

The Coupler

The Official Magazine of the
American Guild of Organists
Washington, DC Chapter
November, 2008

Sunday, November 2, 2:30pm Theater Organ Field Trip
38 rank Wurlitzer, Hardman Farm, Great Falls, VA

The Dean's Letter

On Monday, October 13, Convention treasurer Kathleen Burger, Performances Committee chair Charles Miller, and I appeared at AGO Headquarters in New York to present our proposal for the 2010 National Convention. We were well received, got good feedback, and the next day Dennis Elwell, AGO Councilor for Conventions, called me to let me know that National Council had approved our program proposal. There are still a few budget issues to be worked out, but we do have a green light to proceed with contacting artists, setting up arrangements with venues, etc. We have great artists in mind, and as soon as all parties have signed on the dotted line, we will publish their names. Until that time, the Steering Committee appreciates your patience!

I am honored that National Council did approve my nomination by the DC Chapter as the Convention Coordinator, succeeding Graham Elliott. With an excellent Steering Committee in place there is every reason to look forward to a successful event twenty months from now. Members of the Steering Committee are:

Officers of the Convention: Ronald Stolk (Convention Coordinator), Julie Vidrick Evans (Executive Assistant), Scott Matthias (Executive Secretary), Kathleen Burger (Treasurer), Carol Feather Martin (Registrar).

Program Committees Chairs: Keith Reas (New Music), Charles Miller (Performances), Donna Whited (Workshops), Ken Lowenberg (Worship).

Logistics Committees Chairs: Ed Moore (Facilities), Irvin Peterson (Housing), Carol Guglielm (Transportation).

Other Standing Committees Chairs: Jason Abel (Exhibits), Stephen Ackert (Gifts, Grants, and Donations), Ben Hutto (Hospitality), Jason West (Program Book/Advertising), Barbara Collins (Volunteers), Scott Matthias (Information Technology).

In the midst of all the 2010 excitement, let's also keep things going at the local level. Sub-dean Tom Cowan and the Program Committee work hard to present interesting programs with good opportunities to socialize; come and see!

Finally, a big thank you to John Brooks, who put together the PipeSpectacular event in the Basilica on the International Day of the Organ, October 19, and to the colleagues who performed on that occasion.

Ronald Stolk, Dean

Programs

Library of Congress

Saturday November 1 at 8 pm, Tony Arnold (soprano) and Jacob Greenberg (piano) present *Songs of Love and Death*, including Messiaen's *Harawi* song cycle. The pre-concert presentation at 6:15 p.m. features Paul Festa both as filmmaker (excerpts from *Apparition*) and as violinist. With pianist Jerome Lowenthal he will play the Washington premiere of Olivier Messiaen's 1933 *Fantaisie pour violon et piano*, published last year.

National City Christian Church, Music at Midday, 5 Thomas Circle, NW

Thursdays, 12:15pm FREE!

November 6, Richard Webb, organ

Music of Sigfried Karg-Elert, Janet Linker and William Grimes

November 13, Charles Miller, organ

Music of Jongen, Franck, Vierne and Widor

November 20, Russell Weismann, organ & Vasily Popov, cello

Wyton, Bolcolm, Phillips & Fox

Grace Episcopal Church 10th Anniversary Season Produced by Samuel Carabetta

All performances **Sundays at 5pm** with reception after to meet the artists

January 4th Start the New Year with the Washington Performing Arts Society's Children of the Gospel Choir

February 8th, Nathan Gunn, one of the most charismatic and celebrated baritones

April 26th, 10th Anniversary Gala performance featuring Peter Schickele a.k.a. P.D.Q. Bach

Grace Episcopal Church 6507 Main Street The Plains, VA or www.gracechurch.net

The Grace Church Concert Series is funded through the generosity of Mrs.

Jacqueline B. Mars in memory of her mother, Mrs. Forrest Mars

Chantry

Saturday, December 20, 8pm St. Mary, Mother of God, 727 5th St. NW, Gallery Place metro, **Joyeux Noël**, Chantry, with Modern Musick Baroque orchestra, Manchicourt “Misaa Noe, noe!” Charpentier “Missa Minuit”

Saturday, March 7, 8pm, St. Paul’s 2430 K Street NW. Foggy Bottom metro &

Sunday, March 8, 6pm, St. Bernadette’s, 70 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring, MD Orlando Gibbons, Complete *First Service* “Verse” and “full” anthems

Saturday, May 16, 8pm, St. Paul’s 2430 K Street NW. Foggy Bottom metro &

Sunday, May 17, 6pm, St. Bernadette’s, 70 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring, MD Victoria “Missa Ascendens Christus”

Music at Redeemer Series 2008-09

Saturday, November 1, at 5:00pm The choirs of The Church of the Redeemer and St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Arlington, VA Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem Mass, soloists and orchestra. Free-will offering. Reception

Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD

Sunday, November 2, 4:00pm Hymn Festival, Metro Washington DC Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, at **National Presbyterian Church, 4101 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC** w/Bishop Emeritus Theodore F. Schneider, Jeffrey R. Pannebaker, organist Free-will offering

Sunday, December 7, 5:00pm Advent-Christmas Candlelight Concert, Bach /Cantata 36/ and Perti /Magnificat/ Oratorio Choir, Choristers, and Orchestra, Saint Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD Free-will offering

From National AGO

We are now putting the photos of the banner in various locations up on the National AGO website. Please take a look at <http://www.agohq.org/events/index.html> and click IYO photos. We'd be happy to put up digital photos from your region. Please send them to os@agohq.org and we'll see that they are sent to the web. Please also include a sentence giving us permission to put them there and in TAO. Check back frequently to see which photos have been added. Many thanks for all of your help! ----Peg

JOBS

MARYLAND 9/03/2008 ORGANIST/harpsichordist/pianist – avail. Sept. 1, 2008

Damascus United Methodist Church (Size: 1200+) 9700 New Church St Damascus, MD 20872

Contact: Walt Edmonds, Sr. Pastor, 301/253-0022 Ext. 103 Play (III/27 E.M. Skinner organ) for 2

Svcs/Sun. plus special services during yr, accompany Chancel Choir; work with four other paid music staff; approx. 11 hrs/week. Annual salary \$19,000+, 4 weeks’ paid vacation, sick leave, possible book/music allowance and negotiable continuing education provisions. “For over 20 years, DUMC has had a full choir and music program, doing major works such as major Requiems, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, *et al.* We sing communion liturgies and special liturgies throughout the year.”

NORTHERN VIRGINIA 9/6/08 Church Musician - Available: 1 October 2008

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 4347 ARLINGTON BLVD Arlington, VA 22203-2904

Contact: Rev. Carolyn Richar, 703-525-0937; betheluccva@verizon.net Size of congregation (number of active members): 60 Play the organ and the keyboard weekly; 1 Service Rehearsal: Sunday before Service if there is a pick-up choir. Planning sessions: 1 per month Average Hours per MONTH: 10-15 Organ: 2-manual Allen digital organ; Roland keyboard with amplifier Annual Salary Range: \$6,000 - 8,000/year; 2 weeks’ paid vacation

“Bethel is an equal opportunity employer: a community that is multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming, accessible to all. Bethel is committed to the message that ‘God Is Still Speaking’. The single service is a blend of traditional and nontraditional elements of worship. Hymns and other music are recognized as having a significant role in the worship life of the congregation.”

9/13/08 ORGANIST OR INTERIM ORGANIST Cherrydale United Methodist Church
3701 Lorcom Lane Arlington, VA 22207-5150 703-527-2621. Quarter-time position (8-10 hours per week); one service; salary commensurate with experience and within AGO Guidelines; three weeks’ paid vacation. Choir rehearses Sunday mornings and one Thursday evening per month during the school year. III/37 Wicks pipe organ. “Located in an attractive, historic neighborhood, CUMC is a distinguished church with a long tradition of supporting a strong choral program. Solid keyboard skills, sight-reading ability, and relevant church experience are mandatory.” Send resumes and inquiries to the CUMC Music Committee at the address above or to cherrydale_resume@verizon.net.

9/26/08 MINISTER OF MUSIC – Available immediately Hope UCC 6130 Old Telegraph Rd Alexandria, VA 22310 703-960-8772; hopeucc@gmail.com Avg. 10 hrs/week, direct one music group. Sohmer piano, 20 yrs old. Annual salary \$10,400; 2 weeks’ paid vacation plus 2 add’l Sundays; continuing educa. fund. “Hope United Church of Christ is located in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County, VA. We are a progressive Christian church. Hope UCC is an open and affirming congregation that welcomes diverse communities and is sensitive to the use of language and musical styles that includes and excludes. We seek always to reach out to others with a variety of musical styles. There are approximately 75 members of the congregation; our average worship attendance is approximately 50 children and adults. More information about Hope UCC can be found at www.Hopeucc.org”. No phone calls please; send resumes to one of the above addresses.

10/15/08 WEDDING ORGANIST – Available immediately Hylton Memorial Chapel
14640 Potomac Mills Rd Woodbridge, VA 22192 703-590-0076; Fax: 703-590-0157;
www.hyltonchapel.org Contact: Andrea Craddock, Events Director;
andrea.craddock@hyltonchapel.org This position is for weddings only, typically 12-15 per year. Average total time requirement per wedding is 3 hours, incl. 1-1/2 hrs for the ceremony. Organs: Wedding Chapel, Rogers electronic/piper combination; Sanctuary, Allen Digital 4. Compensation: \$200 per wedding paid directly by bride & groom; on-site consultations extra. “Most of our couples prefer traditional wedding music, but some do request gospel and contemporary.”

