

THE COUPLER

The Dean's Message

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Winter greetings! As I write this column, we are in the midst of winter storm Jonas. I hope that all of you are safe and warm. A week ago I was soaking in the warm sun on a Florida beach; now I am wearing multiple layers of clothing and trying to stay warm. One benefit of being snowed in is being able to practice - a lot! My purchase of a used Rodgers digital organ for home practice was one of my smartest purchases, even if it does take up a lot of space.

I recently came across the photo printed above on



Facebook. I stared at this image, entitled "Abandoned Pittsburgh," for quite some time. Even though I am from Pittsburgh I do not know of the church featured in this photo, or of the organ. It

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All aboard on February 15 for this year's President's Day Road Trip to Atlantic City .

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makes me very sad to see this image. My underlying thought is, "What happened?"

Obviously this church, at one time, had financial means. From the architectural detail that we can see, it looks to be a rather large space and a three manual pipe organ is costly compared with a two manual or electronic substitute. So, what happened, what went wrong? It is not a happy picture.

Instead of dwelling on the pessimistic side of the image, I'm trying to think optimistically: "What can we do so that this doesn't happen again?" This brings in the strength of our wonderful Guild. We can achieve so much more by working together than we can by working alone. Collectively, how can we help neighboring institutions that face an unknown future? How can we save and preserve beautiful instruments that have lifted up hearts and voices for generations? This is all part of a larger conversation that we need to be having collectively, not individually.

Later this month, we are going to visit Atlantic City's famous Boardwalk Hall. This enormous building houses the world's largest pipe organ. For many years, this instrument faced a similar destiny to the organ shown above. Fortunately, something happened to stop the path of its decay. I don't know exactly what that "something" is yet, but I am sure that those of us on the trip will find out. The Boardwalk Hall organ now faces a bright future. It is slowly being restored to its full playing potential and people from all over the world, not just organ aficionados, are learning about the history of this instrument, its importance, and its potential. There is great excitement for its future.

How can we spread a similar sense of excitement about the organ to our friends, neighbors, and churches? Let's start to have that conversation. Please! We cannot lose any more of these valuable instruments.

Your #1 fan,
 Russ

Hymn Society Sponsors Regional Workshop

The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada is excited to announce a special one-day workshop for pastors, musicians, and congregations on enlivening congregational song.

Clinicians will include Mel Bringle, William Bradley Roberts, Deborah Carlton Loftis, and Elaine Rendler, with tracks for pastors and worship leaders, keyboardists, and singers. A hymn festival led by Mel Bringle

and open to the public will take place at 4:30 p.m.

The workshop, "Singing with the Spirit," will be held on Saturday, February 27, from 9:30 to 6:00 p.m., at Vienna Baptist Church, Vienna, Virginia. Registration is \$65 (\$55 for Hymn Society members). For more information or to register, visit www.thehymnsociety.org. or email CJ Redden-Liotta at music@vbc.org.

February Event: President's Day Road Trip to Atlantic City

Join us on **Presidents' Day - Monday, February 15** - for the trip of a lifetime! This year, we will travel by luxury motor coach from Bethesda, Maryland to Atlantic City, New Jersey! We will be offered an exclusive tour and demonstration of the famous organ in Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall by **Dr. Steven Ball**, the Hall's resident organist. This organ is the largest musical instrument in the world, controlled by a 7 manual console and comprised of 33,114 pipes!

Space is limited so sign up soon by sending your reply to dcagochapter@gmail.com. Cost is \$40 per person.



Itinerary:

7:30 a.m. - Depart Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Church

11:30 a.m. - Arrive in Atlantic City

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. - Lunch on your own in one of the surrounding casinos or restaurants

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Tour/Demonstration in Boardwalk Hall

5:00 p.m. - Depart for Bethesda, Maryland

9:00 p.m. - Arrive back at Saint Jane Frances de Chantal



2015-2016 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

*Monday, September 21, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
Organ Recital and Installation of Officers
Mary Beth Bennett, Organist
First Congregational United Church of Christ*

*Sunday, October 4, 2015, 5:15 p.m.
Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular
Renée Anne Louprette, Organist
Washington National Cathedral*

*Saturday, November 7, 2015, 10:00 a.m.
Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza
National City Christian Church*

*Monday, January 4, 2016, 6:30 p.m.
Annual Twelfth-Night Dinner and Service
(with Northern Virginia and Potomac Chapters)
All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase*

