



THE OPUS

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www.agostlouis.org

Blewett Award, Annual Banquet Are May Meeting Highlights

In May, we will conclude the St. Louis AGO Chapter's 2008-2009 program year with a celebration. We will once again award the Avis Blewett Award to an outstanding contributor to the field of music — Marianne Webb.

Ms. Webb is distinguished university organist and professor of music at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. A native of Topeka, Kan., she received early instruction in organ from Richard Gayhart. She studied organ with Jerald Hamilton at Washburn University, where she received the Bachelor of Music degree, *summa cum laude*.

She earned the Master of Music degree, with highest distinction, from the University of Michigan where she studied with Marilyn Mason. She studied in Paris with Andre Marchal through a Fullbright grant. Additional study has been with Arthur Poister and Russell Saunders.

Ms. Webb has served on the faculty of Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, since 1965. At SIUC, she developed the organ program,



Marianne Webb

founded the celebrated SIUC Organ Festival (1966-1980), and endowed a prestigious organ recital series. She has also served on the faculties of Iowa State University and James Madison University. In 1983, she reestablished the Southern Illinois Chapter of the AGO, a highly active chapter that strives to educate and support organists in Southern Illinois.

Throughout her career, Ms. Webb has toured the United States and Europe as a

recitalist and clinician. She has often served as an adjudicator for important competitions, such as the AGO national and regional competitions.

As a member of the AGO, she has served as a member of the National Committee on Educational Recourses, Chapter Development, and Membership Development and Chapter Support.

In 2008, she was awarded the Edward A. Hanson Leadership Award by the American Guild of Organists. This award is given biennially to individuals with proven outstanding leadership in the AGO and in the discipline of organ.

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The Details

Date: Monday, May 18, 2009
Event: Annual Banquet/Blewett Award Presentation
Location: Centenary United Methodist Church
55 Plaza Square
(1600 Olive Street)
St. Louis, MO 63103
Time: Dinner – 6:30 p.m.
Program – 7:30 p.m.
Host: J. Christopher Moore
Cost: \$10 for dinner
Reservations: Kathleen Bolduan (314-725-1251 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com)
(Please confirm reservations by Wednesday, May 13.)

Directions: Centenary Church is near downtown St. Louis. Use Olive Street for access to the parking lot on the north side.

From I-64/U.S. 40 East/Westbound: Take the Jefferson Avenue exit. Proceed north on Jefferson Avenue to Olive Street. Turn right on Olive Street and proceed several blocks east to the church parking lot on the right.

From I-44 East/Westbound: Take the Jefferson Avenue exit. Proceed north on Jefferson and follow the directions above.

From the central residential areas: A suggested route is to take Forest Park Parkway until it becomes Market Street. Once you get to Market and Jefferson, make your way north several blocks to Olive Street. Then continue east to the church parking lot on the right.

POE, Summer 2010. Will You Be on the Volunteer List?

We have been given a slot to host a Pipe Organ Encounter in the summer of 2010. This activity is technically sponsored by the national organization, and they plan geographic locations carefully, shifting them slightly from year to year to conveniently attract as many attendees as possible. We had applied to host in 2009, but were deferred because they wanted to go with Kansas City this year. Our slot for 2010 is a sure thing, we are told. Therefore, I want to get this project rolling now so that we have the same stellar results achieved by our Chapter the last time we held a POE.

This is a 4-5 day event to introduce teens and young adults to the world of the pipe organ. The students are given individual and group instruction on the rudiments of service playing, organ literature, history, construction and design. They give a recital at the end of the Encounter. The event is not all work, as there are opportunities for fun and friendship.

The benefits to the students themselves are obvious. If you were involved with our last POE, you can attest to their positive response, the wonderful rapport they built with the instructors and other event leaders, and the ongoing friendships they

made with our Chapter. The benefits to our Chapter are secondary but real: We get increased visibility through the interest that the news media have in programs of this type. We get some new members (admittedly, some temporary because they are at some distance from us). We do our part to develop future interest, vitality, and, perhaps most important, ensure replacement organists to follow in our footsteps!

