



THE OPUS

November 2008
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The official publication of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agostlouis.org

Messiaen's Musical Mysteries Revealed at November Meeting

This month, we have two opportunities to enjoy the music of Olivier Messiaen.

On Monday, Nov. 10, Dr. Charles Boyd Tompkins will present a lecture, *Modes, Birds, and Color: Unlocking the Mysteries of Messiaen's Organ Music*, at the chapter's monthly meeting. In this lecture, Dr. Tompkins will introduce us to Messiaen's organ music and innovative compositional process. The evening begins with a 6:30 p.m. dinner at Bethel Lutheran Church, adjacent to the Washington University campus at Big Bend and Forsyth. The program is at Washington University's Graham Chapel starting at 8 p.m.

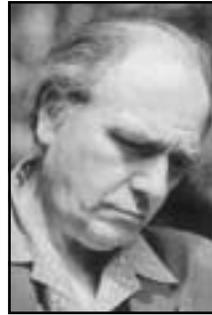
On Tuesday, Nov. 11, Dr. Tompkins will play a recital of Messiaen's organ music. Also at Graham Chapel, this event affords a second opportunity to enjoy the III/66 Petty-Madden organ. This recital begins at 8 p.m.

French organist, Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992) is one of the 20th century's most prestigious composers. He studied at the Paris Conservatory, where he later taught. He was a student of Dupre,

Widor, and Dukas. His unique compositional style is based on nature, color, and exotic rhythms. Messiaen likened musical sound to color, particularly in the field of organ registration. He is noted for his religious symbolism in organ registration. Messiaen's style is intellectual, colorful, dissonant, and programmatic in nature.



Dr. Charles Tompkins



Olivier Messiaen

Dr. Tompkins is university organist and professor of music at Furman University, Greenville, S.C., where he has been on the faculty since 1986. He teaches organ, harpsichord, music theory and classes in church music. He also serves as organist at First Baptist Church, Greenville. A native of Washington, D.C., he holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music where he received the Bachelor of Music degree with high distinction and Performer's Certificate in organ. He received a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan. He then returned to Eastman, where he earned a DMA. His teachers have included Russell Saunders, Robert Glasgow, and Lenora McCroskey.

This will be the last chapter meeting of 2008. I hope to see you there.

—Henry Evans

The Details

Date: Monday, November 10
Event: Messiaen Lecture with Dr. Charles Tompkins
Location: Bethel Lutheran Church and Graham Chapel, Washington University
7001 Forsyth (Bethel)
St. Louis, MO 63105
Time: Dinner - 6:30 p.m. (Bethel)
Program - 8 p.m. (Graham Chapel)
Host: Stephen Mager
Cost: \$10 for dinner
Reservations: Kathleen Bolduan (314-725-1251 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com)
(Please confirm your reservations by Wednesday, Nov. 5.)

Directions to Washington University:

From I-64/U.S. Route 40 East/Westbound: Take the Skinker Blvd. exit. Proceed north on Skinker to Forsyth. Turn left (west) on Forsyth. Turn right (north) on Wallace Drive and drive directly into the parking garage.

To Bethel Lutheran Church:

From I-64/U.S. Route 40 East/Westbound: Take the Skinker Blvd. exit. Proceed north on Skinker to Forsyth. Turn left (west) on Forsyth. Drive one mile; Bethel Lutheran Church is located to the right, at the northwest corner of Skinker and Big Bend. Church parking is entered from Forsyth. Those attending dinner may want to park at Bethel and walk to Graham Chapel.

If Stan Kann, WE Can!

We've all enjoyed actors, comedians, and musicians who, in addition to fulfilling their roles with skill, imbued their surroundings with such a sense of fun that we were captivated and swept along. In the case of Stan Kann, I propose that this delight was one of his many natural gifts with which he approached all of life. We mourn the loss of his light in this earthly world. But that does not mean the light is gone from us.

