audiences for the King of Instruments.

The St. Louis Chapter will be reviewing the wealth of materials available from the national organization and suggesting ways in which our members can become involved in this historic organ event. If you have suggestions for participation in this "world's largest organ concert," please contact an officer or director listed on Page 5 of this issue and share your ideas.



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On the Concert Horizon

Congratulations...

Sunday, Feb. 24, 9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood, St. Louis, Mo. Kiersten Venezia, contemporary Christian vocalist.

Sunday, Feb. 24, 2:30 p.m. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. Ray and Elizabeth Chenault, duo organists. Admission \$10. Call 314-533-7662 or visit www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, Feb. 24, 5 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Evensong with the Cathedral Choir.

Sunday, March 2, 2:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Young Artists Competition winners Dominic Cheli, Phillip Hsu, and Katie Stanley, piano.

Friday, March 7, 8 p.m. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. State Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, Enrique Bátiz, conductor, featuring classical guitarist Alfonso Moreno. Admission \$35, \$25, \$15. Call 314-533-7662 or visit www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, March 9, 2:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Daniel Alexander, baritone, Alex Wang, tenor; Ruth Price, piano.

Sunday, March 16, 3 p.m. Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, Mo. The American Kantorei, Robert Bergt, conductor and music director. First Lutheran Oratorio; Buxtehude solo cantata with Jeral Becker, tenor. Free-will offering.

Sunday, March 30, 5 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Evensong with the Cathedral Choir.

Friday, April 4, 8 p.m. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. Choir of King's College, Cambridge, with Stephen Cleobury, director. Admission \$25, \$15. Call 314-533-7662 or visit www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

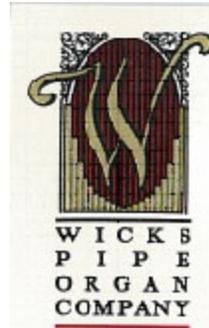
Sunday, April 13, 4 p.m. Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood, St. Louis, Mo. Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" with Chancel Choirs of Webster Groves Presbyterian and Webster Groves United Methodist Churches.

Sunday, April 20, 4 p.m. Webster Groves United Methodist Church, 600 North Bompert, St. Louis, Mo. Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass" with Chancel Choirs of Webster Groves Presbyterian and Webster Groves United Methodist Churches.

... to Chapter member **Heather Martin Cooper**, who has successfully passed the American Guild of Organists' Colleague (CAGO) exam. She chose to participate in the new program linking the AGO and National Association of Pastoral Musicians, and received dual certification in both organizations. Heather is the pastoral musician at St. Monica Parish in Creve Coeur.



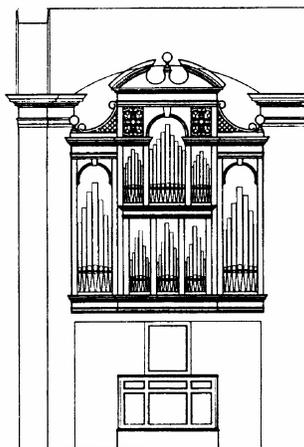
... to Chapter Executive Committee member **Charles (Chuck) Peery**, who has been named director of The Gateway Ringers, St. Louis' only community auditioned bell choir. Chuck is the music director/organist at St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Ill. **Jeff White**, former Chapter Executive Committee member, and organist at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, is the group's new president. The 15-member organization was founded in 1995. The group is now preparing a spring/fall program, "American Tapestry," which focuses on music from Broadway and film, and patriotic music in varied and creative arrangements including several regional premieres and some new music written for the group. The spring concert will be at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, April 13, at First Unity Church, 4753 Butler Hill Road, St. Louis, MO 63128.



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• **Sunday, March 2 – Organ Recital & Evensong**
5:00 p.m. - Nancy Ypma - McKendree College, Lebanon, Ill.
5:30 p.m. - Lenten Evensong – *Music of Sasha Johnson Manning*

• **Sunday, March 9 - 5:00 p.m. - Concert: First St. Louis Performance**
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Positions Available

Director of Music & Liturgy, Organist

St. Teresa of the Child Jesus Catholic Church, 1201 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221, seeking a director of music & liturgy, organist. Responsibilities of this part-time position include playing organ or piano for two or three weekend liturgies, Holy Days, special liturgies, two school Masses per week, weddings, funerals and directing a contemporary choir. Candidate must have strong leadership skills, knowledge of the Roman Catholic liturgy and be a competent organist and pianist with knowledge of handbells. Instruments include a three-manual Wicks pipe organ with digital voices; 6'8" Yamaha grand piano and three octaves of Schulmerich hand bells. Detailed job description is available on request. Send resume to Rev. David Darin at the church.

