Dean's Column

An Instructive Summer

Paul Westermeyer

During the first two weeks of June, David Cherwien and I taught courses at Concordia University Wisconsin. James Freese, who directs the Master of Church Music degree there, could not teach the courses because he had to give seventy hours of private organ lessons in one month. To make the lessons fit, some students – most of whom were organ majors from various denominations – missed some of our classes.

In the second week of July the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians met in the Twin Cities. The opening eucharist was at Augustana Church in West St. Paul where the TCAGO video for organ committees had been made. (The service had to be moved to Augustana because a lightning strike had made the Boe Chapel organ at St. Olaf College unusable.) The next sessions met at Westminster Presbyterian, Central Lutheran, and St. Olaf Catholic churches. These were followed by a trip to St. John’s Abbey for Evening Prayer with the monks, where Lutherans and Catholics together remembered the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

The following week the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada met in Waterloo, Canada, with the same theme the Lutherans and monks had at the Abbey, but in a Mennonite part of the world with a widely diverse set of conference participants. Michael Burkhardt played the opening hymn festival. It was followed by nightly hymn festivals in other churches, daily plenaries, and breakout sessions on a rich mix of topics. The conference had over 300 registrants, and the hymn festivals packed the churches with over 700 people each night.

During the first two weeks of August, the Organ Historical Society met in the Twin Cities for a quite remarkable festival of organs, organists, and organ music in this part of the country. Unfortunately, I missed almost all of it, but could not miss its quality and breadth.

Two things stand out about these events: 1) the health of the organ, and 2) the "denominationally-promiscuous" (to quote Erik Routley) character of the participants. Our TCAGO opening event on September 17 at St. Bartholomew’s Catholic Faith Community in Wayzata signaled these same qualities.

In a world of divisions and warfare, I continue to be amazed at what the organ signifies. I know it sometimes seems to be drowned out in the louder noise pollution of our time. But things are not always what they seem to be. Remember the mustard seed or the immensities packed into a few minutes of Bach’s Christ lag from the Orgelbüchlein. Or, as a very short friend of mine told me when we were young kids delivering papers, “Dynamite [which can be used constructively] comes in small packages.”

Cheers!
Faythe Freese Organ Recital

Sunday, October 1, 3:00 p.m.
Augustana Lutheran Church, West St. Paul

Faythe Freese, Professor of Organ at the University of Alabama School of Music, will present a program including works by J.S. Bach, Tournemire, Franck, and Hakim. The closing work will be the Minnesota premiere of Pamela Decker's *The Freese Collection*, a work commissioned by Freese. The composition is a tribute to three works of art by the artist known as "Nall," which are displayed in Faythe's home.

Dr. Freese was the first American woman to record at *L'Eglise de la Sainte-Trinité*, Paris, on the landmark instrument where Guilmant, Messiaen, and Hakim were titular organists. She has been a featured lecturer and concert artist at the national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists in Boston, Washington, D.C., Greensboro, NC, and San Antonio.

She holds degrees in organ performance and church music from Indiana University. Her organ teachers and coaches have included Marilyn Keiser, Robert Rayfield, William Eifrig, Phillip Gehring, Dame Gillian Weir, Simon Preston, and Daniel Roth.

The recital is free and open to the public. A reception follows the concert. Child care is available.

Augustana Lutheran Church
1400 South Robert Street, West St. Paul

Ein Feste Burg

Saturday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi

Sunday, October 8, 2:00 p.m.
St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church, Plymouth

*Ein Feste Burg*, a concert commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, will occur in two performances with the Lake Wobegon Brass Band, Michael Halstenson conducting, and organist Bill Chouinard.