10/25/08 ORGANIST & CHOIR DIRECTOR – Available 2 November 2008 St David’s Episcopal Church 43600 Russell Branch Pkwy Ashburn, VA 20147 Contact: Carrie Rush at crush@sdlife.org with cover letter and resume. Size of congregation: 1100; Avg. hours/week: 10 (one service, one evening rehearsal) Direct: 1 choir; Organ: Viscount GS 525; also a 7’ Kawai GS 60 piano Annual salary/range: within AGO Guidelines “St David’s seeks an Organist/Director for an all-volunteer choir of 12. Thursday rehearsals from 7:30-9pm. We would like the Director to help the choir grow. Responsible for music at one Sunday service, one weeknight rehearsal, Holy Week services and on other Church special days. Variety in musical styles is welcomed. Will consider someone not familiar with Episcopal liturgy but who understands the important role of music in a congregation’s worship experience. Occasional weddings/funerals at additional compensation.”

10/28/08 ORGANIST – Available immediately Heritage Presbyterian Church 8503 Fort Hunt Rd Alexandria, VA 22308 Contact: Jeff Taylor, Music Director at jtay@loc.gov or by phone at 703-360-5248 (H) or 202-707-1943 (W) – send resume w/ cover to Church attn: Jeff Taylor, Music Director 1 Service and 1 rehearsal per week plus 3-5 add'l services/year. 8-10 hours/week. 1 adult choir (20); II/13 Louis & Hitchcock pipe organ (1995); Yamaha grand piano. Salary: \$13,000, weddings & funerals add'l. 4 weeks' paid vacation, 2 weeks' sick leave. Contin. educa. funds avail. "Traditional worship service. Heritage is a welcoming and friendly congregation which includes a number of trained professional musicians, several of whom sing in the well-trained choir. All have an appreciation for sacred music of all periods & genres."

Practical and Academic Program at University of Notre Dame

At the moment I am recruiting students for our Master of Sacred Music program at the University of Notre Dame. We are extremely excited about what is going on here. The degree combines music (two organ recitals, organ literature, music history) and liturgy courses. There are details of the program on the website: <http://www.nd.edu/~msm/>

The assistantships pay full tuition for two years plus a stipend of \$12,000 per year for two years. Typically a student on an assistantship works in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on campus. All students in our MSM program are supported with tuition grants. If you know of any prospective undergraduate students or others who are not currently enrolled in a graduate program, I would appreciate hearing from you. If you have any names to suggest, I am happy to contact them.

We have fourteen organ majors at Notre Dame. Our new Fritts organ and organ hall are stunning. We have an eclectic-style tracker organ in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart that is also used for teaching, practice, and performance. In addition there are other organs on campus by Ahrend (our wonderful new continuo organ), Führer, Gober, Noack, and Wilhelm. You can see the Fritts at <http://www.nd.edu/~music/omalley.html>. Many thanks for your help, and all the best,

Craig Cramer, DMA, Professor of Organ
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana USA
574-631-7836
<http://www.nd.edu/~music/faculty/cramer.html>

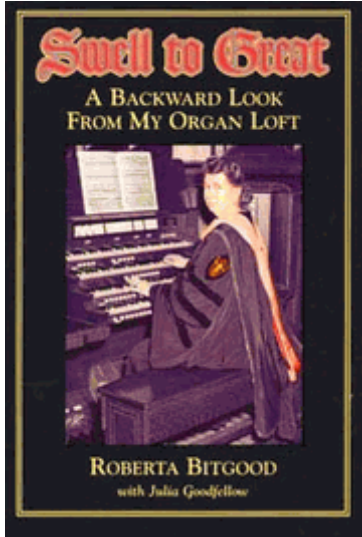
NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) announces the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Troeger as AGO Chaplain for a term of two years, 2008–2010. The chaplain is an honorary national officer appointed to serve the diverse pastoral needs of the AGO National Council and the international membership of the Guild. Dr. Troeger will also contribute an editorial column to The American Organist Magazine. The appointment was made by AGO President Eileen Guenther and ratified by the AGO National Council on September 3, 2008.

Nota Bene! If you are willing to take over as Editor of *The Coupler*, with all the attendant power and prestige, contact Tom Cowan tgcowan@aim.com

John Littlebrook's Bookshelf



Swell to Great, A Backward Look From My Organ Loft, by Roberta Bitgood
Available from the Organ Historical Society



This biography of Roberta Bitgood, FAGO, the first woman to preside over the National AGO, is an easy-to-read and informative volume. A breezy and chatty history, this 200 page paperback covers a large part of 20th century American organ lore. It touches on various parts of the country and many notable organists, with charming remembrances from associates.