*Saturday, January 23, 2016
AGO Certification Workshop
Jeremy Filsell, Clinician*

Monday, February 15, 2016
Presidents' Day Road Trip
Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall
Steven Ball, Host

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The Coupler

A monthly newsletter
published by the District
of Columbia Chapter,
American Guild of
Organists

J. Michael McMahon,
Editor

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or for newsletter
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Wednesday, March 2, 2016

DC AGO Members' Evensong and Happy Hour
Church of the Epiphany

Friday, March 18, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Silent Movie with Organ

La vie et la passion de Notre Seigneur Jésus-Christ

Thomas Ospital, Organist (co-titulair of St. Eustache, Paris)

Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Church, Bethesda

April (Date and Time TBD)

Theater Organ Concert

(Joint event with Northern Virginia and Potomac Chapters)

Jack Hardman Residence, Potomac, Virginia

Monday, May 23, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Potomac Organ Institute Student Recital

All Saints Episcopal Church, Chevy Chase



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Your Sound...Our Passion

Members' Events

Friday, February 5, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
Jason Farris and Timothy Duhr, organists

Friday, February 12, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
Bryan Dunnewald, organist

Sunday, February 14, 4:00 p.m.

Organ Recital
Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land
Russell Weismann, organist

Sunday, February 14, 4:00 p.m.

Papageno (based on Mozart's *The Magic Flute*)
Chevy Chase Presbyterian Church
Peabody Opera Outreach

Friday, February 19, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
Christopher Schmitt, pianist

Friday, February 26, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
Sergio Orabona, organist

Members are encouraged to submit recitals and concerts for public listing on the DC AGO website. Submit your event for web or newsletter listing to dcagochapter@gmail.com

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Music @ the Monastery



Located on forty-four acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, the Franciscan Monastery (Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery) is a beautiful architectural gem hidden in the northeast corner of Washington, D.C. Built in 1899 in the shape of a Jerusalem Cross in neo-Byzantine architectural style, the Monastery includes gardens, replicas of various shrines throughout Israel, a replica of the catacombs in Rome, an archive, a library, as well as bones of Saint Benignus of Armagh, brought from the Roman Catacombs and originally in the Cathedral of Narni, Italy. The Monastery's Lively-Fulcher pipe organ was built in 1998 and contains forty ranks of pipes over three manuals and pedal.

Together with the Franciscan Monastery, the DC AGO is proud to support a series of community outreach musical events titled, "Music @ the Monastery". These events are free of charge and take place on the second Sunday of every month at 4pm, followed by a reception. All are welcome!

2015-2016 Recitalists

October 11: Russell Weismann (St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda)

November 8: David Houston (St. Andrew's Episcopal, College Park)

December 13: Sarah Bereza (Trinity Lutheran, Bethesda)

January 10: Ronald Butts-Boehmer

February 14: Russell Weismann (St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Bethesda)

March 13: Brass and Organ (Brass of Peace Ensemble with Lisa Galoci, Organist)

April 10: Carolyn Booth

May 8: Dr. J. Thomas Mitts (Shenandoah Conservatory and Augustana Lutheran Church)



AGO National Convention

Houston, Texas • June 19-23, 2016

The 2016 AGO National Convention will showcase vibrant performances, world-class instruments, enlightening workshops, creative new music, and inspiring worship. There will be many opportunities to meet fellow musicians and create dynamic connections. Come and experience a warm welcome at the Hilton Americas-Houston, at the various convention venues, and throughout this exciting city. This is a convention you won't want to miss! Registration and information at <http://www.agohouston2016.com>

THE COUPLER

District of Columbia Chapter
The American Guild of Organists

Promote your event, product, or cause with an advertisement in The Coupler, the official publication of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Rates are as follows: full page (4 times per season), \$100; half-page (4 times per season), \$50; quarter page (four times per season), \$25. Please email advertising requests to dcaagochapter@gmail.com with "The Coupler" in the subject field.

Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists.

The District of Columbia Chapter, American Guild of Organists

presents:

Presidents' Day Road Trip

Boardwalk Hall

Atlantic City, New Jersey



Monday, February 15

\$40 per participant

To register and for detailed itinerary, please email dcagochapter@gmail.com

Join us to see, hear, and play the world's largest musical instrument!