Would you think about stepping forward to help with this activity? If you are hanging back waiting to be asked, shout out! Remember that volunteering includes not only the willingness to help, but the willingness to say "Here I am!" Otherwise it becomes...I dunno, a game of mind reading or something. It would be great if we didn't have to guess at who might be interested and chase them down! I think that broadening the base of people who are actively pitching in to make things go is a goal of any healthy organization.

As you make your summer plans for 2009, keep in mind — next year at this time — POE! I'll be hoping to see your name on our list to help with the many opportunities the Encounter generates.

— Chuck Peery



On the Concert Horizon

Sunday, May 17, 3 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles, Mo. Jane Jennings, soprano, and Michael Boschert, baritone, in concert (Crescendo Concert Series). Pre-concert talk at 2:30 p.m. presented by musicologist Nancy Rubenstein. Tickets - Adult \$15; in advance \$12; Student \$5 with I.D. Information, 636-724-2507.

Monday, June 1, 8 p.m. Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. Westminster Concert Bell Choir in concert. The 14-member choir is composed of students at Rider University, directed by Kathleen Ebling-Thorne. The ensemble performs with the world's largest range of handbells – 8 octaves – along with "Basso Profundo" aluminum-case bells, and a 6-octave set of Malmark Choirchime instruments. Admission \$15 and \$10. Call 314-533-7662 or purchase tickets online at www.cathedralconcerts.org.

Blewett Award, Annual Banquet *(continued from Page 1)*

Our celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. with dinner and the evening's business. Following the dinner and award ceremony, we shall move to the church sanctuary where several of Ms. Webb's students will honor her with a musical tribute on the church's 1931 Kilgen pipe organ of four manuals and 77 ranks.

Centenary Church dates back to the 1820s, with the current sanctuary being constructed in 1869. The church grew in attendance and membership dramatically into the early 20th century and gained the

nickname "The Methodist Cathedral." While other churches were moving farther west with the population, the Centenary membership, on New Year's Eve 1900, decided to stay in its present location. An addition was added in 1924, providing more office and classroom space. Today, the church conducts a highly-regarded CARES social services link for the homeless.

Many thanks to all of you for supporting our chapter throughout the year. I hope to see you at the final event.

— Henry Evans

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of the American Guild of Organists.

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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: August 1, 2009

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Positions Available

Music Director

Clayton United Methodist Church, 101 North Bemiston, Clayton, MO 63105, is accepting applications for a part-time music director. Complete job description and information about how to apply can be found at www.claytonumc.org/jobs.

Organist/Pianist

Clayton United Methodist Church, 101 North Bemiston, Clayton, MO 63105, is accepting applications for a part-time organist/pianist. Complete job descriptions and information about how to apply can be found at www.claytonumc.org/jobs.

Organist/Pianist

Delmar Baptist Church, 1001 Municipal Center Drive, Town & Country, MO 63131 (near Hwy. 40 and 270), seeks an organist/pianist. Duties include playing for one Sunday morning service year round plus Wednesday evening choir rehearsal for 9 months. Extra services during Advent, Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Music in a broad range of styles, including classical European, American hymnody, and contemporary choruses. Contact Marsha Hussung, minister of music (314-432-1960 or delmarbc@hotmail.com).

Organist

Bonhomme Presbyterian Church, 14820 Conway Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63017, seeks an organist. Primary duties include playing for two traditional services each Sunday (8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.), seasonal services, and serving as accompanist for the chancel choir, which rehearses Wednesday at 7 p.m. 35-rank Reuter pipe organ which was built in 1969 and was updated/restored in 2003. For more information, contact Lynn Packwood (636-532-3486, ext. 715). Resumes may be sent to the church, ATTN: Organist Search.

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

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St. Louis Chapter

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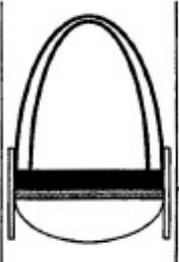
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