



Principal Pipings

Vol. 69, Issue 6 February, 2014

Greetings from the dean

Hello AGO Friends,

Although we've had some mighty cold weather lately, I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy some of the marvelous programming that has been happening in and around Lexington. And the fun is just beginning! On Friday, February 28th at 7 pm, Louisville AGO, Lexington AGO, and The Church of the Good Shepherd are pleased to present Olivier Latry in concert. Mr. Latry is Organiste-Titulaire of Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris (France, not Kentucky!) This program promises to be one of the highlights of our year, and you won't want to miss it. Seating is limited, so please, please get your tickets NOW! You can order them by going to the church's website <http://www.goodshepherdlex.org/> (you'll see info on the recital and tickets in the photo scroll at the top of the site) or by stopping by the church (East Main at Bell Court).



There are also continuing recital series at several churches in the Central Kentucky area. Check the Schedule of Events in this newsletter for details, and try to come out to some of them. It's wonderful to have so many organ-related events from which to choose, and also a great way to introduce friends to the King of Instruments.

In other news, our nominating committee is hard at work preparing a slate of officers for the election in April. If you would like to be considered for an office, please let Richard Dwyer, chair of the nominating committee, know. Your executive committee is also beginning to collect information for potential 2014-15 programs. We welcome your input so if there's a recitalist you'd like to hear or a subject you'd like to have covered in a workshop, please let me know and we'll consider it as we make programming decisions for next year.

I hope to see you at a recital soon! Meanwhile, Think Spring!

Jane

Upcoming Area Events

SUN / 2.9.14

4.15p

Choir Concert by U.K. Blue Note Ensemble

Good Shepherd, Lexington

TUE / 2.11.14

12.20p

Schuyler Robinson, Organ Recital

Ransdell Chapel, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville

SUN / 2.16.14

3.30p

Mark DeAlba, Organ Recital

Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

SUN / 2.16.14

4.15p

Voice Recital with Whit Whitaker, Tenor

Good Shepherd, Lexington

SUN / 2.16.14

5.00p

Evensong with the Parish Choir

St. John's, Versailles

SUN / 2.23.14

4.40p

Don Seevers, Concert of Spirituals

Tates Creek Christian Church, Lexington

SUN / 2.23.14

4.15p

Central Music Academy Music Recital

Good Shepherd, Lexington

FRI / 2.28.14

7.00p

Olivier Latry, Organ Recital

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington

SAT / 3.1.14

7.30p

**The Profane and the Profound:
Lexington Chamber Choral**

Central Baptist Church, Lexington

SUN / 3.2.14

4.15p

Bluegrass Concert by U.K. Bluegrass Ensemble

Good Shepherd, Lexington

FRI / 3.7.14

7.30p

Kentucky Bach Choir, The Lighter Side of Bach

Good Shepherd, Lexington

See the website for additional March events which will appear in next month's newsletter.

Education Notes

Reflections on Preparing for the Service Playing Exam

by Kathy Egener

I did it! Last Saturday, in the midst of one of the worst snow storms of the year, I played my exam with Jane Johnson administering and her husband, Bill, recording it. Let me tell you a bit about what it was like.

First of all, I was surprised at how little nervous I was. Jane told me once that the only time one should be nervous is when one is not prepared. I had prepared long and well and was simply ready to play. I'll admit that, when she went to announce the first piece, my stomach lurched. But I soon got it under control and simply played as well as I could. My overall feeling was that everything went well, except for the Bach piece that I played as a postlude. Somehow, in about the third measure, everything fell apart. I quickly recovered and the rest of the piece went fine. That's the only piece I can't stand to listen to!

Remember how worried I was about the transpositions? Two weeks before the exam date, I was making too many mistakes. Even one week before, when I played everything for a couple of people, I made too many mistakes. I identified the problem as one of concentration. In the middle of the hymn for transposition, I would sometimes think, "Wow! You are doing great!" and then I would make a mistake. So, during the exam, I would say to myself things like: "Concentrate, concentrate." "G major, G major!" My transposing was flawless except that I lost a couple of inner voices at the very end of the second hymn. (Just like on the Bach, I let down my guard as the end was approaching.) That I did manage this part of the exam shows that any one of you could do the same. At the beginning, I was as bad at it as could possibly be, and in the end, I managed quite well.