A free-will offering will be received at both locations.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church
17205 County Road Six, Plymouth
Golden Anniversary Organ Concert @ Centennial

**Sunday, October 8, 3:00 p.m.**
**Centennial United Methodist Church, Roseville**

Centennial United Methodist Church will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its 39-rank Schantz pipe organ, the first Schantz organ installed in Minnesota. The dedicatory recital was performed by Edward Berryman on October 8, 1967. This anniversary program will include organ works by J.S. Bach, Eugene Gigout, and Charles Callahan; a work for organ and brass by Giovanni Gabrieli, plus congregational hymns.

Centennial’s organist, Bob Nienaber, will be the recitalist and the church’s choral and brass ensembles will also perform. The concert is open to all, a free-will offering will be received, and a reception will follow. Child care is available by calling the church office by October 1 at 651-633-7644. The church is on the corner of Snelling Avenue North and County Road C-2.

Centennial United Methodist Church
1524 West County Road C-2, Roseville

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St. Barnabas Organ Recital Series (2017-2018)

St. Barnabas Lutheran Church is proud to present its 11th annual lunchtime recital series. These half-hour free recitals will be presented on the second Thursday of the month (September to May) at 12:30 p.m. A reception will follow each recital.

The organ is a two-manual 19-rank Nordlie. For further information, contact Mary Newton.

St. Barnabas Lutheran Church
1560 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth

October 12 – Kris Langlois, Concordia College, St. Paul
November 9 – Jim Hild,
    All Saints Lutheran Church, Minnetonka
December 14 – Mary Newton, resident organist with Julie Simonson, soprano
January 11 – Matt Tylutki, St. Olaf College, Northfield
February 8 – Ben Kerswell, St. Olaf College, Northfield
    First Place Winner, 2017 AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists
March 8 – Geoff Olson,
    St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, St. Paul
Dean Billmeyer in Recital

**Sunday, October 15, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Elim Lutheran Church, Robbinsdale**

Dean Billmeyer, University of Minnesota Organist, will perform selections by Bach, Leo Sowerby, Georg Böhm, César Franck, William Albright, and Max Reger on the recently-renovated 38-rank Moller instrument. Free and open.  
**Elim Lutheran Church**  
3978 West Broadway, Robbinsdale

Faculty Recital at Saint Paul Seminary

**Saturday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.**  
**St. Mary’s Chapel, Saint Paul**

Resident organist David Jenkins will present the annual faculty recital on both organ and harpsichord. Music will include works by Lefébure-Wély, Bach, David Evan Thomas, Handel, Messiaen and Kjell Mørk Karlsen. The recital is free and everyone is welcome.

Parking is available in Lots P, X and Y and in the Anderson Parking Ramp (Cretin and Grand).  
**Saint Paul Seminary St. Mary’s Chapel**  
2260 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul
**Raucous Reformation**

at Bethel Evangelical Lutheran

**Saturday, October 21, 2017, 9:00 a.m. or 2:00 p.m.**

**Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Minneapolis**

All music lovers and singers are invited to participate in a **Raucous Reformation**. Singers will have an opportunity to join the festival choir, learn a few anthems and hymns, enjoy lunch together and perform the music they learn as part of a celebratory hymn festival celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. All activities will be held at the church.

Those wishing to join the choir will begin rehearsal at 9:00 a.m. A lunch (brats, hamburgers, potato salad and more) will be provided by the church at noon.

The Celebratory Hymn Festival, featuring brass, bells, organ and choir, will commence at 2:00 p.m. If you choose not to be part of the choir, you are more than welcome for the Hymn Festival.

Although not required, an RSVP is recommended for the food/music count for the morning event. Contact Phillip Radtke, organist at Bethel.

Free-will donations will be appreciated to help offset the costs.

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
4150 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis

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**Tricks and Treats with the Mighty Organ**

**Sunday, October 29, 6:00 p.m.**

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mahtomedi**

The 13th annual Tricks and Treats with the Mighty Organ concert will be presented by resident organist Bill Chouinard in the Sanctuary of St. Andrew’s on the mighty 1927 IV/108 Casavant/Schantz organ.

The performance, replete with special lighting and video effects, is designed with young listeners in mind, and children are invited to come in costume and join in the costume parade around the room.

