



Special Pipe Organ Encounter Issue

THE OPUS

June 2006
Volume 22
Number 9

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

www.agostlouis.org

AGO St. Louis — Pipe Organ Encounter Schedule

* Denotes public events. However, chapter members are invited to attend any events of interest. The schedule is subject to change.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

2:00 p.m. Registration: St. Joseph Hall lobby, Fontbonne

4:00—5:00 p.m. Social hour, introduction of faculty:
St. Joseph Hall lobby, Fontbonne

6:00—7:00 p.m. Orientation: St. Joseph Hall lobby,
Fontbonne

*7:30—8:30 p.m. Evensong and Hymn Festival: First
Congregational Church
Zach Hemenway, Ron Hall, Stephen Mager,
organists
Choir of Bethel Lutheran Church.
Reception to follow.

MONDAY, JUNE 12

9:00-10:00 a.m. Class on practice techniques: Bethel
Lutheran Church
Presenter: Dr. Michael Bauer

11:00 a.m.-noon. Visit with Stan Kann: Fox Theatre lobby

1:30-4:30 p.m. Private Lessons, Practice time

6:30-7:30 p.m. Organ Crawl, Part I: St. Louis Cathedral
Basilica

8:00-8:45 p.m. Organ Crawl, Part II: Saint Peter's
Episcopal Church

9:00-9:45 p.m. Organ Crawl, Part III: Saint Monica
Catholic Church

9:45 p.m. Desserts (Ted Drewes, delivered):
Saint Monica Catholic Church

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

9:00 a.m.-noon. Martin Ott Organ Shop – tour and
organ building activity

2:00-5:00 p.m. Private lessons, practice time

6:00-6:30 p.m. Visit to Concordia Seminary Carillon

*7:00-8:00 p.m. Carillon Concert: Concordia Seminary
campus

8:30-9:30 p.m. Harpsichord Crawl-Historic Instrument
Showcase: Bethel Church

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

9:00-11:00 a.m. Classes (2): Organ repertoire and
registration: Graham Chapel
Presenter: John Ditto

1:30 - 4:30 p.m. Private lessons, practice time

*7:30—8:30 p.m. James David Christie Recital:
St. Louis Abbey Church
Reception to follow.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

9:00-10:30 a.m. Master Class: Grace United Methodist
Church
Presenter: James David Christie

**11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Practice time for student
recital: Grace Methodist Church
**Possible all-afternoon activity

1:30-4:30 p.m. Private Lessons, Practice time

*8:00-11:00 p.m. Shakespeare in the Park: *Julius Caesar*:
Art Hill, Forest Park

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

8:30-9:00 a.m. Student Checkout: St. Joseph Hall lobby,
Fontbonne

*10:30-11:30 a.m. Student Organ Recital: Grace
Methodist

11:30 a.m. POE adjourns; Student Pickup: Grace
Methodist

James David Christie to be Featured in June 14 Recital

Venue: St. Louis Abbey Church

We are pleased to welcome **James David Christie** as our POE guest recitalist. Mr. Christie has been internationally acclaimed as one of the finest organists of his generation. He has performed throughout the world in solo concerts and with major symphony and period instrument orchestras under such conductors as Kurt Masur, Klaus Tennstedt, Gunthur Schuller, Edo de Waart, Arthur Fiedler, Colin Davis, Andrew Davis, Sir Simon Rattle, Philippe Herreweghe, Roger Norrington and Trevor Pinnock, among many others.

He has performed and recorded under Seiji Ozawa, Robert Craft, Andrew Parrott, Christopher Hogwood and Joshua Rifkin, and premiered and championed major contemporary works by Anton Heiller, Daniel Pinkham, Thea Musgrave, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, George Crumb, Ned Rorem, Jean Langlais and P.D.Q. Bach (for the 100th anniversary of the Boston Symphony Pops with John Williams conducting).