Well, who knows what the results will be. But if I pass, there will be a great celebration. Let me know if you want to celebrate with me. If I don't pass, I will cry a bit, dust myself off, and try again. I will keep you posted.

AGO Boston 2014

Registration is now open! See <http://www.agohq.org> for details.

Melvin Dickinson, Jan. 31, 2014

Excerpted from the Louisville Courier Journal

In 1964, **Melvin Dickinson** founded the Louisville Bach Society, along with his wife, Margaret, and they continued ambitious offerings of major choral-orchestral works of all centuries until 2011, all the while specializing in their first love, the oratorios, masses, motets, and cantatas of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Professor Melvin Dickinson was head of the organ and church music department at the University of Louisville for 42 years, retiring as Professor Emeritus in 2001. During that time, he taught and nurtured many, many students who now hold responsible church music positions throughout the country, even extending to Singapore, Ireland, and Germany. He was a careful and meticulous teacher who never let a student get away with anything, all the while maintaining a cheerful and caring attitude and a wonderful sense of humor with a very sharp wit.

After a six-year tenure at the Church of the Ascension in Frankfort, he assumed the same position at St. Francis in the Fields, Louisville, from 1966-1979. His last choral move was to Calvary Episcopal Church, Louisville, from 1979-2012. Both Dickinsons were made Musicians Emeriti at Calvary in 2012. They continued to keep their minds active by presenting a monthly Bach Lecture-Recital series at the Bach Haus, the latest and final one being January 11, 2014.

Professor Dickinson received many awards in teaching, organ playing, and conducting during his decades-long devotion to excellent music, never compromising his standards or philosophies as it became convenient and fashionable for others to do so. His influence was far reaching and prolific, and his Bach legacy will long be remembered and revered. May his world of Bach and beyond resound through those he influenced for generations to come. Auf Wiedersehen, lieber Melvin! He is survived by his wife, Margaret, with whom he made music for 52 years, two daughters, Maria (Joseph) and Michelle (John), five granddaughters: Erin, Shelby, Lindsey, Ann Margaret, and Nicole, and their rescue dog, Anna Magdalena.

A memorial service will be held this coming Saturday, February 8, at 11:00 a.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, 821 South Fourth Street. A luncheon and visitation will follow at the church. Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to the Calvary Episcopal Church Food Closet (821 S. Fourth St.), or the Kentucky Bach Choir (Marlon Hurst, 239 Delmar Ave., Lexington, KY 40508).

News from AGO National

AGO Awarded \$15,000 Grant from the NEA

The American Guild of Organists has been awarded a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston, Mass., June 23–27, 2014. The \$15,000 NEA “Art Works” grant is directed to support performances, educational workshops, publication of the Boston Organ Book, and new music premieres. The grant carries a mandate that it be matched dollar for dollar from other funding sources. The 2014 AGO National Convention is the fifth consecutive AGO National Convention that has garnered funding from the arts endowment.

Further details are available at: <http://www.agohq.org/2014/01/24/ago-awarded-15000-grant-from-the-national-endowment-for-the-arts/>

\$2.5 Million Gift Enables AGO to Enrich Lives Through Organ Music

Largest Bequest in the History of the AGO Establishes Endowments for College Scholarship Program, Organ Composition Competition, and Organ Fund to Maintain Tracker Pipe Organ

The American Guild of Organists is spearheading three major initiatives that have been made possible by the largest bequest in Guild history. Totaling more than \$2.5 million in cash and assets including a tracker pipe organ, the bequest from the estate of Ronald G. Pogorzelski and Lester D. Yankee was first announced at the 2010 AGO National Convention in Washington, D.C.

With the gradual distribution of the assets over the last three and a half years, the Guild has worked diligently and faithfully to honor the donors’ intentions by establishing (1) an endowment to provide college scholarships to dedicated organ students with financial needs, (2) an endowment to provide for the relocation and ongoing maintenance of the donors’ tracker organ, and (3) an endowment to support an annual organ composition competition for that instrument. Two of these endowments are now fully funded, with the third nearing completion.

Further details are available at: <http://www.agohq.org/2014/01/24/2-5-million-gift-enables-the-american-guild-of-organists-to-enrich-lives-through-organ-music/>



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