Refreshments and treats for kids of all ages will be served after the program, and an offering will be received. Come early for Papa Murphy’s pizza, sold by the slice in the Youth and Sports Center from 4:30-6:00 p.m.

St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

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**Organs Available**

*Michael Barone, collator*

These are intriguing times. Incredible new instruments are being installed in churches across the country, even as superb instruments...some not particularly old...are being displaced, either due to ‘change of worship style’ of the former owners or actual closing of parishes.

As a result, there are quite a number of perfectly fine second-hand organs available on the market, always at prices considerably less than the cost of an equivalent new organ, some astonishingly inexpensive. Of course, these instruments come with the limitation that they must be fit into spaces similar to those that originally housed them, but still...

If you have a personal need for a studio instrument, or know of a congregation that is considering a pipe organ for their new or present church, these projects deserve your attention.

Here’s a brief summary of some that have come to my notice:

**Andover**

1963, Op. 63 house/studio organ (II/12 ranks)
1973, Opus 73, church organ (II/28 ranks)

Also from Andover, various historic instruments by Hook, Johnson, Ryder, Lane, etc.

**Berghaus**

home/studio organ (II/11 ranks) - $15,000

**Bigelow**

Zion Lutheran Church, Madison, WI – 1992 (II/15r)

**Casavant**

Op. 3818, 2004 (III/52ranks)

**Colby**

1967 Aeolian-Skinner, Opus 1480 (II/20ranks)

**Gober**

Brooklyn, OH (near Cleveland) – 1997 (II/26ranks)
Holtkamp
Brown Memorial Woodbrook Presbyterian Church, Baltimore (@$250,000 installed) 1994 Holtkamp (II/31 ranks)

Christ Church Episcopal, Cincinnati – 1957 Holtkamp, Sr. (III/68 ranks) (@$750,000 installed)

St. Procop's RC Church, Cleveland - 1913 Votteler-Hetteche (II/24 ranks)

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cleveland - 1949 Holtkamp (III/50 ranks) (@$550,000 installed)

Hupolo & Repasky
1889 Woodbury & Harris (II/12) – free (plus dismantling, transport, and remounting costs)

Laukhuff
4-stop chamber organ, $12,000

Letourneau
1928 Casavant, Op. 1274 (II/30 ranks) – $550,000 installed and warranted
1955 Casavant, Op. 2295 (III/43 ranks) - $839,000 installed and warranted
1959 Casavant, Op. 2518, rebuilt/expanded (III/54 ranks) - $949,000 installed, 10-year warranty

Nordlie
1969 Laukhuff/Fiss (II/12 stops), e/p - $3500

Parsons
1867 Steere, Opus 1 (II/24 ranks)

Redman
1860 Pfeffer (II/8) + 1884 Debierre choir organ (I/5 ranks)

Wilhelm
1991 Wilhelm, Opus 123 (1st Presbyterian, Syracuse) (III/58 ranks) = $350,000 installed (!!!)
same organ in Diapason

Calendar of Events

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St. Barnabas Lunchtime Organ Recital Series
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9:00 a.m. - Choir rehearsal begins
12:00 p.m. - Lunch
2:00 p.m. - Celebratory Hymn Festival
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4120 17th Avenue South, Minneapolis

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Annual Faculty Recital
David Jenkins, organ and harpsichord
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Bill Chouinard, organist
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi
**November**

Thursday, November 9, 12:30 p.m.
- St. Barnabas Lunchtime Organ Recital Series
  - Jim Hild, organist
- St. Barnabas Lutheran Church
  15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth

Friday, November 10, 8:00 p.m.
- VocalEssence: Bach & Bluegrass Jamboree
  Roseville Lutheran Church
  1215 Roselawn Ave. W., Roseville

**TCAGO Event**

*Saturday, November 11, 10:00 a.m. - Noon*
- Lecture-Performance: Gail Archer
  - Music for the Organ by Women Composers
  - Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
    3930 Rahn Road, Eagan