James David Christie is the Distinguished Artist-in-Residence at the College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass., and has served on the faculties of Wellesley College, the Boston Conservatory, and Boston University. He has served as organist of the Boston Symphony from 1978. In 2000 he was a visiting professor at the Paris Conservatory and the Academy of Music, Krakow, Poland. In 2002 he was appointed Professor of Organ at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in Ohio, and divides his work between his positions in the East and the Midwest. His students have won prizes in major international competitions in

the United States, Canada, Europe, South Africa and Japan.

In 1979 James David Christie became the first American to win First Prize in the International Organ



James David Christie

Competition in Bruges, Belgium; he was also the first person in the 18-year history of the competition to win both the First Prize and the Audience Prize.

He received his degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory and the New England Conservatory. At New England, he was awarded the prestigious Artist's Diploma and he was twice a winner of the Concerto Competition. His teachers include David Boe, Yuko Hayashi, Marie-Claire Alain, Bernard Lagacé and Harald Vogel. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Music degree from the New England School of Law in 1980 for his outstanding contributions to the musical life of the city of Boston. The New England Conservatory awarded him their Distinguished Alumni Award in 1996.

James David Christie has performed for major music festivals in Boston, New York, San Francisco, Dallas, Chicago, Washington D.C., Montréal, Naples, Leipzig, Paris, Bressanone,

Milan, Vienna, London, Prague, and Tokyo and many other cities. His solo performances have been broadcast throughout Europe and North America, and he has performed for the International Congress of Organists and for several National Conventions of the American Guild of Organists. He is the founder and music director of Ensemble Abendmusik, a period instrument orchestra and chorus specializing in music of the 17th century.

James David Christie has received high praise and numerous prizes for his recordings for Philips, Nonesuch, Decca, Koch International, Denon, JAV and Naxos, among others. Most recently, he has performed with the Boston Symphony under Sir Simon Rattle, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Stuttgart Chamber Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic (Carnegie Hall Festival) and the Boston Philharmonic in Boston and Carnegie Hall under Benjamin Zander. Mr. Christie is represented by Truckenbrod Concert Agency.

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of the St. Louis Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists.

June 2006
Volume 22, No. 9

Wayne King, Editor

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

Next publication: September

Help US Out! Place a Notice In Your Church Bulletin

Here's an easy way to pitch in with help for the POE. The following is a suggested form letter to send to a pastor, church administrator, or secretary. To send it along via e-mail, you may download it from our chapter Web site: www.agostlouis.org.

Dear Friends:

We would like to share some information about an exciting upcoming event called **Pipe Organ Encounter, June 11-16**. This is an educational institute for young musicians, sponsored by the **American Guild of Organists**. Churches of all denominations stand to benefit from this workshop for future organists. May we request that you publish the following information for in your church bulletin for the next Sunday(s)? Thank you for your help!

[Announcement as follows:]

Upcoming Organ Music Event: A dozen local churches and institutions will play host to the **Pipe Organ Encounter** for young musicians, **June 11-16**. The institute is sponsored by the **American Guild of Organists**. Students from around the Midwest will participate in a week of recitals, classes and individual instruction. The public is invited to the following events:

Ecumenical Evensong and Hymn Festival, Sunday, **June 11, 7:30 p.m.** at First Congregational Church, 6501 Wydown Boulevard in Clayton. Music led by organists Ron Hall, Zach Hemenway, and Stephen Mager, with the Choir of Bethel Lutheran Church. Reception to follow.

James David Christie, concert organist in recital, Wednesday, **June 14, 7:30 p.m.**, at the Saint Louis Abbey Church, 530 S. Mason Road near I-64 - Highway 40 in West Saint Louis county. Performed on the Austrian-built Hradetzky organ. Free admission. Reception to follow.

Recital of Young Organists, Friday, **June 16, 10:30 a.m.** at Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman at Skinker (near Forest Park). Performances by students of the Pipe Organ Encounter. Free.

A Word of Thanks to Our Volunteers and Contributors

We express our gratitude to all those who have collaborated in bringing this **Pipe Organ Encounter 2006** to fruition. We thank our POE Committee first and foremost: **Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart**, director; **Yvonne Sullivan**, co-director; **Denis Doelling**, treasurer; **Bob Hutcheson**, secretary/registrar; **Cathy Bolduan** and **Marie Kremer**, facilities coordinators; **Barbara Raedeke**, faculty coordinator; and **John Romeri**, publicity coordinator.

