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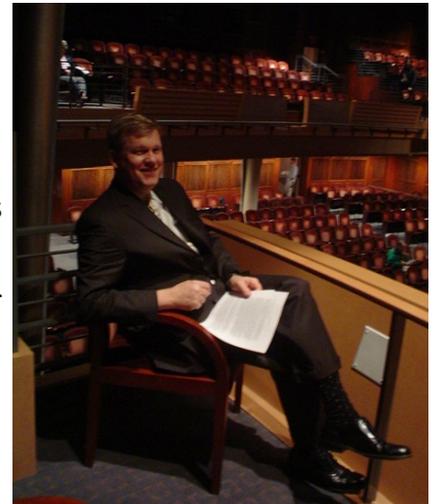
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DEAN'S NOTES

by Douglas Starr, Dean (dean@pitago.org)

Dear colleagues,

I hope that you have special plans for the summer that give you rest and enrich your profession. Perhaps you are attending an AGO regional conference or just customizing your own experience of study and relaxation. If I may share, by example, here are my summer plans. I am blessed to have been given a summer sabbatical to pursue my own interests. Certainly, I will enjoy a rest free of weekend commitments. My professional pursuits will be the following: 1) to put in notation all those hymn improvisations I have played these many years; and, 2) to edit my Requiem setting for subsequent performance, hopefully in the Fall of 2019. At the same time, I am realistic that not all my summer aspirations will be achieved but a plan is in place. What are your plans? Let's share them on our road trip in May and remember, plan to rest!



MAY MEETING – ORGAN CRAWL

by Chaz Bowers, Sub-Dean (sub-dean@pitago.org)

Greensburg Organ Crawl A Joint Meeting of the Pittsburgh, Indiana, and Seton Hill Chapters of the American Guild of Organists Monday, May 20, 2019

Join us for a wonderful afternoon and evening exploring six Greensburg churches. Not only will we see the churches, but we will also have the opportunity to hear a short program or service in each building. Join us as we celebrate the Seton Hill Chapter; its musicians, churches, instruments, and students. Highlights of the afternoon include an opening worship service in the St. Joseph Chapel of Seton Hill University, a recital by J. Christopher Pardini on the newly renovated organ at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, dinner catered by Bistro to Go, a closing recital by Dr. John Salveson on the mighty Austin of First Presbyterian Church, and so much more! Make your reservation today!

Itinerary

- 2:45 P.M. - Meet at Our Lady of Grace Church; please park in the upper lot
(1011 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601)
- 3:00 P.M. - Musical Prelude Recital at Our Lady of Grace featuring Marissa Cazden and Nathan Bellas
- 3:30 P.M. - Board the bus, travel to Seton Hill University Campus
- 3:45 P.M. - Opening Ceremony in St. Joseph Chapel, led by the Rev. Dr. Robert McKie, Chaplain of the Seton Hill American Guild of Organist Chapter
(1 Seton Hill Dr. Greensburg, PA 15601)
- 4:15 P.M. - Board the bus, travel to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral
- 4:30 P.M. - Recital by J. Christopher Pardini at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral
(300 North Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601)
- 5:00 P.M. - Board the bus, travel to First Methodist Church
- 5:15 P.M. - Joint Recital by Evan Bellas and Tyler Randolph at First Methodist Church
(15 E 2nd Street, Greensburg, PA 15601)
- 5:45 P.M. - Walk to First Presbyterian Church
- 6:00 P.M. - Hors d'oeuvres at First Presbyterian Church, provided by the Seton Hill University Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (300 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA)
- 6:20 P.M. - Welcome and Introductions by Dr. John Salveson (Dean of the Seton Hill Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Minister of Music at First Presbyterian Church of Greensburg)

- 6:30 P.M. Dinner catered by *Bistro to Go* that includes cucumber tomato Salad in Italian vinaigrette, coleslaw, cornbread with honey and butter, crispy chicken with honey mustard, oven fried panko encrusted boneless chicken served with an exquisite honey mustard dipping sauce, honey BBQ roasted pork loin, slow roasted with a sweet and tangy sauce, green beans seasoned with dill, macaroni & cheese, and a dessert of brownies and gourmet chocolate cookies!
- 7:30 P.M. - Walk across the street to First Lutheran Church
(246 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601)
- 7:45 P.M. - Shared recital at First Lutheran Church by Emma Jakiela and Jacob Gruss, students of the school and chapter.
- 8:15 P.M. - Closing Recital by Dr. John Salveson and Prayer at the Close of the Day at First Presbyterian Church (300 South Main Street, Greensburg, PA 15601)
- 9:00 P.M. - Board the bus and return to Our Lady of Grace
- 9:15 P.M. - Arrive at Our Lady of Grace
(1011 Mt. Pleasant Road, Greensburg, PA 15601)

Pertinent Information

The cost for the event is \$30 per person. This cost includes all of the programs, school bus transportation around Greensburg, the dinner catered by *Bistro to Go*, and gratuity for the driver and caterers.

All reservations should be made through the Pittsburgh Chapter Registrar by emailing Regina Kettering at reginakettering@gmail.com (Please note that confirmation of registration will occur either prior to April 28th or on May 11th) **All reservations are due by Monday, May 13. Due to the complex nature of planning this event, late registrations will not be accepted.**

Our sincerest thanks goes to the Seton Hill Chapter Dean, Dr. John Salveson, and members of the board for putting together this wonderful event, as well as to dual member, Tyler Randolph, who has graciously agreed to compile a program book for the entire event that includes the specifications of the instruments and the programs for each recital. Additionally, we offer our gratitude to Pittsburgh AGO member, Mr. Frank Kurtik, who has agreed to compile a short history of each building for the program book.

