



THE OPUS

May 2007
Volume 23
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The official publication of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agostlouis.org

Blewett Award Presentations Highlight Annual Banquet

Join us as we celebrate the recipients of the Avis Blewett Award at our year-end banquet. The award is regularly given to an individual or individuals who have made significant contributions to the musical life of St. Louis and beyond. This year the award committee is pleased to present the award posthumously to Glenn Friener and Gene Symes, two outstanding musicians who left a significant mark on the communities that they served.

Professor Glenn Freiner was a music teacher, vocal coach, choral director, pianist and organist. He was a graduate of McKendree College with a Bachelor's degree in music, and graduated with a Master's degree from Drake University. He was the former head of the music department at McKendree College for 30 years, the minister of music at First United Presbyterian Church of Belleville, Ill., for 40 years, and a past director of the Belleville Philhar-

monic. Professor Freiner was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and was an active AGO member.

Church in Ladue from 1993 to 1999. In recent years, Gene had returned to WGPC to support their music

ministry in a variety of ways: as an accompanist, assistant organist, and most recently as assistant music director, leading in the 11:15 a.m. chapel service. For over 40 years, Gene had a significant impact on the Webster Groves Presbyterian congregation and on the lives of people of all ages who found joy, meaning, and purpose through their service to

The Details

Date: Monday, May 21
Event: Avid Blewett Award Banquet
Location: Webster Groves Presbyterian Church
45 West Lockwood Ave.
Webster Groves, MO 63119
Time: 6:30 p.m. – Dinner
7:30 p.m. – Program
Host: Shawn Portell
Cost: \$10 for dinner
Reservations: Kathleen Bolduan (314-935-5517;
or kbolduan@artsci.wustl.edu)
(Please confirm your reservations by Friday, May 18)

Directions: From I-64/U.S. 40 – Take the Brentwood exit. Go south on Brentwood. After crossing Manchester, Brentwood eventually becomes Kirkham. Continue on Kirkham to Elm. Turn left on Elm. Continue on Elm to Lockwood Ave. and turn right. The church will be on the right at the end of the block.
From I-44– Take the Elm Ave. exit. Go north on Elm for 1.5 miles. Turn right on Lockwood Ave. The church will be on the right at the end of the block.

Gertrude Dickson "Gene" Symes was the minister of music at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church from 1967 to 1989. Before that she had been the director of the high school choir and assistant organist since 1962. Gene never really retired. She assumed the title of director of music emerita at WGPC. She continued to direct the Pitch Pipers, a choir that provided special holiday performances, and she was director of music at Salem United Methodist

God and to the church under her leadership.

Some special remarks will be shared by Dr. Frank Perkins, past Dean of the St. Louis Chapter, who had the opportunity to serve as a teacher and colleague to the two awardees. And, of course, there will be time to enjoy company of friends and celebrate the end of a wonderful program year.

We hope to see you there!

— Paul Vasile

Thanks for a Great Season!

The 2006-07 program season is drawing to a close – one more board meeting and one more Chapter meeting. I must admit that I'm looking forward to a few months without having to write the Dean's letter! It's been a good season. Many thanks to the program committee for an interesting array of meeting topics, and special thanks to Sub-Dean Paul Vasile for taking care of details so that meetings ran smoothly.

I want to recognize the Executive Committee for their work, with special thanks to retiring Class of 2007 members John Romeri, Tom Pearce and Jeff White. I couldn't ask for a better support team than Dennis York, Al Black, Cindy Gee, Denis

Doelling, and Cathy Bolduan to keep the business end of the Guild going.

Thanks to Dawn Hoy, Regina Morris, Maxine McCormick, Marie Kremer, Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart and Barbara Raedeke for chairing standing committees, and to Rene Zajner for photographing all the meetings. AND we all owe a BIG thanks to Wayne King for editing and publishing *The OPUS*.

Paul and I are most grateful for support from the Chapter membership this past year. You have replied most generously to our requests, hosting and helping with meetings and committees. Attendance is going up slowly but steadily, with over 40 members at each meeting this spring. The

collective energy that we brought to the POE last summer seems to be continuing and bringing us together as a more active group.

Now I would like you to help with future planning for the St. Louis Chapter. Please read and fill out the survey that you receive with your annual dues notice and return it to the Registrar with your dues. Your replies and suggestions will guide the Executive Committee in solving immediate problems (postage increase and *OPUS* mailings) and in starting some long-range planning (another POE? host a regional convention??).