Minister of Music

Dover Place Christian Church, 701 Dover Place, St. Louis, MO 63111 seeking a part-time minister of music. Duties include preparing music for one service each week, which meets on Sunday mornings at 10:30 and is dismissed no later than 11:45, plus directing choir practice once a month. The salary for this position is \$150 per week. Applicants should send a resume to the church with three personal/work references that can be contacted to verify your previous work. For more information, contact Pastor Bill Foglesong, lead minister (314-353-8023 or 314-616-8046 or pastorbilldoverplace@earthlink.net).

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).

Organist

Calvary Presbyterian Church, 3400 Lemay Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 63125, seeking an organist. Duties include playing for the 10 a.m. Sunday service and the Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve services. For more information, contact Joan Delaney (314-892-0233) or Eva Shrum (314-845-2833).

Director of Music

St. John's Episcopal Church, 3672-B Arsenal, St. Louis, MO 63116, seeking a director of music. Looking for one or two talented musicians to serve in two roles: (1) pianist/organist and (2) choral director. Candidates should be innovative, energetic, and patient individuals who are (1) willing to direct a volunteer choir, (2) grounded in classical music and open-minded about different musical styles, and (3) familiar with liturgical Christian traditions. Part-time to start - 8-10 hours a week. Salary commensurate with expertise and experience. Please send inquiries to the Director of Music Search Committee, c/o St. John's or e-mail inquiries to info@towergrovechurch.org. No phone inquiries please.

Director of Music

St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Church, 6303 Nottingham, St. Louis, MO 63109, seeing a full-time director of music/organist. Vibrant 1600 family parish in strong urban neighborhood with a long tradition of quality liturgy and music. Three-manual pipe organ and extensive music library. Active music department of adult, children, and handbell

(Continued on Page 6)

The OPUS

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Positions Available *(continued)*

choirs with experienced cantors and instrumentalists available. Dedicated music space and offices in gallery. Master's degree preferred. Salary, benefit package, and health insurance commensurate with education, experience and Archdiocesan guidelines. Assistant to be hired with the input of new director. Only well-qualified candidates will be considered. Contact Fr. Bob Samson at the church. For more information, see www.saintgabes.net.

Organist

Trinity United Church of Christ, 47 N. Douglas Ave., Belleville, IL 62220, seeking a part-time organist to play two-manual, nine-rank Wicks pipe organ. Principal responsibilities include playing for two Sunday morning services and accompanying the choir for Wednesday evening rehearsals, as well as occasional weddings and funerals. Advanced keyboard technique required. Excellent pianist willing to study organ will be considered. For more information, contact Rev. P. Jerry Bennett (618-233-2941).

Organist

Upper Alton Baptist Church, 2726 College Avenue, Alton, Ill., seeking an organist to accompany congregational singing and perform during the traditional Sunday worship at 9:30 a.m. Wicks organ. Flexible scheduling is available (minimum one Sunday per month; maximum 4-5 Sundays per month). Contact: Pastor Brad (uabcpastorbrad@sbcglobal.net or 618-465-853).

Organist/Pianist

Zoar United Church of Christ, 9103 D Road, Columbia, IL 62236, seeks an organist or pianist. Duties include playing for the 10 a.m. service on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month along with special Lent, Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving Eve services. New Allen electronic digital organ. Contact the church office (618-939-8479) for more information.

Organist/Accompanist

First Unitarian Church, 5007 Waterman Avenue, St. Louis MO 63108, seeks an organist and accompanist to support traditional worship services. Duties include playing for two services on Sunday from August through June. Accompany the choir on organ and piano and at Wednesday night rehearsals. Dobson tracker organ. Atmosphere of artistic and religious freedom. Requirements include mastery of the traditional organ repertoire. Auditions will include self-chosen music as well as sight reading. For more information, see www.firstuustlouis.org or call Ken Dodds (314-822-3857).

(See St. Louis Chapter Web site – www.agostlouis.org – for more listings.)