



THE OPUS

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Musical Ideas from Paraclete Press at January Meeting

Get the New Year off to a great start with a workshop and choral reading session given by Jim Jordan of Paraclete Press. The publishing house, based in Cape Cod, Mass., offers ideas, wisdom and beauty from authors, composers, and artists, drawing from Christian traditions through the centuries and from today. Over the past years, the company has established itself as a publisher of fine sacred music that meets the needs of choirs and organists in many denominations and at various ability levels.

The workshop will focus on three topics:

1. Use of various texts (within an anthem setting) at various points in a service.

2. Borrowing a phrase from C.S. Lewis, how does church music “glorify God by being excellent in its own kind” and then how do we apply that to ourselves? (what we choose for a given Sunday morning, etc.)

3. How do we raise the sights of our choirs – grabbing the choirs’ collective “heart” to learn an anthem that may be beyond

their current level of achievement? (but not their abilities!)

Attendees will receive a packet of choral music from Paraclete Press. Additionally, Jim will play several pieces of organ music from their catalog on the 60-rank Schantz instrument in the sanctuary of host church, Second Presbyterian. Some music will be available for purchase.

We hope that this workshop will not only provide some great repertoire for your choir but will also help you to program music that allows you, your choir and your congregation to grow musically and spiritually.

Jim Jordan has performed as an organ accompanist and soloist throughout the United States, Eastern and Western Europe. Cited as performing both “authoritatively and sensitively” by the *Boston Globe*, and by the American Record Guide as a “superb performer,” Jordan earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, studying with Robert Anderson and acting as accompanist for the University Choir. As a student of David Craighead, he received his Master’s degree, Doctorate and Performer’s Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N.Y. While in Rochester, Dr. Jordan served as choirmas-

ter/organist for Parkminster Presbyterian Church. He also worked as a teaching assistant in the music theory department at Eastman, and accompanied the Eastman Chorale and Eastman-Rochester Chorus. Jordan has published in the American Choral Review and was a contributing author to American Sacred Choral Music-An Overview and Handbook (Paraclete Press, 2001).

— Paul Vasile

The Details

Date: SATURDAY, Jan. 26 (*Note meeting day)
Event: Choral Music Workshop and Reading Session with Paraclete Press
Location: Second Presbyterian Church
4501 Westminster Place
St. Louis, MO 63108
Time: 10:30 a.m. - Reading Session in Niccolls Hall
Host: Andrew Peters
Cost: \$5/person, covers cost of music packet and refreshments
Reservations: Kathleen Bolduan (314-725-1251;
or kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu)
(Please confirm your reservations by Wednesday, Jan. 23)

Directions:

From I-64/U.S. Route 40 East/Westbound: From either direction, take Kingshighway North exit. Proceed north on Kingshighway past the hospitals and turn east (right) on Lindell. Proceed east and turn north (left) on Taylor (second traffic light east of Kingshighway). Proceed north on Taylor; you will see the church on the corner of Westminster and Taylor. To reach the parking lot, turn left (west) at Westminster. The lot entrance is just past the church on the right.

Music of the Season

Advent, Christmas and Epiphany bring to mind a procession of carols and anthems and cantatas to celebrate these festive seasons. Although there are a few carols and choruses which have become my “unfavorites” through much repetition,

in general I find the music an annual source of joy and inspiration.

This year I took a job as a seasonal support associate at a local department store and discovered another whole cycle of Christmas music. In late October, the

store background music was a mix of “standards” - familiar tunes and artists from the past 40 years with lyrics and styles calculated not to offend the purchasing public. Then at the beginning of November, every sixth song was a secular Christmas song (no carols here, please), with the ratio of seasonal to non-seasonal increasing incrementally until by Thanksgiving it was all Holiday Favorites. And what a play list! White Christmas and Blue Christmas with Bing and Elvis and roasting chestnuts and jingling bells and Mr. Jackson as a young boy soprano belting out I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus, all relentlessly repeated so that I would hear everything more than once in a five-hour shift.