Have a great summer!

— Martha Shaffer

The OPUS: *Read it online? Get it in the mail?*

Over the past two years, the Executive Committee has had several discussions about best way to get *The OPUS* delivered. When using the Chapter's non-profit postal permit, there were two very late local deliveries this year, even though the newsletter was prepared, printed and delivered to the bulk mail center on time. Those delays prompted using the more expensive option of sending the newsletter by first class mail. Now a postal rate increase will take effect on May 15, making first class mailings less attractive despite on-time delivery. Just so you know, using the first class option is approximately three times more costly than a permit mailing.

Many of you now take advantage of reading *The OPUS* on the Chapter Web site. The Web site also offers *The OPUS* in pdf format, so that paper copies may be printed out on the home computer. However, there are some of you who don't have computer access and need or prefer to receive printed paper copies through

the mail.

The survey page which accompanies with your dues notice has a section for you to indicate how you would like to receive *The OPUS* in 2007-08. You have a choice of reading the newsletter online or receiving a paper copy. If you indicate online usage, please provide a current e-mail address, as we would like to compile a list to send an automatic reminder notice when *The OPUS* has been posted on the Web site. (As an FYI, you can generally expect the current month's issue to be posted online by the 10th of the month.)

The OPUS is the Chapter's main source of communication throughout our program year. Printing and mailing costs are also a major item in the annual budget. We'd like to save some trees and save some money while still keeping everyone informed and happy! Thanking you in advance for your patience as we work toward a delivery system that is most acceptable — and timely — for all Chapter members.

OPUS Advertising Manager Needed

The Chapter needs a member who is willing to coordinate advertising for the Directory and *The OPUS*. Position involves contacting advertisers and working with the newsletter editor and treasurer to ensure on-time copy delivery and billing. Advertising is an important offset to Opus expenses. Call Martha Shaffer if you are interested.

THE OPUS

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of the American Guild of Organists.

May 2007
Volume 23, No. 8

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: August 1, 2007



POE Reunion Set for July 18-19

The Young Organist Committee is sponsoring a two-day reunion event for the students who attended our Pipe Organ Encounter last summer. The reunion begins Wednesday, July 18, with the Felix Hell recital at the Cathedral Basilica (7:30 p.m.).

The schedule for Thursday, July 19, includes:

- 9 a.m. Masterclass with Pat Partridge at Christ Church Cathedral
- 11 a.m. Visit to St. Joseph Shrine to hear the restored 1890 Pfeffer tracker organ
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch
- 2 p.m. Masterclass with John Romeri at the Cathedral Basilica

Many thanks to John Romeri for organizing this event. John will need some volunteer help. If you will be in town and can help to drive and chaperone on Thursday, or host a student overnight Wednesday, please contact him at 314-533-7662 or johnromeri@cathedralstl.org.

Nominations for "Organ Spectacular!" Spokesperson

In 2008-09, the AGO will celebrate the International Year of the Organ, featuring scores of local recitals under the banner "Organ Spectacular!" on October 19, 2008. AGO member Peggy Evans of Ashland, Ore., is working with a professional media consultant to coordinate pre-event publicity planning for this national event. She writes:

"To promote the organ as effectively as possible, we feel that we need a famous spokesperson, someone who has had some experience with the organ and/or organ music, to serve as our organ "celebrity" and media contact. This should be someone whose name is very familiar and whom the general public will immediately recognize. It very well might be that this person will come from the entertainment industry or sports industry." The spokesperson should be comfortable doing live radio and television interviews and talking to journalists who work for the print media.

Contact Peggy Evans with your ideas about a spokesperson at mevans@mind.net. Be sure to put "Organ Spectacular Spokesperson" in the title of the message.

Printed on a doormat...

Doorbell baroque.
Call Bach later

On the Concert Horizon...

Sunday, May 20, 9:30 a.m. worship service. Webster Groves Presbyterian Church, 45 West Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves. WGPC children's choirs will present the musical "The Tale of Two Trees" by Dave Clark and Jayme Thompson. All are invited. Child-care will be provided. Information: 314-962-9210, x 3108.