I believe we might best honor Stan and

pass the torch by vowing to cultivate neoteny in our lives and work. In *Good To Great*, Jim Collins' study of corporate success due to common traits of CEOs, one of the recurring traits he found was neoteny. Neoteny in this usage is a certain childlike approach, allowing the wonder of discovery to create joy. Looking at the world with fresh, new eyes can help us discern possibility amid the mundane.

Put in practical terms, who among us would begin reading a story to a child by

rolling their eyes and droning out "Once upon a time..." in a bored and lifeless "been-there-done-that" fashion? Rather, don't we realize our part in creating excitement in the mind of the child? And doesn't what might seem like manufactured joy return to us as real, palpable joy as we see our little audience react?

So it is for us as organists. There can be so much routine, sameness, discouragement. If one lacks the curious, ebullient nature which would cause one to, say, collect vacuum cleaners, what can one do? Settle for the reality that one's experience naturally results in being somewhat skeptical and jaded? Or change reality by working on seeing the world differently? I vote for the latter. Perhaps neoteny can be chosen and rehearsed until it enters our repertoire and becomes a more natural response.

In memory of Stan, before you begin each piece, before you speak to your students, choir, colleagues, or congregation, take a two-second pause and conjure up the wonder of life and music within yourself. Think: "Once upon a time..."

Then, begin!

— Chuck Peery

St. Louis Music Icon Stan Kann Dies at Age 83

Stan Kann's name was literally a household word in the St. Louis area. Whether it was from his hundreds of television appearances showing off his vacuum cleaner collection, at his seat on the bench of the mighty Wurlitzer organ console as it rose from the pit at the Fox Theatre, or his entertainment at some of St. Louis' best restaurants, people knew his name.

Stan died at Sept. 29 at St. Louis University Hospital after becoming ill at his home. He played what was his last concert on the Fox organ during a tour he conducted just a few days previously.

Stan was a member of the St. Louis AGO chapter and was frequently in attendance at the monthly meetings. He had been recognized in 2001 by the chapter with its



Stan Kann "hams it up" during a performance at the Lincoln Theatre in Belleville.

Avis Blewitt honor award for significant contributions to musical life.

Although Stan was best known as a theatre organist, he was no stranger to liturgical music. He studied organ performance with Howard Kelsey at Washington University. He often said that he practiced at the Berger funeral home in the Central West End and was not a bother to any of the establishment's customers. He also held organist positions at several churches in the south city area.

While Stan is no longer among us, his spirit can, as Dean Chuck Peery suggests in his column, bring us joy as we recall our colleague and friend in many special ways.

For Sale...

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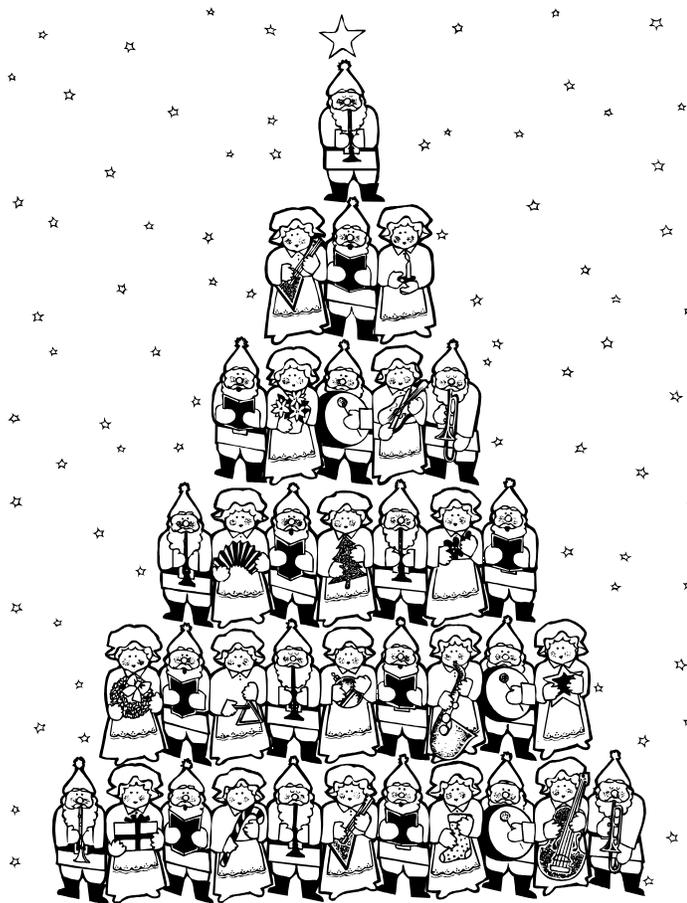
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Wayne King, Editor