All changed abruptly with the end of the commercial Christmas season. Pre-inventory clearance sales are accompanied once again by the “standards.” And the experience has prompted this New Year’s resolution on my part: In 2008 I won’t complain about too many verses of “Silent Night” or “Carol of the Bells” or a less than perfect “Hallelujah Chorus!”

My best wishes to all for the New Year.

—Martha Shaffer

Pipes, Pedals, Pizza

The Pipes, Pedals, Pizza event has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 8, at Grace United Methodist Church from 10 a.m. to noon. The program includes an introduction to the pipe organ, a short video film, a walk through the pipe chambers, and time at the console. The event closes at 12:30 p.m. after the pizza lunch.

Members, we need your help to publicize this program! We can accommodate 30 - 35 students from grades 4 through 12. Call 314-533-7662 by February 29 for pre-registration. Max Tenney and John Romeri will be handling the registration through the Cathedral Basilica music office. Please think of friends, relatives, junior/youth choir members, young people who come by the console to watch you play, and offer them the chance to attend this free event.

Student Competition/Recital

The Student Competition has also been rescheduled for Saturday, March 8, at Grace United Methodist Church starting at 1:30 pm. The competition is open to students in grades 7 through 12. Required literature includes one prelude or fugue from Bach’s Eight Little Preludes and Fugues, and a contrasting piece of the student’s choice. Registration is required by February 29. Cathy Bolduan will be scheduling practice times at Grace United Methodist. Contact the Cathedral Basilica music office (314) 533-7662 for more information and to obtain a registration form. Best students will play a group recital at Christ Church Cathedral on May 3.

Looking Ahead

Monday, February 25, 7:30 p.m. — The Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, John and Karen Romeri, hosts.

Jean Langlais Celebration - Ann Labounsky, guest speaker.

Monday, March 31, 7:30 pm. — Central Presbyterian Church, Phil Rowland, host.

Music for Organ and Solo Instruments.

Monday, April 28, 7:30 pm. — Concordia Seminary, Koburg Hall.
A Fireside Chat with Dr. Robert Bergt. Dr. Bergt will discuss Bach and Buxtehude, followed by a short recital in the Chapel of St. Timothy and Titus.

Monday, May 19, 7:30 pm. — First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, William Stein, host.

Annual Chapter Banquet.

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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: February 1, 2008

Soprano Soloist Available

Marlissa Hudson, lyric coloratura soprano, is a professional singer who recently returned to her hometown of St. Louis after more than 10 years in the Washington, D.C. area. Accomplished in the genres of opera, oratorio, and concert repertoire, Marlissa most recently performed the role of Bess in Gershwin's Porgy and Bess with Union Avenue Opera. Marlissa is currently an adjunct professor of voice at Webster University, and a section leader at St. Peters Episcopal Church in Ladue. Her repertoire ranges from Bach to Barber, and she is interested in expanding her performance experience in the St. Louis area. More information and sound samples are available on her Web site: www.marlissa-hudson.com. If you are in need of a soprano soloist, please feel free to contact her: marlissa.hudson@gmail.com or 703.822.1947 (cell).

Baylor Midwinter Organ Conference

The 14th Annual Midwinter Organ Conference will be held at Baylor University in Waco Texas, February 10-12. Featured artists and clinicians include Vincent DuBois, Gail Archer, Joyce Jones, Wiff Rudd, Jeffery Ames, Frederick Grimes, Ross King and the Baylor Concert Choir. Advance registration is due by February 4. Cost: Adult \$100, Senior (over 65) \$75, Student \$50. More information: 254-710-1417 or fax (254) 710-1191 or e-mail J_Karen_Johnson@baylor.edu.



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Wicks Company Announces Organizational Changes

The Board of Directors of The Wicks Company, Highland, Ill., is pleased to announce that Mrs. Barbara Wick, currently president, has been appointed to the position of chairman of the board. Concurrent with this change, Mary Wick Haberer was appointed president - Custom Woods; Mark Wick was appointed president - Organ; and Scott Wick was appointed president - Aircraft. Tom Briggs, the business consultant to Mrs. Wick, has been appointed to the board as an outside director.