**TCAGO Event**

*Sunday, November 12, 3:00 p.m.*
- Recital: Gail Archer
  - Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
    3930 Rahn Road, Eagan

Sunday, November 12, 4:00 p.m.
- Leonard Danek Organ Recital
  - Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
    7520 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley

**December**

Sunday, December 3, 3:00 p.m.
- Kraig Windschitl Organ Concert
  - Holy Trinity Cathedral
    605 North State Street, New Ulm

Thursday, December 14, 12:30 p.m.
- St. Barnabas Lunchtime Organ Recital Series
  - Mary Newton, organist; Julie Simonson, soprano
  - St. Barnabas Lutheran Church
    15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth

**January**

Thursday, January 11, 12:30 p.m.
- St. Barnabas Lunchtime Organ Recital Series
  - Matt Tylutki, organist
  - St. Barnabas Lutheran Church
    15600 Old Rockford Road, Plymouth

Saturday, January 13, 9:30 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
- Together We Sing Festival
- VocalEssence Event
  - Creative Arts Secondary School
    65 East Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul

**February**

**TCAGO Event**

*Saturday, February 3, 9:30 a.m. - Noon*
- Seminar: Wilma Jensen Lecture-Demonstration
  - Musical Freedom in Various Periods of History
  - St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church
    900 Stillwater Road, Mahtomedi

*Sunday, February 4, 4:00 p.m.*
- Winter Organ Concert Series
  - Thomas Ferry, Resident Organist
    - Como Park Lutheran Church
      1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

*Thursday, February 8, 12:30 p.m.*
- Winter Organ Concert Series
  - Phillip Radtke, Organist at
    - Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church
    - Como Park Lutheran Church
      1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

*Sunday, February 11, 4:00 p.m.*
- Winter Organ Concert Series
  - David Jenkins, liturgical music director at
    - The St Paul Seminary School of Divinity,
      University of St. Thomas
    - Como Park Lutheran Church
      1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul

**TCAGO Event**

*Saturday, February 24, 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.*
- Pipe Organ Discovery Day
  - Trinity Episcopal Church
    322 Second Street, Excelsior
  - Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
    301 County Road 19, Excelsior

*Sunday, February 25, 4:00 p.m.*
- Winter Organ Concert Series
  - Gregory Peterson, Professor of Music at
    - Luther College
    - Como Park Lutheran Church
      1376 Hoyt Avenue West, Saint Paul
Pipedreams

For a listing of organ events statewide, access the Pipedreams Organ Calendar. For both on-air and website listings of organ-related activities, please send information to Michael Barone, or to Pipedreams Calendar, 480 Cedar St., Saint Paul, MN 55101.

MPR

Classical Minnesota Public Radio encourages you to enter your classical music performance events in the MPR online calendar.

On the top bar of the general MPR web page, click on “Events,” then “Events Calendar,” then “Classical Music.” However, if you find yourself on the Classical MPR main page, click on “More,” then “Events,” then “Classical Music.”

In either case, once on the page that lists Classical Music Events, if you wish to add your own upcoming activity, under the headline for “Calendar Events Home” at the top of the page you should find an additional prompt for “Submit Event.” Fill in all appropriate boxes (and check to see if your venue is already logged into the system, which might save you some time).

Note that this MPR Calendar information will reach a different audience than that submitted to Barone for posting on the TCAGO/ Pipedreams calendar pages. Both are free, the one a selfservice feature and a separate vehicle by which you can let people (including the Classical MPR program hosts) know about your classical music concerts.

By all means, continue to send information directly to Michael Barone too!!

We also encourage you to regularly request organ selections on the “Friday Favorites” show with Steven Starch. Encourage and promote the inclusion of more organ music in MPR’s programming!!

Letters to the Editor

Signed Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Mail letters to Merritt Nequette, 2748 Lexington Avenue N., Saint Paul MN 55113

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