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: December 31, 2008



*Happy Holidays
from
Your St. Louis AGO
Chapter
Officers and Directors*

*Watch for the next OPUS issue
in January 2009.*

Principia College Concert Series



David Briggs

*Symphony No. 2, Louis Vierne
Works and improvisation, David Briggs*

David Briggs is an internationally renowned concert organist who has built a world-wide reputation as an innovative musician and dazzling performer.

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Free of charge; no tickets required

Principia College is located in Elsah, Illinois, on the Great River Road
3/56 Casavant Freres organ (2006)



On the Concert Horizon

Sunday, November 2, 2 p.m. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 3510 Giles, St. Louis, Mo. Second annual concert of the Welsh Heritage Choir of Greater St. Louis, Nadine Eddington, director, with guest harpist Amy Carnie. Free-will offering.

Friday, November 7, 7:30 p.m. Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, 9540 Clayton Road, Ladue, Mo. Caledon: Scotland's Tenors in concert of traditional and contemporary Scottish songs. Tickets \$25. For information, 314-993-4771.

Sunday, November 9, 2:30 p.m. St. Louis Cathedral Basilica, 4431 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, Mo. Robert Lehman, organist and choirmaster of the Church of St. Michael & St. George, Clayton, Mo., in concert. Tickets \$10. Call 314-533-7662 or visit www.stlcathedralconcerts.org.

Sunday, November 9, 4 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place, St. Louis, Mo. Musical reflections on the sanctuary's Tiffany stained glass. Terree Rowbottom, mezzo soprano; Andrew Peters, organist, and the church choir. Works of Burleigh, Gounod, Handel, Mendelssohn and others. Free. Information: 314-367-0366.

Monday, November 17, 7:30 p.m. St. Monica Parish, 12136 Olive Blvd. (at Olive and I-270), St. Louis, Mo. National Pastoral Musicians annual hour-long autumnal hymnfest honoring St. Cecilia, the patroness of sacred music. Reception follows. Free. Information: 314-434-4211.

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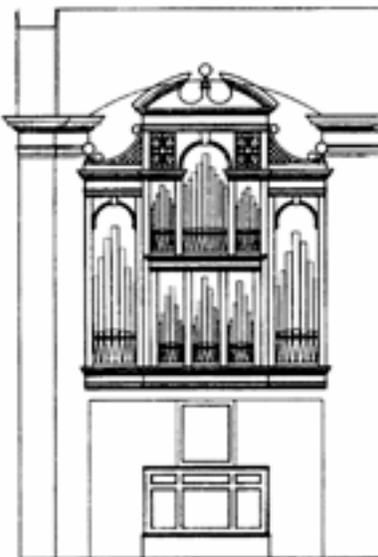
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ORGAN RECITAL & CHORAL EVENSONG

FIRST SUNDAYS from OCTOBER through MAY

The St. Peter's Singers - S. William Aitken, Director

Sunday, December 7 – 5:00 p.m. – CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Dixit & Magnificat – W. A. Mozart

Ceremony of Carols – Benjamin Britten

Magnificat in D – Johann Sebastian Bach

St. Peter's Choir, Soloists and Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, December 14 – 10:30 a.m. – Advent Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