These changes are consistent with the company's plan of transitioning the management team at the 101-year-old company and strengthening the ability of each business to grow and prosper while maintaining its long-held traditions. The creativity of the Wicks Organ Company that produced industry-leading inventions such as the patented Direct-Electric® Action has again come front and center in this unique arrangement. Third-generation Wick family members have now taken the reigns and will lead the company into the 21st century. This smooth and seamless change of officers will result in continued pursuit of excellence in all things.




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On the Concert Horizon

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 8 p.m. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. Brass Spectacular with Susan Slaughter and the St. Louis Symphony Brass. Admission \$35, \$25, \$15. Call 314-533-7662 or visit www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, Jan. 27, 5 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Evensong with the Cathedral Choir.

Sunday, Feb. 3, 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. Buxtehude *Magnificat*, natural horn and trumpet soloists. Free-will offering.

Sunday, Feb. 10, 2:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. St. Louis Brass Band, Dr. John Bell, conductor. Admission \$7; seniors and students \$5.

Sunday, Feb. 17, 2:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 1210 Locust, St. Louis, Mo. Scott Kennebeck, tenor; William Partridge, piano.

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

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 16, 4 p.m. Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood, St. Louis, Mo. Marcel Dupre's "Le Chemin de la Croix" with Shawn Portell, organist.

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 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, May 18, 10 a.m. Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood, St. Louis, Mo. Children's choir musical.

AGO National Convention Early Registration Date Is Approaching

If you have thoughts about attending this year's National AGO Convention, to be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul June 22-26, you might want to consider taking advantage of the early registration rates, which end January 31. Signing up early will ensure your choice of more than 65 workshops, which are described in the January issue of *The American Organist*. Other highlights include over 20 organ and choral concerts, worship services, and a wide variety of exhibits. The magazine contains lots of details about the convention, along with registration forms. The information is also online at www.ago2008.org.



An Ecumenical Christmas?

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?"

The clerk says, "What denomination?"

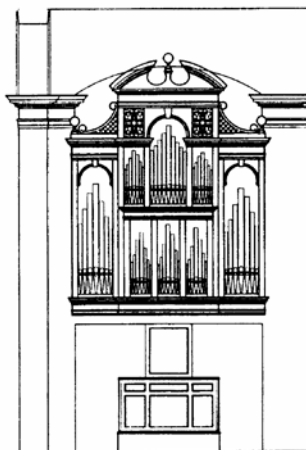
The woman replies, "Oh my. Has it come to this? Give me 6 Catholic, 12 Baptist, and 32 Evangelical."



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ORGAN RECITAL and CHORAL EVENSONG
FIRST SUNDAYS from OCTOBER through MAY
The St. Peter's Singers - S. William Aitken, Director

Sunday, February 6 - Recital & Choral Evensong

5:00 p.m. - Ron Hall - First Congregational Church of St. Louis

5:30 p.m. - Evensong for Lent - Music of William Byrd

Sunday, March 2 - Recital & Choral Evensong

5:00 p.m. - Nancy Ypma - McKendree College

5:30 p.m. - Evensong for Lent - Music of Sasha Johnson Manning

Sunday, March 9 - 5:00 p.m.

MESSE DE REQUIEM - André Campra

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Positions Available

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 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

St. Teresa Roman Catholic Church, 1201 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221, seeks an organist to play for some weekday Children's Masses, Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. Masses and various other feasts where the choir does not perform. Contact Rich Thompson (618-233-3500) for more information.

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 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.)

The OPUS

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Snapshots from Recent Chapter Meetings



October...

Chapter members, from left, Pat Partridge, Ed Wallace, and Bill Aitken had a chance to reminisce about their days at Union Seminary with guest workshop leader Dr. John Weaver (right). The four have been friends for more than 30 years. Aitken was host for the informative meeting at St. Peter's Episcopal Church.



November...

An ensemble from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. *Speculum animae*, under the direction of Dr. Ryan Board, marked the 300th anniversary of the death of Dietrich Buxtehude with a performance of his music. The program was presented at Priory Chapel at the St. Louis Abbey, with Andrzej Zahorski as host.