Sunday, May 20, 4 p.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington Ave., University City. Reverberations Concert: The St. Louis Trombone Quartet (aka The Original Boneheads) performing an eclectic blend of musical styles. Free. Reception to follow. For more information, call 314-725-3840 or visit www.trinityucity.org.

Sunday, May 27, 3 p.m. The Pillsbury Chapel, Dale Williams Fine Arts Center, Missouri Baptist University, One College Park Drive. St. Louis Chamber Chorus presents "Sumer Is Icumen In" with Philip Barnes, artistic director. Tickets: 636-458-4343.

Sunday, June 10, 6 p.m. First United Presbyterian Church, 1303 Royal Heights Road, Belleville, Ill. Memorial musical celebration in honor of Glenn Freiner, Belleville organist and professor at McKendree College.

Sunday, June 24, 2:30 p.m. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd. The St. Louis Archdiocesan Choir, soloists and orchestra present Haydn's "Mass in Time of War," conducted by Dr. John Romeri. Concert also features Rheinberger's "Organ Concerto No. 2 in G minor" for organ and orchestra, Dr. John Romeri, organist, James Harkey, conductor. Tickets \$10 at the door. Information: 314-533-7662 or visit www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, June 24, 3 and 7 p.m. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 115 West B Street, Belleville, Ill. Annual Patriotic Concerts, Massed community choir and soloists. Free will offering. Information: 618-233-3303.

Wednesday, July 18, 7:30 p.m. St. Louis Cathedral Basilica, 4431 Lindell Blvd. Felix Hell, 21-year-old organ prodigy, in his St. Louis debut, presented by St. Louis Cathedral Concerts. Tickets \$10. Purchase by calling 314-533-7662 or online at www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, August 5, 3 p.m. Dardenne Presbyterian Church, 7400 Highway N, Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368. Organ recital by Dr. Christopher Anderson, associate professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas. Program includes works by Liszt, Reger, and Part. Free. Reception follows. Information: 636-561-4347.

Oklahoma City POE

As of the last week of April, there is still an opportunity to enroll in the Oklahoma City AGO Pipe Organ Encounter. The event will be held on the campus of Oklahoma City University, June 12-16. Contact POE Director Timothy Olsen at tolsen@okcu.edu or 405-208-5013. Brochure and information is online at www.okcu.edu/music/organ/poe.

The Latest Definitions

Here are the latest and most up-to-date definitions of some traditional musical terms:

Allegretto — When you're 16 measures into the piece and realize you took too fast a tempo

Angus Dei — To play with a divinely beefy tone

A Patella — Accompanied by knee-slapping

Appoggiatura — A composition that you regret playing

Approximatura — A series of notes not intended by the composer, yet played with an "I meant to do that" attitude

Approximento — A musical entrance that is somewhere in the vicinity of the correct pitch

Cacophany — A composition incorporating many people with chest colds

Fermantra — A note held over and over and over and over and

Fermoota — A note of dubious value held for indefinite length

Flute Flies — Those tiny mosquitoes that bother musicians on outdoor gigs

Frugalhorn — A sensible and inexpensive brass instrument

Gregorian Champ — The title bestowed upon the monk who can hold a note the longest

Ground Hog — Someone who takes control of the repeated bass line and won't let anyone else play it

Trouble Clef — Any clef one can't read: e.g., alto clef for pianists

Reminder about Dues

As announced by AGO Executive Director James Thomashower, dues for regular membership will be going up to \$88 for 2007-08. The \$2 increase will be split between the local chapter and National Headquarters. Student membership will be \$36.

St. Louis Chapter dues notices have been mailed to all members with a return date of July 31. This earlier membership renewal will allow our registrar to complete the records so that dues can be sent to National Headquarters on time and the directory/yearbook can be printed and distributed in September. Thanks in advance for your cooperation with this change.

Lincoln to Host Region VI Convention

"Why would 12 to 15 people meet EVERY MONTH since February 2005 planning an organ convention? Why would those same people spend time getting bids, making phone calls, recruiting members for sub-committees, driving to churches, printshops, visitors' bureaus and hotels, and spending their own money to carry out their committee responsibilities? To give YOU the

BEST TIME at the Region VI AGO Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska on June 18-21. "Winds on the Prairie" will be four days of

world-famous organists, interesting clinicians and workshop leaders, two beautiful cities to see, and, most important, world-famous organists playing the newest organs in Lincoln and Omaha.