10:30 p.m. - Carols by Carter, Britten, Ives and Darke

11:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist – Music of Burgon and Poulenc

Sunday, January 9, 2009 – Recital & Choral Evensong

5:00 p.m. - BRUCE LUDWICK – St. Gabriel the Archangel

5:30 p.m. – Evensong with Carols

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Positions Available

Organist

St. Clare of Assisi Parish, 1411 Cross St., O'Fallon, IL 62269, is seeking an organist. This is a vibrant parish of 900 families with a commitment to quality liturgical worship. Applicant would be primarily responsible for playing for three weekend liturgies, weddings and funerals, and rehearsals with two choirs. Send resume to Sister Carolyn McWatters, liturgy and music director at the church.

Worship Arts Director

Bellefontaine United Methodist Church, 10600 Bellefontaine Rd., St. Louis, MO 63137, seeks part-time worship arts director to coordinate the overall music program and develop, direct and accompany a gospel choir. Sunday services start at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Salary is commensurate with experience. For information contact Adrienne Behmer, committee chair, at church at (314-867-0800). Resumes can be mailed to the church or faxed to 314-867-4934.

Director of Music/Organist

Incarinate Word Catholic Church, 13416 Olive Blvd., Chesterfield, seeks full-time director of music/organist. Weekend liturgies are celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Additionally, the successful candidate will be responsible for weddings and funerals. Ensembles include adult and children's choirs. The church has a 2-manual Rodgers organ and a grand piano. A cantor program is in place. Salary is per Archdiocesan scale. Send pertinent materials to the Rev. Timothy Vowels, pastor, at (phone) 314-576-5366, (fax) 314-576-2046, or (e-mail) frvowels@incarnate-word.org.

Director of Music/Organist

The Church of the Immacolata, 8900 Clayton Rd., St. Louis 63117, seeks full-time director of music/organist. Weekend liturgies are celebrated at 5 p.m. on Saturdays, and at 7:30, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. on Sundays. The successful candidate will also be responsible for weddings, funerals and school liturgies. Some teaching in the parish elementary school is desired. Ensembles include adult and children's choirs. The church has a 2-manual Rodgers organ and a piano. A cantor program needs to be developed. Salary is per Archdiocesan scale. Send pertinent materials to Rev. Msgr. Walter Whited, pastor, at (phone) 314-991-5700 ext. 315, (fax) 314-991-5700, or (e-mail) wwhited@immacolata.org.

Pastoral Music Director

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, 3519 North 14th Street, St. Louis, MO 63107, seeks part-time pastoral music director. Rooted in Jesus' call to discipleship, the pastoral music director must be committed to the service of the parish and the church, to the promotion of gospel values, and to collaboration with other parish ministers. This position is one-quarter time to include rehearsal, planning, preparation, and performance at one mass on Sunday. There is a grand piano in the church (no organ). A cantor program is in place. Salary is per Archdiocesan scale. Send pertinent materials to the Rev. Richard Creason, pastor, at the church address or by (phone) 314-241-9165, (fax) 314-436-9291, or (e-mail) trinitystl@sbcglobal.net.

Music Director/Organist

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 15764 Clayton Road, Ellisville, MO 63011, seeks part-time music director/organist with responsibilities as organist, adult and bell choir director. Music is highly valued in this parish and designed to support the community in its worship of God through voice and instruments. This position requires 20 hours per week, including one service on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. and two rehearsals weekly. There is opportunity for work with soloists and instrumentalists, as well as creative approaches to music and liturgy. The church has an Allen organ and a grand piano. Salary commensurate with experience and AGO guidelines. For more information, call Rev. Susan Crawford, interim rector (636-227-1484; e-mail scrawford@stmartinschurch.org).

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

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American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

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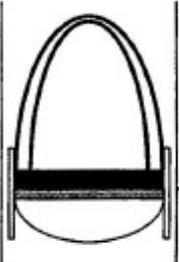
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