We also thank those who have made their church, school, or parish facility available to the Guild for this vital educational event. We gratefully acknowledge those companies and individuals who have offered gift items for distribution to our POE attendees:

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Finally, we offer our profound gratitude to those of you who have volunteered as teachers, coordinators, chaperones, runners, drivers, secretaries, ushers, and more. Your commitment and contribution are paying dividends as our chapter project comes to life. Stay tuned—the best is yet to come!

POE Faculty and Assignments

- Tom Adams, Pilgrim Congregational
- Timothy Allen, FRCO, Church of St. Michael & St. George
- S. William Aitken, Saint Peter's Episcopal
- Dr. Tom Bara, Interlochen Arts Academy at St. John Methodist Church
- Phillip Brunswick, Grace Episcopal Church, at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
- Henry Evans, Saint Andrew's Episcopal, at Westminster Presbyterian
- Henry Glass, AGO District Convener, at University United Methodist Church
- Ron Hall, First Congregational Church
- Dr. John Romeri, Saint Louis Cathedral-Basilica
- Dr. Naomi Rowley, DMA, National POE director, at Memorial Presbyterian
- Dr. Nancy Ypma, McKendree College, at First Church of Christ, Scientist

Blewett Award Recipients Honored at Chapter Banquet

At its annual awards banquet on May 22, the Saint Louis Chapter honored past recipients of the Avis Blewett Award. Those present were Caroline Kelsey (daughter of the late Dr. Howard Kelsey, our first Blewett honoree); Dr. Kathleen Thomerson, FAGO, who was also our guest lecturer/recitalist; Dr. Robert Bergt of Concordia Seminary; Mrs. Barbara Wick of the Wicks Organ Company; Martin Ott of Ott Pipe Organs; Dr. Frank Perkins, AAGO, former dean and longtime coordinator of AGO certification in our chapter; Dr. Marie Kremer, now currently active in our POE initiative; Stan Kann, nationally known theatre organist from the Fox Theatre; and William Partridge, Canon Precentor of Christ Church Cathedral.

Two other Blewett honorees could not be present, but sent us their good wishes:

Dear Stephen,

I was pleased to receive your recent letter inviting me to attend the awards banquet... I will not be able to be with you in person, but remembering the occasion a few years ago when you honored me, I will certainly be with you and your chapter in spirit... I congratulate the St. Louis Chapter for having created this award, and am honored to be included in its list of honorees. All best wishes for a wonderful celebration.

Cordially,

Dr. John Obetz

[Distinguished retired organist of the Community of Christ in Independence, Mo.]

We also received the following message:

Dear Friends:

As a former Blewett Award recipient, I do indeed wish that I could attend the special dinner and retrospective... It would be a great pleasure to be among old friends again and to hear Kathleen perform and speak, for I have been an admirer of her work for many years. Please know that even though I am basically retired, I still attempt to live up to the honor of the Blewett Award...

With gratitude and all best wishes,

Sincerely,

Karen McFarlane Holtkamp

[Founder of Karen McFarlane Artists, Inc.]

Farewell and Godspeed

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Lee Riecki of our chapter as he leaves for graduate study at the Conservatory of Music of the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Lee recently completed his Bachelor's degree in organ at Webster University, where he studied with Pat Partridge. Lee also served as Assistant to the Canon Precentor at Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral.

On the Concert Horizon...

JUNE

Saturday, June 3, 7:30 p.m. St. John's Lutheran Church, 3517 Jeffco Blvd., Arnold, Mo. *Talent Cabaret III: an evening of light-hearted music and fun.* Information: 636.464.0096 www.sjlcarnold.org.