ELECTION RESULTS

As you are aware, this year's chapter elections were held on Monday, March 25, 2019, when the following persons were elected to office:

Dean: Chaz Bowers

Sub-Dean: Ken Danchik

Secretary: Sr. Cindy Pock

Treasurer: Aaron Sproul

Registrar: Kathy Csellar

Executive Committee: Harry Campbell, Michael Hammer, Jon Tyllian, and Joe Zamberlan

Please congratulate these persons when you see them and pledge to support them and their work. In addition, please also thank those whose names appeared on the slate but were not elected for their willingness to serve the chapter in this way: Joe Tuttle, Tom Taylor, Jim Stark, Wayne Earnest, Kelly Nan, and Justin Weilnau.

The other members of this year's Nominating Committee, i.e., Ryan Croyle, Suzie Gilliland, Bill Goff, and Mark Nurnberger, and I greatly appreciate those who agreed to have their names on the slate, as well as those chapter members who participated in the election.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Dobbins, Chair
Nominating Committee

ORGANS FOR USE WITH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - 2

By James M. Stark, Continued from the April issue

In 2008, Jack Bethards (Shoenstein & Co.) got a chance to design and build an organ for Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville, an organ some of us heard during the 2012 AGO Convention. He pretty much followed Calvin Hampton's prescription and laid out four vital design points: profound Pedal, one to two octaves below the double basses, tuba, and contra bassoon; solo stops unique to the organ such as harmonic flutes and high pressure trumpets and trombas; one soft stop capable of fading away to a whisper, double enclosed; and power concentrated in the mid-range, 8' and 4', with upper-work voiced for color and not power.

One interesting variation in the Nashville instrument, from Hampton's suggested stop list, is the use of a 32' Diaphone instead of Hampton's single 32' Bourdon, with an Open Wood at 16'. The diaphone was a Hope-Jones development using the same principle as the fog horn, capable of producing a very loud but also quite musical sound, and one that is not duplicated in the orchestra. Hampton did specify that his suggested 32' Tromba be voiced for weight, but while reeds add definition to the Pedal, it is still

the flues that add weight. A failing, in my opinion, of the Walt Disney Hall organ is that it relies too heavily on the small scale 32' Violonbasse in the Gehry façade which lacks weight and is not sufficiently differentiated from the orchestra in color; while the much smaller Fisk at Segerstrom Center, Costa Mesa, with a 32' open wood, seems to work much better with the orchestra.

This brings us to Heinz Hall, one of the few major concert halls in the country that does not have a pipe organ. The hall is still multi-use which would mean a movable organ. That was done in Philadelphia* but, while the organ was quite successful, at 75 ranks it was too large for the Academy of Music's modest stage. Space could also be a problem in Heinz hall, and considering the footprint of the rear sound reflectors, which would presumably be replaced by the organ, it could probably only accommodate 30-35 ranks of organ pipes in its current configuration.

The above, therefore, might lead one to consider a hybrid solution. But, if that were to be the case, rather than the typical "church" hybrid it would be far better to build a 30-35 rank core pipe organ along the lines suggested by Hampton and Bethards ("heroic" pedal, solid core of diapasons and flutes emphasizing the mid-range, dolce mixtures, and trumpets and trombas on higher pressure) and then add less assertive digital voices to give the instrument more flexibility. Permanent space would have to be found for two full length 32' ranks, but being bass voices they could be somewhat out of the way. And, this need not be a full recital organ, nor does it need to be capable of playing orchestral transcriptions. It should be viewed, primarily, as a member of the orchestra, and probably fifty ranks total would be sufficient. For baroque literature a 4-5 rank portative, which could be stored off-site, would be a good choice.

A hybrid instrument would be breaking new ground since no other major concert hall appears to have one. On the other hand, if space could be found for a 45-50 rank movable pipe organ along the lines suggested, and along with a portative, that would be undoubtedly the best solution musically.

Both the Bethards article, "Music City's New Symphonic Hall Organ" and the Hampton article are available, online, in the March 2009 issue of *The Diapason*.

*Overture Hall, a multi-use hall in Madison, WI, is equipped with a fully movable 72 rank pipe organ.

Date	Event
12 May 3:00 PM	Mother's Day Concert - The Women's Choral Ensemble of the University of Pittsburgh pays tribute in song to all mothers. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel, 326 Bellefield Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-624-4157</i>
14 May 7:00 PM	Centenary of the Death of H. J. Heinz - Frank J. Kurtik, will make a presentation in honor of H. J. Heinz, whose death 100 years ago on this date set in motion his bequest to the University of Pittsburgh for the building that is now Heinz Memorial Chapel. <i>Heinz Memorial Chapel (address and info above)</i>
2 June 1:00 PM	Jacob Minns - Organ Recital - Before heading off to begin undergraduate studies in organ, Jacob Minns of Indiana (state) is completing a tour of organ concerts around the country. Following the Sunday morning service at First Presbyterian, Mr. Minns will play a varied program on the Casavant Organ at 1pm. Light refreshments will be enjoyed before the concert in the Chapel. <i>First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, 320 Sixth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 412-206-9103 rcroyle@fpcp.org</i>
2 June 3:30 PM	Organ Concert by Ken Danchik - concert by Ken Danchik <i>St. Paul Cathedral, 108 N. Dithridge Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15213 412-621-6082 http://stpaulpgh.org/ donaiddfellows@verizon.net</i>