These organists include Paul Jacobs, James David Christie, Victoria R. Sirota, Samuel Gaskin, 14-year-old organ prodigy from Beaumont, Texas, Jeffrey Blersch, David Spicer, Marie Rubis Bauer,

Jonas Nordwall, and Brett Valiant. Check out our Web site: www.agolincoln.org/.

Hope to see you in Lincoln in June!"



Watch for Next OPUS Issue in August

The May issue of *The Opus* marks the last issue of the newsletter for the 2006-2007 program year.

We have traditionally started the new program year with a newsletter in September. However, in order to better serve the membership with program announcements and listings of fall concerts, the next *Opus* issue will be published in August, with a deadline of August 1. If you are

planning concerts after approximately August 20 and later, please submit your listings to the editor via e-mail at opusstlago@aol.com. We suggest you review a past newsletter for the format. It is preferable that you submit material in this abbreviated form, rather than send a lengthy news release for extraction.

As always, we welcome your contributions for the newsletter.

**St. Louis
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American Guild
of Organists**



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Positions Available

Pastoral Musician

Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place. St. Louis, MO 63108 is seeking a full-time pastoral musician. Duties include participating collegially with the pastor in overall worship planning and assist in the planning, preparation and execution of other fellowship gatherings of the church, accompany the congregation, choir and soloists, and provide other music as appropriate, for all worship services including funerals, provide direction and leadership for the adult choir and handbell choir and identify and implement strategies to develop and maintain a vibrant children's music program. This is a salaried position with salary range of \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year and includes a generous benefits package. Resumes should be sent to Ms. Marion Stevens, chair, Music Director Search Committee, 806 Coral Drive, Fairview Heights, IL 62208-2907. E-mail: marionstevensm@charter.net. Phone: 618-632-1695; fax: 618-206-2383

Accompanist/Organist

Bellefontaine United Methodist Church, 10600 Bellefontaine Rd., St. Louis, MO 63137, is seeking an accompanist/organist. Candidates must possess good piano and organ abilities to accompany the volunteer choir and special groups as well as playing for worship services. Requires Wednesday rehearsals, Sunday worship services and additional rehearsals for Christmas and other performances. New, state-of-the-art organ. For more information, contact the church office (314-867-0800) or e-mail to bumc@bellefontaineumc.org.

Music Director

Zion Lutheran Church, Ferguson, Mo., is seeking a music director. Duties include playing for two services fall through spring. Lead sanctuary choir and praise band rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and gospel choir after service on Sunday. One service during summer with possible praise band rehearsals. Instruments include pipe organ, keyboard and/or piano. Contact Pastor Jeffrey Lindgren, 314-522-0100, e-mail: zionferg@juno.com, fax: 314-522-0155.

Director of Music

Most Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 350 E. 4th St., Eureka, MO 63025, is seeking a full-time director of music. Duties include directing the adult and children's choir, playing for masses (Sat. 5 p.m., Sun. 7, 9 and 11 a.m.) and teaching music in the grade school. New two-manual Casavant organ to be installed in 2007. This is a full time position – 1/2 at the school and 1/2 at the parish. The job can be split, but preference will be given to those interested in a full-time position. Salary will follow guidelines from the Archdiocese depending on qualifications and experience. Contact the church, 636-938-5048, fax: 636-587-2736, for more information.

Worship Leader

Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 1485 Craig Road, Creve Coeur, Mo., is seeking a worship leader for a new contemporary service beginning in January. Duties include music selection, play an instrument, attend practices, sing and help the pastor lead the congregation through the service. Contact the church at 314-432-4251 for more information.

Organist

St. Giana Catholic Church, 331 Charity Drive, Lake St. Louis, MO 63367, is seeking an organist. Duties include playing for masses on Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. Contact Mrs. Paula Brown, 636-561-4669 for more information.

Choir Director

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 3600 Hampton, St. Louis, Mo., is seeking a part-time choir director. For more information, contact Pastor Kendra Nolde, 352-8050.

Organist

First United Methodist Church, 4349 St. John's Road, Washington, MO 63090, is seeking an organist/pianist. Duties include playing for Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m., accompanying children's and adult choir rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6 - 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9:45 a.m. Salary is \$80 per week. For more information, contact the church office at 636-239-4477 or the pastor at 816-510-5283.

The OPUS

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St. Louis Chapter
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