Sunday, June 4, 3:00 p.m. Centenary United Methodist Church, 16th & Olive Streets, downtown St. Louis. Performers include the Handbell Choir of Upper Alton Baptist Church; the Gateway Brass Quintet; The Centenary Choir with Tom Fogarty and John Guest; Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart, organ; Dana Self, piano; Victoria Moore, violin; *One Voice* Contemporary Choir of Manchester United Methodist Church; Chris Moore, Debbie Kindig, piano/organ duo; Willetta Atkinson, soprano. Freewill offering. Reception to follow. Information: new.gbgm-umc.org/news/

Monday, June 5, 12:30 p.m. Christ Church Cathedral, 13th and Olive, downtown St. Louis. Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, "A Little Lunch Music." Information: 314.231.3454.

***Sunday, June 11, 7:30 p.m.** First Congregational Church, 6501 Wydown Boulevard in Clayton. **Ecumenical Evensong and Hymn Festival.** Music led by organists Ron Hall, Zach Hemenway, and Stephen Mager, with the Choir of Bethel Lutheran Church. Reception to follow. **POE public event.**

***Wednesday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.,** at the Saint Louis Abbey Church, 530 S. Mason Road near I-64 - Highway 40 in West Saint Louis county. **James David Christie, organist** in recital. **Music of Bach, Buxtehude, Sweelinck** and others, performed on the Austrian-built Hradetzky organ. Free admission. Reception to follow. **POE public event.**

***Friday, June 16, 10:30 a.m.** at Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman at Skinker (near Forest Park). **Recital of Young Organists:** Performances by students of the Pipe Organ Encounter. Free. **POE public event.**

POE Faculty and Assignments

(Continued from Page 3)

- Dr. Andrzej Zahorski, Saint Anselm Parish, at Washington University, Blewett Hall

Guest Faculty Lecturers

- Dr. Michael Bauer, University of Kansas
 - Mr. James David Christie, Oberlin College
 - Dr. John Ditto, University of Missouri-Kansas City
-

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Results of 2006 Chapter Elections

We thank our 2006 Nominating Committee, **Regina Morris**, chair; **Greg Caldwell**, and **Cathy Cassy**. We thank all who stood for candidacy, and to all who participated in the election. Here are the results of the chapter vote:

Proposition A PASSED. [This is the proposal to formally permit online executive voting.]

New chapter officers (to take office July 1, 2006):

Dean: Martha Shaffer, CAGO, Organist, First Church of Christ, Scientist

Sub-Dean: Paul Vasile, Organist/Choirmaster, Trinity Presbyterian Church

Secretary: Luella Foster, SPAGO, Organist, Union United Methodist Church

Treasurer: Dennis York Organist/Choirmaster, St. Peter's Cathedral, Belleville, Ill.

Auditor: Denis Doelling, Organist, First Christian Church, Edwardsville, Ill.

Executive Class of 2009 [Term of office: July 1, 2006–June 30, 2009]:

Charles Peery, Director of Music and Organist, St. Paul United Church of Christ, Belleville, Ill.

Ken Rueter, Organist and Music Director, St. Paul Episcopal Church, Alton, Ill.

Stephen Mager, AAGO, ChM, Organist and Choirmaster, Bethel Lutheran Church, University City.

An Appeal for Recital Contributions

As noted elsewhere in this *OPUS*, our upcoming POE recital by concert organist **James David Christie** will be on **Wednesday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.**, at the **Saint Louis Abbey Church** (530 Mason Road, west St. Louis county). There will be no admission charge for this concert. The chapter membership is invited to **consider a financial contribution** to help pay for this event. All **contributions received by June 9 will be acknowledged** in the recital program, and again in an upcoming issue of *The OPUS* newsletter. Please detach and return this portion of the page with your tax deductible contribution.

Here is my tax-deductible gift to support the POE recital by James David Christie. (Please make check payable to St. Louis AGO POE, 1210 Brownell Ave., St. Louis, 63122.)

_____Angel \$150+ _____Benefactor \$100 _____Patron \$75
_____Associate \$50 _____Donor \$25 _____Friend \$10

Name as I would like it to appear in the program:

(Contributions received by June 9 will be acknowledged; all others will be noted in the next *OPUS*.)

The OPUS

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St. Louis Chapter**

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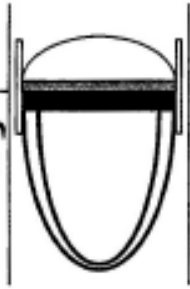
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